Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

# Progress Report
## 2025

**The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is a multi-institutional initiative established to enable countries and other stakeholders to go Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to measure and manage progress toward ocean sustainable development. Co-chaired by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia (Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan Republik Indonesia) and Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, GOAP brings together governments, international organisations, research institutions and others to build a global community of practice for ocean accounting.**

**The GOAP Secretariat is hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Development Reform at the University of New South Wales and partnership activities are funded by the United Kingdom Blue Planet Fund, Australian Ocean Leadership Package, Global Environment Facility, World Bank, and the Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership.**

Fundación Charles Darwin Foundation GALAPAGOS

MINISTRY OF MARINE AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

UNSW SYDNEY | UNSW Centre for Sustainable Development Reform

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

The health of the ocean and our future prosperity are intrinsically linked.

Photograph: Ken Findlay

Marine environments provide the backbone to global trade, support livelihoods, and are increasingly identified as a source of future economic growth. Simultaneously, the ocean is fundamental to our social systems, cultural heritage, and collective wellbeing while housing vital biodiversity and regulating climate. However, it is facing unprecedented pressure, through biodiversity loss, pollution, and the cumulative effects of climate change. To preserve these interconnections in the face of mounting pressures, informed decision-making based on comprehensive, integrated evidence is critical.

Recognition of the data required to make these informed decisions is not new. The need to integrate environmental and economic information has been acknowledged and continuously developed since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, which identified a clear requirement for countries to combine these data streams to facilitate the transition to more sustainable economies. Environmental-economic accounting has been conducted in over 90 countries during the past 35 years, with at least 60 countries regularly producing accounts under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework explicitly calls for the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national planning processes and accounts (Target 14), while the Sustainable Development Goals specify similar requirements (Target 15.9).

However, marine and coastal ecosystems remain significantly underrepresented in national data despite their economic and ecological importance. **Ocean accounts provide a coherent structure for organising complex marine data to ensure completeness and consistency.**

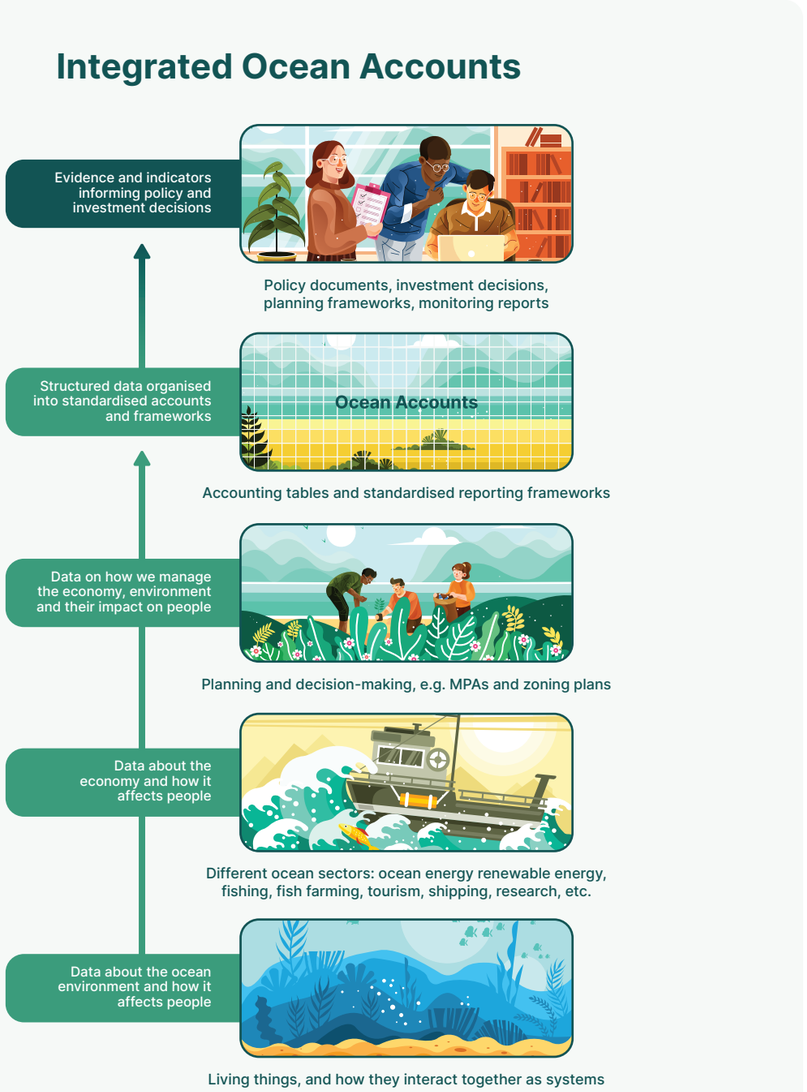
**Ocean accounts are structured datasets that integrate environmental, social and economic information, providing a clear picture of how ocean ecosystems are changing, how resources are used, and how these contribute to livelihoods, economies, and community well-being.**

By bringing together data on ecosystems, industries, communities, and governance, ocean accounts help countries assess trade-offs, track progress over time, and make more informed decisions on ocean governance, sustainable financing, resource allocation, and development strategies. They help tell the story of the ocean's role in our lives—not just what it contributes to the economy, but also how healthy these marine ecosystems are–and why both matter for sustainable development and long-term well-being.

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership was established in 2019—bringing together governments, international organisations, and research institutions to develop ocean accounting systems that are locally relevant, globally aligned, and practically applied. This partnership approach enables countries to learn from each other's experiences, pool technical resources, harmonise methodologies, and build mutual capacity to collectively advance the integration of ocean values into decision-making frameworks.



This progress report documents how countries across regions are moving from concept to implementation—embedding ocean accounts in national planning, using them to inform policy, and building lasting institutional capacity. As the planet faces growing pressures on ocean resources, these efforts represent a critical step toward evidence-based governance that balances economic development with environmental sustainability and social equity. Through continued collaboration and shared learning, ocean accounts can help provide the foundation for a truly sustainable ocean economy that ensures environmental health, economic productivity, and social wellbeing now and into the future.



# Tracking Global Impact 2019 to 2025

**This is collective progress—built through partnerships, shared learning, and coordinated action across regions and institutions. GOAP's work forms part of a broader global movement, with approximately 50 countries worldwide now undertaking some form of ocean accounting initiatives.**

The collaborative network that forms the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership has achieved meaningful results through coordinated effort and knowledge exchange.  These figures reflect growing institutional commitment, expanded technical capacity, and practical progress toward embedding ocean values in planning and decision-making frameworks.

- GOAP comprises **44 member organisations from 23 countries**, representing governments, research institutions, intergovernmental organisations, and civil society
- **33 countries** undertaking ocean accounting initiatives within GOAP
- **20 ocean account development initiatives** across **12 distinct ecosystem types** mapped, including coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves and lagoons
- **36 ocean accounting datasets** compiled across participating countries
- **25 governance and interagency structures** — including steering committees, technical working groups, and interagency task forces- established or strengthened to prioritise ocean accounting
- **33 fellows** hosted as part of the Ocean Accounts Fellowship Programme
- **1,446 individuals** reached via **56 training and technical assistance sessions**
- **39 knowledge products** published, including papers, reports, strategies and tools
- **35 policy instruments** developed, including policy briefs, implementation guidelines and national ocean accounting roadmaps

The figures reflect activities led or supported by the GOAP Secretariat and include some GOAP member country efforts, but do not capture the full extent of ocean accounting work undertaken independently by members.

**44**
**Member Organisations**
from **23 Countries**

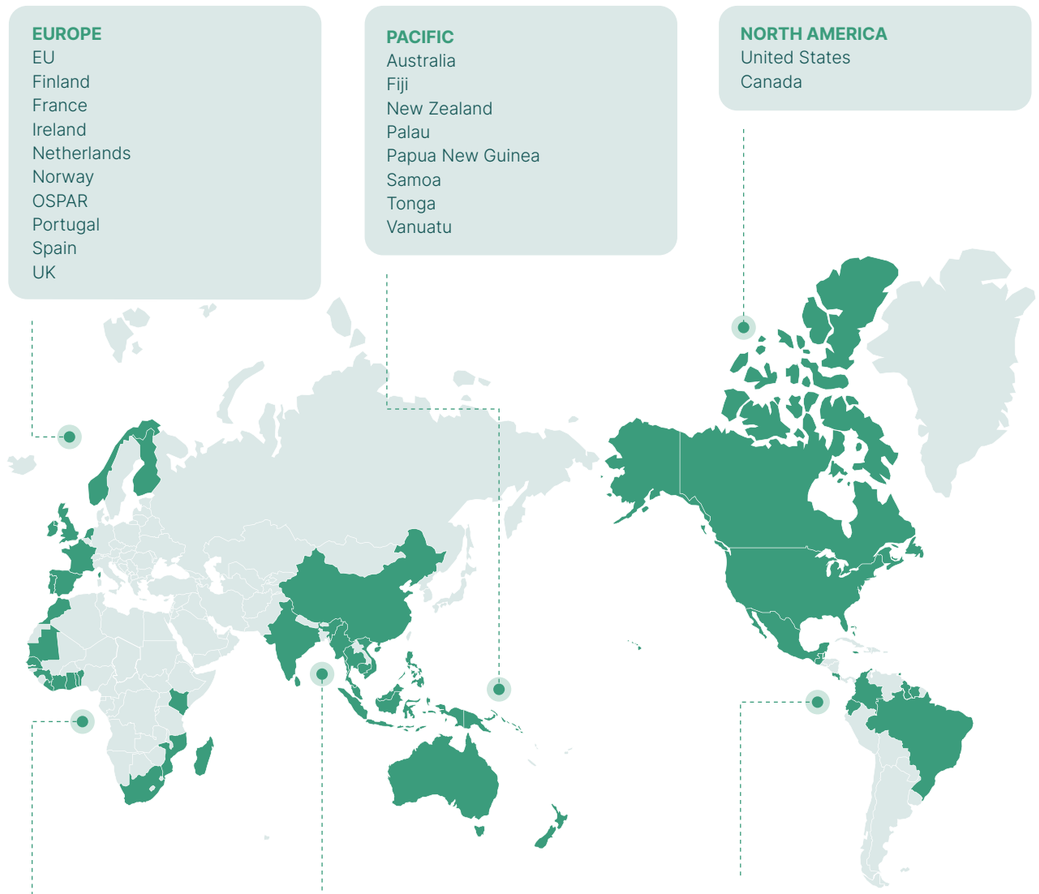
**20 Ocean Account Development Initiatives**
with **36 Ocean Accounting Data Sets Compiled**

**33 Fellows Hosted**
as part of **The GOAP Fellowship Programme**



# Global Snapshot of Ocean Accounting Activities

Refer to Appendix A for List of Member Organisations



**EUROPE**
EU
Finland
France
Ireland
Netherlands
Norway
OSPAR
Portugal
Spain
UK

**PACIFIC**
Australia
Fiji
New Zealand
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Tonga
Vanuatu

**NORTH AMERICA**
United States
Canada

**AFRICA**
Benin
Côte d'Ivoire
Ghana
Guinea
Liberia
Madagascar
Mauritania
Kenya
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Senegal
Seychelles
South Africa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Togo

**ASIA**
China
India
Indonesia
Japan
Maldives
Myanmar
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Viet Nam

**LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**
Guyana
Anguilla (OTs)
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Brazil
British Virgin Islands (OTs)
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Grenada
Guatemala
Jamaica
Mexico
Monserrat (OTs)
Saint Lucia
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos (OTs)

Photograph: Jose Carlos Alexandre

## Contents

# Foreword from GOAP Co-chairs

Dear colleagues and friends,

Since taking on the role of Co-Chairs in late 2023, we have been inspired by the depth of collaboration, innovation, and ambition across the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership. Across regions, we've seen growing momentum around ocean accounting—not only as a technical tool, but as a practical means of connecting data to the decisions that matter to people's lives.

The Partnership continues to demonstrate that collaboration between governments, institutions, and civil society can produce practical tools for sustainable ocean governance. Ocean accounting is no longer solely a technical concept—it is a means for countries to make more informed and equitable decisions about the ocean. Over the past year, we've seen ocean accounting gain traction not only in national strategies, but also in the global conversations shaping the future of our ocean.

We are proud to co-chair this Partnership at a moment of growing momentum—when countries are looking for credible tools to deliver on their biodiversity, climate, and development commitments, and when the global community is seeking more coherent, inclusive ways to measure progress. Looking ahead, our focus is clear, as outlined in our 2024 Ambition Statement (Annex 1), we will continue to work with all GOAP Members and partners to strengthen regional networks, expand capacity and training, and deepen the use of ocean accounts in policy and planning. It means ensuring ocean accounts can inform the big transitions underway.

As the world works towards fulfilling its 2030 commitments through both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, we see an opportunity to consolidate the progress we've made—and to articulate how ocean accounting provides a critical foundation for achieving our shared global ambitions. We are excited to walk that path with you

Thank you for your partnership and continued engagement.

With warm regards,

Co-Chairs, Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

**Firdaus Agung**
Directorate General for Marine Spatial Management
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Government of Indonesia

**César Viteri Mejia**
Senior Economist & Co-Principal Investigator
Galapagos Fisheries Think Tank, Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

## About the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) helps countries transform fragmented ocean data into actionable insights—strengthening policy, guiding investment, and embedding sustainability into planning and decision-making.

