



Ocean Panel Progress Report 2024

The second progress report
from the High Level Panel for a
Sustainable Ocean Economy



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

About the Ocean Panel

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) is a unique global initiative by 19¹ serving world leaders who are building momentum for a sustainable ocean economy in which effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand in hand. By enhancing humanity's relationship with the ocean, bridging ocean health and wealth, working with diverse stakeholders and harnessing the latest knowledge, the Ocean Panel aims to facilitate a better, more resilient future for people and the planet.

Established in September 2018, the Ocean Panel has been working with governments, businesses, financial institutions, the science community and civil society to catalyse and scale bold, pragmatic solutions to ultimately develop an action agenda for transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy. Co-chaired by Norway and Palau, the Ocean Panel is the only policy initiative made up of serving world leaders with the authority needed to trigger, amplify and accelerate action worldwide for ocean priorities. The Ocean Panel comprises members from Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States, and is supported by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson. The Secretariat, based at World Resources Institute, supports the Ocean Panel with analytical work, communications and stakeholder engagement.



Foreword

As co-chairs of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), we present the Ocean Panel's second progress report, marking another significant milestone in our collective journey towards a sustainable ocean economy.

In 2020, we released the *Transformations* agenda, in which we identified 14 outcomes and 74 priority actions that we need to take across five critical areas—ocean health, ocean wealth, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance. The *Transformations* agenda is informed by leading-edge science, the latest knowledge and state-of-the-art thinking, and is the culmination of a historic effort to chart the course from ambition to action, and from action to impact, towards our shared vision. In this context, the Ocean Panel members' commitment to sustainably manage 100% of our ocean area under national jurisdiction by 2025 for founding members, or five years after joining for others, is more crucial than ever. Our membership has expanded to 19 nations, which represent 50 percent of global coastlines and 45 percent of the world's exclusive economic zones—showcasing diverse geographies and perspectives while united in a shared vision for ocean stewardship.

Two years have passed since our first progress report, and the urgency of our mission has only intensified. This second progress report demonstrates the tangible advances we've made across the five pillars of the *Transformations* agenda and towards our 2030 goals. It takes an analytical approach to showcase progress, highlighting our steps forward towards the headline commitment of achieving 100% sustainable ocean management guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) and the *Transformations* agenda's priority actions.

SOPs are critical to the Ocean Panel's ambitions, offering a comprehensive policy framework to sustainably manage 100% of national waters for the benefit of people, nature and planet. At least nine member countries are now implementing and/or updating their SOPs, with others making significant strides. With over three-quarters of Ocean Panel countries' SOPs supported by legislative measures or policies to strengthen their institutional backing, we are making headway towards meeting our deadline.

We have also assessed progress against a focused set of 26 of the 74 priority actions from the *Transformations* agenda, revealing developments across all pillars. For instance, over 15 Ocean Panel countries are advancing sustainable tourism and addressing harmful fisheries subsidies.

The Ocean Panel also strongly advocates for all coastal and ocean states to join in the ambition towards 100% sustainable ocean management. We applaud the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) initiative, launched at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by Pacific Island leaders committing to holistically manage 100% of the Blue Pacific Continent and effectively protect 30 percent of it. The UBPP initiative currently stands as the world's largest ocean stewardship effort in history.

We recognise that our journey is far from complete. This report not only displays our achievements but also honestly addresses the challenges we face. The path to a fully sustainable ocean economy is complex and long, requiring sustained effort, innovation, finance, capacity building and collaboration.

As we look ahead, we're inspired by the momentum the Ocean Panel has built and the opportunities that lie before us. The ocean's potential to contribute to mitigating climate change, increasing food security and boosting economic prosperity is vast and largely untapped. By continuing to work together we can unlock this potential while safeguarding the ocean's health for future generations.

We invite other nations, businesses, organisations and individuals to join us in this crucial endeavour to work towards the *Transformations* agenda. Together, we can redefine our relationship with the ocean, ensuring that protection, production and prosperity go hand in hand.

The ocean remains a vital lifeline for our planet—regulating our climate, sustaining biodiversity and supporting livelihoods across the globe—and it continues to face unprecedented challenges from climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and overexploitation. Let's fulfil our mandate as one of its greatest champions.

Jonas Gahr Støre

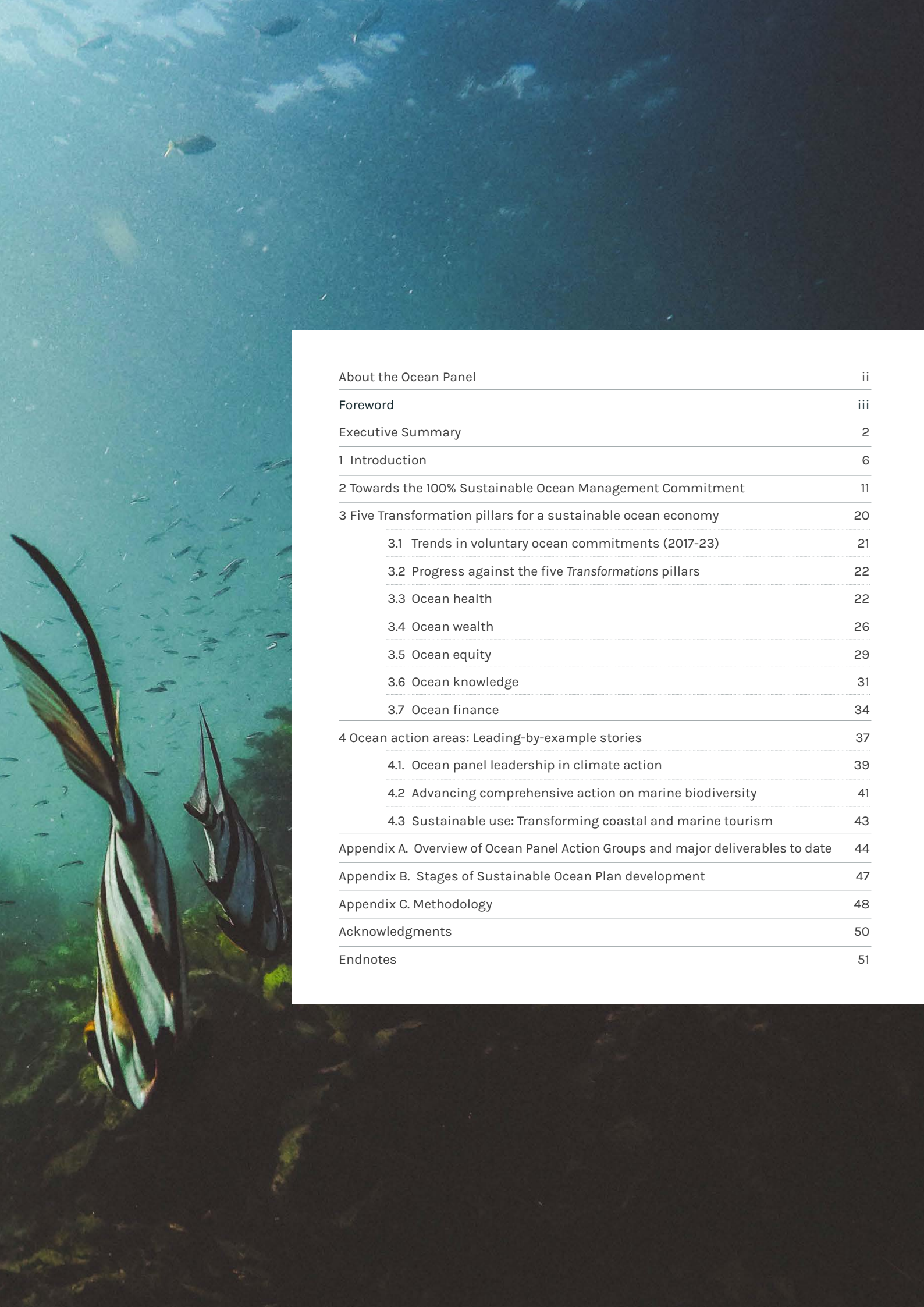
Prime Minister
for the Government of Norway



Surangel S. Whipps Jr.

President
for the Government of Palau





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Executive Summary



The Ocean Panel represents 19^a diverse nations which together encompass 50 percent of the world's coastlines and 45 percent of the global exclusive economic zone area.

The Ocean Panel is collectively committed to achieving a sustainable ocean economy through sustainably managing 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction. Guiding this ambition is the [Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#) agenda ('Transformations agenda'), which charts a course across five pillars: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance. The *Transformations* agenda was developed through broad and diverse engagement and consultation and an unprecedented scientific knowledge base for action and has been endorsed by all Ocean Panel members.

Each member country is required to develop and implement a Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP), a comprehensive policy framework which ensures long-term economic and social development while protecting marine ecosystems. The 14 founding members have committed to developing these plans by 2025 and other countries within five years of joining.

This year, this approach was recognised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, which established the [Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning](#) to reinforce the Ocean Panel's agenda towards achieving 100% sustainable ocean management. Similarly, Springer Nature published a selection of the Ocean Panel's knowledge base as an exemplary resource called [The Blue Compendium](#).

The Ocean Panel serves as a proven mechanism for ocean diplomacy and literacy, emphasising demand-driven science and knowledge, and translating this into policy advice and concrete solutions for ocean action.

