

WEST AFRICA SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PROGRAMME

Press Review

WASOP launch workshop - Cabo Verde Ocean Week

Mindelo, São Vicente (4–6 Nov 2025)

The West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP), a €59 million EU-backed initiative, was officially launched and held its first Steering Committee (COPIL) during Cabo Verde Ocean Week in Mindelo, São Vicente (4–6 November 2025). This regional launch workshop has brought together around 100 participants from West African stakeholders (13 coastal countries, civil society and private sector representatives) to international technical and financial partners (more details in the workshop report).

This press review compiles regional and international media coverage of these events. The analysis reveals that media narratives consistently focused on the programme's significant scale, framing it as an urgent response to the region's fisheries crisis. Coverage also emphasized the socio-economic potential of a sustainable blue economy and championed the leadership and national ownership demonstrated by Cabo Verde as the host nation.

The press review is organized as follows:

- 1. Summary of the event key facts and press coverage takeaways**
- 2. Panorama of press coverage (by media)**
 - News articles from the press
 - International radios and local TV
 - Social media
 - Institutional websites
- 3. Short analysis of media trends & angles observed**

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Summary of the event key facts and press coverage takeaways

1. Launch & Governance

- Official launch and first COPIL meeting held in Mindelo, São Vicente during Cabo Verde Ocean Week.
- Cabo Verde's Minister of the Sea presided over the opening, underlining national commitment to sustainable ocean governance.
- COPIL marks the start of structured oversight for regional implementation.

2. Programme Scope & Partners

- WASOP unites EU implementing partners, regional fisheries commissions, and other governance bodies.
- Technical assistance, capacity-building, and investment support are central pillars.
- Focus on sustainable fisheries, combating IUU fishing, marine biodiversity protection, and inclusive blue economy growth.

3. Media Coverage Trends

- **Environment-focused press:** Framed WASOP as a €59M (\$68M) lifeline addressing urgent fisheries decline (Mongabay, EnviroLink).
- **Regional/sector media:** Emphasized socio-economic impacts, science-driven management, and inclusive growth (Africa Sustainability Matters, Expertise France).
- **International (francophone) & national (Cabo Verde) press:** Highlighted EU involvement, Cabo Verde's hosting role, and national political commitment (La Tribune, L'Observateur, Governo de Cabo Verde, Inforpress).

4. Narrative Angles

- **Funding & scale:** €59M budget widely reported as primary news hook.
- **Fisheries crisis:** Environmental media framed the initiative as an urgent response to declining fish stocks and illegal fishing.
- **Blue economy & socio-economic benefits:** Economic outlets emphasized coastal livelihoods, job creation, and regional development potential.
- **National ownership:** Local coverage reinforced Cabo Verde's leadership and legitimacy in ocean governance.
- **Coordinated action at the West African regional level:** launch of a regional dynamic for sustainable blue economy, resources management and ecosystems preservation, symbolized by the slogan "One Ocean, One future : West Africa leads the blue wave".

5. Messaging Recommendations

- Lead with scale and partnership: “WASOP — a EUR 59 million EU-backed initiative - will strengthen ocean governance, protect marine biodiversity, and support a sustainable blue economy across 13 West African countries.” [International Partnerships+1](#)
- Highlight host leadership: “WASOP was officially launched during Cabo Verde Ocean Week in São Vicente; Cabo Verde is a proud host and committed partner.”
- Define the core pillars of the Programme: “The programme focuses on three pillars: sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing; inclusive blue economy growth; and marine biodiversity protection.” [International Partnerships](#)

Panorama of Press Coverage

Below are short summaries of major coverage items grouped by media: press (international, regional and nation coverage), social media, and institutional announcements (institutional webpage).

1. News articles (Press, Newspapers, Magazines)

International coverage

- **La Tribune**
 - [“En Afrique de l’Ouest, l’Europe se joint aux efforts pour débloquent le potentiel de l’économie bleue”](#)
- **L’Observateur**
 - [“WASOP: Le Cap-Vert s’engage pour un océan plus durable” \(mirrored in Maghress\)](#)
- **Mongabay**
 - [“West Africa’s oceans get \\$68 million lifeline amid fisheries decline”](#)

