

Abstract

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Roundtable: Investing in a Blue Economy for Conservation and Impact

Green Bonds and the Potential for Investment in Marine Assets



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The state of the oceans is cause for alarm - and action:

- Over 90% of the world's fish stocks are over-exploited or depleted, while the need for food security and low-carbon protein production drives the demand for seafood.
- Ocean mis-management costs over \$200bn/yr in economic damage, rising to \$320bn by 2050 due to climate change impacts.
- Industries compete for marine resources - fishing, shipping, energy, tourism, mining - while insufficient policing makes conflict resolution and conservation very difficult.
- Climate change triggers rising sea levels and storms, making the majority of the world's population centers highly vulnerable.

Green bonds have emerged in recent years as a promising new financial mechanism that offers investors an opportunity to support environmentally friendly investments. Projects funded by green bonds have been located across the globe and focused on a variety of goals, from increasing the resiliency of water systems to boosting energy efficiency. The involvement of the multilateral development banks has driven interest in green bonds, with government agencies, municipalities, and more recently utilities and corporations finding ways to use the financial instruments. But maintaining credible market growth will require new tools that will assist issuers in meeting investor demand for green-themed bonds; assist investors in recognising such bonds; and assist governments in supporting investments in such bonds.

Long-term financing is required on a massive scale to restore and protect marine resources and infrastructure. The green bonds market offers corporate and sovereign issuers an opportunity to raise a significant amount of capital for marine solutions.

Developing a robust framework for bond issuances in the marine sector will be critical, as it will help to create awareness about the opportunity within the sector, and give investors the confidence that the funds are being used to deliver credible climate change solutions.



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015
16-21 November 2015 • Danang, Vietnam

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