

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 full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental 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 building 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 cross-cutting 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.

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and

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As Co-chairs of the GOAP

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