Highlights

100% sustainable ocean management and Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs)

- As of August 2024, all 18 Ocean Panel member countries had continued to make significant progress towards 100% sustainable ocean management—half of all member countries (**nine** in total) are now either implementing and/or updating their SOPs, and **four** countries are in the final development stages of completing their first SOPs within five years of joining the Ocean Panel.
- Enabling factors such as strong inter-ministerial coordination, technical expertise and accessible data, and funding opportunities have facilitated SOP progress, while challenges such as resource constraints, conflicting stakeholder priorities and data gaps have hindered faster advancement.
- Over three-quarters of Ocean Panel country SOPs are supported by legislative measures or policies, strengthening their legal and institutional backing.
- Fourteen Ocean Panel members have a cross-sectoral mechanism in place to support SOP development and implementation, formally established through policies, agreements or official documentation.

Transformations agenda priority actions

- Across the broad spectrum of priority actions in the Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda, members are assessed as making good and gradual progress towards their 2030 goals, recognising initial stages of action and with six years to go to 2030.

^a The United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined as the 19th and newest Ocean Panel member country in September 2024. As it was not a member at the time of writing, this report does not contain progress data on the UAE.

- In a self-assessment by Ocean Panel members of their individual progress against a focused set of 26 of the 74 *Transformations* priority actions, while recognising different national contexts and priorities, progress is shown across the five key pillars:
 - **Ocean health:** **All** member countries have made progress in halting ecosystem loss and managing protected areas, and **14** countries have made advances in integrating ocean and climate action.
 - **Ocean wealth:** **All** countries are progressing on combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; **15** countries are addressing harmful subsidies; and **16** countries are advancing sustainable tourism.
 - **Ocean equity:** There is **universal progress** in promoting responsible business practices, with **16** countries actively advancing women’s engagement and **15** countries progressing on Indigenous rights recognition in ocean activities.
 - **Ocean knowledge:** **Seventeen** countries are making headway on open data sharing, and **16** countries are advancing measures to improve ocean literacy and investing in conservation knowledge.
 - **Ocean finance:** **Nearly all** countries are directing investments toward and supporting sustainable finance principles for sustainable ocean economies.
- In addition to advancing its own progress, the Ocean Panel is advocating for all coastal and ocean states to join in the commitment to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction by 2030.
- In 2023, significant progress was made towards this goal, including the following:
 - At the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, leaders of Pacific nations, including Ocean Panel members Fiji and Palau, committed to holistic ocean management through the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) initiative. The UBPP initiative aims to sustainably manage 100 percent of the Pacific Ocean and effectively protect 30 percent of it, making it the world’s largest conservation effort.
 - At COP28, the Ocean Panel, joined by the Secretariat of the Organization of American States, issued a joint declaration that recognises the urgent need to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, and urged other island and coastal countries to join the Ocean Panel’s goal.

This report explores progress towards the Ocean Panel commitment of achieving 100% sustainable ocean management through Sustainable Ocean Plans, the aspired outcomes of the *Transformations* agenda, and the goals of the initiatives and coalitions that have arisen from the Ocean Panel, among others. While not exhaustive, this report demonstrates the Ocean Panel’s commitment to transparency and showcases compelling highlights, illustrating the diverse spectrum of actions unfolding across all Ocean Panel countries.

Further ambitions

- The United Arab Emirates joined as the 19th and newest Ocean Panel member country in September 2024.
- Since 2018, eight collaborative Ocean Panel Action Groups have emerged to support the realisation of the *Transformations* agenda’s priority actions and 2030 outcomes, with six still active and two having completed their mandates.

1. Introduction



The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) represents ocean nations of highly diverse oceanic, economic, social and political perspectives. The Ocean Panel consists of Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates (UAE),^b the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Ocean Panel's action agenda, [Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#) ('Transformations agenda'), published in 2020, charts a course towards achieving protection, production and prosperity through transformations across five pillars: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance. It presents a framework with 14 outcomes for 2030 (see Table 1) within the five pillars and 74 priority actions to achieve them. While the Ocean Panel members have not individually committed to achieving all 74 priority actions, recognising different national contexts, they are collectively committed to deliver on the 2030 outcomes. A central tenet of this agenda is a commitment to 100% sustainable ocean management and for each country to develop and implement a Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP) within five years of joining the Ocean Panel.

The Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda is rooted in political will and multi-stakeholder, responsive action including the following:

1. The delivery of the *Transformations* agenda at home by each Ocean Panel member country, adapted to local needs and priorities.
2. Country-led collective action initiatives, in collaboration with other members and with countries outside of the Ocean Panel, to progress priority actions from the *Transformations*.

3. The continued engagement of the Ocean Panel's leaders in international and regional platforms to motivate greater global interest in and commitment to the Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda including advocating for all coastal and ocean states to join them in this commitment so that by 2030 all ocean areas under national jurisdiction are sustainably managed.

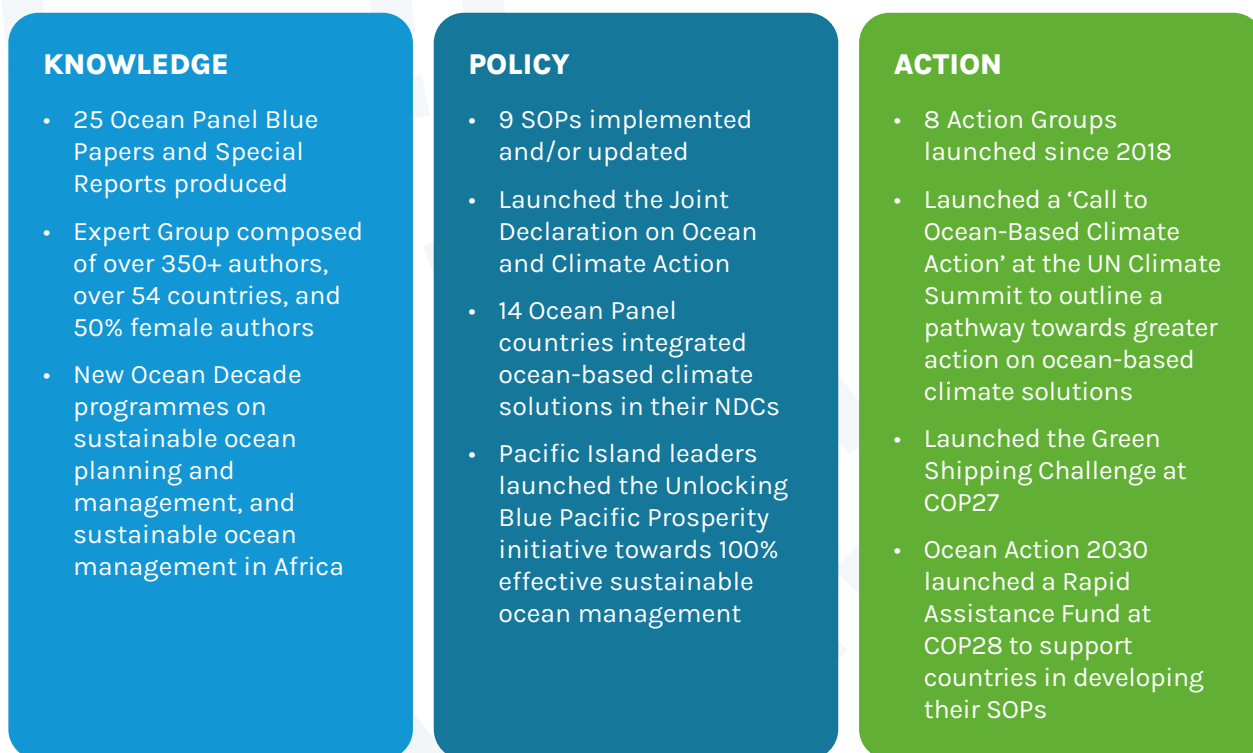
From knowledge to policy to action

The Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda and priority actions are underpinned by an unprecedented scientific knowledge base, including over 25 commissioned 'Blue Papers' and Special Reports written and peer reviewed by a group of over 350 ocean experts representing more than 54 countries (as of August 2024; see Figure 1). Given the multi-sectoral nature of many ocean issues, no recommendation could possibly be realised through the actions of just one entity or one sector. Coordinated approaches break down silos and cross-fertilise ideas that offer effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity—the hallmarks of a sustainable ocean economy. The Ocean Panel represents leadership from the highest decision-making offices to turn knowledge into action.

Together, these priority actions chart the route ahead to 2030 towards a sustainable ocean economy—including the conclusion of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

^b The UAE joined as the 19th and newest Ocean Panel member country in September 2024. As it was not a member at the time of writing, this report does not contain progress data on the UAE.

Figure 1. Three strategic pillars



Note: NDC = nationally determined contribution; UN = United Nations; COP27 = the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change; SOP = Sustainable Ocean Plan.

The Ocean Panel has catalysed the formation of eight dynamic Action Groups in response to the *Transformations* agenda and the resounding Ocean Panel '[Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action](#)'. These Action Groups have consisted of diverse entities from the public, private, financial, research and civil society sectors to accelerate, scale and finance ocean action, operating at tipping points where collaboration is key to achieving the results desired in a sustainable ocean economy. The Action Groups are the following:

1. Ocean Action 2030 (active)
2. Global Ocean Account Partnership (active)
3. Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean (active)
4. 1000 Ocean Startups (active)
5. Blue Food Partnership (active)
6. Ocean Data Action Coalition (active)
7. Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition (complete)
8. Shipping Decarbonisation Action Coalition (complete)

These Action Groups have drawn inspiration and strategic insights from the Ocean Panel's knowledge base, charting a course for impactful initiatives (see Table A-1, Appendix A).