GOAP was established in 2019 as a coordinated international initiative to ensure that the environmental, economic, social, and cultural importance of the ocean is recognised and reflected in planning and sustainable development decision-making. The partnership emerged in response to growing recognition that conventional economic metrics often overlook the full contribution of ocean ecosystems, despite their central role in supporting livelihoods, economies and planetary health.

GOAP brings together governments, international organisations, research institutions and experts with a shared commitment to improving the way ocean values are integrated into public policy, finance and planning. The partnership supports this effort through the development and use of ocean accounts.

GOAP is supported by a Secretariat hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Development Reform at the University of New South Wales in Australia. The partnership operates through an inclusive and collaborative model that promotes standardisation, integration and capacity enhancement across regions and sectors.



## The Partnership Approach

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership includes 44 Members, representing governments, research institutions, intergovernmental organisations, and civil society (Appendix A). Five Members operate at a global level, with the rest working regionally or nationally across diverse geographies.

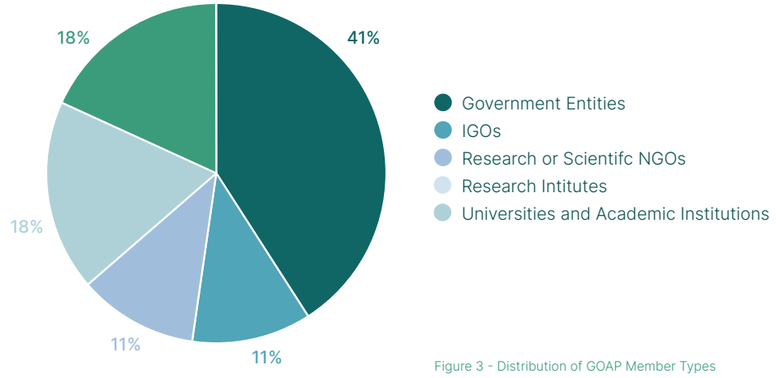



Figure 3 - Distribution of GOAP Member Types

While GOAP is anchored by its Members, its work radiates out widely—engaging with non-members, partner initiatives and governments through ocean accounting projects, technical collaborations and open capacity-building activities.

GOAP uses flexible, country-led approaches that combine technical expertise, policy support and knowledge exchange. While support is tailored to each national context, it is grounded in a common commitment to integrated, evidence-based decision-making for ocean sustainable development. Across GOAP's global network, countries and regions are advancing ocean accounting in ways that reflect local priorities, institutions, and ecosystems.

**GOAP Secretariat coordinates:**

- In-kind advisory support and technical assistance
- Guidance on funding and resource mobilisation
- A global network of experts, partners and peers
- Ongoing training and capacity enhancement opportunities
- Communities of Practice across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

# Pathways to Change

Over the past six years, the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership has evolved into an extensive network with member organisations spanning 23 nations, while supporting ocean accounting initiatives across at least 33 countries worldwide. This reach extends beyond formal membership, reflecting GOAP's collaborative approach and its role in catalysing action through knowledge sharing, technical support, and strategic partnerships.

Through systematic approaches focused on policy integration, pilot implementation, capacity development, knowledge production, and inclusive engagement, GOAP is transforming how marine and coastal resources are measured, valued, and managed for people's well-being and societal development

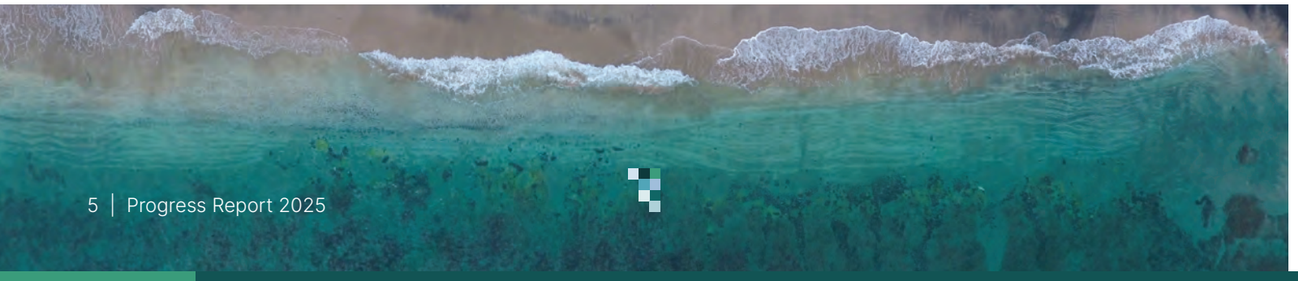
## Country Implementation and Ocean Account Development

Country-led implementation initiatives demonstrate how accounts can be developed and applied to meet specific policy, environmental, or economic priorities. Designed for scalability, ocean account development projects often begin with a targeted focus—such as a specific ecosystem or policy question—but can expand to cover broader geographies, governance frameworks, or sectors. By grounding ocean accounting in real-world needs, these initial projects provide practical experience and generate insights to inform broader adoption.

**GOAP has supported 20 ocean account development initiatives, resulting in the production of 36 ocean accounts and monitoring datasets.**

## Policy Integration and Governance

GOAP catalyses policy change by embedding ocean accounting within national and regional governance frameworks, transforming how decisions are made about marine and coastal resources. To date, **GOAP has supported the establishment of 25 formal governance structures**—including steering committees, technical working groups, and interagency task forces—that institutionalise ocean accounting within decision-making processes. These mechanisms facilitate cross-sector coordination, improve data sharing, and translate technical information into actionable policies across marine spatial planning, conservation financing, blue economy development, and climate adaptation initiatives.





## Capacity Enhancement and Training

Since 2019, GOAP has made capacity-enhancement a central pillar of its work. Training is designed to reflect local priorities—linking technical content with real-world policy applications and ensuring that knowledge becomes embedded within national decision-making systems. **GOAP has delivered 56 tailored training sessions to more than 1,400 individuals across 35 organisations.**

The **GOAP Ocean Accounts Fellowship Programme currently supports 29 Fellows across multiple regions**, working at the interface of science and policy to advance the application of ocean accounts within national institutions and regional initiatives. These Fellows serve as technical leaders, stakeholder coordinators, and trainers, creating a multiplier effect that sustains momentum beyond initial engagement.

Regional Communities of Practice in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe bring together governments, technical partners, and regional bodies to share lessons, align strategies, and co-develop solutions.

## Knowledge Generation and Innovation

GOAP develops technical guidance and participates in international forums to advance ocean accounting methodologies and applications. The partnership hosts an Expert Panel of specialists from academia, government agencies, research institutions, and international organisations who develop the GOAP Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting. This technical guidance serves as a reference point for stakeholders implementing ocean accounts, addressing methodological challenges while ensuring alignment with international statistical standards.

## Social Inclusion and Equity

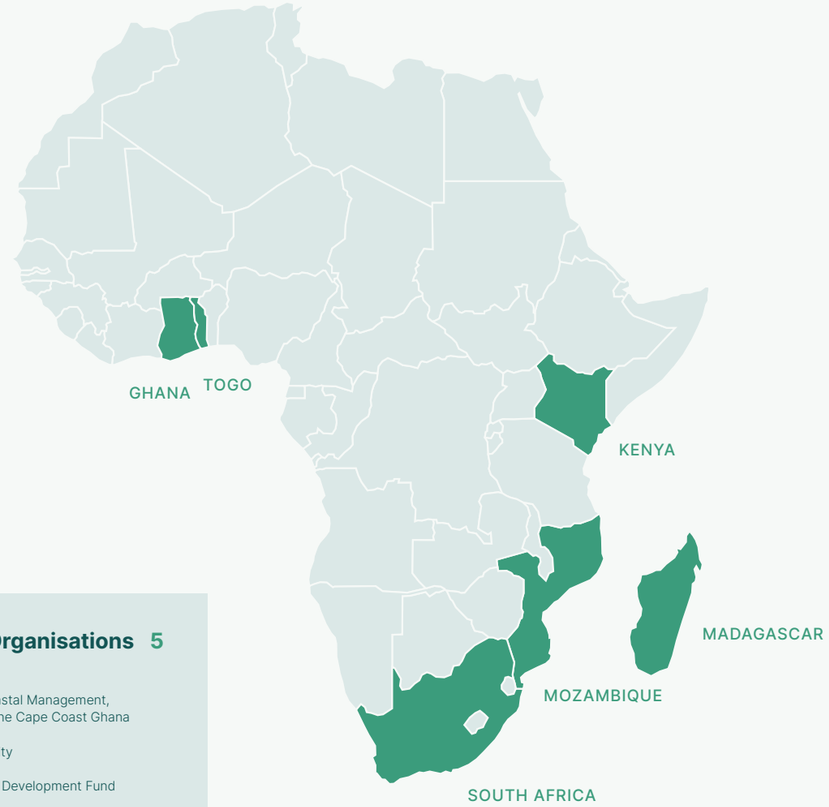
GOAP recognises equity and social inclusion as fundamental to sustainable ocean governance. GOAP has supported work in Mozambique which has demonstrated a world-first application of applied social accounting. The GOAP Social Accounts Working Group brings together 70 members from over 20 countries to develop methodologies that capture social, cultural, and equity data within ocean accounting. This global community of practice is actively advancing research, testing secondary data sources, developing ocean accounts in five countries, and produce guidance on incorporating social dimensions into ocean decision-making. Its work ensures that diverse values, knowledge systems, and community dependencies on ocean resources are reflected in accounting frameworks.

# Ocean Accounting in Action

**Ocean Accounting in Action**

# Africa

In Africa, GOAP supports ocean accounts as a practical tool for balanced ocean policy development, equitable resource management, and inclusive blue economy planning in 5 countries. Through its Africa Community of Practice, GOAP is also fostering regional collaboration to support knowledge exchange, capacity enhancement, and the shaping of a shared agenda for evidence-based ocean governance.




## Member Organisations 5

**Ghana**
- Centre for Coastal Management, University of the Cape Coast Ghana

**Kenya**
- Pwani University

**Mozambique**
- Blue Economy Development Fund (ProAzul)

**South Africa**
- Institute for Coastal and Marine Research, Nelson Mandela University
- NRF - South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology

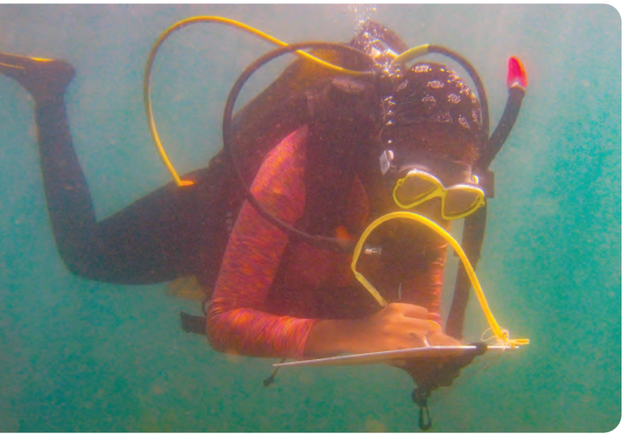
**Togo**
- Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection

## Fellows 11

Refer to Appendix A and B

## Key Activities

### Ocean Accounts in-country

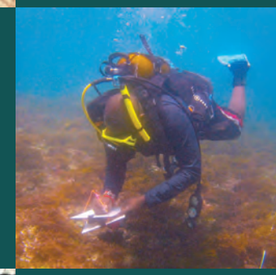


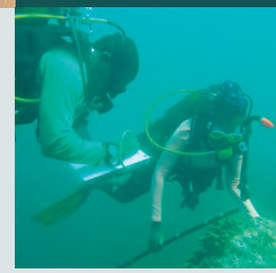
In **Mozambique**, efforts focused on pioneering social ocean accounting, co-designed with World Resources Institute (WRI), AfriSeas Solutions and Ocean Revolution Moçambique in conjunction with input from local Conselhos Comunitários de Pesca (Community Fishers' Councils).  The work in Inhambane Bay introduced community-driven data collection and participatory mapping to document the informal marine economy, particularly the contributions of women in subsistence and small-scale fisheries and tourism. The information captured explicit socio-ecological linkages often overlooked in formal national accounting.

In **Kenya**, GOAP collaborates with Pwani University and associated Fellows from the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) on the Kilifi County coast to develop ocean accounts that enhance existing coastal and marine data systems to better inform marine protected area management, social dependence, and blue economy policy.

In **Ghana**, Fellows at the Centre for Coastal Management at University of Cape Coast are piloting accounts to evaluate community dependency on mangrove ecosystems, and support local management efforts, by assessing coastal change at two key RAMSAR sites, the Keta and Songhor Lagoon areas, as well as the Volta Delta system. Data from the project will be integrated with Ghana Statistical Services and contribute to Ghana's Sustainable Ocean Plan, being driven within the Presidential SDG Advisory Unit under Ghana's Membership of the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy.

In **Madagascar**, GOAP supports a pilot study led by Fellows at the Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines at University of Toliara in conducting research on coastal and coral reef change, and the ecosystem services they provide to local communities. The work is supported by the Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, as a means to support ocean accounting for ocean governance in the country.





