

Advancing Comprehensive Action on Marine Biodiversity



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for
**A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY**

Marine biodiversity is an essential component to life on Earth, underpinning healthy ocean ecosystems that provide food, jobs and raw materials for medicines. Over 3 billion people – almost half of all people on the planet – directly depend on a healthy ocean for their basic necessities. When healthy, these ecosystems also help tackle climate change impacts through removing and storing carbon and protecting coastal communities from storms and floods.

However, marine biodiversity is facing significant decline fueled by warming ocean temperatures, pollution and overexploitation. Urgent and comprehensive ocean action to address global and local stressors that contribute to this decline, like climate change, pollution and overfishing is needed to halt biodiversity loss and maintain the benefits that a healthy ocean provides.

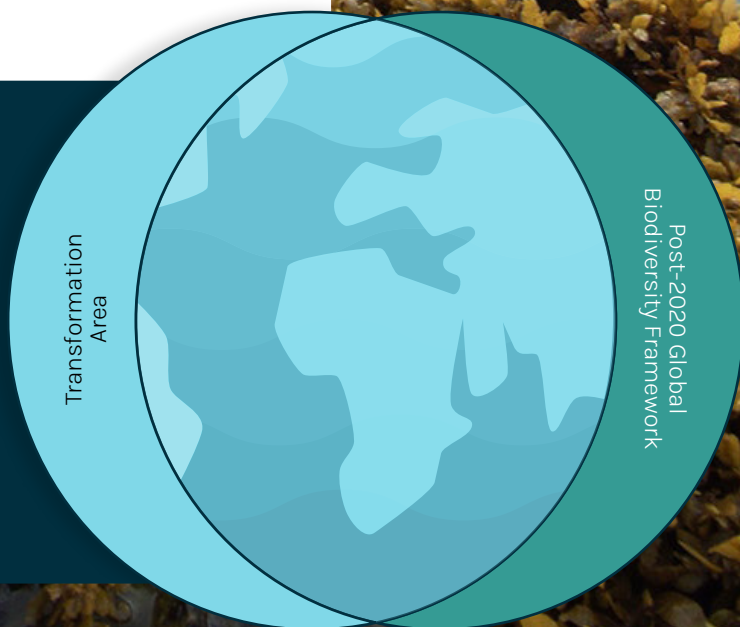
The Ocean Panel's ocean action agenda, the '*Transformations*' signifies a profound departure from 'business as usual' to a sustainable ocean economy that provides benefits for people and planet.

Ambitious new goals that safeguard the ocean are crucial to protecting our planet's biodiversity. But to be truly successful, protection efforts must be comprehensive, effective and equitable if we are to halt the destructive threats to the ocean.

Effective protection of the ocean cannot be achieved if other areas are left open to overexploitation. The Ocean Panel countries' shared ambition to 'sustainably manage 100% of ocean areas within national jurisdictions' is key to enabling effective ocean protection for the benefit of nature and people.

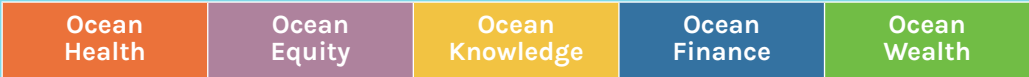
Sustainable ocean action is action for biodiversity.

This is reflected in the Ocean Panel's action agenda '*Transformations*', which directly aligns with **85 percent** of the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Comparing the ocean action agenda to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