Going global

The Ocean Panel's commitment to sustainable ocean management extends beyond its member countries, as evidenced by its efforts to encourage global adoption of its transformative approach. This was demonstrated at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where the Ocean Panel issued a joint declaration that recognises the critical need to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, and urges other island and coastal countries to join the declaration. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

joined the declaration and the Ocean Action 2030 coalition. Additionally, Pacific Island leaders launched their 2050 Strategy and Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity initiative to forge ground-breaking partnerships to access funding tailored to the needs of the Pacific region, while committing to 100% effective sustainable ocean management, and 30 percent protection of the Blue Pacific Continent following the Ocean Panel's headline commitment. The proposal received a US\$225 million pledge to protect and rejuvenate the region's ecosystems and empower communities through 2050.

The Ocean Panel's second progress report

With this report, the Ocean Panel shares its progress towards the *Transformations* agenda, highlighting the achievements, challenges, priorities and potential solutions associated with fostering a stronger, more sustainable and equitable ocean economy and inspiring other nations to join this effort. This report adopts an analytical approach to capture progress made so far and allow for comparison with future reports. Section one provides an overview of the collective progress of Ocean Panel members towards their commitment to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans. Section two showcases progress against the priority actions of the *Transformations* agenda, and also reflects on efforts made by the Ocean Panel's Action Groups, which arose to drive forward the implementation of the *Transformations* agenda. Section three includes a series of actions that the Ocean Panel countries have taken towards a sustainable ocean economy, demonstrating examples of ocean leadership.

This report goes beyond the first progress report released in 2022, which in the early stages of the Ocean Panel focused on a growing number of public commitments made by member countries at the Our Ocean Conference and the UN Ocean Conference each year. This second progress report acknowledges that progress towards the Ocean Panel's 2030 goals is advancing, ongoing and complex, and that the journey towards a fully sustainable ocean economy is a long-term endeavour, faced with both challenges still to overcome and many opportunities to be realised.



This report offers a dynamic insight into the proactive strides taken by Ocean Panel members since the Ocean Panel's inception in 2018. While not exhaustive, these actions, policies and coalitions serve as compelling highlights, illustrating the diverse spectrum

of actions unfolding across all Ocean Panel countries. This report's focus is on tracking action rather than merely measuring ambition—a distinction that underscores the urgency and impact of tangible progress in advancing ocean sustainability.

Table 1. The Ocean Panel's Transformations agenda and associated 2030 outcomes

Transformation	2030 outcome
Ocean wealth	<p>Sustainable ocean food: Wild fish stocks are restored and harvested at sustainable levels, aquaculture is sustainably grown to meet global needs and waste is minimised and managed throughout the value chain.</p> <p>Sustainable ocean energy: Ocean-based renewable energy is fast growing and on the path to becoming a leading source of energy for the world.</p> <p>Sustainable ocean-based tourism: Coastal and ocean-based tourism is sustainable, resilient, addresses climate change, reduces pollution, supports ecosystem regeneration and biodiversity conservation and invests in local jobs and communities.</p> <p>Sustainable ocean transport: Shipping investments have effectively accelerated the shift towards zero-emission and low-impact marine vessels.</p> <p>Sustainable new ocean industries: Innovation and investments in new ocean industries have boosted environmentally responsible and inclusive economic growth.</p> <p>A precautionary approach to seabed mining: Sufficient knowledge and regulations are in place to ensure that any activity related to seabed mining is informed by science and ecologically sustainable.</p>
Ocean health	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Ambitious climate action has set the world on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and restore ocean health.</p> <p>Protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems: Marine and coastal ecosystems are healthy, resilient and productive, and nature-based solutions are key elements in developing coastal infrastructure.</p> <p>Reduce ocean pollution: The ocean is no longer a sink for pollution and ocean dead zones are minimised.</p>
Ocean equity	<p>Promote equal opportunity for people to benefit from the ocean: People have equitable access to ocean resources, benefits are fairly distributed and the most vulnerable are protected from the risk of harm.</p>
Ocean knowledge	<p>Build ocean literacy and skills: Through the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, ocean literacy has been enhanced worldwide. People understand the value of the ocean and have acquired the skills and knowledge to participate in the sustainable ocean economy.</p> <p>Account for the value of the ocean: Decision-making affecting the ocean reflects the value of and impacts on the ocean's natural capital.</p> <p>Harness ocean science, technology and data are harnessed: A globally shared data revolution has contributed to sustainable ocean management worldwide.</p>
Ocean finance	<p>Ocean finance: Sustainable ocean finance is accessible for all and drives ecologically sustainable and socially equitable economic growth.</p>

Source: Reproduced from *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity*, High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, 2021, <https://oceanpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/transformations-sustainable-ocean-economy-eng.pdf>.

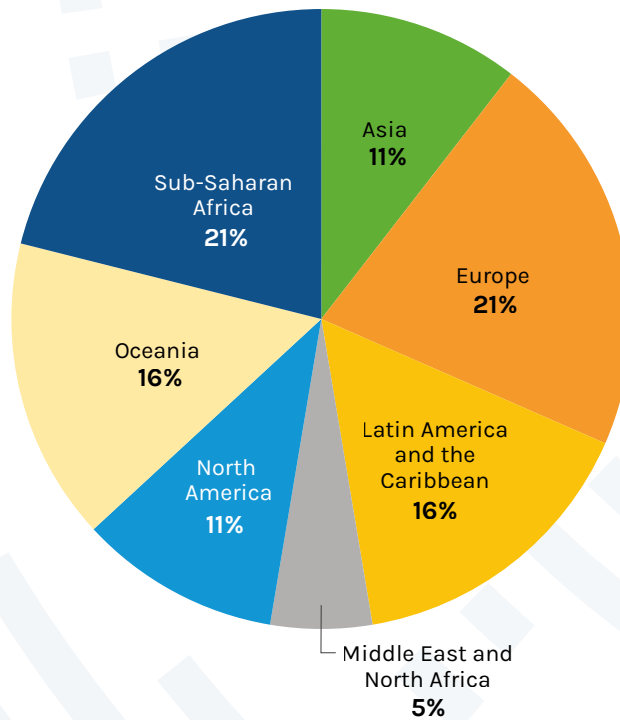
The combined exclusive economic zones of Ocean Panel members constitute 68,319,236 square kilometres, twice the landmass of North America and Russia combined.



Nations large and small, across all ocean basins, at every stage of economic development and at every extreme of the ocean environment—from the tropics to the Arctic—are coming together for a sustainable ocean economy (see Figures 2-3).



Figure 2. Geographic spread of the Ocean Panel membership



Note: These data represent all 19 Ocean Panel members. The number of members is displayed as a percentage of the total.

Figure 3. Ocean Panel key statistics



Notes: These data represent all 19 Ocean Panel members.

EEZ = exclusive economic zone; MPA = marine protected area.

An underwater photograph showing a sea turtle swimming over a sandy seabed with coral reefs. The water is clear and blue. The turtle is in the lower center of the frame, swimming towards the right. The coral reefs are in the foreground and background, adding texture to the scene.

2. Towards the 100% sustainable ocean management commitment

In 2020, the members of the Ocean Panel committed to sustainably managing 100% of their ocean areas under national jurisdiction, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans, by 2025.²

The guide [100% Sustainable Ocean Management: An Introduction to Sustainable Ocean Plans](#) highlights the value of developing and implementing SOPs. These plans guide public and private sector decision-makers on how to sustainably manage 100% of a nation's ocean area to advance long-term economic and social development—by protecting the natural marine ecosystems that underpin that development.

These plans constitute a unifying framework that brings together existing and new ocean-related plans, processes and policies into a coherent, integrated whole. The framework also reconciles conflicting uses of the ocean and its resources, building on and integrating existing mechanisms such as ocean industry sector development plans, marine spatial plans, and area-based conservation and biodiversity measures.

An effective SOP embraces nine attributes:

- The process should be **inclusive, integrative, iterative.**
- The content should be **place-based, ecosystem-based, knowledge-based.**
- The impact should be **endorsed, financed, capacitated.**

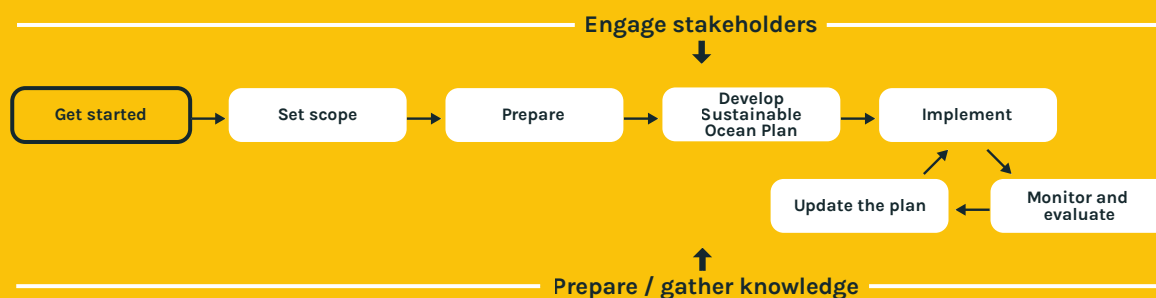
But there is no one-size-fits all approach.