Left: Fellow at Pwani University conducting data collection for ground truthing analysis, Kilikfi, Kenya

Right: The fellows and assistants at Pwani University preparing for field research, Kilikfi, Kenya

### Africa Community of Practice

GOAP's Africa Community of Practice (ACoP) connects technical institutions, government agencies, and academic partners working on ocean accounting. Coordinated in recent years with leadership from AfriSeas Solutions (Pty) Ltd., the Centre for Sustainable Oceans at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), and recently IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOC-Africa), and supported by numerous partners, the ACoP provides a platform for peer learning, regional dialogue, and strategic and regional alignment. Through the ACoP, an African Vision Strategy for Ocean Accounting Towards Sustainable Ocean Development 2024–2026 (Annex 4) was developed and endorsed as a continental roadmap that outlines priorities for advancing ocean accounting across African coastal states, including methodological innovation in areas such as social and governance accounts.

## Outcomes

**Regional Engagement**
The GOAP ACoP played a key role at and in the lead up to the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the **Nairobi Convention**, contributing to the formal recognition of ocean accounting in two regional decisions (CP 11/1 and CP 11/14). The Nairobi Convention has now formally recognised ocean accounting in its work programme as a tool for tracking sustainable blue economy initiatives and ocean governance across the Western Indian Ocean region and is encouraging member states to explore its application within national marine and coastal governance systems.

**Social Ocean Accounting Innovation**
The community-based ocean accounts developed in Mozambique have contributed significantly to pioneering the social ocean accounting framework. Through this work, local fisheries councils and communities documented various informal ocean uses and demonstrated how community-generated data can complement official statistics.

**Technical Capacity and Institutional Readiness**
Through strategic partnerships with academic institutions and government agencies, GOAP supports a robust capacity enhancement framework, including a network of trained fellows and professionals who are championing ocean accounting in their respective institutions. Over 250 individuals from environment ministries, national statistics offices, marine institutes, and community organisations have participated in targeted training, with an emphasis on practical tools and cross-sector coordination, helping partners embed ocean accounting in national data systems, policy frameworks, and educational curricula.

## Looking ahead

In 2025–26, GOAP will continue to support African partners through regional coordination and targeted country support. GOAP will also expand engagement and activities in other interested countries. The Africa CoP will remain central to driving peer-to-peer learning, coordinating technical support, and fostering a common African agenda for inclusive and integrated ocean accounting to underpin the information systems required for evidence-based and adaptive ocean governance.



# Understanding Life and Livelihoods:
## Social Ocean Accounting in Inhambane Bay, Mozambique

The social accounts revealed significant ecosystem dependencies, the estuary channel serves as a vital transportation route, supporting over 332,000 person trips annually while artisanal fishing provides approximately 986,000 kg of fish annually. Mud flats, seagrass beds and mangrove areas were all proved to be critical ecosystems for fisheries and gleaning activities. The accounts also helped expose critical gender disparities, with women making up the majority of the workforce in gleaning (96.6%) and seafood vending (80.5%),yet having limited participation in decision-making processes.

The assessment of adaptive capacity revealed varying strengths and challenges across communities. Most communities have reasonable access to vessels and health services, though quality varies with distance from facilities. While most communities demonstrated strong local governance through Community Fishing Councils (CCPs), the study identified concerning trends in the erosion of traditional ecological knowledge and uneven access to financial resilience mechanisms such as savings groups.

Crucially, the account demonstrated how effective ocean management must address both ecological and social dimensions, including community organisations, traditional knowledge preservation, and inclusive decision-making processes. The study highlighted critical areas for strengthening community resilience, including preserving traditional knowledge, developing alternative livelihoods, improving infrastructure access, and enhancing financial management.

Top: Community consultation at Inhambane Bay, facilitated by colleagues at Ocean Revolution, Mozambique

Ocean Accounting in Action

# Asia

Asia is home to some of GOAP's most advanced and diverse applications of ocean accounting, reflecting the region's strong experience with natural capital accounting and growing commitment to sustainable ocean development. GOAP's work in the region has focused on embedding ocean accounting into national systems, developing practical tools for data integration and decision-making, and facilitating cross-country learning through the Asia Community of Practice.


### Member Organisations 13

**China**
- National Bureau of Statistics of China
- Guangxi Academy of Oceanography

**India**
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**Indonesia**
- Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
- World Resources Institute Indonesia
- Rekam Nusantara Foundation

**Japan**
- Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI)

**Malaysia**
- Department of Statistics
- Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

**Maldives**
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment

**Thailand**
- National Science and Technology Development Agency
- National Statistical Office of Thailand

**Viet Nam**
- Institute of Strategy and Policy on Agriculture and Environment (ISPAE)

**Regional**
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

### Fellows 14

Refer to Appendix A and B



## Key Activities

### Ocean Accounts in-country

In **Indonesia**, ocean accounts are being applied across multiple priority areas including marine protected areas and blue carbon ecosystems. Mangrove ecosystems in two regencies were valued at USD 158,276 and USD 516,651 per year for their contribution to local fisheries, while across five Indonesian Marine Protected Areas, coral reef ecosystem services were valued at USD 235.46 million.

In **Vietnam**, ocean account development has focused on developing ecosystem accounts for mangroves and seagrasses, governance mapping, and solid waste flow analysis in Quang Ninh province. These accounts revealed a significant shift in waste treatment practices, with waste incineration rising from just under 4% in 2015 to nearly 20% by 2022. Meanwhile, the governance account captured institutional roles and policy instruments relevant to marine and coastal management. Through these accounts, it was determined that marine sectors collectively contribute 7.2 percent to Vietnam's national GDP.

In the **Maldives**, initial ocean accounting work in Laamu Atoll is applying the SEEA EA framework to tourism-linked ecosystems. Led by national institutions and supported by GOAP Fellows, the pilot account is contributing to marine spatial planning and is aligned with national GEF-funded development initiatives.

In **China**, a six-month pilot study in Beihai, Guangxi examined mangrove assets and ecosystem services, documenting a seven-fold increase in mangrove land cover from 1988 to 2018 (4.68 $km^2$ to 32.79 $km^2$) and calculating the total carbon stock of Beihai mangroves at 0.67 million tC.

In **Thailand**, a 2024 Study on Sustainable Tourism, the Environment and the Ocean investigated linkages between tourism and environmental impacts. The study revealed that tourism accounts for half the air pollution and energy consumed in the five provinces included in the pilot. It demonstrated strong links between excessive tourism, improper waste management, and declining water quality. These ocean accounts have helped identify locations at risk of environmental degradation, priority sites for conservation, and potential new locations for sustainable tourism

Left: Data collection at Laamu Atoll, Maldives

## Fellowship Programme

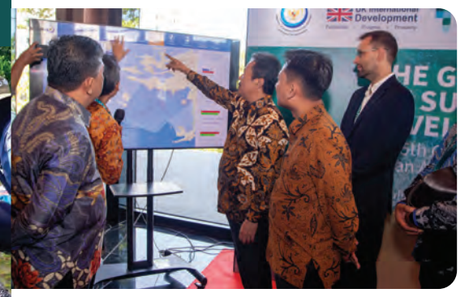
Fellows in Indonesia and the Maldives are embedded in national institutions, where they contribute to technical implementation, cross-agency coordination, and capacity enhancement. In both countries, fellows have also helped organise and deliver educational outreach, including school engagement in the Maldives and technical workshops for planning and environment agencies in Indonesia.

## Asia Community of Practice

Established in 2023, the Asia Community of Practice connects technical teams and policymakers across the region to share ocean accounting experiences and methods. In 2024, Vietnam hosted the Ha Long Workshop, bringing together 80 participants from 10 countries. A clear outcome of the workshop was the formation of a new GOAP Community of Practice dedicated to South and Southeast Asia (SSEA CoP) and the adoption of the Ha Long Consensus (Annex 2), which calls for stronger regional collaboration, shared learning, and policy alignment in the region to address shared challenges - such as climate change, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable fishing.



## Outcomes




### Policy Integration

In **Indonesia**, the multi-agency Ocean Accounts Task Force has been instrumental in developing national standards and implementation frameworks that systematically integrate ocean accounting principles into the country's overall marine governance structure.

In **Vietnam**, a high-level Steering Committee has been established through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on Natural Capital Accounting and the Blue Economy. The initiative is supporting the integration of marine and coastal natural capital into national planning systems. Work is now underway to establish a national Ocean Accounting Platform, grounded in international methodologies, that will help transform data into actionable insights and evidence-based policy advice.

In the **Maldives**, the initial ocean account outputs are informing national marine planning frameworks and supporting GEF-funded initiatives.

In **Malaysia**, ocean accounting has been incorporated into the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), which includes developing a green economic model leveraging Green Economy Indicators and the System of Environmental - Economic Accounting

In **India**, ocean accounting has been prioritised in the Draft Policy Framework on India's Blue Economy (September 2020), which identifies the development of a National Accounting Framework for Blue Economy and Ocean Governance as its priority. In July 2023, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) established an "Expert Group on Ocean Ecosystem Accounts in India" with representatives from various central ministries and research institutions. This group recently released "Ocean Ecosystem Accounts in India: A Framework" (January 2025), providing a methodology for establishing ocean accounts nationally.

### Evidence for Decision-Making

In **Vietnam**, solid waste flow accounts revealed key drivers of marine pollution and helped guide local-level interventions in waste management and circular economy policy.

In **Indonesia**, the interactive Ocean Accounting Dashboard has proven valuable for cross-agency planning and policy modeling, enabling decision-makers to assess long-term impacts and trade-offs in coastal development initiatives.

### Building Ocean Literacy into Education

In the **Maldives**, ocean accounting has been formally integrated into the national high school curriculum, reaching over 46,000 students annually. Educational materials were co-developed with national institutions and GOAP Fellows, helping raise awareness of ocean data and ecosystem services among the next generation. In-country workshops and learning exchanges have also expanded the reach of training to university students, educators, and government staff.

Left: Hon. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono and team present Indonesia Ocean Accounts Dashboard

Right: Rekam Nusantara, Maldives National University, and GOAP team conduct field research in Laamu Atoll

## Looking ahead

GOAP will continue to support national implementation in **Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Maldives**, with a focus on deeper policy integration, account application, and institutional capacity.

Work will expand in the **Philippines**, where early technical engagement has identified interest in piloting ocean accounts for marine planning and fisheries.

GOAP will also invest in scaling technical training and peer exchange across the region through the Asia Community of Practice. This will include support for regional coordination on data standards, capacity enhancement, and shared policy tools.



# Ocean Accounting in Indonesia


Indonesia has rapidly emerged as a global exemplar in the field of ocean accounting, positioning itself at the forefront of integrating ocean data into national policy and decision-making processes. Anchored by a robust legal framework and a multi-institutional task force, the country's efforts have created a model that is not only nationally relevant but also replicable across other geographies.

The Indonesian Ocean Accounts Task Force has brought together 63 representatives from 10 government ministries and agencies to coordinate national implementation. This multi-agency effort has led to the development of the country's first national standard for coastal habitat mapping (SNI 9257:2024) and the launch of an interactive Ocean Accounting Dashboard presenting data on 9.9 million hectares of marine ecosystems. The dashboard includes accounts for 10 national Marine Protected Areas and supports planning across conservation and development sectors.

Indonesia has also applied ocean accounts in system dynamics analysis to model policy scenarios—assessing how investment choices impact ecosystem condition and identifying long-term trade-offs in coastal development.

Thematic ocean accounts have been developed across several priority areas, including blue carbon ecosystems, marine protected areas, and plastic waste flows. These pilots have informed national commitments such as Indonesia's Second Nationally Determined Contribution and have supported better governance of marine protected areas. To ensure consistency and credibility in data, new Indonesian National Standards have been developed to guide the compilation and geospatial specification of ocean accounts.


Indonesia's leadership is also being recognised internationally through its growing role in south-south collaboration. With support from GOAP, Indonesia is embedding experts into regional technical dialogues and facilitating knowledge exchange, such as during the Ocean Accounts Exchanges held in Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam and Costa Rica in March 2025. The involvement of Indonesian institutions such as Rekam Nusantara Foundation and IPB University in these events reflects a commitment to sustained learning and regional capacity building.

Top: Annisya Rosdiana, Rekam Nusantara Foundation presenting the Indonesia Ocean Accounts Dashboard

Right: GOAP Secretariat visiting GOAP Member, World Resources Institute Indonesia

Ocean Accounting in Action

# Latin America and Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is emerging as a region of growing leadership and innovation in ocean accounting, where national initiatives are increasingly supported by shared regional ambition. GOAP's work in the region is helping to turn this momentum into action—through country-led accounting projects, capacity enhancement, and the establishment of a regional Community of Practice that fosters collaboration, technical exchange, and policy alignment across the Americas.


**Member Organisations** 4

**Belize**
- Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Management

**Brazil**
- Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ)

**Ecuador**
- Charles Darwin Foundation

**Mexico**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)

**Fellows** 3

Refer to Appendix A and B



## Key Activities

### Ocean Accounts in-country

In **Belize**, a national ocean account pilot project is underway to develop coral reef ecosystem accounts and an Ocean Tourism Satellite Account. These efforts are supported by a formal agreement between GOAP and the Ministry of Blue Economy, and implemented in collaboration with the Statistical Institute of Belize, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, and the University of Belize.