Regional coverage

- **Rural Infos TG**
 - [“La BIDC et la BOAD répondent à l’appel à l’action du WASOP pour le financement de l’économie bleue”](#)
 - [“Laure Kuhn Bruma: Le WASOP doit être catalyseur”](#)
 - [“COPIL – 1er acte du WASOP”](#)
 - [“La CEDEAO dans la dynamique des objectifs du WASOP”](#)
 - [“Jérémie Pellet: L’implication des États est essentielle”](#)
- **Liberia coverage LAEJ Network**
 - [Liberia among 13 West African Nations to benefit from €59 Million EU funded Ocean protection programme](#)
- **Africa Sustainability Matters**
 - [“New West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme targets fisheries decline and blue economy development”](#)

- **Agratime**
 - [“WASOP: lancement d’un programme pour une économie bleue inclusive”](#)
- **Horizon News**
 - [« Afrique de l’Ouest : L’Union européenne lance le Programme WASOP pour une gestion durable des océans doté de 59 millions d’euros »](#)

National coverage (Cabo Verde)

- **Inforpress**
 - Coverage of Government statements and WASOP role during Ocean Week. Articles are not anymore online inforpress.cv+1
- **Expresso das Ilhas – Local Cabo Verde Press**
 - [“São Vicente acolhe lançamento do WASOP de 59M€”](#)

2. Radio / TV / Video

- [RFI – Journal Afrique – Coverage of WASOP](#)
- [RFI – Africa Eco Report – Tourism in Cabo Verde](#)
- [RFI – Africa Eco Report – Emigration impacts on Cabo Verde local economy](#)
- [RFI – Africa Eco Report – West Africa against IUU fishing](#)
- [BBC Afrique Radio – Bulletin including WASOP](#)
- [Televisão de Cabo Verde – TCV - YouTube – Cabo Verde Ocean Week / WASOP segment](#)

3. Social Media

Facebook

- [UICN PACO](#)
- [European Union in The Gambia](#)
- [Government of Cabo Verde](#)
- [Cabo Verde Ocean Week](#)
- [Cabo Verde Ocean Week](#)
- [UE in Cabo Verde](#)
- [European Union in Mauritania](#)
- [EFCA – European Fisheries Control Agency](#)

Linked-In

- [Ministério do Mar – Cabo Verde Ocean Week & WASOP](#)
- [Expertise France – Blue economy support](#)
- [EU / Team Europe coverage](#)
- [Global Gateway – WASOP launch](#)

X (previously Twitter)

- [FAO CECAF](#)
- [EU Partnerships](#)
- [EFCA – European Fisheries Control Agency](#)
- [EFCA Bluesky](#)

4. Institutional websites

- **EU / International Partnerships (overview):** Official programme overview describing pillars, country list and expected outcomes for integrated ocean governance and sustainable blue economy. Useful for quoting official objectives and funding figures. [International Partnerships](#)
- **FCWC / Regional fisheries commission (press release of the launch):** Highlights the launch during Cabo Verde Ocean Week, regional dimensions and FCWC involvement to ensure fisheries-focused actions. Good for fisheries governance emphasis. fcwc-fish.org
- **Expertise France programme page:** Highlights Expertise France role in implementation and the programme's technical approach to preservation and inclusive growth. Useful to explain implementing partners and on-the-ground support. expertisefrance.fr
- **Governo de Cabo Verde (official):** Government statements on Cabo Verde's Minister of the Sea presiding over COPIL opening, inauguration of Ocean Week activities and national commitments to implement WASOP measures. Authoritative source for government quotes and local political context. [Governo de Cabo Verde+1](#)
- **AIR Centre:** the Atlantic International Research Centre is an international collaborative framework to address global challenges and local priorities in the Atlantic Ocean. They published an article : "Cabo Verde Ocean Week addresses sustainable ocean management and blue economy" [Coverage of Ocean Week with reference to WASOP](#)

Short analysis of media trends & angles observed

- **Funding/scale Angle:** Many outlets highlight the €59M financing (sometimes converted to USD, typically written as ~\$68M) — this is the primary hook for international media. [Sustainable Development Goals+1](#)

- **Fisheries Crisis Framing:** Environmental outlets frame WASOP as an urgent response to an ongoing fisheries decline and to combat IUU fishing. This angle resonates with conservation and food security audiences. [Mongabay+1](#)
- **Blue Economy / Development Narrative:** Economic and regional outlets emphasize the blue economy potential and socio-economic benefits for coastal communities. Use human-interest, job and value-chain stories to broaden coverage. [Africa Sustainability Matters](#)
- **National ownership:** Local Cabo Verde coverage focuses on the country's role as host and on ministerial statements - important for domestic legitimacy and outreach. [Governo de Cabo Verde](#)