The target of achieving 100% sustainable ocean management through Sustainable Ocean Plans helps to address the twin dangers of climate change and biodiversity loss through cross-sectoral sustainable development. Sustainable ocean management can help unlock the ocean's immense potential for climate action and building resilience, with SOPs acting as a vehicle to accelerate the implementation of ocean-based climate actions. These holistic frameworks can establish the necessary baselines within exclusive economic zones (EEZs) as a guide for protecting and managing areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Developing and implementing a Sustainable Ocean Plan is an iterative process that typically includes the following steps: getting started, setting the scope and preparing, developing, and implementing and/or updating (Box 1). However, it's important to note that countries are at different stages in their journeys towards sustainable ocean management. The goal is to achieve 100% sustainable management of a country's EEZ, but this is often a gradual process. Countries may begin by focusing on specific areas or sectors within their EEZs, gradually expanding the scopes of their management efforts over time. This phased approach allows for learning, capacity building and adaptive management as countries work towards comprehensive coverage. Specific steps and the timeline for reaching full coverage may vary across countries, reflecting different starting points and needs.

The key steps for developing, implementing and iterating a Sustainable Ocean Plan

Figure B1-1. Key stages and iterative process for developing a Sustainable Ocean Plan



Source: Adapted from *100% Sustainable Ocean Management: An Introduction to Sustainable Ocean Plans*, High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, 2021, <https://oceanpanel.org/publication/100-sustainable-ocean-management-an-introduction-to-sustainable-ocean-plans/>.

1. **Getting started:** Establish the authority to initiate the planning process by raising awareness and organising relevant ministries. Prioritise country-specific goals through an inter-ministerial consultation and take stock of existing and missing components to determine the technical and financial support needed to launch the planning effort.
2. **Setting the scope and preparing:**
 - a. Collaborate with stakeholders to establish a vision for the country's sustainable ocean economy, focusing on protection, sustainable production, and equitable prosperity, with clear goals and priorities. Determine the geospatial boundaries for the plan, including the ecosystems covered. This could involve a single comprehensive plan or a set of integrated sub-jurisdiction plans.
 - b. Establish cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder coordination mechanisms that unite relevant government bodies, ocean economic sector representatives, scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and local communities, ideally integrating existing ocean-related processes within the country. Additionally, assess current knowledge, plans, and processes by compiling existing ocean-related plans and comparing them against the nine attributes and components of Sustainable Ocean Plans to identify existing strengths and gaps.
3. **Developing the plan:** Conduct an inclusive and integrative process to develop the plan. Ensure the plan reflects all nine attributes of SOPs and includes the appropriate components. In addition, ensure the plan includes specific goals, indicators and means of monitoring over time.
4. **Implementing and/or updating the plan:** Pursue the measures (e.g. government policies, business practices, financing investments) needed to implement the Sustainable Ocean Plan over time. As SOPs are iterative in nature, periodically monitor and update the plan as implementation unfolds; economic, social and/or environmental conditions evolve; and/or the state of knowledge improves.

Two activities to pursue continuously during the entire process of developing and implementing a Sustainable Ocean Plan are the following:

Preparing/gathering knowledge: Continuously assemble, evaluate, and structure existing data on relevant social, economic, and environmental factors, conducting new research where needed. Stay updated with the latest knowledge and integrate it into plan revisions.

Engaging stakeholders: Identify and engage relevant stakeholders—including government, industry, financiers, research institutions, NGOs, local communities and Indigenous Peoples—early in the process to balance interests, build legitimacy, avoid conflicts and ensure broad support.

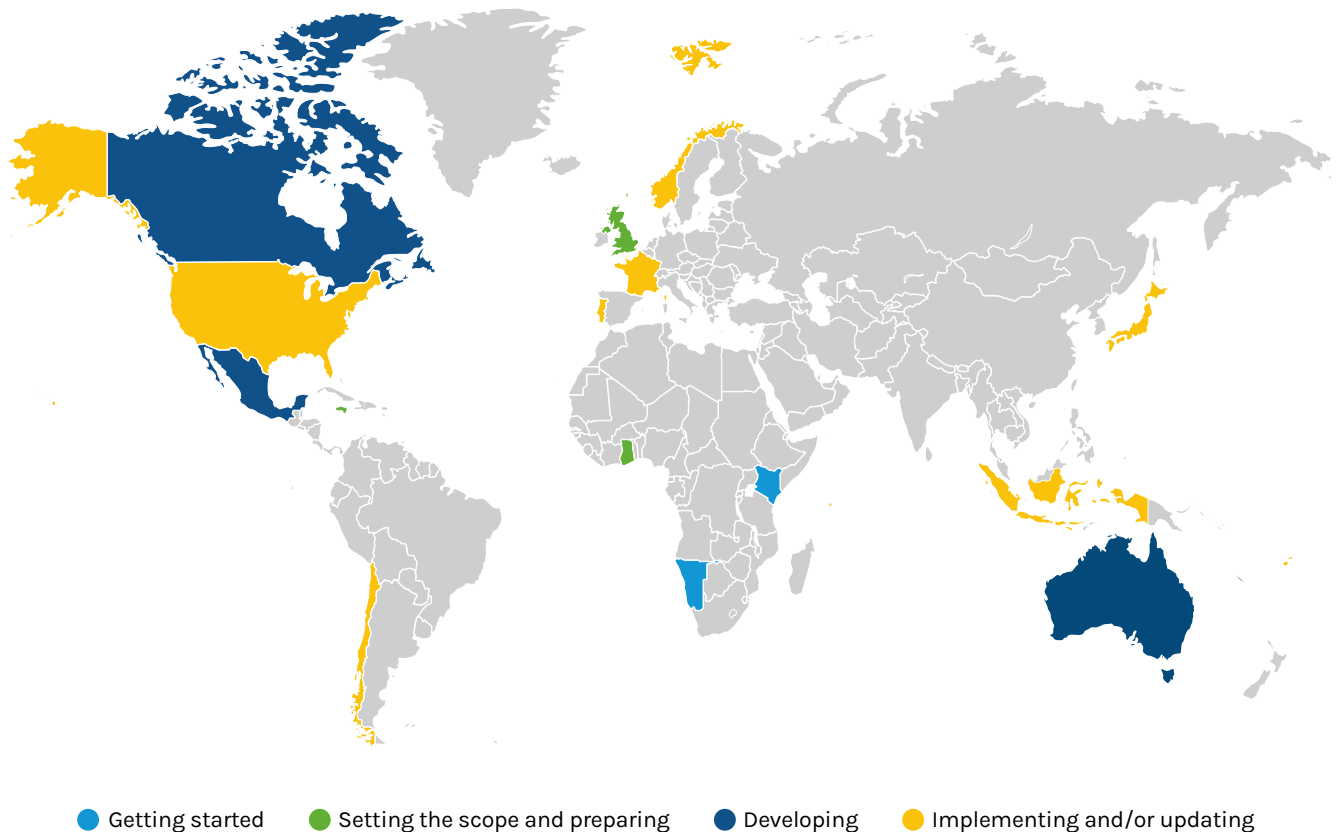
Ocean Panel progress towards the 100% sustainable ocean management approach

Progress towards achieving 100% sustainable ocean management (guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans by 2025 for founding members, or five years after joining the Ocean Panel for others) is on track (Figure 4). Of the 18 Ocean Panel member countries assessed, four are developing their plans and nine have

already reached the implementation and/or updating stage. Establishing integrated sustainable management frameworks is a major accomplishment that will help protect marine ecosystems while enabling a sustainable ocean economy in these nations. **Sustainable Ocean Plans are a new concept and many are in their formative stages as countries are required to make iterations to their plans as new information emerges and priorities shift.**

Figure 4 illustrates the current stages of SOP development across Ocean Panel members, reflecting a spectrum of progress from initial planning to full implementation.

Figure 4. Stages of Sustainable Ocean Plan development (as of August 2024)



Getting started	Setting the scope and preparing	Developing	Implementing and/or updating
Kenya	Ghana	Australia	Chile
Namibia	Jamaica	Canada	Fiji
	United Kingdom	Mexico	France
		Palau	Indonesia
			Japan
			Norway
			Portugal
			Seychelles
			United States

Note: See Table B-1, Appendix B, for a list of Ocean Panel members' Sustainable Ocean Plans and expected publication timelines.

Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

While countries are at different stages in this process, it's important to recognise that countries in the early phases of starting and scoping their SOPs are often already implementing key components or laying crucial groundwork:

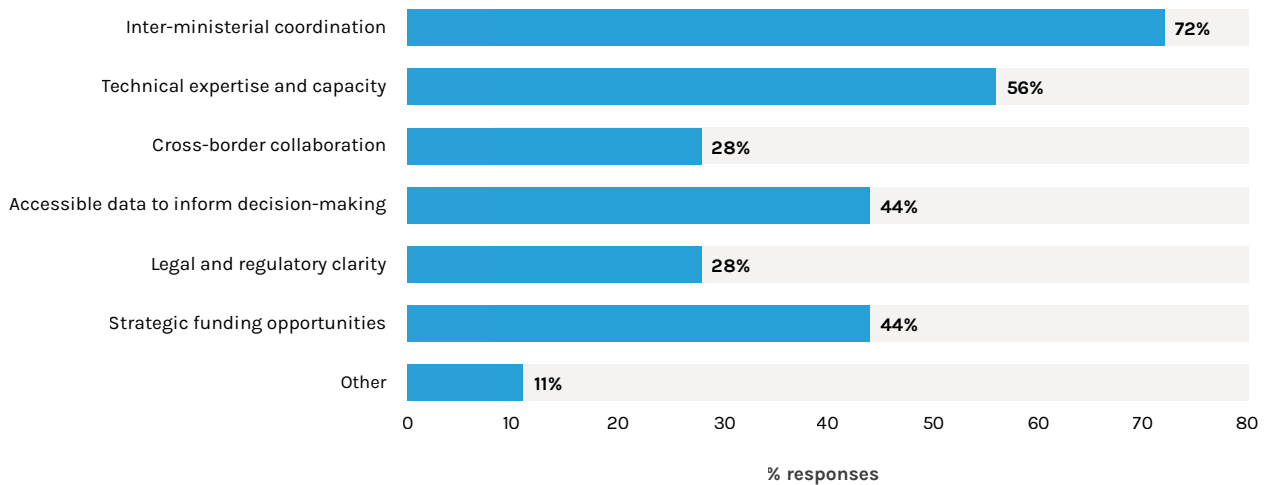
- At present, two members (Kenya and Namibia) are in the crucial foundational 'getting started' phase of raising awareness of, organising and prioritising sustainable ocean economy goals. For example, Namibia is exploring funding options for blue economy activities to strengthen the government's institutional, financial and technical capacity to support the essential building blocks of a Sustainable Ocean Plan. Continued capacity support for members in earlier stages is critical.
- Three countries are setting the scope and undergoing stakeholder preparation work to develop SOP frameworks: Ghana, Jamaica and the United Kingdom (UK). The UK, while already implementing key policies and plans that would fall under its SOP, is in the scoping phase, undertaking engagement across relevant teams and departments.
- Four countries are currently in the development stage of their SOPs, and a

robust public consultation process is an important element of this phase. For example, following 18 months of targeted nation-wide engagement, Australia recently released its draft SOP for public comment, inviting domestic stakeholders to provide input on the plan's vision and priorities for the ocean and ocean economy.

- Updating and iterating on SOPs is also critical to reflect new information and data. Norway's SOP, called 'Integrated Ocean Management Plans', is updated every four years, incorporating new knowledge and addressing new challenges.

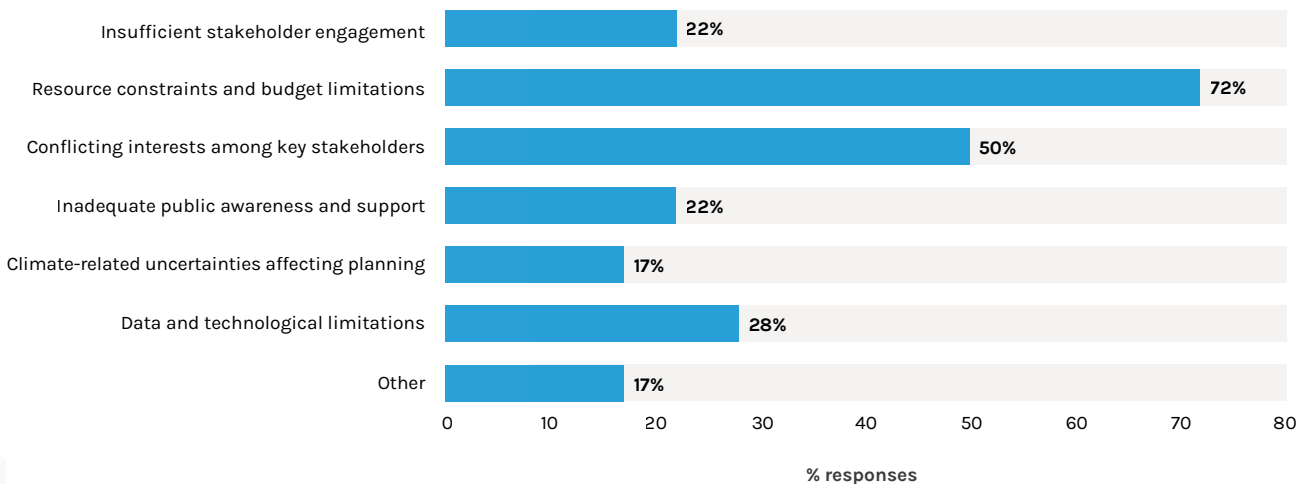
In a self-assessment survey taken by Ocean Panel countries, participants highlighted that strong inter-ministerial coordination, access to technical expertise and data to inform decision-making, and availability of strategic funding opportunities have been key enabling factors in facilitating progress so far (Figure 5). Resource constraints, conflicting stakeholder interests and data/technology gaps were frequently noted as significant challenges hindering faster progress (Figure 6). See Appendix C for the Methodology.

Figure 5. Key factors have facilitated progress in developing Sustainable Ocean Plans



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Figure 6. Challenges in developing Sustainable Ocean Plans



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members

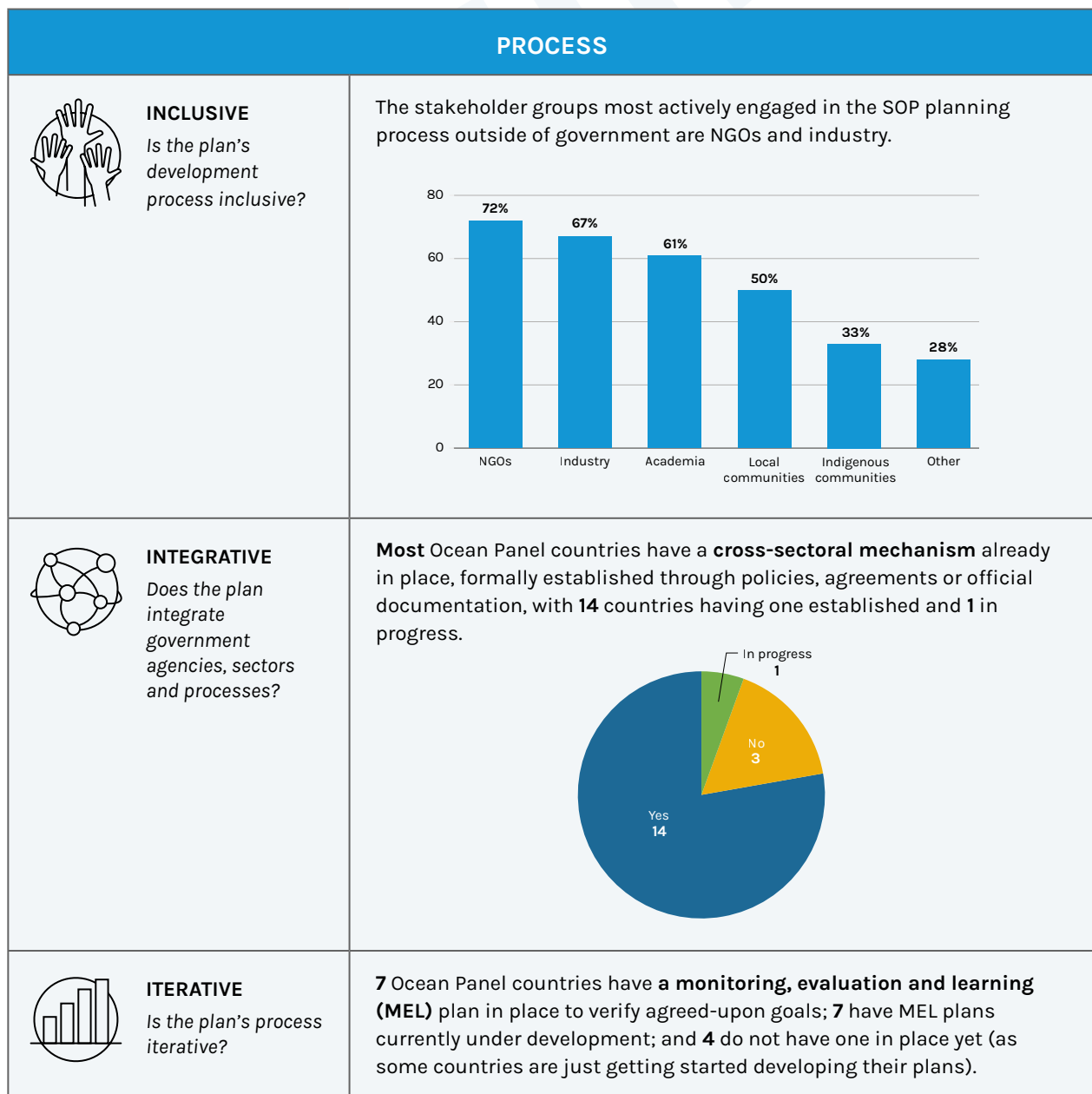
Explore select country case studies to learn about the behind-the-scenes processes countries underwent to develop their plans.



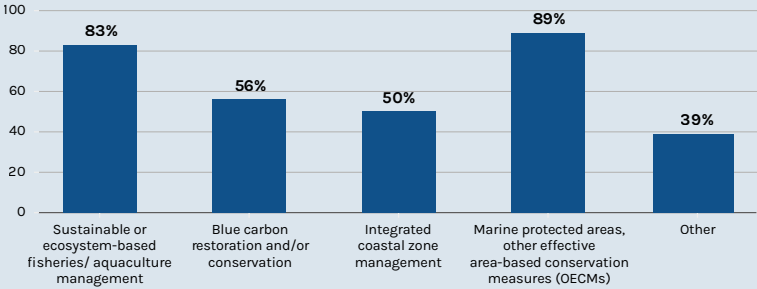

Nine core attributes of a Sustainable Ocean Plan




Figure 7 presents an assessment of the Ocean Panel’s progress in developing and implementing Sustainable Ocean Plans, as

per the self-assessment surveys completed by Ocean Panel members, focusing on how well they align with the nine core attributes necessary for effective, sustainable ocean management (see [100% Sustainable Ocean Management: An Introduction to Sustainable Ocean Plans](#)).