In **Ecuador**, GOAP has provided guidance, advice and support to the development of ecosystem accounts for the Galapagos and Hermandad Marine Reserves. This work has recently culminated in the first exploratory ecosystem accounts study for the Insular Exclusive Economic Zone of Ecuador (ZEEIE), published jointly by the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition, the Galapagos National Park, and the Central Bank of Ecuador. The study covers sectors such as fisheries, tourism, and maritime transport, and represents a key step toward evidence-based management of these critical marine ecosystems.

In **Costa Rica**, national training and stakeholder engagement have produced preliminary mangrove extent accounts and a country-specific data matrix to inform a 2030 roadmap for national ocean account development.

In **Mexico**, a longstanding leader in natural capital accounting and the first Latin American country to compile environmental economic accounts, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) publishes annual Economic and Ecological Accounts that include fisheries accounts. In 2020, Mexico piloted the SEEA-EEA framework to assess coastal protection services provided by mangrove ecosystems


Left: Costa Rica Workshop participants taking part in an activity
Right: Marianne Feoli Martinez, GOAP Secretariat, presenting on ocean account initiatives across Latin American

## Fellowship Programme

Fellows embedded in three Belizean institutions support technical delivery and institutional coordination, organising training events, aligning workflows, and facilitating account co-production. Their participation in national steering bodies helps strengthen in-country capacity and ensures continuity beyond the pilot phase.

## Latin America and Caribbean Community of Practice

Launched in 2024, the Latin America and Caribbean Community of Practice connects ocean accounting practitioners and supports implementation of the LAC Ocean Accounts Strategy. The CoP includes representatives from over 20 organisations, guided by a steering group from Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico.



# Outcomes

### Policy Integration

Ocean accounts are being embedded in key planning frameworks, including **Belize's** Draft Blue Economy Policy and Sustainable Ocean Plan, establishing foundations for long-term use in national governance. In **Ecuador**, marine reserve accounts are informing conservation financing strategies and MPA management.

### Decision Support

Accounts are generating actionable insights for marine management and investment planning. New visualisation tools and data-sharing protocols in **Belize** are enhancing cross-agency coordination on tourism, conservation, and climate adaptation, while **Costa Rica's** preliminary mangrove accounts inform national biodiversity indicator and SDG reporting discussions

### Capacity Enhancement

Technical training and implementation are strengthening institutional capacity regionwide. GOAP Fellows lead account compilation and interagency coordination in **Belize**, while regional workshops and university-led training expand understanding of SEEA-based methodologies and build local expertise.

## Looking ahead

GOAP will continue to deepen engagement across Latin America and the Caribbean by supporting the development of formal ocean account pilot projects in Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) and PanCaribbean countries, expanding the Fellowship Programme, and rolling out additional technical training in Spanish. Priorities for 2025–26 include advancing implementation in Costa Rica and Ecuador, strengthening regional partnerships with relevant organisations, and growing the Latin America and Caribbean CoP as a bilingual platform for knowledge exchange and peer support.

# Ocean Accounting in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is advancing its national ambition to develop a comprehensive ocean account by 2030, backed by strong political support and an active multi-institutional technical process. The initiative was first announced by the Minister of Environment during Immersed in Chang event in June 2024, later endorsed by the President, and reinforced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at COP16 in Cali, positioning ocean accounting as a national priority. With a clear roadmap and high-level commitment, Costa Rica is quickly emerging as a regional and global leader in ocean accounting efforts.

A national workshop in 2024, convening over 20 institutions across government, academia, and civil society, resulted in Costa Rica's first initial development of an ocean account focused on mangrove extent in the Guanacaste Conservation Area. This was soon expanded into a nationwide mangrove extent account, establishing a critical foundation for future ecosystem accounts. The workshop also delivered a stakeholder and data governance map and gathered national priorities to inform a roadmap toward 2030.

Building on this momentum, Costa Rica hosted a global ocean accounts conference in March 2025, fostering international knowledge exchange, donor engagement, and the launch of a global pledge to advance ocean accounts for sustainable ocean development (Annex 3). Ten countries and organisations joined the pledge during the event, with further commitments anticipated.

Through its strong ambition and leadership in championing the Pledge for Ocean Accounts ahead of the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC), Costa Rica's efforts are expected to strengthen institutional coordination, secure technical and financial support, and demonstrate global leadership at UNOC 2025.

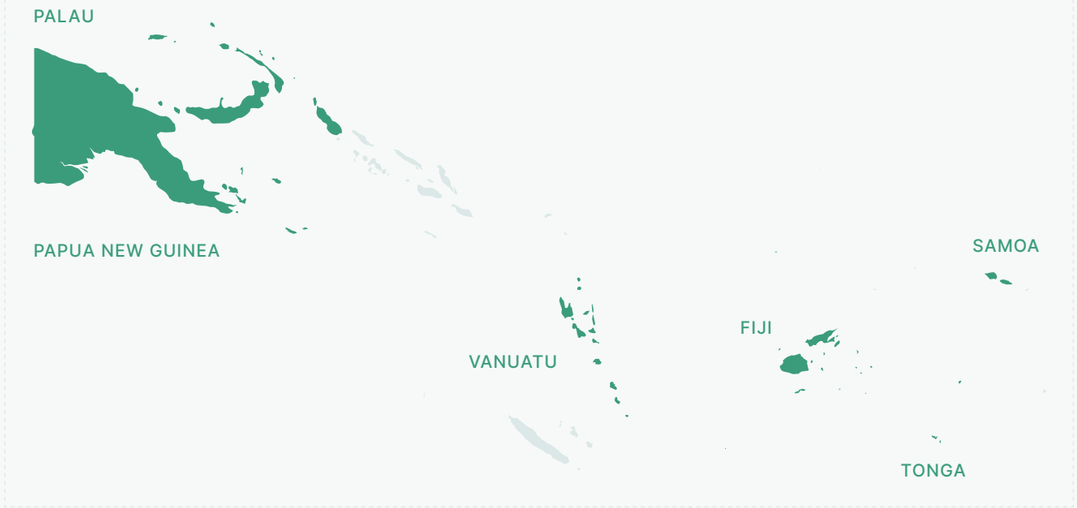


Left: Participants at 'Ocean Accounts Exchange - Building a Blueprint for Action' in San José, Costa Rica

Ocean Accounting in Action

# Pacific

Pacific Island countries are taking steady, strategic steps to embed ocean accounting within national and regional governance systems. Across a region where marine ecosystems underpin livelihoods, climate resilience, and cultural identity, governments are working to align ocean data with national planning, policy, and investment processes. GOAP's engagement supports these efforts through long-term partnerships, country-led roadmaps, and hands-on training that strengthens technical capacity and institutional leadership.




**Member Organisations** 3

**Australia**
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water
- Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
- University of New South Wales

**Fellows** 3

Refer to Appendix A and B



## Key Activities

### Ocean Accounts in-country

**Ocean Account Development**

In **Vanuatu**, plans are under way to develop a coral reef extent and condition account as well as a governance account, with implementation targeted for 2025. These efforts aim to demonstrate the utility of ocean accounts in evidence-based policymaking and monitoring progress towards national policy goals. Plastics accounts and social accounts are being developed for **Fiji** in 2025, with a social account also planned for Vanuatu. In **Papua New Guinea**, GOAP has supported blue carbon account development and will be expanding to include social accounts.

**Australia** has developed its first National Ocean Ecosystem Account (2022), led by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in partnership with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The account employs experimental methods and provides data on mangrove and seagrass extent, condition, carbon stocks, and selected ecosystem services. The Australian Government is also providing funding for environmental-economic accounting services related to blue carbon projects in the region as part of the Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund

**National Ocean Accounting Roadmaps**

**Fiji, Vanuatu, and Tonga** have each developed draft national ocean accounting roadmaps through consultative, government-led processes. These roadmaps set out implementation pathways, identify priority accounts, and align with national development and ocean strategies.

**Fellowship Programme**

The Pacific Ocean Accounts Fellowship Programme continues to build national technical leadership across **Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea**. Fellows are embedded in government agencies where they lead account development, coordinate stakeholders, and help connect ocean data to planning processes.

## Outcomes

**National Policy Integration**
Ocean accounting is increasingly being recognised as a tool to support national planning and policy development across the Pacific. In **Vanuatu**, ocean accounts have been formally embedded in the Second National Ocean Policy and linked to national sustainable development priorities. In other countries, GOAP is advising on how ocean accounts can support marine spatial planning and contribute to ongoing reviews and reforms of national ocean policies.

**Evidence for Decision-Making**
Pilot accounts are providing valuable information relevant to national planning and investment discussions across the region. The accounts being developed offer insights into ecosystem values, economic contributions, and environmental changes that can help inform conservation priorities and resource allocation.

In **Fiji**, mangrove accounts have revealed economic contributions and carbon trends, with plans underway for fiscal integration through new pilot accounts

**Regional Frameworks**
GOAP's engagement has contributed to growing recognition of ocean accounting within regional policy discussions, most notably through technical input into the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development. As a result, the Roadmap now includes targets focused on valuing ecosystem goods and services and defining data requirements to measure progress in the blue economy. By building shared data approaches and strengthening regional capacity, GOAP is helping Pacific countries develop the systems needed to effectively implement their blue economy plans and meet regional commitments.

## Looking ahead

GOAP will continue to support Pacific Island countries as they move from planning to implementation, with a focus on strengthening national capacity, embedding ocean accounts into policy processes, and deepening regional coordination. Priorities include supporting the development and delivery of national roadmaps, expanding the Fellowship Programme, and tailoring training resources to meet evolving country needs. GOAP will also continue to engage in regional policy discussions—ensuring that ocean accounting aligns with emerging priorities and contributes to the region's long-term vision for a sustainable and inclusive ocean economy. These efforts aim to reinforce local leadership, connect data to decision-making, and support lasting integration of ocean values into development planning across the Pacific.



# Ocean Accounting in Fiji

Fiji has made significant progress in ocean accounting implementation, beginning with an initial pilot developed by the GOAP Secretariat in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific. Building on this foundation, a national workshop was held in September 2024 that brought together key government ministries to develop a draft national roadmap for ocean accounts. This process identified priority accounts and established possible pathways forward.

The mangrove accounts completed in 2022 provided quantitative evidence of ecosystem values and trends. These accounts estimated annual ecosystem benefits worth USD 20–30 million (approximately 0.5 percent of GDP) and identified 3,500 direct jobs supported by mangrove services across communities. The accounts also tracked environmental change, documenting a 0.79 percent decline in mangrove cover (562 hectares) between 2008 and 2016, with the greatest concentrations of mangroves in the Eastern, Central and Northern provinces of Fiji.

Left: Attendees of the Fiji National Workshop on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Ocean Development, 5th and 6th September 2024

Building on this work, the GOAP Secretariat is now exploring the development of a pilot account aimed at informing fiscal planning. This pilot would quantify the dependence of various economic sectors on marine ecosystems, with the intention of providing relevant data to support national budget deliberations.

GOAP is further supporting Fiji through the development of plastic accounts and social accounts in 2025. A Memorandum of Understanding has been established with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to ensure continued technical support for ocean and plastics accounts implementation.

Ocean Accounting in Action

# Europe

The European region has demonstrated significant progress in ocean accounting over the past year, with growing momentum across national initiatives, regional conventions, and collaborative platforms. The GOAP Secretariat has maintained strategic engagement with European partners, providing technical guidance and facilitating knowledge exchange while supporting the region's leadership in developing innovative approaches to environmental-economic accounting in marine contexts.


## Member Organisations 7

**Norway**
- Statistics Norway
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)

**United Kingdom**
- Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- National Oceanography Centre
- UNEP-WCMC

**Baltic Sea**
- Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Refer to Appendix A and B



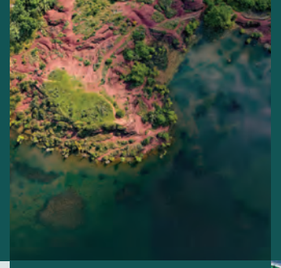
## Key Activities

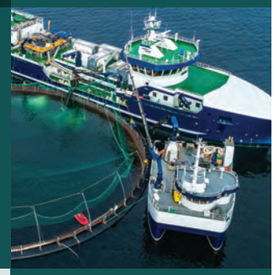
### Ocean Accounts in-country

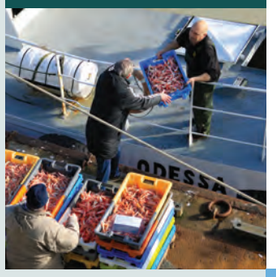

Lofoten, Norway

In **Norway**, satellite accounts for the ocean were published in 2022 as a pilot project co-financed by the Research Council of Norway and Statistics Norway (SSB). Norway is also advancing marine ecosystem accounting through the Marine Ecosystem Accounting (MAREA) project for integrated coastal planning in the Oslofjord, which evaluates how ecosystem accounting methods can provide decision-support to different planning levels in contested, complex and dynamic coastal-marine ecosystems.