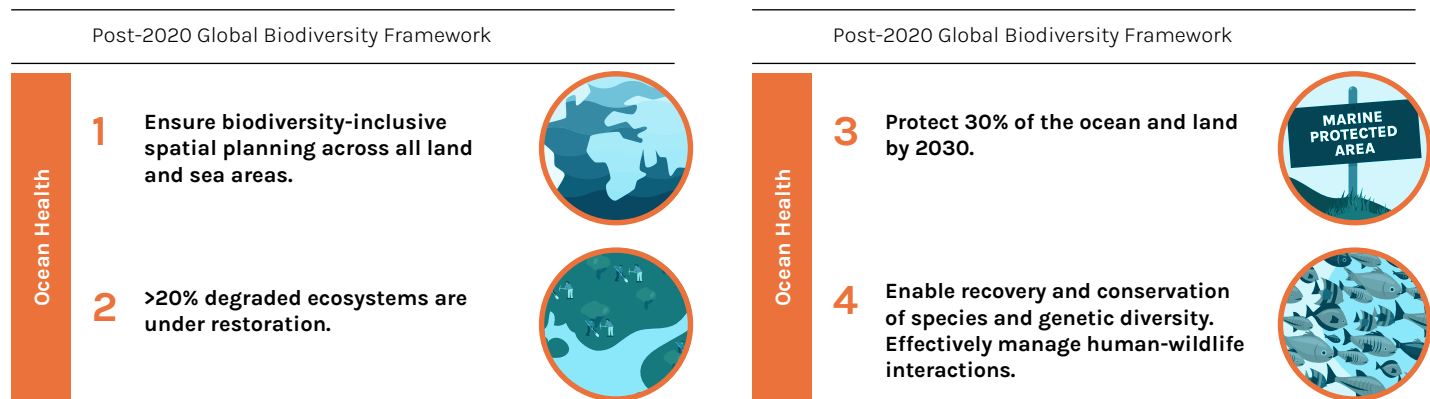
The Ocean Panel's agenda, *Transformations*, identifies a set of bold, yet pragmatic recommendations to transform how to protect and use the ocean over the next decade through transformative actions across these 5 key areas:



The relevance and significance of the Ocean Panel's ocean action agenda, does not stop at the shoreline either. Recent analysis found that 85 percent of the targets detailed in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework directly relate to the Ocean Panel's agenda, reinforcing the ocean's wider relevance in tackling the climate and ecological crises. The below analysis explores this alignment.

Effective protection, restoration and management of ecosystems and genetic diversity

The effective protection, restoration and management of marine and coastal ecosystems is critical to safeguarding biodiversity. The biodiversity of ecosystems determines the abundance of the ocean's natural resources, including fisheries and aquaculture, the health of which are essential to food security everywhere, and in particular in developing countries with coastal communities. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:



Sustainable Production

For the long-term effective protection of biodiversity, people must live in harmony with nature and be able to sustainably use and benefit from thriving ecosystems. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:



Reduce negative impacts on biodiversity


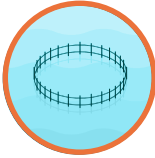
To protect and improve biodiversity and achieve the global biodiversity framework's overarching goal 'to live in harmony with nature' by 2050, threats to biodiversity posed by unsustainable use, pollution, climate change, and other human impacts must be eliminated or reduced. The commitment by Ocean Panel countries to 'sustainably manage 100% of ocean areas within national jurisdiction' is critical for reducing threats to biodiversity and achieving long-term outcomes for people, nature and the economy. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:





Equitable prosperity and fair access to ecosystem services

Ensuring that peoples' needs can be met through sustainable use and benefit sharing is a central principle of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Similarly, 'ocean equity' is also a foundational pillar of the Ocean Panel's ocean action agenda, *Transformations*. The Ocean Panel is committed to a sustainable ocean economy in which 'people have equitable access to ocean resources, benefits are fairly distributed and the most vulnerable are protected from the risk of harm'. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Wealth	9	Ecosystem benefits provided to most vulnerable. Protect customary sustainable use by Indigenous peoples and locals.	
Ocean Health	10	All aquaculture areas are managed sustainably. Increase productivity and resilience of these areas.	


Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Equity	12	Increase access to green and blue spaces for human health and well-being in urban areas.	
Ocean Wealth	13	International action facilitates access to genetic resources. Ensure equitable benefits sharing.	


Fully integrate biodiversity values across all sectors of society from government, business and individual people.

