



OCEAN CENTRES BRAZIL

PUTTING SAFETY AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABILITY

*Fostering a safe and sustainable
ocean economy in Brazil*

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FOREWORDS

It is a privilege to present the first Ocean Centres Brazil report, developed by the UN Global Compact Network Brazil with the support of Lloyd's Register Foundation, whose trust in a locally led approach made this work possible.

Brazil's ocean economy is at a turning point. Maritime decarbonisation, the first offshore wind auctions, climate adaptation in our ports and the modernisation of our fishing fleets will shape the next decades of the blue economy. This report shows that each of these transitions carries safety risks that, if left unmanaged, become human, financial and reputational risks. Where safety is weak, investment is constrained; where it is strengthened, projects become more resilient and bankable.

This is why safety matters to the whole business agenda, not only to operations. The recommendations presented here, built with more than 380 participants from government, industry, finance, labour, academia and civil society, point to concrete priorities: embedding worker safety and labour standards into blue finance, preparing ports and fleets for new fuels and a changing climate, and ensuring a just transition for those who work at sea.

For the UN Global Compact Network Brazil, this report is a starting point, not a conclusion. Building on our work with Blue Keepers and on maritime decarbonisation, the Network will work with Ocean Centres members and partners to translate these findings into practical priorities for action, contributing to the next stages of the initiative in Brazil.

I thank every organisation and individual who contributed to this process, and invite businesses, investors and public institutions to join us in making safety the foundation of Brazil's blue economy.



Rodrigo Favetta
Interim Executive Director
UN Global Compact
Network Brazil

FOREWORDS

Ocean Centres Brazil was established to identify the safety challenges and opportunities associated with Brazil's evolving ocean economy. As the country advances across shipping, ports, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore renewables, and blue finance, ensuring that safety remains at the centre of this transition is both a strategic and social imperative.

Between October 2025 and March 2026, the initiative convened government, industry, labour unions, academia, financial institutions, civil society organisations, and coastal communities through eight multi-stakeholder workshops. These discussions enabled participants to identify shared challenges and develop practical recommendations for safer and more sustainable ocean industries.

Stakeholders highlighted a range of interconnected challenges, including aging fleets and infrastructure, gaps in professional training and safety culture, climate-related impacts on port operations, occupational risks associated with offshore activities, and the emerging safety implications of maritime decarbonisation and new fuels. Across sectors, participants stressed that safety is often treated in isolation, despite its direct links to resilience, productivity, environmental performance, and social well-being.

A key finding was the need to better integrate worker safety into climate, sustainability, and economic development agendas. As industries invest in decarbonisation and climate adaptation, workers and coastal communities must be adequately protected, trained, and supported throughout the transition. The workshops also highlighted the importance of stronger coordination among public authorities, industry, financial institutions, research organisations, and workers' representatives to advance effective safety outcomes.

This report reflects the collective expertise and experiences shared throughout the Ocean Centres Brazil process. Its findings and recommendations aim to support policymakers, investors, businesses, and other stakeholders in strengthening safety, resilience, and sustainability across Brazil's ocean economy.



Rubens Filho
Country Lead
UN Global Compact
Network Brazil



WHY PUT SAFETY AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABILITY

One of the clearest conclusions of Ocean Centres Brazil is that safety should no longer be treated as a compliance requirement or operational concern alone. Instead, it must be recognised as a strategic enabler of sustainable development—connecting human rights, environmental resilience, economic competitiveness and investment. The discussions across all workshops demonstrated that placing safety at the centre of decision-making creates stronger foundations for a resilient, inclusive and investable Blue Economy.

1. Safety makes sustainable growth possible. A sustainable ocean economy depends on the safety of ocean workers and coastal communities whose lives and livelihoods rely on it.

At Ocean Centres Brazil, safety was highlighted as a fundamental human right and prerequisite for sustainable development. Maritime workers face significant occupational and social risks, requiring effective risk management, labour

protection, training and enforcement of national and international standards. Stakeholders also emphasised the importance of “Safety by Design” and a just transition amid decarbonisation, digitalisation and offshore renewable energy.

2. Safe operations and resilient infrastructure protect people and help reduce environmental risks, supporting healthier ocean ecosystems.

Environmental and worker safety are closely interconnected, particularly in the context of climate change. Extreme weather events and emerging technologies amplify existing risks, requiring proactive risk management. In Brazil,

stakeholders stressed the need to integrate safety into climate adaptation planning, infrastructure resilience and marine spatial planning.

3. A safer, more responsible ocean industry reduces risk, builds investor confidence, and helps unlock sustainable blue finance and long-term growth.

A safer ocean economy is also more resilient and investable. Unsafe operations generate significant costs through accidents, disruptions and reputational risks, limiting access to finance. Conversely, strong safety performance builds investor confidence and strengthens the

bankability of infrastructure and blue economy projects. In Brazil, integrating safety into business strategies and financial frameworks is key to unlocking sustainable blue finance and supporting long-term economic growth.

THE OCEAN CENTRES INITIATIVE

The **Ocean Centres initiative** is hosted by the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, and supported by Lloyd's Register Foundation, a global charity dedicated to engineering a safer world.

For the Ocean Centres initiative, safety and sustainability cannot be addressed separately. Safety is not only a matter of compliance or risk response; it is an enabling condition for sustainable development, climate resilience, investment and long-term prosperity. In this context, climate adaptation is also a safety strategy: by reducing exposure to hazards, strengthening resilience and enabling systems to cope with changing conditions, it helps prevent harm to people, infrastructure and communities. There is no blue economy without blue economy workers - fishers, port workers, seafarers - delivering their challenging jobs safely, supported by adequate standards, equipment and skills.

This safety-sustainability nexus is also increasingly relevant for unlocking finance and investment. As financial institutions, insurers and investors integrate operational, social, governance and reputational risks into their assessments, safety-related considerations are becoming more important within due diligence, ESG and investment decision-making processes.

Creating a **Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy** is therefore not only a social imperative, but also an economic one. By helping stakeholders understand these interconnected risks and opportunities, the Ocean Centres seek to strengthen investor confidence, reduce barriers to finance and support investment in sustainable ocean development.

The Ocean Centres were set up in seven countries: Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines. The programme focuses on four key Action Areas:



The Ocean Centres initiative was officially launched during the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, in June 2025. Following the global launch, each participating country organised its own national launch and initiated a series of eight multi-stakeholder workshops, convening organisations from government, industry, the financial sector, academia, trade unions and civil society.

These dialogues were designed to identify and address the priorities, challenges, solutions, and opportunities shaping each country's transition towards a **Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy**, including those related to climate change, the energy transition, emerging technologies and digitalisation.

This report forms part of a broader body of knowledge developed through the Ocean Centres initiative across the seven countries listed above. Together, the seven national reports

and the accompanying Global Report capture the key priorities, challenges, opportunities and recommendations emerging from locally led, multi-stakeholder engagement.

Each report was co-created through a series of in-person and online dialogues, reflecting the knowledge, experiences and perspectives voluntarily shared by participants in each country. Drafts were subsequently reviewed by Ocean Centres members and the respective National Safety Committee, whose feedback helped strengthen the accuracy, relevance and contextual grounding of the final report.

We invite readers to explore the full collection of reports and join us in advancing knowledge, partnerships and investment, implementing the recommendations, and working collaboratively towards safer and more sustainable ocean economies.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ocean Centres Brazil convened a national multi-stakeholder platform to address systemic safety challenges across the country's ocean economy, with a focus on four priority areas: Shipping and Ports, Fishing and Aquaculture, Finance and Investment, and Offshore renewables. Through a structured series of eight workshops conducted

between October 2025 and March 2026, the initiative brought together representatives from government, industry, finance, labour organisations, academia, and civil society to identify critical risks, align priorities, and define actionable pathways towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy.

Ocean Centres Brazil by the Numbers

8 NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

30
hours

385
Individuals

Note: Under "Organizations by Sector", "Others" includes individuals who participated in the workshops without representing a specific organisation or sector.

Organisations by Sector

171 Private Sector

62 Others

53 Government & Public Institutions

30 Academia, Research, and Think Tanks

27 Intergovernmental and International Organisations

21 Civil Society, NGOs, and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

12 Labour Unions & Professional / Sector Associations

9 Finance & Investment

0 Community, Indigenous, Women, or Youth-led Organisations

LAUNCH EVENT

6
Hours

55
Individuals

79
OFFICIAL MEMBERS

61
Organisations
18
Individuals

Three Things you Need to Know About Ocean Centres Brazil

Safety is a critical enabling condition for a sustainable ocean economy.

Brazil's ocean sectors face persistent and systemic safety challenges, including aging fishing fleets, climate-vulnerable port infrastructure, and gaps in occupational safety governance.

1

Social and occupational safeguards must be systematically integrated into financial frameworks.

As the country expands investments in the sustainable ocean economy, worker safety, human rights, and just transition principles should be embedded as core criteria in blue finance frameworks, strengthening risk management, resilience, and long-term investment outcomes.

2

Brazil's ocean transition depends on strong multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Addressing the country's complex ocean challenges requires coordinated action among government, industry, financial institutions, workers, academia, and civil society. The Ocean Centres Brazil initiative demonstrates how this collaborative approach can accelerate practical, scalable, and people-centred solutions.

3

Cross-cutting Findings from the Blue Safety Wheels Presented in “Outputs”



Opportunities for Safe Blue Growth

- Shipping:** Alternative fuel safety standards, stronger safety culture, digital monitoring and compliance, and leadership in ethanol and small-scale LNG standards.
- Ports:** Climate-resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and worker safety integration to strengthen resilience and attract investment.
- Fishing:** Ratify ILO C188 and the Cape Town Agreement, formalise labour, strengthen worker protection and training, improve traceability, and expand access to insurance, finance and export markets.
- Aquaculture:** Clear licensing, investment-ready sites, specialised equipment, and science-based regulation to unlock sustainable aquaculture investment.
- Offshore Renewables:** Complete offshore wind regulation, expand skilled and female workforce participation, and unlock jobs and long-term investment.