The **United Kingdom** has been a long-standing supporter of natural capital accounting approaches, with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) jointly developing annual natural capital accounts that include marine components. Building on this foundation, in 2021 they released dedicated marine accounts containing comprehensive information on ecosystem services for marine and coastal areas. Since 2019, the UK has significantly expanded its international support for ocean accounting, providing funding and technical assistance to ODA-eligible countries to develop ocean account

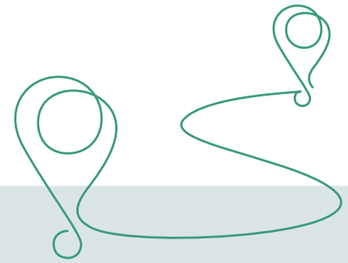






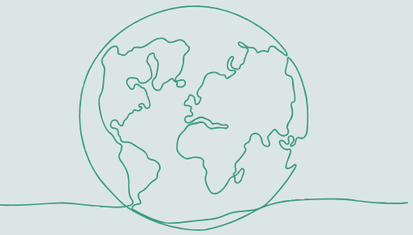
## Outcomes

In December 2024, a significant legal milestone was reached with the entry into force of the first EU legislation on environmental-economic accounts (Regulation (EU) 2024/3024). While this regulation focuses on terrestrial ecosystems, it is a foundation for future marine ecosystem accounting, with EU Member States beginning to report from 2026.



### Looking ahead

The GOAP Secretariat will provide technical support to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive's Programme of Measures and Economic and Social Analysis working group (POMESA). This project will be exploring the value of ocean accounts and developing a guidebook for EU Ocean Accounting. This collaboration represents a significant step toward formalising ocean accounting within EU marine policy frameworks and builds on the momentum generated through recent European engagements.



## European Community of Practice

The European Community of Practice (ECoP) for Ocean Accounting was established in 2024 to foster collaboration, enhance capacity, and promote knowledge exchange across European stakeholders engaged in ocean accounting. Made up of over 50 individuals, the group has representation from organisations across the European research, statistics, consultancy, and government sectors. The ECoP held two virtual meetings in 2024 to establish shared objectives, determine key priority topics, introduce Members to the GOAP framework, and showcase regional progress in ocean accounting. Members are currently working on building a dashboard of ocean accounting activity across Europe.

# OSPAR Convention

The OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic has undertaken significant work in implementing ocean accounting at a regional scale. As part of its North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030, OSPAR committed to "start accounting for ecosystem services and natural capital by 2025," establishing a framework for developing standardised approaches across its 15 member countries and the European Union.

As part of this work, the GOAP Secretariat has helped produced the first experimental ecosystem accounts for a Regional Sea, covering over 9.2 million km² (approximately 68% of the OSPAR maritime area) using the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) classification. The study measured and valued key ecosystem services including fish provisioning (estimated at €2.165 billion in 2018), carbon sequestration (valued at €1.612 billion in 2019), and coastal recreation (€253 million in 2012), with a total asset value for the OSPAR region calculated at €125.75 billion.

The work identified several methodological challenges including the need to better align with international ecosystem classifications, improve spatial disaggregation of condition data, and standardise data collection methodologies across member countries. The initiative offers valuable lessons for other regional bodies by demonstrating how transboundary ecosystem accounting can enhance understanding of shared marine resources and support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable ocean management.



Top: Aerial road and coast Fredvang Bridges, Lofoten Islands, Norway

**Ocean Accounting in Action**

# North America

Work on ocean accounting is also continuing across North America, with countries developing institutional approaches to integrate ocean values into their national statistical systems


**Member Organisations** 5

**Canada**
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Statistics Canada
- University of Ottawa

**USA**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey

Refer to Appendix A and B

## Key Activities

### Ocean Accounts in-country

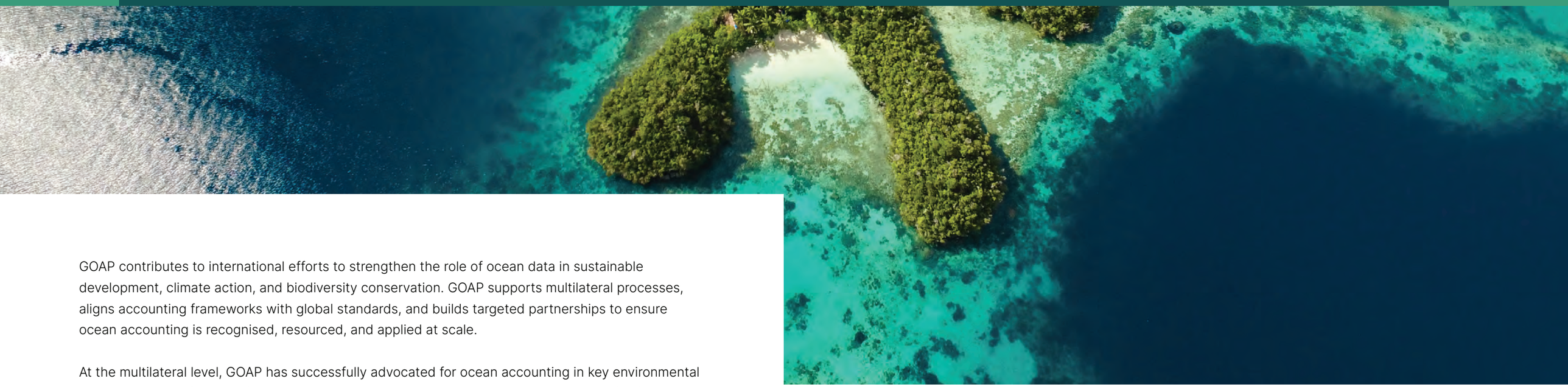
In **Canada**, the journey began in 2019 with the Canadian Ocean Accounts pilot, established as a collaborative project between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Statistics Canada (STC). This pilot focused on creating initial national accounts of ocean and coastal ecosystem extent and condition for four key ecosystems: seagrass meadows, kelp forest, cold water coral and sponge reefs, and saltmarshes, along with data on sea surface temperature, salinity, and sea ice. The pilot successfully concluded, demonstrating sufficient success to warrant consideration of full-fledged national Ocean Accounts. Building on this foundation, Canada established the Canadian System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in 2023, which formally describes Statistics Canada's implementation of the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Today, Canada publishes regular statistics on the marine sector's contribution to national and provincial economies, as well as ocean and coastal ecosystem extent accounts as part of Statistics Canada's Census of Environment (CoE) program.

In the **United States**, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has developed the Marine Economy Satellite Account (MESA). The Marine Economy Satellite Account statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show the marine economy's contribution to current-dollar U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). The marine economy satellite account features statistics on businesses in 10 sectors of the economy that depend on ocean and Great Lakes resources. This information is available at the national level for 2014-2022. Building on this work, the 2023 National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions charts a course to measure natural capital in official U.S. economic statistics, recommending a 15-year phased approach to transition from research-grade environmental-economic statistics and natural capital accounts to core statistical products.



## Catalysing Global Action

Photograph: Ken Findlay



GOAP contributes to international efforts to strengthen the role of ocean data in sustainable development, climate action, and biodiversity conservation. GOAP supports multilateral processes, aligns accounting frameworks with global standards, and builds targeted partnerships to ensure ocean accounting is recognised, resourced, and applied at scale.

At the multilateral level, GOAP has successfully advocated for ocean accounting in key environmental agreements. The Partnership provided technical inputs that led to ocean accounting being formally referenced in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Decision 15/24 for integrated biodiversity monitoring and helped shape the monitoring framework for the Global Biodiversity Framework to align indicators with SEEA-compliant ecosystem accounts and natural capital approaches.  GOAP's Secretariat also brings technical expertise and practitioner perspectives to discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the negotiations of the UN Plastics Treaty (INC process).  GOAP Secretariat supported negotiators—particularly from Pacific Island countries—by providing expert advice and contributing to the development of a Global Plastics Data Checklist and Tracker, now used to assess national readiness and inform treaty discussions.

GOAP facilitates connections between national experience and international systems—helping countries align their ocean accounting work with global commitments and enabling shared learning across regions. Through its work with the UN SEEA Technical Working Groups, GOAP contributes to the development of global guidance on ocean and ecosystem accounts that meet official statistical standards.

To build momentum and foster global collaboration, the GOAP Secretariat convenes events that bring together practitioners, policymakers, and experts to share advances in ocean accounting. Central to this work is the Global Dialogue series, which convenes delegates from around the world to exchange experiences, share lessons learned, and develop collaborative initiatives. The 5th Global Dialogue in Bali demonstrated the growing interest in this field, bringing together more than 600 participants from 50 countries to exchange methodologies and applications, further strengthening the global community of practice around ocean accounting.

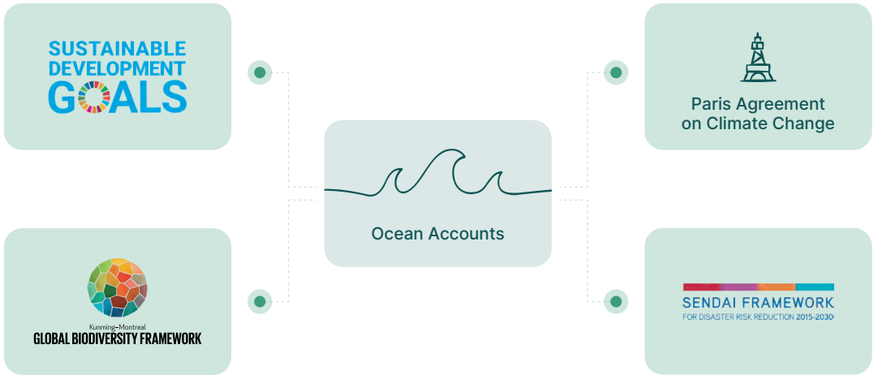
Through these complementary approaches—technical engagement, policy advocacy, and knowledge exchange—GOAP works to integrate ocean accounting into the broader governance landscape in a practical, inclusive, and credible way.

## Partnerships in Practice

- **High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel)**
  Ocean Panel countries have collectively called for the development and use of ocean accouns to support their goal of 100% sustainable ocean management. GOAP is an official Action Group supporting delivery of this commitment under the Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, particularly through the Ocean Knowledge pillar.
- **IOC-UNESCO and the UN Decade of Ocean Science**
  GOAP contributes to the Ocean Decade's global efforts to strengthen ocean knowledge for sustainable development. This includes supporting regional engagement in Africa through the IOC Sub-Commission, and contributing to initiatives like the Sustainable Ocean Planning Programme.
- **UN SEEA Technical Working Groups**
  The GOAP Secretariat plays an active role in the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, contributing to the development of global guidance for compiling ocean and ecosystem accounts that align with official statistical standards.
- **Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty**
  GOAP supports global plastics treaty negotiations by providing accounting expertise and guidance on plastic data systems—helping countries and negotiators improve monitoring, reporting and decision-making on plastic pollution.
- **Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)**
  As a member of ORRAA, GOAP contributes through its expertise in ocean accounting, supporting the development of data and evidence to inform investment decisions and resilience planning.

# Ocean Accounts Framework

**Ocean accounts provide countries with the data and structure needed to meet and report on global commitments. The Ocean Accounts Framework aligns with and supports reporting under several major international frameworks**




**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
Ocean accounts directly support SDG 14: Life Below Water, by tracking progress on marine ecosystem protection, sustainable fisheries, conservation areas, and ocean science. They also contribute to:

- **SDG 13:** Climate Action – through climate-related ocean data
- **SDG 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production – informing sustainable resource use
- **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth – guiding sustainable tourism and blue economy development
- **SDGs 1, 2, 10 & 17** – supporting poverty reduction, food security, equity and partnerships

**Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**
Ocean accounts support implementation of key GBF targets by:

- **Target 3** – Monitoring marine protected areas (30×30)
- **Target 9** – Supporting sustainable use of marine species
- **Target 14** – Integrating biodiversity into policy and economic decision-making
- **Target 19** – Tracking biodiversity finance
- **Target 21** – Improving access to biodiversity data
- **Target 22** – Enabling inclusive, rights-based marine governance

**Paris Agreement on Climate Change**
Ocean accounts contribute climate-related ocean data to support national planning and reporting. Ocean accounts support climate action by:

- **Informing NDCs:** Track ocean-based carbon sequestration (e.g., mangroves, seagrasses) to support climate mitigation.
- **Supporting Adaptation:** Monitor coastal ecosystem health and services that reduce climate vulnerability.
- **Enhancing Transparency:** Provide consistent data for emissions, removals, and ecosystem condition in line with reporting requirements.

**Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**
Ocean accounts support the Sendai Framework by:

- **Global target B** - Identifying risk by mapping coastal ecosystems to assess natural protection against hazards and highlight the degree to which communities are dependent on the ocean for their livelihoods
- **Global target C** - By quantifying damage, losses, and disruptions to economic sectors
- **Global target D** - Evaluating the vulnerability of essential services and infrastructure to natural disasters as well as using replacement cost methods to quantify the financial value of ecosystem services.
- **Global target G** - Providing accessible, understandable, usable information through a unified, data-driven foundation to support informed decision-making and the development of targeted interventions



Great Barrier Reef


# Global Dialogue on Sustainable Ocean Development

In July 2024 over 600 participants from nearly 50 countries gathered in Bali, Indonesia for the 5th Global Dialogue from the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) — the largest and highest-level Dialogue convened to date. Ministers and Ministerial representatives from Indonesia, Samoa, Fiji, Palau, Belize, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and the Maldives joined community leaders, technical experts, and decision-makers to explore the transformative potential of ocean accounting in driving sustainable ocean development.

The five-day Dialogue began with intensive technical training, where over 260 participants built skills in compiling and using ocean accounts across areas such as climate adaptation, marine spatial planning, plastic pollution, and sustainable finance. These sessions were designed and delivered by global subject matter experts, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many calling for deeper engagement and ongoing support.