To restore and protect global biodiversity, every sector of society must play its part. Integrating biodiversity values and enabling people to be able to integrate nature and sustainability considerations into their daily lives will be critical in the transition to a sustainable ocean and global economy. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Equity	15	Empower businesses to achieve sustainability objectives.	
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Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Health	16	Encourage and enable people to make responsible choices.	
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Enabling finance

To support the transition to a sustainable ocean economy that integrates biodiversity values across all elements, it is vital that sufficient financial resources are mobilised and that the finance is accessible. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Finance	18	Ensure economic incentives are either neutral or positive for biodiversity.	
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Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Finance	19	Mobilise financial resources to support the goals of the framework.	
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Recognising, respecting and including Indigenous and traditional knowledge and rights

To protect nature, we must protect the human rights of those who depend upon it and live within it. Including Indigenous peoples and coastal communities throughout management processes is critical to achieving global targets as the bulk of biodiversity is found by the coast, at the nexus of people, reliance and threats. Sustainable Ocean Plans – how the Ocean Panel will achieve their headline commitment to sustainably manage 100% of waters under national jurisdiction – must be inclusive and underpinned by knowledge and evidence that includes Indigenous and local knowledge in order to transition to a truly equitable and sustainable ocean economy. The Ocean Panel's agenda relates to the following Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets:

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Equity	20	Ensure all knowledge (including traditional practices) is fully integrated into decision-making processes.	
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Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Ocean Equity	21	The full participation of Indigenous people, local communities, women and youth.	
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Ocean Panel Action on Biodiversity

Only through the effective protection and holistic, integrated and sustainable management of 100% of ocean areas can marine biodiversity continue to be the foundation of healthy and productive ecosystems upon which we all depend.

As part of their commitments to driving a sustainable ocean economy, Ocean Panel countries are taking urgent action to conserve and protect marine biodiversity. Below is a selection of these commitments:



Chile's Blue BOAT initiative works to protect whales by developing an early warning system for vessels in maritime traffic routes. Buoys collect data and measure whale activity to help ensure they are not impacted by vessels in the area.



Jamaica has secured approximately 57 hectares for coastal restoration activities in Winns Morass where biodiversity and hydrology of the previously bare areas has improved.



Fiji is implementing a groundbreaking 'National Ocean Policy' that includes designating effective protection for 30 percent of their marine area as well as committing to 100% sustainable management of the ocean under national jurisdiction. These commitments as well as strong policies on single-use plastics and packaging to tackle marine litter help to improve the health and resilience of marine ecosystems upon which marine life and humans depend.



Kenya's Mikoko Pamoja is the world's first community-led mangrove forest restoration and protection project supported through the sale of carbon credits. Mangroves provide exceptional habitat and nursery grounds for marine life as well as climate change mitigation benefits on a global scale. The generated income supports local development projects in water and sanitation, education and environmental conservation.



Norway is devoting substantial resources to seabed mapping through the MAREANO programme to expand knowledge around the habitats and species in their marine areas and about the pressures exerted by human activity – such as trawl marks and plastic litter on the seabed, providing a basis for improved marine management. The programme has recorded many new cold-water coral habitats and resulted in special protection for new areas of Norwegian waters containing cold-water coral reefs.



Australia, Canada and Mexico are tackling the challenge of recovering and recycling discarded fishing nets and marine debris (called 'ghost gear') largely made from plastic that can have a devastating impact on marine life.



Ghana is working to recover overexploited and depleted fish stocks through introducing a closed season for artisanal and industrial fishers, that provides a window of rest for fish populations to rise and bolster ecosystem productivity.



The **USA** has established a critical protection and management model for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which is the home to the highest level of marine endemism known on Earth. This project is supported by a historic guidance document that provides a framework for government agencies to integrate traditional Hawaiian knowledge systems, values and practices into all areas of management.

Effective protection of the ocean cannot be achieved if other areas are left open to overexploitation. The Ocean Panel countries' shared ambition to 'sustainably manage 100% of ocean areas within national jurisdictions' is key to enabling effective ocean protection for the benefit of nature and people. The transition to a sustainable ocean economy is essential to simultaneously tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, while providing benefits for people, nature and the economy.