

## BOX 2. Charting a Coastal Blue Economy Development Path for Cambodia

Cambodia's coastal areas are home to a rich and diverse natural capital. Its fisheries sector contributes to 18 percent of its GDP, and its nature-based coastal tourism has significant growth potential.

Yet a massive influx of foreign investment in coastal areas is causing serious environmental issues, including the degradation of coastal natural resources (mainly coastal forests), and marine pollution due to a lack of proper solid and liquid waste management. Further, tourism revenues are already being impacted by COVID-19, which is hurting the country's GDP.

PROBLUE is supporting World Bank activities in Cambodia that will inform its policy and institutional development and identify investment opportunities for the development of its blue economy. A review of the country's institutional framework and capacity needs is underway, as is a comprehensive study on land-based marine plastic pollution. FY20 also saw the start of assessments for improving coastal ecotourism development planning. PROBLUE will also support the assessment of marine resilience and protected areas management, as well as the formulation of a blue economy roadmap for the development of ecotourism, fisheries, and energy. In addition, we will support the expansion of pilots that were conducted in Cambodia to monitor floating debris in rivers through satellite images and drone surveys; identify the top 10 sources of plastic waste; and use these findings to engage with the private sector to define policies aimed at preventing plastic pollution in the country's rivers and coastal areas.

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