This was followed by three days of expert-led panels, high-level roundtables, and 21 side events under the overarching theme of **creating a data-driven paradigm shift for ocean sustainability**. Knowledge products were launched throughout the week, including ten new GOAP policy briefs, updated technical guidance, and global guidance on integrating ocean accounts into Sustainable Ocean Plans.

**98%** of participants reporting meaningful new connections and **85% improving their understanding of key concepts**

Regional engagement was a core focus. From the Pacific Talanoa sessions to dedicated dialogues for Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia, participants shared experiences, reflected on gaps, and identified opportunities for scaling up action. Across regions, there was strong demand for continued collaboration, financing, and technical support to embed ocean accounting into national decision-making.

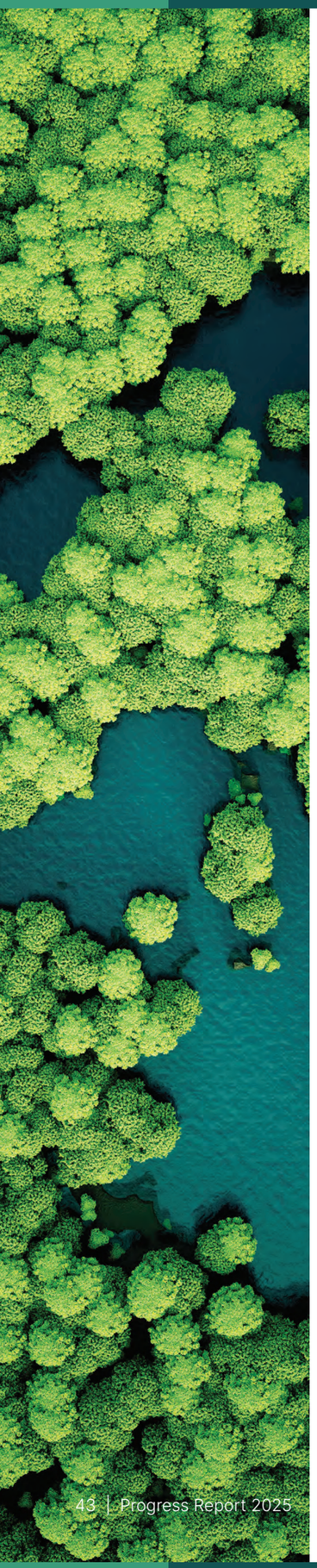
The Dialogue also marked the launch of key new strategies and tools: GOAP Co-Chairs released a bold new Ambition Statement and Roadmap; Indonesia launched its National Ocean Accounts Dashboard and Roadmap, embedding accounts into policy and investment decisions; and the Latin America and Caribbean regional strategy was formally introduced. A new working group on Inclusive Ocean Economies was also established to incorporate Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge into social and ecosystem accounts.

The 5th Global Dialogue confirmed ocean accounts as a vital tool for managing our shared ocean sustainably. With 98% of participants reporting meaningful new connections and 85% improving their understanding of key concepts and tools, the event generated lasting momentum. It concluded with a call to action from the Government of Costa Rica — inviting GOAP partners to reconvene in early 2025 in preparation for the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France.



Left: Ministerial Panel at the Global Dialogue. (L to R) Hon. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, Indonesia, Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Samoa, Hon. Steven Victor, Palua, Hon. Jelta Wong, Papua New Guinea, Hon. Hassan Mohamed, Maldives

Right: Participants of the training session 'Introduction to Ocean Accounts'



## Blue Carbon

The GOAP Secretariat is supporting the recipients of the Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF), an initiative of the Australian Government (through the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water) and IUCN. The program aims to identify the enabling conditions for credible, investment ready projects concerned with the sustainable use, conservation or restoration of blue carbon ecosystems (generally considered as mangroves, seagrass and tidal marsh) that deliver benefits for climate, biodiversity, and coastal communities.

The GOAP Secretariat's role focuses on measuring the tangible benefits provided by these activities to society and the community, including enhancing fisheries, coastal protection and opportunities for livelihoods. The Secretariat is partnering with four implementation projects across **Indonesia** and **Papua New Guinea**—run by Rekam Nusantara Foundation, Infinity Blue, Konservasi Indonesia, and Blue You—to demonstrate how environmental-economic accounting (EEA) can be applied at the project level to measure, value, and verify the outcomes of blue carbon restoration and conservation, aligned with international statistical standards.

Each project has unique goals and targets, from community-led approaches to mangrove management to silvofisheries and pond restoration schemes. GOAP is supporting the development of project baselines and compiling outcome data to feed into environmental-economic accounts.

Linking these efforts to established accounting standards lays the groundwork for scalable investment models and opens new opportunities for private sector finance in blue carbon ecosystem restoration and conservation.





## Plastics

Building on its ocean accounting expertise, GOAP has created standardised approaches that help countries measure plastic flows throughout their economies and into marine environments. The timing of this work has proven especially valuable as nations prepare for obligations under the forthcoming Global Plastics Treaty.

The Plastics Data Checklist provides governments and practitioners with a comprehensive framework to evaluate the availability and reliability of national plastics data across the entire lifecycle - from production and consumption to waste management and environmental leakage. This systematic approach enables countries to identify critical data gaps and prioritise interventions for both policy implementation and reporting.


GOAP representatives have brought their expertise directly to international treaty negotiations, serving on official delegations for Sri Lanka and Palau during INC-5 negotiations in Busan. This direct engagement enabled the submission of interventions highlighting the importance of robust data and national inventories, emphasising the need for practical measurement approaches as countries develop monitoring frameworks for the treaty.

In **Sri Lanka**, GOAP has conducted a National Forum on Plastics and Circular Economy in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Central Environment Authority, and the National Solid Waste Management Support Centre. During an interactive workshop as part of this Forum, GOAP invited organisations to map donor-funded plastics projects across Sri Lanka using the Plastics Data Checklist to identify collected data and existing gaps. This represented the first national initiative to map plastics projects, as there are no mandatory requirements to report data to the Ministry of Environment. Building on the data generated, the Ministry is now applying for UNEP funding to develop a national dashboard of plastics projects across the country with GOAP's support.

The GOAP Plastics team has also developed the **Global Plastic and Waste Data Tracker**, an open-access platform that standardises plastics data reporting across jurisdictions, making cross-country comparisons possible for the first time. GOAP is also in the final stages of drafting a Guidance Document on National Plastics Data Collection and Reporting to help countries improve their stakeholder engagement, institutional capacity, data quality and reliability, and organisation of information into national databases and inventories. The comprehensive guide will provide a structured pathway for nations to develop robust plastics accounts. It furthers GOAP's mission to support countries in creating standardised accounting frameworks for this critical aspect of ocean health.

Left: Dr. Randika Jayasinghe, Research Fellow Presenting at the National Forum on Plastics and Circular Economy

Right: Participants engaging in an activity at the Sri Lanka National Forum on Plastics and Circular Economy

## Open Data

The GOAP Secretariat has established a comprehensive approach to open data for ocean accounting, creating standardised frameworks that enable consistent measurement and reporting across jurisdictions. Real-world implementation is already underway, with active mapping projects for seagrass, mangroves, and coral reefs in eight countries including Indonesia, Belize, Maldives, and multiple Pacific Island nations.

A global open data architecture for ocean accounting, grounded in standardised frameworks that support consistent measurement and reporting across jurisdictions has been developed. This includes modular dashboard systems, open-source tools, and cloud-native processing frameworks that allow integration of global datasets with locally generated data on ecosystem extent, condition, and services.

The Secretariat has facilitated successful knowledge transfer through intensive training with government agencies, universities, and local institutions. In 2025, there will be a specific focus on Pacific region implementation, with partners in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa, including integration into initiatives like Digital Earth Pacific.

Reflecting GOAP's focus on both innovation and accessibility, an AI teaching assistant has been developed to complement technical guidance and provide on-demand learning support for ocean accounting. The Secretariat has released open-source mapping code and processing tools that enable partner countries to build sovereign capabilities. Interactive dashboard structures with customisable views address different user needs and decision-making contexts, while the Environmental Economic Accounting Data Classification system standardises data organisation across ocean accounting applications.

Strategic future directions include expanding collaboration with key technical partners, targeted demonstration of practical applications at UN Ocean Conference 2025, formal integration of developed tools and approaches into national planning frameworks, creating pathways for scaling ocean accounting to additional countries and regions through standardised, replicable approaches.

Photograph: Ken Findlay

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Alphabetical list of GOAP Members

1. Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, Australia
2. Blue Economy Development Fund (ProAzul), Mozambique
3. Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa
4. Centre for Coastal Management, University of the Cape Coast Ghana, Ghana
5. Charles Darwin Foundation, Ecuador
6. Conservation Strategy Fund, Global
7. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia
8. Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom
9. Department of Statistics, Malaysia
10. Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), Brazil
11. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada
12. Guangxi Academy of Oceanography, China
13. Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) Secretariat, Baltic Sea
14. Institute for Coastal and Marine Research, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
15. Institute of Strategy and Policy on Agriculture and Environment (ISPAE), Viet Nam
16. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), Global
17. Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey, USA
18. Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
19. Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Management, Belize
20. Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Maldives
21. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico
22. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India
23. National Bureau of Statistics of China, China
24. National Oceanography Centre, United Kingdom
25. National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
26. National Statistical Office of Thailand, Thailand
27. Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), Norway
28. NRF - South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), South Africa
29. Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI), Japan
30. Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK
31. Pwani University, Kenya
32. Rekam Nusantara Foundation, Indonesia
33. Statistics Canada, Canada
34. Statistics Norway, Norway
35. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Global
36. Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Togo
37. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA
38. UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Regional
39. UNEP-WCMC, UK
40. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia
41. University of New South Wales, Australia
42. University of Ottawa, Canada
43. World Bank, Global
44. World Resources Institute Indonesia, Indonesia



## Appendix B: Ocean Accounts Fellows

| Africa | |
|---|---|
| **Ghana** | **Akua Amoa Okyere-Nyako**, Master's Candidate at University of Cape Coast<br>**Kwadwo Agyenim-Boateng**, Master's candidate at Centre for Coastal Management, University of Cape Coast<br>**Sampson Aboagye Osei**, Post-doc at University of Cape Coast |
| **Kenya** | **Yvonne Wanjiku Waweru**, Master of Laws<br>**Pascal Thoya**, Post-graduate at Pwani University<br>**Juliet Karisa**, Post-graduate at Pwani University |
| **Madagascar** | **Dr. Faustinato Behivoke**, Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara<br>**Yves Amoros Mitondrasoa**, Master's candidate at Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara<br>**Tsiresimiary Mandimbilaza**, Master's candidate at Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara<br>**Dr. Tiava Nandrasa**, Postdoc Fellow at Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara |
| **Mozambique** | **Jonas Chambo**, Masters at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane |

| Asia | |
|---|---|
| **Indonesia** | **Marselius Fransiskus Talahatu**, Doctoral student of IPB University; Directorate of Coastal and Small Islands Utilization (Dit. P4K) – MMAF<br>**Holiludin**, Doctoral student of IPB University; Directorate of Marine Spatial Planning (Dit. PRL) – MMAF<br>**Rizka Dzulfikar**, Doctoral student of IPB University; Marine and Coastal Resource Management Agency in Denpasar (BPSPL Denpasar) – MMAF<br>**Sri Pratiwi Saraswati Dewi**, Doctoral student of IPB University; Marine and Coastal Resource Management Agency in Denpasar (BPSPL Denpasar) – MMAF<br>**Muhammad Ismail Sakaruddin**, Master student of IPB University; Directorate of Aquatic Biota and Ecosystem Conservation (Dit. KEBP) – MMAF<br>**Rusdatus Sholihah**, Master student of IPB University; Directorate of Aquatic Biota and Ecosystem Conservation (Dit. KEBP) – MMAF<br>**Tika Drastiana**, Master student of IPB University; Directorate of Marine Services (Dit. Jaskel) – MMAF<br>**Ade Irmalia Harifa**, Master student of IPB University; National Marine Protected Area Agency in Kupang (BKKPN Kupang) – MMAF<br>**Nur Jasilah**, Master student of IPB University; National Marine Protected Area Agency in Pekanbaru (LKKPN Pekanbaru) – MMAF<br>**Hadi Yoga Dewanto**, University of New South Wales Fellow, PhD |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Maldives** | **Shan Ahmed**, Maldives Government engagement to Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy<br>**Lisama Sabry**, Maldives Government engagement to Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy |
| **Philippines** | **Cheryl Joy J. Fernandez-Abila**, University of New South Wales Fellow Fellow, Post Doc & supervisory support |
| **Sri Lanka** | **Randika Anjalie Jayasinghe**, University of New South Wales Fellow Fellow, Post Doc & supervisory support |

| Latin America and Caribbean | |
|---|---|
| **Belize** | **Jefte Ochaeta**, Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB)<br>**Wilbert Castillo**, Environmental Research Institute at University of Belize (UBERI)<br>**Caisha Fermin**, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) |

| Pacific | |
|---|---|
| **Fiji** | **Glenn Finau**, Senior Lecturer in Accounting at the University of Tasmania (Former) |
| **Papua New Guinea** | **Grace Kaue**, Ocean Governance Consultant |
| **Samoa** | **Maria Satoa**, Senior Marine Biodiversity Conservation Officer at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment |
| **Tonga** | **Meliame Tu'alau**, Principal Marine Environment Officer at the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, and Communications (Former) |
| **Vanuatu** | **Stevie Williams**, Ocean Desk Officer at Vanuatu Department of Foreign Affairs |