Finance and Investment Implications of Safety Challenges

- Shipping:** Safety risks increase insurance costs, financing barriers and investor uncertainty, while stronger standards improve access to blue finance.
- Ports:** Climate risks reduce project bankability, while resilient infrastructure and integrated safety attract climate finance and investment.
- Fishing:** Weak labour governance, informality and non-ratification of ILO C188 increase ESG and investment risks, limiting access to finance, insurance, certification and international markets.
- Aquaculture:** Licensing, biosecurity and safety gaps increase investment risk, while stronger governance and certification attract sustainable finance.
- Offshore Renewables:** Licensing delays, infrastructure constraints and high capital costs reduce bankability, while regulatory clarity unlocks investment.

A CALL TO ACTION: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

The recommendations below highlight the priority actions emerging from the findings of this report. They provide an at-a-glance overview for the business, government and finance sectors, while the complete set of recommendations is presented in the chapter A Call to Action: Recommendations by Action Area.



Business

- Integrate safety, labour rights and worker wellbeing into corporate governance, operational management and ESG strategies across all ocean industries.
- Invest in workforce development, including continuous training, reskilling programmes, occupational safety measures and inclusive participation in the energy transition.
- Adopt innovation, digitalisation and Safety by Design approaches to improve operational resilience, climate adaptation and risk management.
- Strengthen collaboration across value chains through responsible business practices, data sharing, traceability systems and social dialogue mechanisms.



Government

- Strengthen and enforce regulatory frameworks, labour standards and maritime safety governance, aligned with international conventions and best practices.
- Improve institutional coordination among maritime, environmental, labour and economic authorities to support safe and sustainable ocean development.
- Accelerate enabling policies for climate adaptation, offshore renewable energy, blue economy planning and workforce formalisation.
- Promote long-term investment certainty through regulatory clarity, digitalisation, safety data systems and integrated ocean governance approaches.



Finance

- Embed occupational safety, labour protection and social criteria into blue finance instruments, ESG frameworks and investment decision-making processes.
- Develop innovative financial mechanisms that support training, infrastructure modernisation, climate adaptation and offshore renewable energy deployment.
- Improve access to insurance and financial services for vulnerable ocean sectors, particularly small-scale fisheries and emerging blue economy activities.
- Align financing frameworks, taxonomies and eligibility criteria with robust safety, environmental and social performance standards.



A full-page background image featuring a wind turbine on a beach at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with a bright light source on the left creating a lens flare effect. The ocean is calm, and the wind turbine stands prominently in the foreground.

“ Safety is a precondition of all sustainable business practices, and the role of UN Global Compact is to provide business and governments with clear guidance on how to embrace safety in their sustainability journey ”

Erik Giercksky

Head, Ocean Stewardship Coalition
United Nations Global Compact

INTRODUCTION

About this Report

This report consolidates the key findings, safety challenges, recommendations, and actions identified across the eight national workshops conducted by Ocean Centres Brazil. It is intended to serve both as a knowledge resource and as an accountability tool — capturing what was learned, what was collectively agreed upon, and what actions are needed moving forward. It also aims to inform the design of financial instruments, regulatory frameworks, and investment strategies, bridging the gap between safety diagnostics and capital allocation.

Ocean Centres Brazil was created to address these interconnected challenges by positioning safety as a cross-cutting priority in the transition towards a sustainable and inclusive ocean economy.

Even before joining the Ocean Centres initiative through Ocean Centres Brazil, the United Nations Global Compact Network Brazil had already been closely engaged with ocean-related business agendas.

Since 2021, we have led Blue Keepers, an initiative aimed at mobilising resources and engaging companies, governments, and society in combating chronic pollution of oceans and river basins caused by solid waste — particularly plastics — through preventive and corrective actions aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water). Bringing together the issue of ocean pollution and the safety of people who depend on the ocean for their livelihoods is essential, as many maritime safety risks are already directly linked to marine pollution.

In 2024, we convened a Working Group focused on the decarbonisation of maritime fleets and ports, bringing together more than 80 participants from across sectors. This process resulted in the development of a Framework for Action entitled “Accelerating Port and Maritime Decarbonisation in Brazil,” which generated valuable insights that now inform discussions on how to place safety at the centre of a just transition and how to integrate safety criteria into port climate adaptation plans. These themes became key guiding pillars during the first cycle of Ocean Centres Brazil.

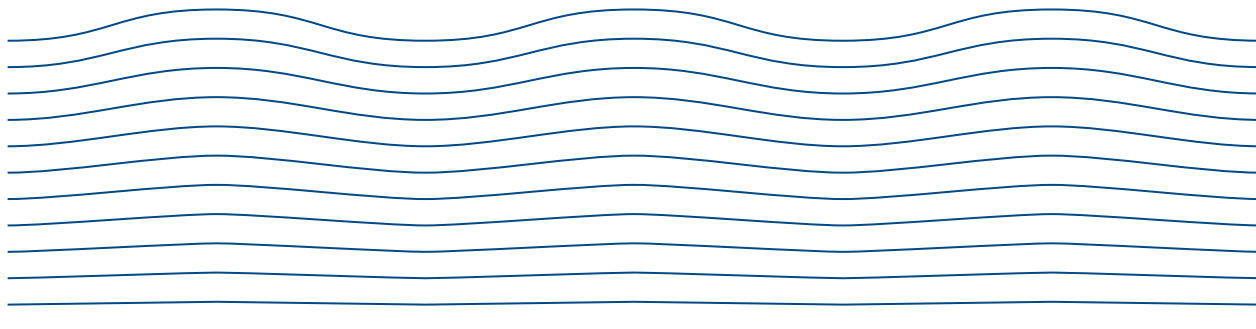
This trajectory was further consolidated through the UN Global Compact Network Brazil's role as one of the conveners of the Ocean Engagement Group (OEG) during Brazil's G20 Presidency. By helping shape the dialogue between governments, businesses and international organisations on the future of the ocean economy, the Network strengthened its position as a leading platform for advancing ocean governance and sustainable Blue Economy solutions in Brazil.

The UN Global Compact Network Brazil has played an active role in the United Nations Ocean Conferences (UNOCs), leveraging the platform to strengthen partnerships and accelerate private sector engagement in ocean sustainability. At UNOC2 (2022), the Network promoted the Blue Keepers programme internationally, presenting its initial results and 2030 ambitions while fostering collaboration with investors, international organisations, and public sector stakeholders. At UNOC3, the Network marked a new milestone with the launch of the Ocean Centres Brazil initiative.

Who is this Report for?

This report is intended for:

- 1** Policymakers working on maritime safety, blue economy, climate adaptation and just transition
- 2** Industry leaders, shipping companies, port operators and fishing enterprises
- 3** Financial institutions, investors and blue finance practitioners
- 4** Trade unions and worker representatives in maritime and ocean sectors
- 5** Academic and research institutions contributing to ocean safety knowledge
- 6** Civil society organisations and community-led groups engaged in ocean governance



Our Two Priority Areas

Ocean Centres Brazil works across the initiative's four global Action Areas. Within these, Brazil selected two national priority areas where safety can generate the greatest systemic impact.

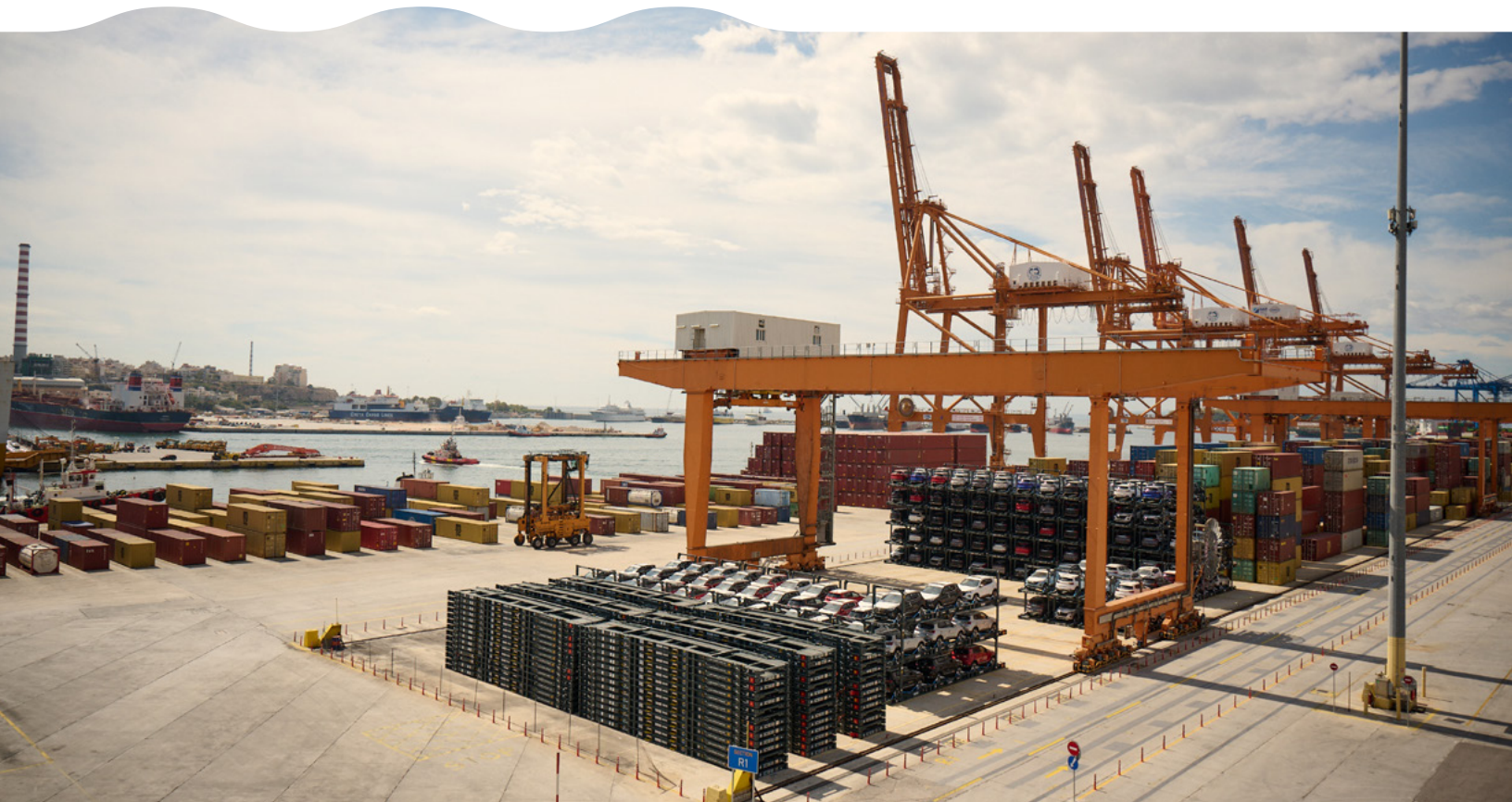
Shipping and Ports reflects the country's strategic maritime position and decarbonisation opportunities, while **Finance and Investment** addresses the need to embed safety into the emerging blue finance ecosystem and unlock sustainable investment.