Figure 7. Ocean Panel progress in advancing Sustainable Ocean Plans across the nine attributes



CONTENT													
 <p>PLACE-BASED Does the plan address the entire marine/ocean area under national jurisdiction?</p>	<p>All Ocean Panel SOPs aim to achieve 100% coverage of the ocean area under national jurisdiction. While some countries have already attained this goal, others are still working towards it. These plans are iterative and aim to progressively expand coverage.</p>												
 <p>ECOSYSTEM-BASED Is the plan grounded in an ecosystem-based approach?</p>	<p>16 countries include or intend to include marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in their plans, while 10 include or intend to include blue carbon restoration and/or conservation (mangroves, seagrasses and tidal salt marshes).</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Bar Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Approach</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sustainable or ecosystem-based fisheries/ aquaculture management</td> <td>83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blue carbon restoration and/or conservation</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integrated coastal zone management</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marine protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECEMs)</td> <td>89%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>39%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Approach	Percentage	Sustainable or ecosystem-based fisheries/ aquaculture management	83%	Blue carbon restoration and/or conservation	56%	Integrated coastal zone management	50%	Marine protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECEMs)	89%	Other	39%
Approach	Percentage												
Sustainable or ecosystem-based fisheries/ aquaculture management	83%												
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Integrated coastal zone management	50%												
Marine protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECEMs)	89%												
Other	39%												
 <p>KNOWLEDGE-BASED Is the plan underpinned by knowledge and evidence?</p>	<p>In developing their plans, all Ocean Panel countries incorporate various knowledge sources, with 12 of them utilising peer-reviewed scientific articles and online databases and repositories.</p>												

IMPACT	
 <p>ENDORSED Is there national political support for a Sustainable Ocean Plan?</p>	<p>15 countries have had political commitments communicated publicly through official statements, speeches or endorsements related to the Sustainable Ocean Plan or 100% approach.</p> <p>14 countries have legislative measures or policies to strengthen their plans' legal and institutional backing.</p>
 <p>FINANCED Is there sufficient financing for sustainable ocean planning?</p>	<p>8 Ocean Panel members currently have a mechanism or strategy in place to ensure accountability in the use of allocated funds for plan implementation, while the remaining members have mechanisms or strategies in development.</p>
 <p>CAPACITATED Is there sufficient human capacity for the plan?</p>	<p>8 Ocean Panel countries currently have sufficiently trained personnel to support effective plan implementation, while 3 are in the process of building sufficient support.</p>

Source: Data are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Note: SOP = Sustainable Ocean Plan; NGO = non-governmental organisation.

Ocean Action 2030 and the Rapid Assistance Fund are examples of how Ocean Panel countries are creating innovative solutions to help support sustainable ocean management (see Box 2).

BOX 2

Ocean Action 2030

Ocean Action 2030, an Action Group of the Ocean Panel, is a voluntary coalition dedicated to supporting countries in building a sustainable ocean economy through the development and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans. Members of Ocean Action 2030 are leading institutions that can provide the technical and financial assistance that countries may need to develop and implement their Sustainable Ocean Plans, where there is a match between country demand and member capacity.

The coalition members are Asian Development Bank, Blue Prosperity Coalition, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Environmental Defense Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Global Environment Facility, Inter-American Development Bank, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Ocean Conservancy, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), The Nature Conservancy, the Organization of American States, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, Sustainable Development Reform Hub at the University of New South Wales, the Development Bank of Latin America and the African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative.

As part of the Ocean Action 2030 initiative and in collaboration with the sherpas of the Ocean Panel, a group of SOP focal points was formed to foster collaboration among countries working on SOPs. These focal points regularly come together during bimonthly calls and joint learning events, where they share progress, challenges, and best practices, creating a peer network that supports the development, implementation, and updating of SOPs.

Rapid Assistance Fund

Holistic ocean management would help ensure the long-term health and resilience of the ocean, attract investment and create jobs to the benefit of coastal communities and national economies. The challenge is that large-scale finance for these types of actions can take time to materialise and may not support smaller funding needs, such as technical and planning consultations to kick-start initiatives.

The Rapid Assistance Fund addresses the challenge of accessing traditional large-scale financing for sustainable ocean management. By providing expedited access to smaller amounts of funding, it enables countries to kick-start the process of developing their Sustainable Ocean Plans. It aims to bridge the gap between initial funding requirements and larger funding requests, supporting a timely progression towards a sustainable ocean economy.

An underwater photograph showing a large school of striped fish, likely Surge wrasse, swimming over a coral reef. The water is clear and blue, and the coral is visible in the foreground and background. The fish are densely packed in some areas, particularly near the reef.

3. Five transformation pillars for a sustainable ocean economy

The Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda outlines a set of ambitious yet practical recommendations to reshape the way we safeguard and utilise the ocean over the next decade—and ultimately manage humanity's impacts on it—through transformative actions across five key pillars (ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance; refer to Table 1 for details). Additionally, the relevance and significance of the Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda does not stop at the shoreline. The agenda directly aligns with the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and **85 percent** of the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Trends in voluntary ocean commitments (2017–23)

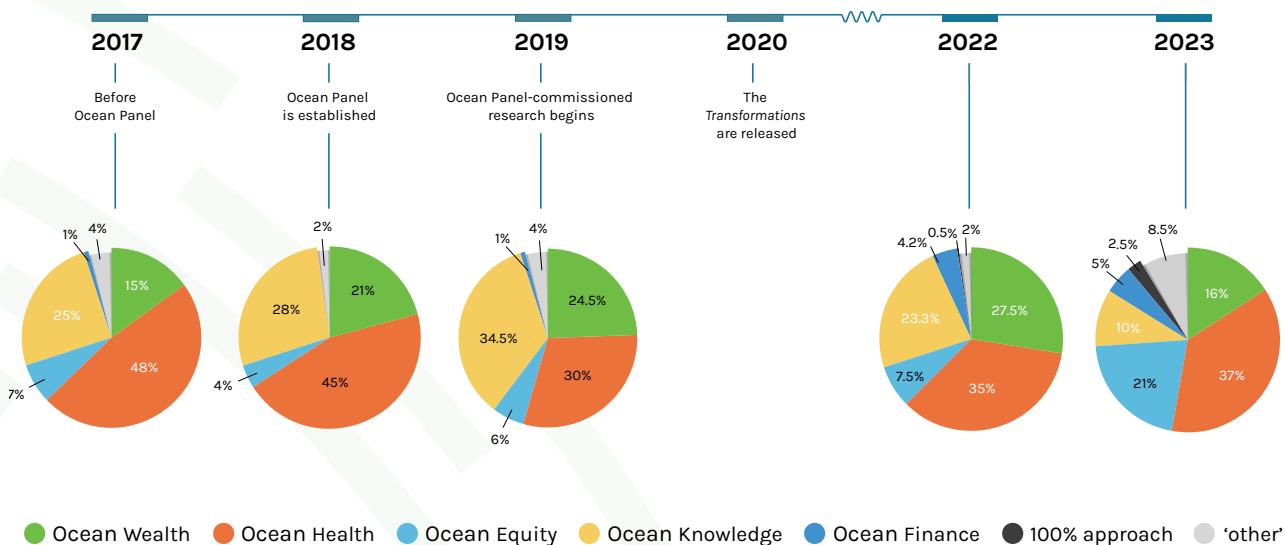
Two major international processes that leverage voluntary ocean-related commitments are the Our Ocean Conference, initiated in 2014, and the UN Ocean Conference, first held in 2017. The voluntary commitments announced at these fora raise

awareness, foster partnerships and broader engagement, and catalyse action across sectors and stakeholder groups.

We mapped commitments from Ocean Panel member countries against the *Transformations* agenda, showing trends from 2017 to 2023 (Figure 8). Building on the [2022 progress report](#), the Ocean Panel is continuing to make significant progress across all five pillars, with a higher number of voluntary commitments and a greater range of commitments across previously overlooked themes. In 2023, 37 percent of the commitments covered actions on ocean health, followed by an increase in actions on ocean equity at 21 percent and ocean wealth at 16 percent. Actions under ocean knowledge covered 10 percent and ocean finance, 5 percent.

A comparison of the commitments made each year against the five areas of the Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda indicates that ocean health priorities are being increasingly complemented with commitments for sustainable production, with intensifying efforts on equitable and inclusive ocean economy.

Figure 8. Trends in Ocean Panel member commitments from the Our Ocean Conference and the UN Ocean Conference (2017–23)



Source: Authors.