Compiled May 2025



## Appendix C: GOAP resources

### Guidance documents and tools

- **Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting v.1.0**
  A comprehensive guide for compiling, using, and maintaining ocean accounts, aligned with SEEA and SNA frameworks.
  www.oceanaccounts.org/technical-guidance-on-ocean-accounting-2/
- **Data-driven solutions: the Plastics Data Checklist**
  Provides a checklist and user's guide for managing plastics data in ocean accounting.
  www.oceanaccounts.org/data-driven-solutions-the-plastics-data-checklist/
- **Ocean Accounts for Sustainable Ocean Plans: Enabling Decision-Makers to Measure Progress**
  A guide on how ocean accounts can support Sustainable Ocean Plans
  www.oceanaccounts.org/ocean-accounts-for-sustainable-ocean-plans-enabling-decision-makers-to-measure-progress/

### Academic papers

- **Compiling preliminary SEEA Ecos ystem Accounts for the OSPAR regional sea: experimental findings and lessons learned**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/compiling-preliminary-seea-ecosystem-accounts-for-the-ospar-regional-sea-experimental-findings-and-lessons-learned/
- **Ocean accounts as an approach to foster, monitor, and report progress towards sustainable development in a changing ocean – The Systems and Flows Model**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/ocean-accounts-as-an-approach-to-foster-monitor-and-report-progress-towards-sustainable-development-in-a-changing-ocean-the-systems-and-flows-model/
- **Every account counts for sustainable development: lessons from the African CoP to implement ocean accounts in the Western Indian Ocean region**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/every-account-counts-for-sustainable-development-lessons-from-the-african-cop-to-implement-ocean-accounts-in-the-western-indian-ocean-region/
- **Using Ocean Accounting towards an integrated assessment of ecosystem services and benefits within a coastal lake**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/using-ocean-accounting-towards-an-integrated-assessment-of-ecosystem-services-and-benefits-within-a-coastal-lake/
- **Blue Paper: National Accounting for the Ocean and the Ocean Economy**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/blue-paper-national-accounting-for-the-ocean-and-the-ocean-economy/
- **Marine Spatial Planning and Ocean Accounting: Synergistic tools enhancing integration in ocean governance**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/marine-spatial-planning-and-ocean-accounting-synergistic-tools-enhancing-integration-in-ocean-governance/

- **The emerging intersection between Marine Spatial Planning and Ocean Accounting: a global review and case studies**
  www.oceanaccounts.org/the-emerging-intersection-between-marine-spatial-planning-and-ocean-accounting-a-global-review-and-case-studies/
- **Ocean Governance and the Aporias of 'Accounting' and 'Accountability'**
  strathprints.strath.ac.uk/79988/1/Snow_etal_Alternation_2021_Ocean_governance_and_the_aporias_of_accounting.pdf
- **Role of Ocean Accounts in Transitioning Toward a Sustainable Blue Economy**
  link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-031-32671-4_14-1
- **Ocean Accounts: A Seachange Approach in Ocean Decision-Making**
  www.jstor.org/stable/resrep28397
- **Every Account Counts for Sustainable Development: Lessons from the African Community of Practice to Implement Ocean Accounts in the Western Indian Ocean Region**
  research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/publications/every-account-counts-for-sustainable-development-lessons-from-the
- **A Global Review of Ocean Ecosystem Accounts and Their Data: Lessons for the Development of the SEEA-Ocean**
  www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X2300163X

**Policy briefs**

All policy briefs can be found here: www.oceanaccounts.org/policy-briefs/

- Blue Public Expenditure Review Guidance Summary
- Introduction to Ocean Satellite Accounts
- Ocean Accounting for Disaster Risk Resilience
- Ocean Accounts and the GBF
- Ocean Accounts for Marine Spatial Planning
- Ocean Accounts for Private Sector Investment
- Policy Brief_Marine Protected Area Finance
- Public Finance for the Ocean
- Social accounts - Briefing paper
- Sustainable Marine and Coastal Tourism
- Sustaining Coastal Livelihoods
- Tourism Satellite Accounts
- Towards Social Accounts_Rethinking How We Understand and Use Social Information
- Understanding the Impact of Public Finance Investment
- Ocean Accounts as a Catalyst for Blue Bonds
- How Ocean Accounts can strengthen Parametric Insurance for coastal resilience



# Annex

## Annex 1: GOAP Co-Chairs Ambition Statement

### Co-Chairs Ambition Statement for the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP)

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) supports the accelerated transition towards sustainable ocean development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Ocean Accounts are a foundation of this transition because they enable coherent and standardized data, statistics and indicators to inform decision-making, management, planning and investment concerning the ocean.

The GOAP represents the collective effort and ambition of its 37 Members, spanning 21 countries, 7 regions and all ocean basins. Members of the GOAP are currently engaged in projects to account for, and mainstream into ocean decision-making, the social, environmental and economic values of over 825 million hectares of marine and coastal area globally. The GOAP further supports efforts of non-members who share the GOAP's ambition to chart a course towards sustainable ocean development and track individual and collective progress along the way.

The 5th Global Dialogue on Sustainable Development has brought together more than 500 participants from 50 countries, all of whom are directly involved in delivering a sustainable ocean economy in practice and aspire to forge collaborative and practical partnerships that reflect the diverse perspective and values encompassed by sustainable ocean development.

The strengthening of national, subregional and regional ocean accounting efforts enables tracking of progress that goes beyond conventional indicators such as GDP, revealing wider social, economic and environmental circumstances connected to the ocean. Such efforts empower decision-makers to chart a course towards sustainable ocean development as an integral part of implementation of national ocean policies, sustainable ocean plans, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, ocean-based climate action, sustainable finance, and other ocean management instruments.

As a result of the discussions convened during the 5th Global Dialogue, we identify the following short-term priorities, to be advanced individually and collectively over the next two years, and reviewed at the next Global Dialogue in 2025:

1. Enhance global implementation and development of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and CBD Decision 15/24 on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, together with other multilateral commitments as we look forward to the UN Ocean Conference in Nice. In particular:
   - Use ocean accounts to deliver on GBF Target 14, which aims to ensure the integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting.
   - Support efforts to strengthen national, subregional, and regional ocean accounting and economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by marine and coastal biodiversity, and use this information to support decision-making for conservation and sustainable use (as per CBD Decision 15/24, paragraph 8).

2. Strengthen support for ongoing efforts to recognize and embed ocean accounting within the implementation of all relevant national and regional ocean policies, strategies and development planning processes. This includes improving inter-institutional sharing and integration of relevant social, environmental and economic data, and compiling relevant indicators. Particular focus will be given to processes concerning sustainable ocean planning, marine resources management, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, ocean-based climate action, and sustainable finance.
3. Complementing existing collaboration structures across the Partnership, accelerate and strengthen development of the:
    - GOAP Community of Practice across Latin America and the Caribbean to provide opportunities for training and learning across the region, ensuring integration and knowledge exchange with the wider GOAP community.
    - GOAP Africa Community of Practice, with a particular focus on long-term capacity enhancement for African institutions, and the embedding of ocean accounts within the Nairobi Convention, Abidjan Convention, and other regional ocean governance processes.
    - GOAP Pacific Islands Community of Practice that connects current progress across the region, strengthens implementation of national ocean policies, supports efforts to track social and economic dependencies on the ocean, and contributes to delivery of Pacific national and regional commitments concerning sustainable ocean development.
4. Increase the frequency and geographic distribution of south-south cooperation, within and between GOAP Communities of Practice, to accelerate piloting and implementation of national ocean accounts, and capacity development of locally based institutions.
5. Provide training and development opportunities to accelerate development of global expertise concerning ocean accounting and build awareness of the practical applications of accounts within all relevant decision-making processes.
6. Convene regular inter-institutional coordination meetings to (1) strengthen sharing of social, economic and environmental data from all relevant international development activities to national ocean accounting systems, (2) maximize the cost-effectiveness of international development activities through practical operational coordination with a particular emphasis on securing flows of resources to locally based institutions.
7. Publish revised global technical guidance for ocean accounting that is tailored to the practical needs of GOAP Members and global priorities.
8. Mobilize additional finance for collaborative work towards the above priorities, including as a crosscutting component of all relevant sectoral and thematic investments in sustainable ocean development. This will include seeking to secure and scale finance for sustainable ocean development priorities underpinned by strong support for local institutions and a programmatic approach.

**Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Government of Indonesia**
and
**Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador**

As co-chairs of the GOAP
July 5 2024



## Annex 2: Ha Long Consensus

### Ha Long Consensus on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development in South and Southeast Asia

(Reflecting consultations at the Regional Workshop on Ocean Accounting, Ha Long, Vietnam, 03 to 04 March 2025)

Recognising the crucial role of the ocean in supporting economic prosperity, social well-being, and ecological resilience across South and Southeast Asia, participants from governments, research institutions, multilateral organisations, and civil society convened in Ha Long, Vietnam, for the Regional Workshop on Building Bridges and Creating Pathways: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Ocean Accounts.

The workshop participants noted the importance of strengthening ocean governance through the integration of Ocean Accounts into national decision-making frameworks. Delegates observed the need for comprehensive, standardised data systems that measure and value the contributions of coastal and marine ecosystems beyond conventional economic metrics. The integration of such data systems may support balanced and well-planned approaches to economic development, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability.

Participants identified several challenges, including data fragmentation, resource constraints, and institutional coordination. The discussions centred on Ocean Accounting as a potential tool for addressing these challenges to advance sustainable ocean development, with focus on three priority areas:

1. **Strengthening Regional Collaboration and Standardisation**
    - Enhanced collaboration across South and Southeast Asia can facilitate harmonised approaches for Ocean Accounting in the context of ocean finance and governance for sustainable development.
    - The establishment of a regional Community of Practice on Ocean Accounting, Finance and Governance for South and Southeast Asia, with support from the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and other interested partners, is encouraged to strengthen:
        - Exchange of practical experience, knowledge and lessons learned;
        - Co-development of solutions to common challenges;
        - Alignment with international statistical standards and guidelines, including the System of National Accounts (SNA), System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the GOAP Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development.
    - Such a Community of Practice could convene regular virtual working groups across an evolving series of thematic topic areas responding to stakeholder needs, including but not limited to coastal development planning, finance mobilisation, biodiversity conservation, waste and pollution management, and measurement of progress towards shared commitments.
2. **Mobilising Sustainable Finance for Blue Economy Initiatives**
    - SDG 14 (Life Below Water) was noted as the least funded Sustainable Development Goal, highlighting a significant financing gap for sustainable ocean development.

- Ocean Accounts can function as a supporting instrument for innovative financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships based on shared data, and flows of high-quality indicators into investment decisions, and accountability and transparency mechanisms.
- Co-development of Ocean Accounts with public development banks, regional financial institutions, and investors could unlock increased capital flows into marine sustainability, fisheries management, plastic waste reduction, and climate resilience projects.

3. **Advancing Data Infrastructure and Digital Integration**
   - Data fragmentation and other accessibility challenges were identified as significant obstacles to effective ocean governance, suggesting a need for shared digital data standards, processing methods, and platforms to support decision-making across diverse institutions and sectors.
   - The development of interoperable and open-source data infrastructure, for Ocean Accounting and other applications, could consolidate information across government agencies, industry, and research institutions, potentially enhancing marine spatial planning, waste and pollution management, disaster response, and investment tracking for blue economy initiatives.
   - Capacity-building and formal training programs on data management and ocean accounting for sustainable ocean development could ensure that data generators, compilers, and policymakers are equipped to utilise such information for Ocean Accounting, governance, and investment decisions.

Countries across South and Southeast Asia continue to explore pathways for incorporating ocean accounting into governance frameworks. Through collaborative approaches to strengthen regional cooperation, mobilise finance, and enhance data infrastructure, the regions are well placed to develop a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient blue economy that comprehensively measures social, economic, and environmental dimensions of progress. Continued dialogue and cooperation remains important for the implementation of these strategic actions in support of sustainable development goals and long-term ocean health.

**Published by the Institute for Strategy and Policy on Agriculture and the Environment, Government of Vietnam, on behalf of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership**
(6 May 2025)



## Annex 3: Joint Declaration: Pledge to advance Ocean Accounts by 2030

We recognise that the health of our ocean is the health of our people and our economies. Sustainable development of the ocean economy requires comprehensive information systems to guide sustainable management and informed decision-making.

We the signatories, pledge to advance ocean accounts for ocean sustainable development by 2030 and invite all nations to join us in this crucial endeavour, advancing ocean accounts in line with their own national priorities.

We recognise the importance of ocean accounts in addressing global challenges, acknowledging that the ocean provides key ecosystem services, support many livelihoods, and play a significant role in regulating our climate. Ocean accounts bring together data and information on environmental, economic and social factors to enhance ocean governance and it is an opportunity to achieve sustainable development and prosperity on the coasts.

We appreciate the work of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) in supporting international collaboration on ocean accounting. GOAP brings together stakeholders to support the development of ocean accounts worldwide and commits to work with all nations to achieve their 2030 goals.