Brazil is one of the world's largest maritime nations, with an extensive port network and a trade-dependent economy. The country is well positioned to lead maritime decarbonisation through renewable energy and sustainable fuels such as ethanol. As this transition accelerates, protecting workers, strengthening climate-resilient port infrastructure and integrating Safety by Design will be essential to ensure a just, competitive and sustainable Blue Economy.



Brazil's Blue Finance agenda is rapidly evolving but still lacks common taxonomies and practical mechanisms that integrate occupational safety into investment decisions. Ocean Centres Brazil identified this as a strategic opportunity to position safety as a core criterion for blue finance, ESG frameworks and risk management, helping strengthen investor confidence while supporting more resilient, inclusive and bankable ocean economy projects.



BACKGROUND

Why does Ocean Centres Brazil exist?

Brazil is one of the world's leading maritime nations, with approximately 7,500 kilometres of coastline and a highly diversified ocean economy spanning shipping, ports, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore energy, and emerging blue finance markets. As the country seeks to unlock the significant growth potential of its Blue Economy, ensuring that this expansion is safe, resilient, and inclusive will be critical.

Despite these opportunities, the sector continues to face significant structural challenges, including aging fleets, port infrastructure not fully adapted to extreme weather events, gaps in occupational health and safety regulation, and limited integration of safety considerations into financial and investment decision-making processes.

Why a multistakeholder collaborative platform?

Maritime safety and sustainability challenges are inherently cross-sectoral and require coordinated responses. Effective action depends on:

- 1 Public sector leadership**
in regulatory development and enforcement
- 2 Private sector engagement**
in operational improvements and investment
- 3 Worker representation**
to ensure labour rights and protections
- 4 Academic contributions**
to strengthen the evidence base and long-term capacity-building
- 5 Financial sector participation**
to align capital flows with sustainability and safety objectives

Ocean Centres Brazil provides a structured platform to facilitate this collaboration. Throughout the workshops, participants had the opportunity to exchange perspectives and openly discuss challenges, opportunities, and priorities for the sector. The discussions benefited from the active engagement of companies, non-governmental organisations,

trade unions, government representatives, academic institutions, fishers, and research institutes. Through keynote presentations, facilitated discussions, and collaborative exercises, all participants were encouraged to contribute their experiences, ideas, and viewpoints, ensuring a diverse and inclusive dialogue.

Why Locally Led?

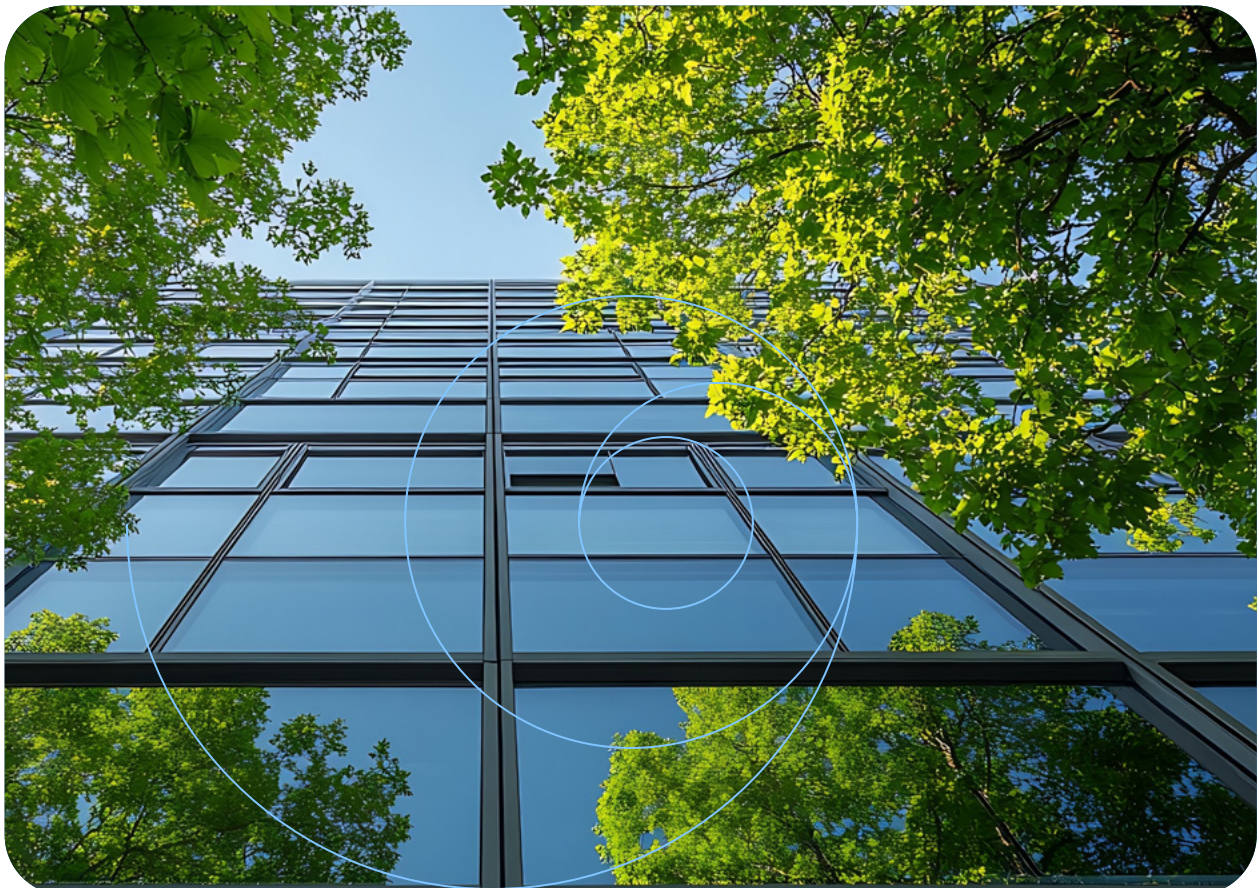
Brazil's ocean economy presents unique opportunities and challenges shaped by its vast coastline, federal governance structure, diverse maritime industries, and significant social and regional inequalities. These characteristics require solutions that are tailored to the national context and developed through broad

stakeholder engagement. Coordinated by the UN Global Compact Network Brazil, Ocean Centres Brazil is embedded within the country's institutional landscape, enabling it to convene key actors, respond to national priorities, and translate global knowledge into practical actions, policies and partnerships.

Why Long-term?

Transforming safety into a cornerstone of Brazil's Blue Economy cannot be achieved through isolated initiatives. It requires sustained collaboration, institutional learning and continuous engagement across sectors. Ocean Centres Brazil is therefore designed as a long-

term platform to support policy development, strengthen institutional capacity, foster public-private collaboration, and progressively integrate safety into governance frameworks, investment decisions and the country's broader blue economy transition.



OCEAN CENTRES BRAZIL: JOURNEY TO DATE

Governance Structure

Ocean Centres Brazil is the Brazilian chapter of the Ocean Centres initiative, which is hosted by the United Nations Global Compact and supported by Lloyd's Register Foundation.

In Brazil, the initiative is coordinated by the Water, Ocean and Waste Action Platform within the Executive Environmental Management area of the UN Global Compact Network Brazil.

The Environmental Executive Manager serves as the Country Lead for Ocean Centres Brazil, supported by the Platform's Senior Analyst. Working within the global Ocean Centres network, the Brazilian chapter convenes stakeholders from across government, industry, labour, academia, finance and civil society to generate evidence, foster dialogue and develop practical recommendations that strengthen safety as a foundation for a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy.

Capacity Building

Capacity building was a core pillar of Ocean Centres Brazil and was implemented through a combination of technical dialogue, practical

experiences, and collaborative knowledge-sharing processes. Key capacity-building activities included:

1 Eight thematic workshops covering the full spectrum of ocean economy priorities. Throughout the workshops, participants were exposed to diverse perspectives and actively engaged in discussions and collaborative exercises that contributed to the co-creation of reports, recommendations, and strategic reflections. One particularly impactful experience took place at CONTTMAF, where participants had the opportunity to experience the maritime training simulators used for professional seafarer instruction. The experience highlighted the importance of understanding firsthand the realities faced by workers at sea. The simulation was so realistic that some participants experienced seasickness, reinforcing both the physical demands of maritime work and the importance of training workers in environments that accurately replicate real operational conditions to ensure effective safety preparedness.

