

Blue

Country profile

Country Blue is the fifth largest country bordering the Sea of Colours, with a population of circa 6 million people. It is a modern economy with a Prime Minister leading a coalition cabinet. The dominant governance style is pragmatic and easy going but with a strong focus on retaining their leading position in sectoral niches. The country has a strong lobby from both industry and environmental NGOs.

Blue geography is interesting: it has both sand shores and rocky coastlines. The sandy shores are vulnerable to sea level rise and predicted increased storminess, so will need extra sand supplied to maintain their profile. Although Blue's sea area is just over 81,500 km², the country has one of the biggest commercial fishing fleets in the world and is a major player in offshore exploration, innovative deep sea and offshore mining. The country is keen to pursue world trade opportunities and economic developments.

Country Blue was the first country in the world with operating offshore wind turbines. It currently has two wind farms in operation but has not planned any additional wind farms yet and is losing its position as a market leader. The renewable energy target is 5.37 GW by 2030. However, there is a presumption against offshore wind energy generation within the 12 nautical mile zone, since it is deemed to have a negative impact on tourism. Country Blue's energy security is also at risk and they need to create interconnectors to mitigate this risk.

The Blue commercial shipping fleet is large, but the economic contribution of the sector to the national economy is decreasing. The number of private yachts and boats for leisure and recreational angling are very high; almost all families in the country own at least one boat. There is one medium/large port, with major facilities for handling of goods and passengers, and many small ports which are used by private yachts and boats. It is expected that the number of yachts and boats will increase in the future, due to an ageing population.

The shoreline of country Blue is important resting ground for many bird species. Furthermore, the Blue country has important nursery and spawning areas and many harbour porpoises are present in the Blue EEZ. Various Natura 2000 sites have been designated but there are no Marine Protected Areas as yet. Some Natura 2000 sites are bird areas, while others are designated as habitat area for seabed protection. The government has a rough idea of areas that could be designated as additional MPAs, but the process is on-going. There is no formal regulatory MSP procedure. Flexibility is the key word.