**We the signatories commit to:**

- Advance ocean accounts by 2030 in alignment with national priorities
- Consider ocean accounts data in decision-making processes
- Support efforts that enhance capacity and share knowledge to improve global capabilities in ocean accounting.

We invite all nations to join in this effort to develop and implement ocean accounts by 2030, creating a foundation for informed decision-making and sustainable ocean management.

**The following countries and organisations agree to sign The Joint Pledge for Ocean Accounts.**

- Republic of Costa Rica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of Maldives
- Socialist Republic of Viet Nam's
- Institute of Strategy and Policy on Agriculture and Environment (ISPAE)
- Canada
- United Mexican States
- OSPAR Convention*
- Republic of Fiji
- Togolese Republic*

* signed in absentia

## Annex 4: Africa Vision Statement

### A Global Ocean Accounts Partnership Africa Vision Strategy for Ocean Accounting towards Sustainable Ocean Development (2024-2026)[1]

**Vision**

The GOAP Africa Community of Practice (Africa CoP) recognises **the advantages and opportunities provided by ocean accounting to underpin diverse ocean governance, instruments, objectives and processes to achieve Sustainable Ocean Development in Africa**, thus ensuring the benefits of Africa's blue economies. These include the way ocean accounting

1. **informs Sustainable Ocean Development indicators** through consistent and regular relative metrics of ocean change and ocean resource-use change across time, thereby benchmarking both forecast and hindcast scenarios against targets and histories respectively;
2. enables the **integration of diverse information from across the social, economic, environmental and legal domains** through multidisciplinary approaches to ocean governance processes that are sustainable, inclusive, and implementable;
3. is **easily integrated into, and aligned with other currently utilised ocean governance instruments, tools and processes,** (including for example, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, marine protected area planning and sectoral regulation) within the Ocean Science – Policy – Society interface.
4. **accommodates diverse data and information** arising from new and emerging technologies including remote sensing, AI and big data analytics from a broad range of geographic and sectoral sources and systems; and
5. is calibrated, to **underpin blue financing opportunities** and associated indicators and therefore has important opportunities in the resourcing of sustainable ocean governance.

The GOAP Africa CoP identifies the need for a dynamic ocean accounting action strategy to be developed and implemented (and reviewed on a biennial basis – initially 2024 to 2026) to ensure that the needs, challenges and opportunities for ocean accounting in African ocean governance are recognised and underpinned by research, innovation and capacity enhancement to ensure the measurable uptake of ocean accounting in sustainable African ocean policy formulation.

The strategy recognises sustainability as a long-term environmental construct that includes social inclusivity, and while there are different spatial definitions of oceans and blue economies in Africa, the strategy pertains only to the ocean components of a blue economy and pressures on the African ocean space. Ocean pressures have origins in ocean, terrestrial or freshwater economic activities, and African pressures are likely to be non-linear in relation to long-term ocean demand and supply time frames. African blue economies include significant subsistence and informal economy components that require extensive stakeholder consideration in ocean governance approaches within the strategy. Importantly the GOAP Africa CoP recognises the novelty of ocean accounting in ocean governance processes in Africa and the strong need for capacity enhancement in this field in Africa.

**Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and Milestones**

The ocean accounting action strategy identifies the following objectives and milestones.

| Objectives | Outcome | Milestones[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Drive measurable uptake of ocean accounts into sustainable ocean policy | Within-country and regional ocean accounting is expanded and taken up into policy across African coastal nations. | A minimum of five examples of ocean accounts integrated to national or regional policy by December 2026. |
| 2. Build and participate in global, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations. | Global and Pan-African collaborations and cooperations in the use of integrated ocean accounting in Africa are evident. | A minimum of ten African institutions or governments maintaining active partnerships [or similar] by December 2026. |
| 3. Produce tangible research outputs including peer reviewed, popular, policy brief and technical guidance products and ensure their uptake to ocean governance processes, | Ocean accounting research and innovation initiatives in African coastal nations ensure relevant and pertinent practices and processes in ocean governance. | A minimum of twenty Africa-specific research outputs by December 2026 |
| 4. Create and maintain a functioning forum and evidence of annual engagement including an annual research report. | Quarterly meetings of the Africa CoP ensure communication, collaboration, and cross-pollination of initiatives.<br><br>An African Ocean Accounting Academic Forum is established to advance global and continental academic collaborations. | A minimum of four meetings per year of the African Community of practice through to December 2026.<br><br>Monthly meetings of an Academic Forum. |
| 5. Drive new GOAP membership in Africa and encourage African involvement in global GOAP initiatives. | African membership of the GOAP is actively encouraged.<br><br>African ocean accounting practitioners are engaged in GOAP global initiatives. | A minimum of five new country members (from across government institutions, NPOs and academia) of the GOAP by December 2026.<br><br>A minimum of three African ocean accounting practitioners are members of the GOAP Technical Expert Panel by December 2026. |
| 6. Conduct training and capacity enhancement initiatives at regional and national levels. | Enhanced ocean accounting capacity is ensured as a key process in ocean governance in Africa | A minimum of ten people trained or enrolled in ocean accounts at a postgraduate level by December 2026.<br><br>Fifty policy mainstreaming practitioners trained in aspects of ocean accounts by December 2026.<br><br>A Global GOAP and African COP co-develop an ocean accounting training module (that is contextually relevant for Africa) available by December 2026[3]. |
| 7. Demonstrate measurable evidence of inclusivity in African ocean accounting initiatives. | A broad group of stakeholders are engaged in all African ocean accounting initiatives (at both national and regional scales), ensuring the bridging of the Ocean Science-Policy-Society nexus. | |

**Rationale for the ocean accounting action strategy objectives**
The ocean accounting action strategy is informed by the following:

1. The GOAP Africa CoP identifies ocean accounting as a key Sustainable Ocean Development instrument that addresses diverse African national or regional needs for ocean information; an instrument that is easily integrated into other existing ocean governance processes and instruments.
2. The GOAP Africa CoP encourages global and Pan-African collaboration and cooperation in the use of integrated ocean accounting by African nations (including through the membership of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership and the inclusion of African ocean accounting practitioners in GOAP global initiatives).
3. The GOAP Africa CoP advances continued and expanded ocean accounting research and innovation initiatives in African coastal nations to ensure relevant and pertinent practices and processes that are based on global experiences.
4. The importance of African academic institutions in meeting ocean accounting research initiatives is identified.
5. Technical and human capacity enhancement is a key process in advancing ocean accounting in Africa and there is a need for national, regional and Pan-African capacity enhancement imperatives.
6. There is a need for inclusive multidimensional stakeholder engagement within and across the Ocean Science-Policy-Society interface of ocean sectors, users and beneficiaries, and the GOAP Africa CoP advocates full stakeholder engagement in all African ocean accounting initiatives, particularly in the inclusion of subsistence and informal ocean users and gender.
7. The GOAP Africa CoP identifies the need for a strategic action agenda and the associated outcomes to be reviewed on a biennial basis thus ensuring strategic relevance, transformation and pertinence for current African ocean governance needs.

**Background**
Africa has a long history of interaction with the continent's oceans including traditional and modern formal and informal economic activities. The costs and benefits of such engagement extend beyond the ocean space. Human – ocean engagements (including in Africa) centre on four interactions aspects of ocean systems – a) indirect benefits; b) direct resource-uses; c) pressures arising from resource-uses, and d) ocean governance processes.

The benefits of ocean resource-uses have motivated numerous African nations and regions to turn to their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) to advance ocean development initiatives utilising both ocean and blue economy development approaches[4] in the development of new sectors and the expansion of existing sectors. Africa's oceans face increasing pressures from a basket of synergistic pressure vectors, including unsustainable extraction, pollution, climate change, direct physical system decline and translocations that are often introduced through ocean development. Sustainable Ocean Development is achieved through the centring of long-term environmental sustainability and social inclusivity in ocean governance decision-support instruments (for example MSP or ICZM) and requires

1. adequate resourcing, and capacity enhancement to ensure the bridging of the Ocean Science-Policy-Society interface.
2. best available technologies, data, information and knowledge products to achieve evidence-based outcomes.
3. adequate stakeholder participation, including the voice of coastal communities and subsistence users,
4. adaptive development and implementation approaches within enabling economic and legal environments.
5. positioning to address a country's international and regional commitments and national development plans.

Ocean accounting and ocean accounting frameworks provide a systems-thinking approach to address these requirements for ocean governance for Sustainable Ocean Development. An effective Pan African communication strategy and increased collaborative approaches to resourcing, planning, implementation and review are critical in the uptake of ocean accounting within ocean governance processes.

**Ocean Accounting and the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership**
Ocean accounting is advanced by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP)[5] a multi stakeholder partnership established in 2019 to enable countries, partners and other stakeholders to use ocean accounting as an instrument to go Beyond GDP in the measurement and management of progress towards Sustainable Ocean Development. All countries compile and maintain systems of national accounts, although these have seldom adequately captured the ocean contribution to national economies or changes in the extent or condition of marine environments, and how these affect the economy.

Ocean accounts integrate records of ocean economic activity, and social and environmental conditions on a regular basis in a manner that are compatible with international statistical standards, including the System of National Accounts, the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Framework. Novel accounting frameworks propose the inclusion of social and governance records. A comprehensive sequence of ocean accounts enables countries to monitor changes in ocean wealth (and therefore sustainability), including produced and non-produced assets; ocean-related income and welfare for different groups of people and economic production from ocean sectors.

1 This Vision Strategy was developed through a series of open virtual stakeholder engagements held by the GOAP Africa Community of Practice to which extensive participant invitations were broadcast as well as multiple sessions held at the 5th Global Dialogue on Sustainable Ocean Development held in Sanur, Bali over the period 1 to 5 July 2024. The open virtual events both preceded and followed the Global Dialogue event. Percentage overall attendance in these events comprised 19% from non-governmental or non-profit organisations, 25% from government institutions, 36% from academic institutions, 11% from private companies and 8% from regional or international organisations, including those from the GOAP Secretariat, All received comments to email distribution of the strategy have been accommodated and or discussed with their respective authors.

2 Milestone achievement is subject to available resourcing.

3 For incorporation into both formal curricula and short course environments and applications.

4 Ocean economies are viewed as the production and consumption and associated trade activities of sectors operating in, on or under the ocean or associated with the ocean by geographic or sectoral proximity. The associated blue economy concept has a broader scope which may in Africa extend geographically beyond the ocean (to inland waters) and beyond economic boundaries (to social and environmental dimensions). Blue economies also advance sustainable and equitable approaches through a) the production of current opportunities in marine systems; b) the equitable distribution of those current opportunities; and c) the balancing of current and future opportunities.

5 The GOAP comprises more than 35 current institutional members including national governments, international institutions and research and academic bodies with initiatives centred on the development of technical methods and standards for ocean accounting, the advocacy of ocean accounting in sustainable ocean governance processes (including within the UN Statistical Division SEEA Oceans development initiative), and associated research and capacity enhancement within member and non-member countries. With financial support from the UK Government, Australian Government, World Bank, UNESCAP, and others, the GOAP is co-chaired by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) of Ecuador and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia. and hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Development Reform of the University of New South Wales, Australia.


Bazaruto, Mozambique

## From the Secretariat

As the global demand for ocean data grows, so too does the need for systems that are coherent, trusted, and grounded in the realities of decision-making. Ocean accounting sits at the heart of this shift—not just as a method for organising information, but as a way to bring visibility to the connections between people, economies, and marine ecosystems.

> Ocean accounts are fundamentally about people and their environment.

At their core, these accounts make visible the oft overlooked connections between human wellbeing, ecosystem health and economic sustainability.

In an ocean faced with multiple competing uses, environmental degradation and over exploitation and, external pressures such as climate change and pollution, it remains vital to enable a managed and socially-just transition to a sustainable ocean economy. Through accounting for both ocean users and their natural resources, ocean accounts provide a critical tool for managing multiple threats to our ocean, capturing the opportunities and providing for sustainable incomes for coastal communities.

**Looking ahead, the pathway forward for GOAP is both ambitious and achievable: a world where ocean accounts are part of how countries govern the ocean**—informing policy, enabling investment, strengthening accountability and supporting a just transition to a sustainable future. The Joint Declaration led by Costa Rica and signed by eight countries and the Ha Long Consensus, offers promising pathways toward this vision, creating momentum for countries to commit to developing ocean accounts by 2030.

We see a future where national ocean accounts are not isolated exercises but embedded in the institutions and frameworks that shape long-term development. Where they inform how ocean spaces are planned, how public finance is prioritised, and how the benefits and costs of ocean use are understood and shared.

Realising this vision means supporting countries to move from innovation to institution—from project to practice. It means focusing on what it takes to sustain these systems over time: capacity, coordination, trust, and alignment with national priorities. And it means continuing to foster the kind of collaboration—across sectors, regions, and disciplines—that has defined GOAP from the beginning.

**By 2030, we expect to see ocean accounting used not only to monitor the state of the ocean, but to shape decisions about its future.** The groundwork has already been laid in national ministries, in regional organisations, and in the partnerships and communities that are growing around this shared effort.

This is not just a technical agenda—it is a practical and political one. The ability to manage the ocean more sustainably depends on the ability to see it more clearly. GOAP's role is to help make that clarity possible—through data, through collaboration, and through systems that endure.

**Ben Milligan** **Eliza Northrop** **Phil James**

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**Global Ocean Accounts Partnership**

For more information or to get in touch, visit
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