2 Ocean Centres Brazil established a dedicated Safety Committee composed of highly qualified professionals who played a central role throughout the initiative. In addition to supporting the organisation and delivery of the workshops — including providing venues, recommending speakers and contacts, suggesting priority themes, and supporting group dynamics — the committee also contributed directly to the development and review of this report.

- 3** Distribution of guidance and workshop materials after each session. Following every workshop, all participants received access to the meeting materials, including recordings, presentations, and reports summarising the group dynamics and discussions.

These governance arrangements and capacity-building activities were not ends in themselves; rather, they were the means by which Brazil's diverse ocean stakeholders could surface shared challenges, stress-test assumptions, and forge the kind of practical consensus that informs the findings throughout this report. The structure that follows—the methodological framework, stakeholder engagement strategy, and workshop programme—reflects how this process was designed to move from diagnosis to collective action.

The Methodological Innovation

Ocean Centres Brazil applied a distinctive methodology grounded in:

- **Co-design Principles:** Workshop content and priorities were shaped through iterative consultation with stakeholders.
- **Multilevel Collaboration:** Engagement simultaneously at national policy level and operational/ community level.
- **Locally Led, Globally Connected:** Brazilian context and priorities driving the agenda while benefiting from global Ocean Centres methodology and support.
- **Safety-lens first:** All thematic discussions framed through the lens of occupational safety, human rights, and worker protection.

Stakeholder Engagement

Ocean Centres Brazil engaged stakeholders through the following mechanisms:

- Stakeholder mapping and recruitment across all major ocean economy sectors. 389 organisations were mapped and invited to be part of the Ocean Centres Brazil and join the workshops.
- Bilateral meetings with key organisations including Suzano, Wilson Sons, Santos Port Authority, TRANSPETRO, BNDES, Nauterra, CONTTMAF, IFSC, UNIVALI and government ministries, including the Ministério de Portos e Aeroportos (MPOR), to guide the next steps of the initiative.
- A bilateral meeting was also held with the International Labour Organization to explore potential areas of collaboration related to decent work, occupational safety and the social dimension of the blue economy transition. The meeting also contributed to identifying opportunities for future cooperation on capacity-building programmes, international regulatory references and the development of guidance and indicators related to labour conditions, worker protection and just transition pathways within Brazil's ocean economy agenda.



Workshops

Ocean Centres Brazil conducted eight nationally tailored workshops between October 2025 and March 2026, combining online and in-person formats to maximise accessibility and geographic reach. Workshops ranged from 2 to 8 hours in duration.

Given Brazil's continental dimensions and the diversity of its coastal and maritime realities, the remote format was essential to ensure broad participation from stakeholders across different regions of the country. This approach enabled the inclusion of participants from government, industry, academia, civil society, workers' organisations, and coastal communities, fostering a more representative

and nationally grounded dialogue on safety, sustainability, and the future of the ocean economy.

Ocean Centres Brazil organised an initial series of four workshops, each dedicated to one of the initiative's priority areas: shipping and ports; finance and investment; fishing and aquaculture; and offshore renewables.

Each workshop brought together leading experts and practitioners with recognised expertise and extensive experience in their respective fields. The discussions generated critical reflections and insights that directly informed the design and thematic focus of the four subsequent workshops.

In-country workshops

WORKSHOP 1 (Virtual)

Date: 02 October 2025

Action Area: Shipping and Ports

Title: "Challenges for Human Rights at Sea and the Importance of Safety"

WORKSHOP 2 (Virtual)

Date: 20 October 2025

Action Area: Finance and Investment

Title: "Composition, Supply and Demand for Blue Finance; Eligibility Criteria: Safety of Workers"

WORKSHOP 3 (Rio de Janeiro - RJ)

Date: 6 November 2025

Action Area: Fishing and Aquaculture

Title: "Perspectives on Safety and Partnerships in Fishing and Aquaculture in Brazil"

WORKSHOP 4 (Virtual)

Date: 01 December 2025

Action Area: Offshore Renewables

Title: "Offshore Renewable Energies: Opportunities and Challenges for Brazil"

WORKSHOP 5 (Virtual)

Date: 22 January 2026

Action Area: Ports

Title: "Climate Adaptation Plan – Ports"

WORKSHOP 6 (Virtual)

Date: 24 February 2026

Action Area: Shipping

Title: "Just Transition in Maritime Transport"

WORKSHOP 7 (Rio de Janeiro - RJ)

Date: 11 March 2026

Action Area: Finance and Investment

Title: "Integrating Safety Criteria into Financing Instruments for the Blue Economy"

WORKSHOP 8 (Itajaí - Santa Catarina State)

Date: 27 March 2026

Action Area: Fishing

Title: "Safety for Fishers"

Throughout this journey, Ocean Centres Brazil also saw bilateral discussions, partnerships on side-events and attendance at international and high-level events.

Cross-country Workshops

These online workshops, known as “Interactive Dialogues”, were coordinated and facilitated by the Ocean Centres Global Team and brought together participants from Brazil, Ghana, and Kenya to strengthen cross-country collaboration and global knowledge exchange.

SESSION 1

“Unlocking Blue Finance”.

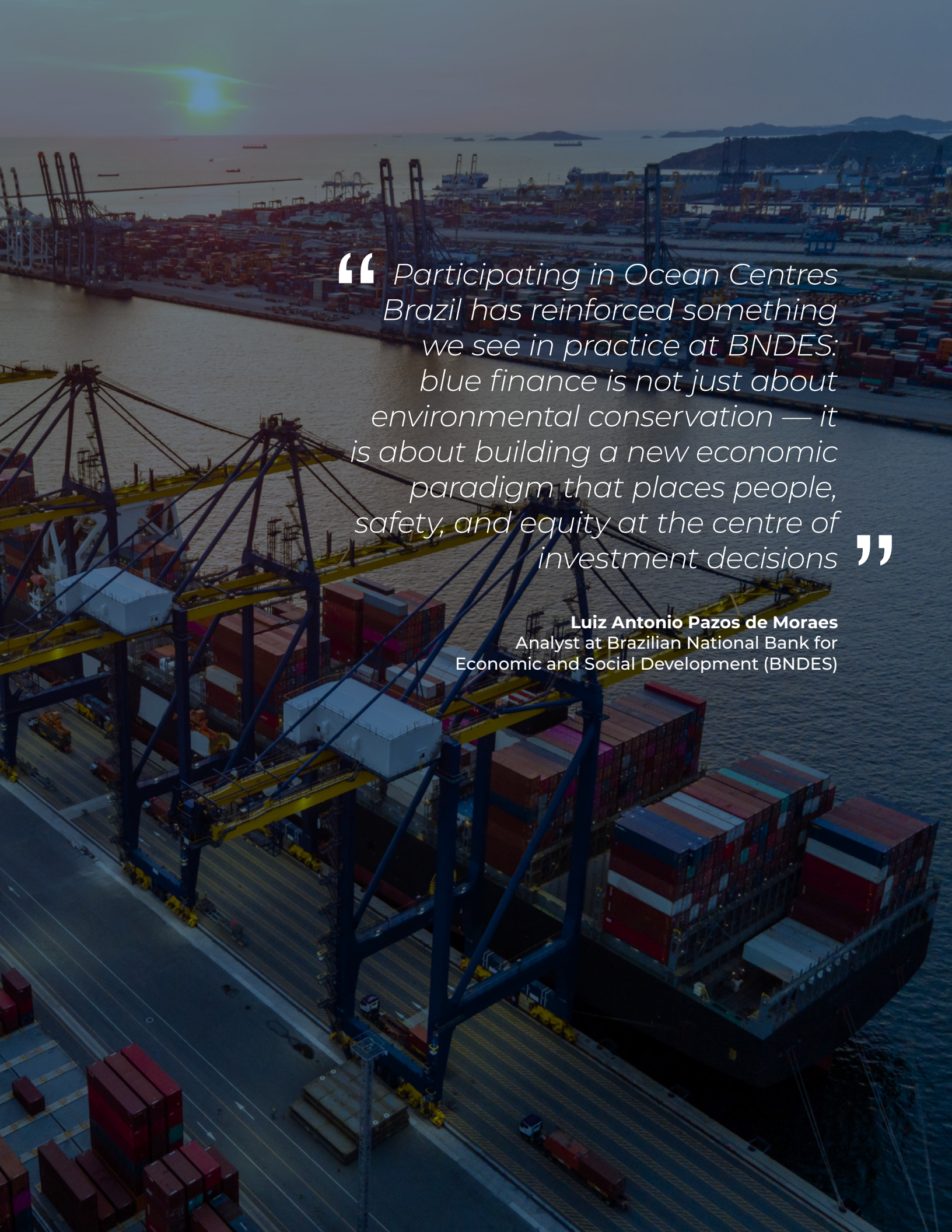
Nabil Kadri - BNDES: “Unlocking Blue Finance in Brazil - The Importance of Safety”

SESSION 2

“Maritime Decarbonisation”.

Guilherme Haddad - TRANSPETRO:
“Implementation Pathways and Leadership Models in Brazil”



An aerial photograph of a large port facility at dusk. Several large container ships are docked at the pier, with their decks covered in stacks of colorful shipping containers. Large gantry cranes are positioned along the quay, and a road with yellow lane markings runs alongside the ships. In the background, the sea is visible with a few more ships and distant landmasses under a twilight sky.