Progress against the five Transformations pillars

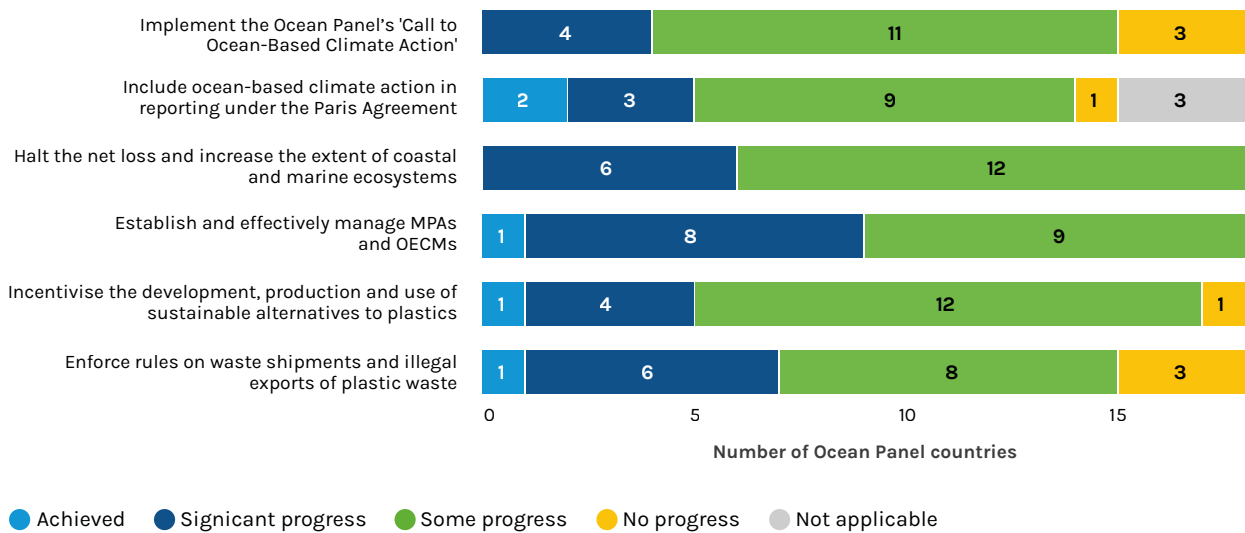
The Ocean Panel’s framework consists of a set of 14 outcomes for 2030 across the five pillars and 74 priority actions to achieve them (see Table 1). While Ocean Panel countries have a shared destination in the 2030 outcomes, the priority actions taken by members to achieve these outcomes may vary based on national circumstances, capacity and priorities. Ocean Panel members self-assessed³ progress against a focused set of 26 of the 74 priority actions to provide a deep dive into progress in these key areas (see Appendix C for the Methodology).

Here we present the Ocean Panel’s progress in achieving these actions towards the 2030 outcomes, organised by pillar.

Ocean health

Establish a healthy and resilient ocean— which mitigates climate change impacts and preserves planetary well-being—by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preventing biodiversity loss, restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, curtailing pollution, and adopting a precautionary approach to economic activities on the ocean floor.

Figure 9. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean health priority actions



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Note: MPA = marine protected area; OECM = other effective area-based conservation measures.

Ocean health priority actions show encouraging signs of progress, to varying degrees, on implementing the transformative actions needed to improve ocean health and resilience by 2030. For every action area assessed, over three-quarters of Ocean Panel member countries are making at least 'some progress' (Figure 9). This demonstrates that the Ocean Panel's ocean health agenda is gaining traction.

All countries have made progress ('some progress', 'significant progress' or 'achieved') in halting the net loss and increasing the extent of coastal and marine ecosystems, and establishing and effectively managing marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Nearly all countries have made strides in incentivising the development, production and use of sustainable alternatives to plastics, and enforcing rules on waste shipments and illegal exports of plastic waste. **Fourteen** countries have either achieved or are making progress toward fully integrating ocean-based actions into their Paris Agreement reporting (the deadline for the next round of nationally determined contributions [NDCs] is spring 2025).

Ocean Panel members are taking meaningful action in the area of ocean health: **Indonesia** launched a National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris with a goal of achieving a 70 percent reduction of its plastic debris by the end of 2025, **Seychelles** endorsed the Great Blue Wall initiative and is building a network of marine protected areas, **Jamaica** has secured about 57 hectares of wetland for restoration in Winns Morass, **Kenya's** federal waste management interventions are working to establish a circular economy model for solid waste management, and **Namibia** committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from ships by 50 percent by 2050 through the ratification of Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

More broadly, as of August 2024, **14 Ocean Panel countries are signatories** to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea **and three countries have ratified the agreement**, which focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (see Figure 13).

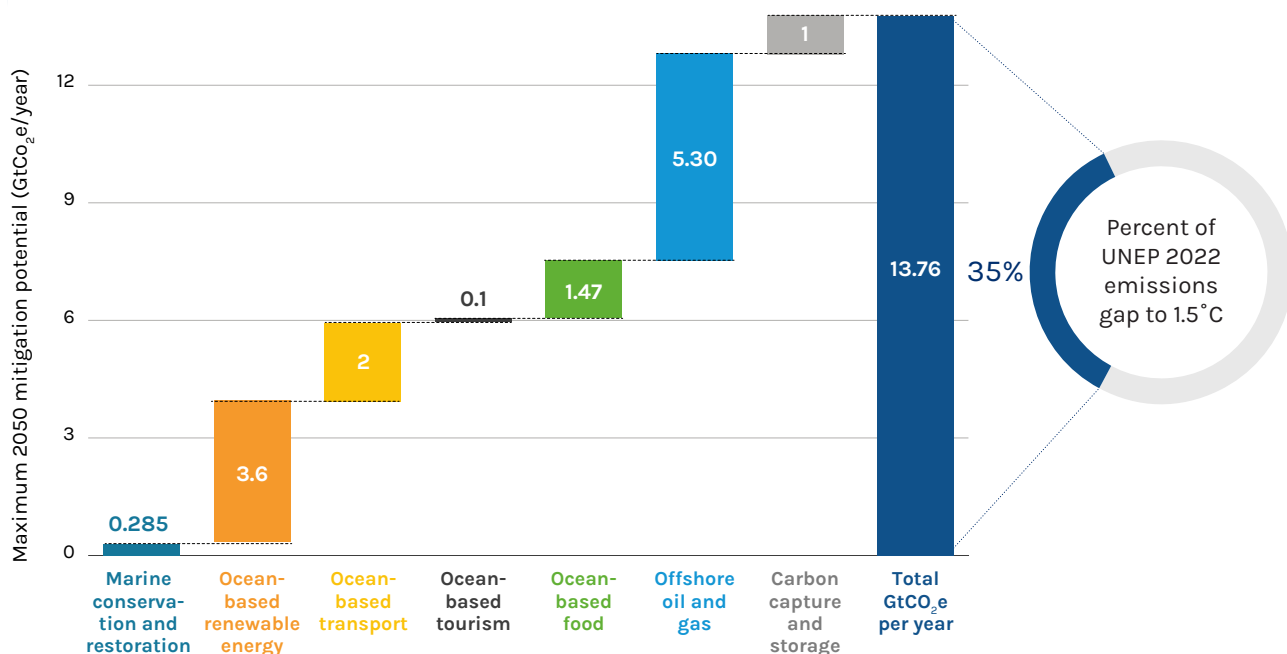
Ocean climate action

The leaders of the Ocean Panel have underscored the urgent need for effective, scaled-up and ambitious actions to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions while carrying out just transitions and fostering climate resilience. At COP26, the Ocean Panel reaffirmed its commitment to 100% sustainable ocean management by issuing a [leaders' statement](#) urging all actors to join them in accelerating progress on key ocean-based climate actions. Additionally, at COP28, the Ocean Panel issued a '[Joint Declaration on Ocean and Climate Action](#)' (Box 3), which recognises the critical need to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, and urges countries around the world to join in committing to safeguard the long-term health and resilience of the ocean.

Current global commitments are not sufficient to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius (°C), as [analysis](#) indicates that they would lead to a rise of 2.7°C.

The Ocean Panel-commissioned report [The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Updated Opportunities for Action](#) highlights that ocean-based climate solutions that are ready for action now could deliver up to 35 percent of the annual greenhouse gas emission cuts needed by 2050 to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Maximum potential contribution of ready-to-implement ocean-based mitigation options in closing the emissions gap in 2050



Notes: The seven areas identified include the following: expanding marine conservation and restoration, scaling offshore renewable energy, decarbonising ocean-based transport, decarbonising cruise tourism, utilising low-carbon ocean-based protein, reducing offshore oil and gas extraction, and scaling storage of carbon dioxide below the seabed. The emissions gap refers to the gap between the emissions reductions promised and the emissions reductions needed to achieve the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

GtCO₂e = gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent; °C = degrees Celsius; UNEP 2022 = Emissions Gap Report 2022, United Nations Environment Programme, 2022, <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

Source: Adapted from O. Hoegh-Guldberg and E. Northrop, et al., The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Updated Opportunities for Action, High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, 2023, <https://oceanpanel.org/publication/ocean-solutions-to-climate-change/>.