“ Participating in Ocean Centres Brazil has reinforced something we see in practice at BNDES: blue finance is not just about environmental conservation — it is about building a new economic paradigm that places people, safety, and equity at the centre of investment decisions ”

Luiz Antonio Pazos de Moraes
Analyst at Brazilian National Bank for
Economic and Social Development (BNDES)

OUTPUTS

Blue Safety Wheel

The Blue Safety Wheels translate the findings from the Brazilian process into a structured view of the main safety challenges affecting five ocean industries: shipping, ports, fisheries, aquaculture, and offshore renewables. It groups the findings under five safety dimensions, as you can see below. This helps show where risks are sector-specific, where they recur across industries, and where coordinated interventions could deliver wider impact.

It also points to emerging hazards from technological change, weak coordination between institutions, and climate-related pressures. Overall, it calls for a shift from fragmented compliance to integrated, data-driven safety governance linked to investment and regulation.



1: Growing risks from hazardous alternative fuels, fatigue due to long working hours and reduced crew sizes, increasing cognitive demands from new technologies.

2: Outdated fleets causing safety incidents, need for adaptation of port infrastructure for alternative fuels.

3: Exposure of maritime workers to extreme climate events, maritime decarbonisation risks.

4: Lack of regulatory frameworks and safety standards for alternative fuels covering emergency response, bunkering procedures and SIMOPS, limited integration with evolving IMO and MARPOL discussions, limited institutional capacity for labour inspection and Port State enforcement.

5: Social and safety criteria not embedded in financing mechanisms.





1: Workers exposed to flooding, heat stress and storm surges, inadequate PPE and emergency protocols.

2: Aging infrastructure, gaps in operational protocols, risk management and workforce preparedness.

3: Sea-level rise, flooding, extreme weather, heat stress and coastal erosion threatening worker safety and infrastructure, reduced operational reliability, increased downtime and supply chain disruptions.

4: Insufficient integration of worker safety into climate adaptation plans, lack of port development plans incorporating climate risk.

5: Slow access to financing for infrastructure transformation, insufficient funding for climate adaptation.



1: Adverse weather conditions, fatigue associated with performance-based remuneration, geographic isolation at sea, aging fleets lacking adequate safety equipment, falls overboard, entanglement in fishing gear and machinery, limited access to emergency beacons, absence of vessel monitoring systems, high levels of informality in labour arrangements.

2: Old vessels lacking modern safety equipment, high-seas rescue and emergency response difficulties.

3: Climate change worsening working conditions at sea, declining fish stocks forcing fishers farther offshore and increasing safety risks, limited resilience of fishing communities, need for stronger social protection.

4: Brazil's non-ratification of ILO Convention No. 188 limiting alignment with international standards on vessel safety, labour inspection, certification, insurance and finance, limited complementarity with the IMO Cape Town Agreement and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

5: Difficult access to BNDES financing, lack of insurance for fishers during training periods.



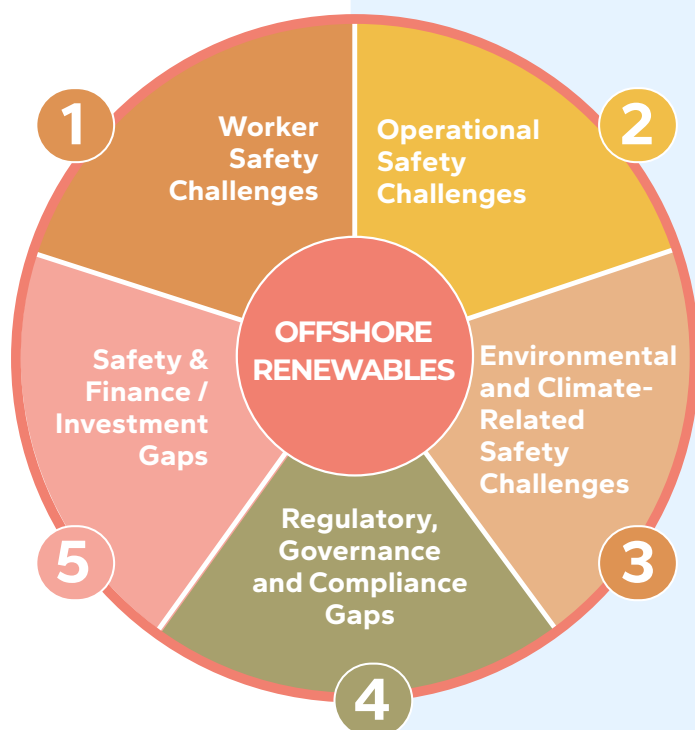
1: Ergonomic injuries in small-scale operations, difficulty enforcing PPE use, risks associated with uncertified diving, prolonged exposure to water and harsh environmental conditions, exposure to zoonotic diseases, manual handling of heavy loads.

2: Lack of specialised equipment, adapted tools from civil construction creating operational risks.

3: Weather-dependent work interruptions, climate-related risks affecting coastal communities.

4: Limitations in the technical and environmental viability of designated aquaculture areas, legal uncertainty surrounding marine seaweed aquaculture, environmental protection arguments delaying sustainable sector expansion.

5: Logistical barriers and financing gaps for seaweed sector development.



1: Just transition gaps for workers, cultural barriers for women in STEM and technical roles, working-at-height risks, offshore personnel transfer hazards, confined-space rescue challenges, emergency response limitations in open-sea environments.

2: Grid infrastructure not adapted for large-scale offshore projects, slow and unpredictable environmental licensing.

3: Environmental impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on biodiversity, challenges in managing ecological footprint.

4: Incomplete regulatory framework for offshore wind, slow and unpredictable licensing processes

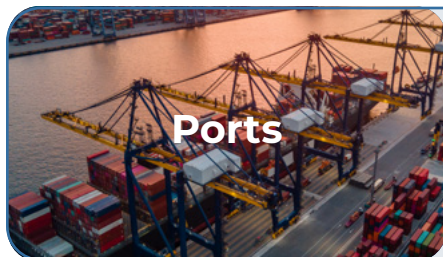
5: High cost of capital, current demand crisis delaying investments, underfunded workforce training for new technologies.

Opportunities for Safe Blue Growth

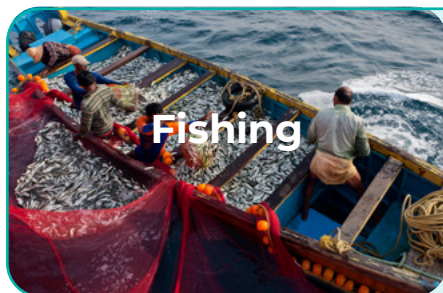
Across all ocean industries, stronger safety systems create major opportunities for **safe blue growth**. Improved safety reduces operational risks, increases investor confidence, and enhances the bankability of projects — unlocking new flows of public and private finance. Modern, climate-resilient, and safety-aligned operations boost productivity, reduce losses, improve worker well-being, and expand access to global markets and certifications. In this way, safety becomes a **growth enabler**: accelerating digitalisation, green innovation, blended-finance partnerships, and the development of resilient and sustainable ocean value chains.



- Adoption of alternative fuel safety standards reduces operational risk and attracts green investment.
- Stronger safety culture increases productivity and reduces accident-related losses.
- Digitalisation and data integration improve safety monitoring and regulatory compliance.
- Brazil can lead ethanol bunkering and small-scale LNG standards, leveraging existing fuel logistics while strengthening operational safety and environmental protection.



- Climate-resilient infrastructure modernisation unlocks public and private finance.
- Nature-based solutions (mangroves, coastal ecosystems) enhance resilience and biodiversity value.
- Integration of worker safety in port development plans builds investor confidence.



- Ratification of ILO C188, the IMO Cape Town Agreement and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement would align Brazil with recognised international standards, supporting access to international certification, insurance, sustainable finance and export markets.
- Formalising labour, strengthening training, social protection and safer working conditions improves safety and reduces informality.
- Better traceability and stronger private sector engagement support sustainable seafood certification and market access.



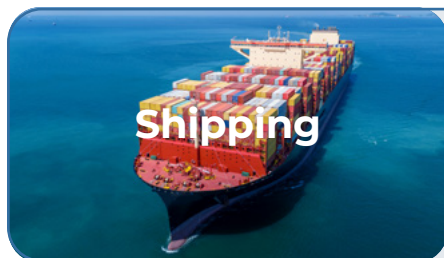
- Improved licensing and technical viability attract investment in seaweed and mariculture.
- Specialised equipment development creates new national industry segment.
- Improved regulatory clarity, legal certainty, and science-based licensing frameworks for seaweed aquaculture can de-risk investment, accelerate sustainable sector growth, and unlock socioeconomic opportunities for coastal communities while maintaining environmental safeguards.



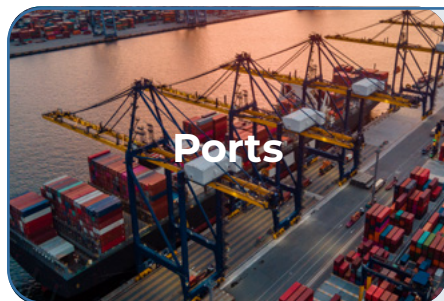
- Offshore wind development has significant job creation potential across project lifecycles, including construction, operation, and maintenance phases.
- Female workforce inclusion in STEM/renewables expands talent pool and social equity.
- Regulatory completion (offshore wind law) provides legal certainty for 2030+ investments.

Finance and Investment Implications of Safety Challenges Across Ocean Industries

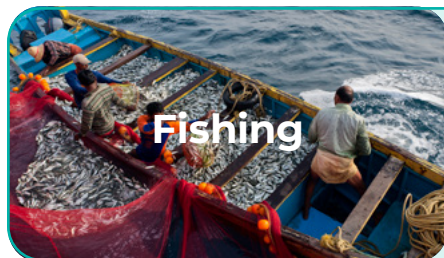
Across all ocean industries, safety challenges have direct financial implications: they increase perceived risk, raise insurance costs, reduce investor confidence, limit access to affordable capital, and constrain the bankability of modernisation and climate-resilient projects. Strengthening safety systems reduces risk, enabling blended finance, concessional instruments and private investment across shipping, ports, fishing, aquaculture and offshore renewables. Safety should be recognised as a financial de-risking lever by improving insurability, enabling risk pooling and parametric insurance, and facilitating blue bonds and sustainability-linked finance.



- Outdated fleets and safety risks associated with alternative fuels increase insurance costs and reduce the bankability of vessel financing.
- Lack of standardised safety data reduces investor confidence in maritime operators.
- Strengthening safety standards can reduce risk exposure and improve access to blue bonds and other blue finance instruments.



- Inadequate climate adaptation increases infrastructure risk and reduces investment attractiveness.
- Limited integration of safety into climate adaptation restricts access to climate finance.
- Embedding worker safety, operational resilience and risk management into port planning strengthens eligibility for sustainable finance.
- Climate-resilient ports improve project bankability and long-term investor confidence.



- Brazil's non-ratification of ILO Convention No. 188 limits access to insurance, certification, sustainable finance and global markets.
- Labour informality and weak governance increase legal, operational and ESG risks for investors.
- Strengthening worker protection and safety standards can improve investor confidence, expand access to finance and enhance market competitiveness.



- Regulatory uncertainty and licensing constraints discourage investment.
- Safety, biosecurity and environmental monitoring gaps increase operational risk and limit insurance coverage.
- Disease outbreaks and inadequate emergency preparedness reduce investor confidence and project bankability.
- Stronger safety standards, certification and technical training can improve insurability, attract sustainable finance and unlock private investment.



- Slow licensing processes and grid infrastructure constraints increase investment uncertainty and delay project development.
- High cost of capital and current demand challenges reduce the short-term financial attractiveness of offshore wind projects.
- Completion of the regulatory framework can unlock the first offshore wind auctions and mobilise private investment.

A CALL TO ACTION: RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTION AREA

To support implementation, the recommendations are organised into two indicative time horizons based on their expected complexity, coordination and investment requirements. While some actions can be initiated immediately using existing capacities, others require longer-term planning, institutional strengthening and broader collaboration. These timeframes are illustrative only and should serve as a guide for prioritisation, as implementation will ultimately depend on Brazil's institutional capacity, regulatory context, financial resources and stakeholder readiness.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (UP TO ONE YEAR)

Actions that can be initiated in the near term using existing resources and institutional capacities. They can address immediate gaps, such as reviewing regulations, strengthening safety procedures, and launching training.

MEDIUM- TO LONG-TERM ACTIONS (BEYOND ONE YEAR)

Actions requiring broader coordination, policy reform, institutional strengthening or sustained investment over time. They involve structural reforms like new regulatory frameworks, infrastructure modernisation, and Blue Finance enablement.





Shipping and Ports

Short Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Ensure corporate due diligence and internal safety management systems are aligned with the Maritime Labour Convention, collective bargaining agreements and applicable national labour standards, including provisions on working and living conditions, fatigue prevention, welfare, medical care, training and social protection.
- Update port Mutual Aid Plans (PAMs) and contingency plans to address the specific risks associated with alternative fuels, including ammonia toxicity, methanol invisible flames, LNG cryogenic hazards, hydrogen flammability and ethanol fire suppression requirements.
- Ensure that safety is explicitly integrated into climate adaptation plans for ports, reinforcing resilience while safeguarding workers and operations.
- Tripartite MoU on just transition in maritime transport, involving government, industry, and workers' representatives, under the coordination of Ocean Centres Brazil, with a strong emphasis on safe and fair working conditions throughout the decarbonisation process.
- Update internal risk management guidelines for LNG, methanol and ammonia.

GOVERNMENT

- Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the Maritime Labour Convention, the STCW Convention and other relevant ILO and IMO instruments, ensuring that occupational safety, fatigue prevention, welfare, medical care, repatriation, shore leave, training and social protection are treated as core components of maritime safety governance.
- Promote alignment with IMO and MARPOL discussions to expand operational safety guidance beyond conventional bunker fuels, including standards for simultaneous operations (SIMOPS), ship-to-ship bunkering, and emergency communication structures for ports and offshore operations.
- Strengthen ANTAQ safety databases and indicators.
- Support pilot digitalisation projects in ports.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for maritime labour inspection, Port State Labour Inspection and coordinated enforcement of international maritime labour and safety standards, including the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006) as a minimum in international shipping.
- Promote coordinated operational frameworks among maritime authorities, labour inspection bodies, port authorities and other competent agencies to improve enforcement, emergency response and protection of maritime workers.

FINANCE

- Require safety performance data from maritime operators as eligibility criterion for blue bonds.
- Include compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), collective bargaining agreements and verified labour protection standards as eligibility criteria for blue finance instruments, sustainability-linked loans, blue bonds and ESG assessments in the maritime sector.
- Crew abandonment cases, persistent wage arrears and serious labour rights violations identified through labour inspections and Port State Control inspections should be considered exclusionary factors for access to sustainable maritime finance mechanisms.

Continue in next page

Medium-Long Term Recommendations (cont.)

BUSINESS

- Standardise safety procedures for alternative fuels, including LNG, ethanol, methanol and hydrogen, and develop specific chemical emergency response protocols with early leak detection systems, thermal/ flame monitoring technologies, exclusion zones and emergency shutdown systems.
- Promote corporate commitments to eliminate workplace accidents and fatalities.
- Promote responsible chartering practices across maritime supply chains by encouraging cargo owners, commodity exporters and productive sectors that rely on international maritime transport to adopt minimum labour and welfare standards for chartered vessels.
- Create collaborative platforms for sharing safety performance data.
- Promote “Safety by Design” approaches that incorporate not only technical and engineering safety considerations, but also human factors, workload management, crew composition, fatigue prevention, ergonomics and occupational health protections from the earliest stages of project and vessel design.
- Conduct integrated multi-stakeholder emergency simulation exercises involving ships, ports, emergency authorities and coastal communities for extreme weather and alternative fuel incident scenarios.
- Recognise collective bargaining agreements and social dialogue mechanisms as important tools for improving occupational safety, workforce stability, fatigue management and fair working conditions across maritime operations.
- Develop industry-wide guidelines on extreme weather risk management.

GOVERNMENT

- Incentivise innovation and digitalisation in ports, including real-time occupational health, fatigue and operational risk monitoring systems integrated with port safety management platforms.
- Promote institutionalised social dialogue and tripartite cooperation mechanisms involving government, employers and workers’ organisations in the development of maritime safety, decarbonisation and just transition policies.

FINANCE

- Align portfolio standards with safety criteria for alternative fuels.
- Integrate worker safety into ESG evaluation of maritime and port companies.

Fishing and Aquaculture

Short Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Support insurance coverage for “barco escola” used in the IFSC fisher training course, a model for qualifying artisanal fishers as certified crew.
- Provide PPE kits and essential supplies to fishers enrolled in training programmes, in partnership with the ‘Between the Sun and the Sea’ project.
- Address the safety of fishers through a multistakeholder approach, combining capacity building, access to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), and coordination among government, industry, academia, and fishing communities.

GOVERNMENT

- Strengthen inter-agency coordination (Navy, IBAMA, ICMBio, SPU, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Fisheries).

FINANCE

- Provide financial support to IFSC and UNIVALI training programmes.
- Develop pilot insurance products for fishers during closed season.

Medium-Long Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Invest in continuous training, access to PPE and adoption of safer fishing technologies.
- Adopt traceability systems aligned with international standards.
- Enhance monitoring and inspection processes aiming at the continuous improvement of products.

GOVERNMENT

- Develop updated regulatory frameworks aligned with sector realities.
- Promote labour formalisation, social protection coverage and access to certified professional training programmes for fishers as part of broader strategies to improve operational safety, reduce vulnerability and facilitate access to sustainable finance mechanisms.
- Align national regulations with international frameworks (ILO, IMO).
- Prioritise ratification of ILO C188.
- Integrate ocean literacy into national education curricula.
- Assess the importance of the Blue Economy within the framework of Marine Spatial Planning - MSP.

FINANCE

- Establish financial mechanisms to support training for fishers.
- Develop standardised safety indicators for the fisheries sector.
- Include fishing sector safety in sustainable blue finance frameworks.

Offshore Renewables

Short Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Develop specialised training programmes for offshore wind workforce, replicating successful onshore model.
- Develop permanent training and requalification programmes for workers affected by maritime decarbonisation and offshore energy transition processes, ensuring participation of trade unions and workers' representatives in programme design and implementation.
- Implement gender inclusion initiatives to increase women's participation in technical roles – in partnership with "Elas Lideram" Movement.

GOVERNMENT

- Complete regulation of offshore wind law (approved January 2025).
- Execute first auctions for sea area concessions (scheduled 2026).

FINANCE

- Ensure that offshore renewable energy and alternative fuel projects incorporate just transition measures, including local workforce development, occupational safety safeguards, social dialogue mechanisms and long-term investment in professional maritime training.
- Advance the Belém Declaration for fair distribution of value added in global supply chains.

Medium-Long Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Invest in 'neo-industrialisation' on green/decarbonised bases to position Brazil as global low-emission supplier.
- Develop a local supply chain for offshore wind logistics and maintenance.

GOVERNMENT

- Adapt national electrical infrastructure (transmission and grid) for large-scale offshore projects.
- Create stable long-term demand signals for offshore investment.

FINANCE

- Mobilise development finance institutions (BNDES, IFC) to support offshore wind projects from 2030.
- Develop blended finance instruments to reduce cost of capital.
- Develop concessional finance instruments for offshore wind projects.



Finance and Investment



Short Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Actively collaborate with governments and civil society to implement the Ocean Investment Protocol.
- Financial institutions to align with UNEP FI community ('Turning the Tide', 'Diving Deep').
- Pilot corporate safety disclosure practices to support future ESG reporting and sustainable finance eligibility.

GOVERNMENT

- Implement Blue Seal and Blue ICMS incentive mechanisms at municipal level.
- Initiate the development of a National Blue Finance Framework by convening relevant ministries, regulators, development banks and financial institutions to define governance, priorities and implementation pathways.

FINANCE

- Develop robust social and labour eligibility criteria for blue finance instruments, sustainability-linked loans, blue bonds and ESG frameworks in the maritime sector, including compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention, respect for collective bargaining agreements, certified training standards, social protection mechanisms, human rights due diligence and effective measures to combat labour informality and abusive employment practices.
- Include crew abandonment cases, persistent wage arrears and serious labour rights violations identified through labour inspections, Port State Control inspections or other competent authorities as exclusionary factors for access to sustainable maritime finance mechanisms.
- Encourage financial institutions and investors to incorporate maritime labour due diligence and responsible chartering practices into ESG assessments and blue economy financing decisions, including verification of labour conditions throughout maritime supply chains.

Continue in next page



Medium-Long Term Recommendations

BUSINESS

- Integrate occupational safety and human rights into corporate ESG strategies, sustainability reporting and investment planning across all Blue Economy sectors.
- Develop standardised safety performance metrics and voluntarily disclose them to improve transparency, investor confidence and access to sustainable finance.
- Collaborate with financial institutions to pilot safety-linked financing mechanisms that reward measurable improvements in occupational safety performance.

GOVERNMENT

- Develop and implement a National Blue Economy Strategy integrating environmental protection, occupational safety, climate resilience and sustainable finance.
- Develop a National Blue Finance Framework, including a common taxonomy, eligibility criteria and monitoring system for blue investments aligned with international best practice.
- Establish national occupational safety indicators for ocean industries, creating a public database that supports policy evaluation, investment decisions and ESG reporting.
- Promote fiscal incentives and blended finance mechanisms that reward projects demonstrating measurable safety, social and environmental performance.
- Strengthen coordination among ministries, development banks, regulators and financial authorities to mainstream safety into public investment and Blue Economy policies.

FINANCE

- Develop a Brazilian Blue Finance Taxonomy and common eligibility framework that explicitly incorporates occupational safety, labour rights and just transition principles across blue bonds, sustainability-linked loans, blended finance and transition finance.
- Establish worker safety as a core investment criterion through alignment with BNDES, commercial banks, investors and international initiatives such as UNEP FI and the Ocean Investment Protocol.
- Develop measurable occupational safety KPIs linked to financing conditions, covering accident prevention, workforce development, labour formalisation, climate resilience and social performance.
- Pilot innovative financial instruments that incentivise safety performance, such as safety-linked loans, resilience bonds, blended finance facilities and insurance mechanisms for high-risk ocean sectors.
- Integrate occupational safety due diligence into credit analysis, ESG ratings, investment screening and portfolio management, recognising safety as a financial de-risking factor.
- Promote collaboration between BNDES, commercial banks, institutional investors, insurers and international financial institutions to scale blue finance solutions that reward projects delivering measurable safety and social outcomes.
- Support the establishment of a national monitoring framework to evaluate how blue finance contributes to safer, more resilient and inclusive ocean industries, generating evidence to continuously improve investment mechanisms and inform future Ocean Centres Brazil priorities.

CASE STUDIES

This section presents a selection of case studies and initiatives that demonstrate how different actors are already contributing to the transition toward a more inclusive and sustainable blue economy.

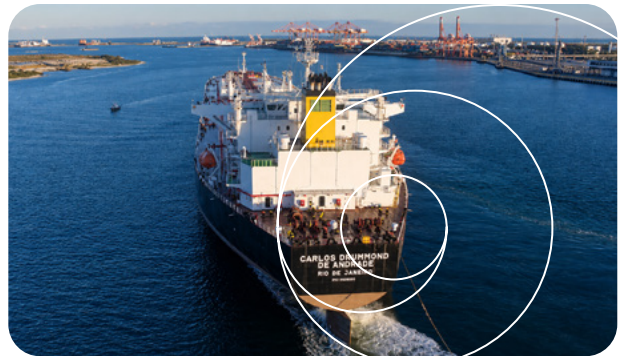
While each initiative operates within its own local context and priorities, together they reflect the diversity of approaches, partnerships, and solutions needed to advance ocean sustainability while placing safety, resilience, and long-term social impact at the centre of ocean development.

1 CASE STUDY FOR SHIPPING: TRANSPETRO

Transpetro has been advancing integrated initiatives across decarbonisation, climate adaptation and workforce well-being, demonstrating how a comprehensive approach can strengthen both sustainability and safety in the maritime and energy sectors.

On decarbonisation, the company has expanded low-carbon energy use across its facilities, with the inauguration of the Belém Solar Plant as a notable milestone. The project supplies renewable energy to the Belém Terminal and helped Transpetro surpass its original renewable energy capacity targets. To address climate-related risks, Transpetro developed a climate risk matrix covering 17 priority assets, identifying threats such as floods, droughts and landslides. Adaptation measures include continuous monitoring of extreme weather events, reinforcement of logistics systems, expanded emergency stock capacity and the installation of intermediate pipeline valves to enhance infrastructure resilience.

Finally, Transpetro has advanced mental health and psychological safety through its Anti-Stigma Programme, linked to the Mente em Foco Movement. The initiative promotes awareness, leadership training and support networks, reinforcing the company's commitment to the overall well-being of its workforce.



2 CASE STUDY FOR PORTS: Ports – Açu Port

Porto do Açu has been consolidating its position as a leading hub for energy transition and sustainable industrial development in Brazil. Guided by its vision of becoming the “Energy Transition Port of Brazil”, the company has advanced strategic low-carbon projects, including a Low-Carbon Hydrogen and Derivatives Hub focused on renewable hydrogen, green ammonia and e-methanol, alongside initiatives in low-carbon steel, circular economy solutions and offshore wind support. These efforts position the port as a strategic platform for Brazil’s transition to a low-carbon economy.

Climate action has been incorporated into the company’s governance and operational strategy in a structured manner. Porto do Açu recognises both physical and transition climate risks as material business issues, strengthening operational resilience through integrated metocean monitoring, wildfire detection and lightning monitoring systems. The company also participates in national and international working groups dedicated to decarbonisation, energy transition and operational safety in the port and maritime sectors.

In safety and emergency preparedness, Porto do Açu maintains an integrated approach to protecting people, operations and critical infrastructure. Its Operations and Emergency Response Centre (CORE) operates continuously, supported by advanced vessel traffic control and real-time monitoring technologies. In 2024, the port conducted dozens of emergency drills and training activities, reinforcing a strong preventive

safety culture, while maintaining international certifications and implementing health, safety and well-being programmes aligned with ESG principles and international best practices.



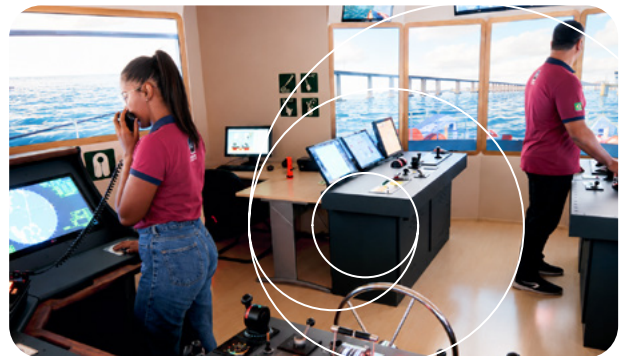
3

CASE STUDY FOR FISHING: Fundação Gente do Mar e IFSC

Professional training in Brazil's maritime and fisheries sectors has become a strategic priority for the sustainable development of the blue economy. Initiatives focused on technical education, operational safety and productive inclusion are expanding opportunities for maritime workers while supporting safer, more efficient operations aligned with ongoing technological transformation.

A leading example is the work of Fundação Gente do Mar and the the Waterway Transport Simulation Centre (Centro de Simulação Aquaviária – CSA), a national reference in high-complexity maritime training. Using advanced simulators, the institution delivers specialised programmes in navigation, dynamic positioning, port operations, emergency management and pollution response, following internationally recognised standards set by the IMO, DNV and the STCW Convention. These initiatives highlight the importance of realistic simulation environments in strengthening safety culture and workforce resilience.

Beyond commercial and offshore training, programmes targeting fishing communities have also promoted social inclusion and the valorisation of traditional knowledge. The Learning with the Sea training vessel, inaugurated by the Federal Institute of Santa Catarina (IFSC), provides practical training for fishers and students in navigation, maritime safety and fishing techniques, connecting education, income generation and coastal sustainability. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how investments in education and capacity building can drive a more inclusive and resilient transition for Brazil's maritime economy.



4

CASE STUDY OFFSHORE RENEWABLES: MTE

Brazil's Regulatory Standards (NRs), established by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, are essential for protecting workers in offshore operations, setting guidelines for accident prevention, risk management and safety at sea. NR-37 is the primary framework for offshore oil platforms, covering integrated risk management, fire detection, emergency response, evacuation protocols and onboard living conditions such as accommodation, water quality and worker well-being.



Complementing this framework, NR-13 ensures the safe operation of boilers, pressure vessels and pipelines through periodic inspections and strict operational controls, reducing the risk of leaks and explosions. NR-33 and NR-35 regulate confined space entry and work at height — both frequent and high-risk activities in offshore environments — establishing procedures to reduce occupational hazards in some of the sector's most dangerous operations.

NR-30, focused on waterway and maritime work, further complements this regulatory framework by establishing health and safety protection measures for workers onboard drilling ships, floating production units, and offshore support vessels.



Taken together, these regulatory standards strengthen Brazil's culture of prevention and promote safer working conditions offshore. They were, however, designed primarily for the oil and gas industry: Brazil does not yet have a Regulatory Standard tailored to offshore wind and other offshore renewable energy activities. Extending and adapting this framework — covering personnel transfer at sea, work at height on turbines, confined-space rescue and emergency response in open-sea environments — remains an outstanding regulatory gap identified by Ocean Centres Brazil stakeholders.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1** A multi-stakeholder platform for safe and sustainable ocean economy governance is now operational in Brazil, connecting government, industry, trade unions, academia, finance and civil society through structured dialogue.
- 2** Eight thematic workshops conducted covering all major ocean economy action areas, generating over 30 hours of structured multi-stakeholder dialogue on safety, finance, and sustainability.
- 3** A harmonised safety challenge framework applied across five ocean industries (shipping, ports, fishing, aquaculture, offshore renewables), providing a consolidated evidence base for policy action.
- 4** A consolidated knowledge base for Brazil's ocean safety challenges established, ready to inform the development of a national Collaborative Action Roadmap for a safe and sustainable ocean economy, and to influence policy at national and international levels.
- 5** Safety positioned as a strategic pillar of Brazil's Blue Economy. Ocean Centres Brazil successfully reframed safety from an operational compliance issue to a strategic enabler of sustainability, resilience, investment, and just transition across ocean industries.
- 6** National roadmap for action developed. More than diagnostic findings, Ocean Centres Brazil produced a comprehensive set of short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations for business, government, and financial institutions, providing a practical roadmap for implementation.
- 7** Cross-sector collaboration institutionalised. The initiative created lasting collaboration mechanisms, including a dedicated Safety Committee, bilateral engagement with strategic institutions, and ongoing dialogue between government, industry, finance, labour organisations, academia, and civil society.
- 8** Capacity building significantly expanded across Brazil's ocean sectors. Through workshops, technical exchanges, simulation experiences, and dissemination of guidance materials, Ocean Centres Brazil strengthened national capacity on maritime safety, climate resilience, and sustainable ocean governance.
- 9** Brazil is positioned as a global reference within the Ocean Centres network. Brazil actively contributed to international knowledge exchange through cross-country dialogues with Ghana and Kenya, sharing national experiences on maritime decarbonisation and blue finance while strengthening global collaboration.
- 10** Safety evidence translated into investment opportunities. The initiative demonstrated how strengthening safety systems can reduce financial risk, improve project bankability, increase investor confidence, and unlock sustainable finance across shipping, ports, fisheries, aquaculture, and offshore renewables.
- 11** A scalable methodology developed for future Ocean Centres. The Brazilian experience introduced an innovative methodology based on co-design, multi-level collaboration, locally led implementation, and a safety-first lens, providing a replicable model for future Ocean Centres globally.

CONCLUSIONS

Ocean Centres Brazil has demonstrated, across eight workshops and multiple stakeholder dialogues, that safety is not a constraint on blue economy development — it is the foundation upon which a genuinely sustainable ocean economy must be built.

The evidence gathered through this process reveals a consistent pattern: where safety systems are weak, so too is the capacity to attract investment, access international markets, protect workers, and adapt to climate change. Conversely, where safety is treated as a strategic priority — embedded in governance structures, financing criteria, regulatory frameworks and corporate cultures — blue economy development becomes more resilient, more equitable, and more bankable.

It is evident that the present analysis makes a significant contribution to the improvement of the main public policy instruments for coastal and marine management and governance in Brazil. In particular, it is grounded in an integrated sectoral assessment involving diverse institutional stakeholders, which has resulted in realistic and sustainable short-, medium-, and long-term proposals.

Brazil stands at a critical juncture. Stakeholders consistently reinforced that a just transition cannot compromise human life and operational safety. Decarbonisation pathways must ensure that new technologies, fuels and operating models are introduced alongside robust workforce reskilling programmes focused not only on equipment operation, but also on the chemistry, toxicity, and systemic risks associated with emerging energy matrices. The country

possesses extraordinary ocean wealth, a diverse and active stakeholder community, and the institutional capacity to lead the transition towards a safe and sustainable blue economy. Stakeholders recognised that safety in the ocean economy has important economic, financial and ESG implications, including impacts on operational efficiency, reputation, investment attractiveness and access to international markets. At the same time, Ocean Centres Brazil highlighted the importance of ensuring that maritime safety governance remains fundamentally centred on the protection of human life, decent work, workers' rights, social protection and fair transition principles, seeking an appropriate balance between economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable ocean development.

The greatest opportunity for Ocean Centres Brazil lies ahead. The initiative has established the evidence, convened the right stakeholders and built a shared understanding of the challenges. Its next chapter is to transform this collective knowledge into lasting institutional change—embedding safety into public policy, corporate governance, workforce development, climate adaptation and, ultimately, the architecture of Brazil's Blue Finance ecosystem. In doing so, Ocean Centres Brazil has the potential not only to influence national priorities, but also to contribute to global thinking on how safety can become a defining pillar of a just, resilient and investable ocean economy.

Ocean Centres Brazil will continue to serve as the platform through which this transformation is advanced — locally led, globally connected, and always with safety first.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This annual report is a testament to the power of collective purpose. First, our deepest gratitude goes to the coastal communities, fishers, and ocean workers of Brazil, whose lived experiences, resilience, and insights are the foundational truth upon which Ocean Centres Brazil is built. Their courage in sharing both challenges and solutions fuels our mission.

We recognise the vital support of our partners from the United Nations Global Compact and Lloyd's Register Foundation. Your strategic trust and investment in a locally-led initiative have been crucial in turning vision into reality. Finally, we acknowledge the dedicated commitment of the entire Ocean Centres Brazil team, whose unwavering focus ensures that the imperative of safety remains at the heart of our nation's journey toward a sustainable blue economy. This report reflects our shared endeavours.

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Rubens Filho, Environmental Executive Manager



TESTIMONIALS



“Participating in Ocean Centres Brazil allowed me to closely follow how the integration between safety, sustainability, and finance is being built in practice within the ocean economy. I would especially highlight the alignment among different stakeholders in advancing concrete solutions, particularly on critical issues such as safety in fisheries and its relationship with sector development.”

Flavienne Cruvinel Carvalho

Sustainability Coordinator at Nauterra

“Having participated in Ocean Centres Brazil since its inception, through both in-person and online events, has been a source of great satisfaction and honour. Without a doubt, this is another important partnership contributing to the strengthening of ocean governance and the advancement of the blue agenda in Brazil.”

Dr. Thauan Santos

Professor at the Naval War College (EGN)
and Coordinator of the Marine Economy Group (GEM)



“My contribution to Ocean Centres Brazil is closely connected to the project Between the Sun and the Sea, which seeks to assess the impacts of heatwaves on populations that live, work, and depend on the ocean. The initiative aims to better understand the vulnerability of fishers, mariculture workers, lifeguards, and port workers in the face of climate change. In this context, the role of Ocean Centres Brazil is fundamental in fostering reflection, integration, and collaboration to support responsible and sustainable solutions and policies.”

Marcus Polette

Coordinator of the Graduate Programme in Environmental Science
and Technology at University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI)





"Participating in Ocean Centres Brazil has reinforced something we see in practice at BNDES: blue finance is not just about environmental conservation — it is about building a new economic paradigm that places people, safety, and equity at the centre of investment decisions. The quality of the dialogue across workshops showed that Brazil has the institutional capacity and the stakeholder community to develop a truly integrated national approach to the blue economy. Now we need to move from conversation to structured frameworks that bring financing closer to those who need it most."

Luiz Antonio Pazos de Moraes

Analyst at Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES)

"Participating in Ocean Centres Brazil 2025 was a valuable experience, with its focus on occupational safety, human rights and worker protection as cross-cutting priorities in the ocean economy transition. This aligns with the Ministry of Ports and Airports' efforts to promote a just transition, including permanent dialogue forums and a Memorandum of Understanding with key transport organisations. The growing collaboration between the Ministry and Ocean Centres reinforces their shared commitment to valuing maritime and port workers."

Bruna Roncel de Oliveira

General Coordinator of Maritime Navigation at Ministry of Ports and Airports.

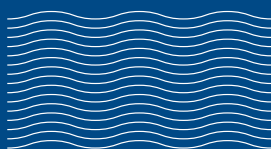


ANNEXES

To ensure that the main report remains concise and accessible, these Annexes provide supplementary information and supporting materials for readers wishing to explore specific topics in greater depth.

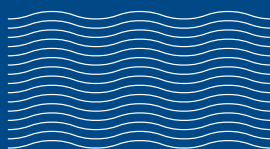
Annex I:

Concept Notes
and Programmes



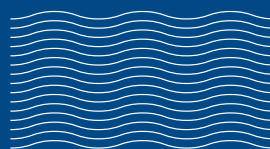
Annex II:

List of
Contributors



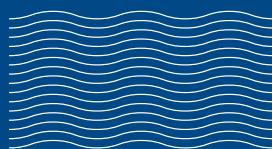
Annex III:

Workshops
Reports



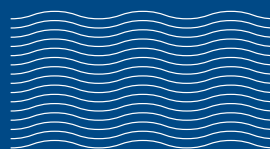
Annex IV:

Workshops
Outcomes



Annex V:

Official
Members





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