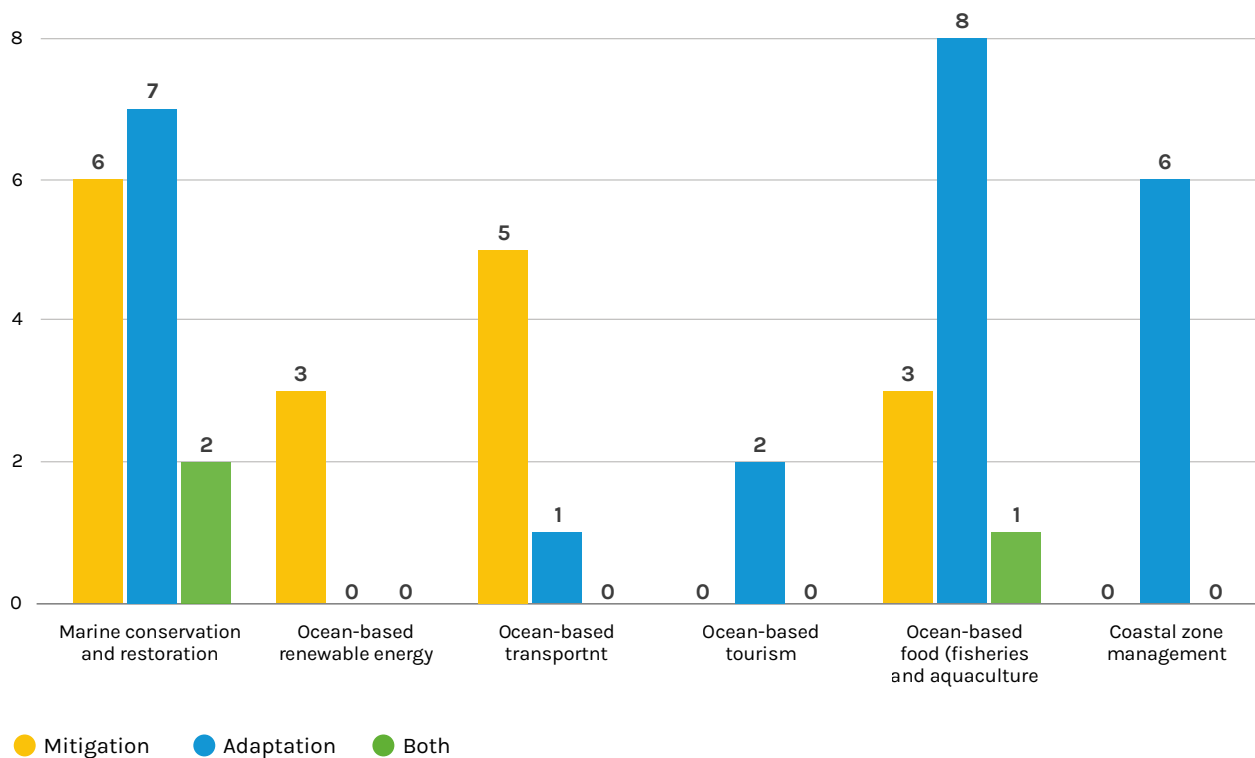
Nationally determined contributions

NDCs are one of the main vehicles for countries to communicate their national climate targets, policies and measures aimed at achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

As of July 2024, 14 out of 18 Ocean Panel members⁴ had included at least one target, policy or measure aimed at ocean-based climate actions in their NDCs. The most

common ocean-based climate actions found across the 18 members assessed are in marine conservation and restoration (Figure 11). The Ocean Panel remains committed to promoting ocean-based climate action and urges all stakeholders to join in advancing ambitious solutions to urgently reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Figure 11. Ocean Panel nationally determined contributions with ocean-based climate actions



Note: The ‘both’ category includes actions that the associated NDC explicitly states are to achieve both mitigation and adaptation, including those with co-benefits.

Source: Authors.

BOX 3

Ocean climate action and 100 percent sustainable ocean management

In the Ocean Panel’s [‘Joint Declaration on Ocean and Climate Action’](#), members called for countries to incorporate and strengthen ocean-based measures in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, plans and policies. Commitments were reaffirmed to develop and implement their own SOPs, and urge fellow nations to consider ocean-based action in their national climate strategies, commit to the goal of sustainably managing 100% of the ocean areas under their national jurisdictions and develop SOPs as a vehicle to accelerate the implementation of ocean-based climate actions.

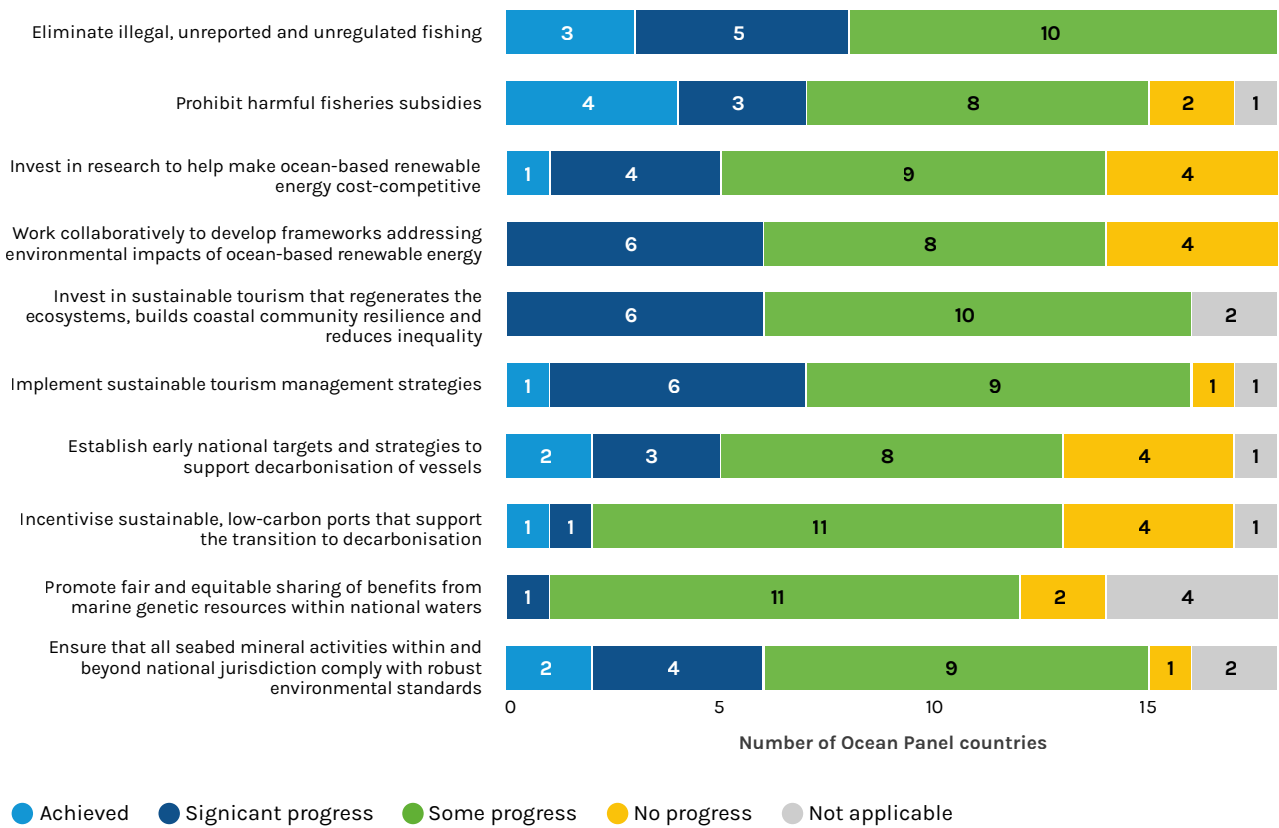
Ocean wealth

Undergo a transformative shift towards a sustainable and regenerative ocean economy, where ocean-based industries flourish while the ocean’s ability to provide for present and future generations is safeguarded.

The ocean wealth pillar (Figure 12) shows accelerating progress, to varying degrees, in transitioning towards more sustainable and regenerative models aligned with the 2030 vision. Most notably, **all countries** have made some form of progress in implementing policies and measures to

address eliminating IUU fishing, with **three** countries self-assessing this as ‘achieved.’ A further **four** countries have taken steps to prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies, marking it as ‘achieved,’ and **two** countries have set national targets to support vessel decarbonisation. Additionally, **16** countries have made at least some progress towards sustainable tourism. However, areas such as fair benefit-sharing for marine genetic resources still require renewed focus.

Figure 12. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean wealth priority actions



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Ocean Panel countries are taking urgent action in various areas for ocean wealth: **Ghana** has introduced a closed season for artisanal and industrial fishers to help recover overexploited and depleted fish stocks; **Japan** established the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants in 2020 to safeguard the Japanese market from IUU fishing; **Canada** and the **United Kingdom** announced a joint commitment to support the Joint Analytical Cell, a collaborative initiative which provides authorities with the intelligence, analysis and capacity building needed to combat IUU fishing activities; and **Chile**, in collaboration

with the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, aims to identify where ‘green corridors’—zero-emission maritime routes between two or more ports—could be located and establish frameworks for the use of zero- or low-emission fuels.

Ocean Panel Action Groups have also helped support the ocean wealth pillar. Box 4 showcases how the Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition (OREAC), an Action Group that has completed its mandate, did so by accelerating the global clean energy transition.

BOX 4

Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition: Unlocking the potential of offshore wind

OREAC was formed in response to the 2019 call for ocean-based climate action by the Ocean Panel, and represented ocean energy in the global dialogue on a sustainable ocean economy. OREAC produced a report and toolkit which articulated a global vision for 1,400 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2050 and outlined a path forward for countries, companies, financiers and civil society to achieve it. This ambitious vision was based on data from the International Renewable Energy Agency and signified a significant milestone in the global clean energy transition. OREAC’s mission aligned closely with the priority actions for the ocean wealth and ocean health pillars of the *Transformations* agenda.

OREAC was spearheaded by the Global Wind Energy Council and other leading players such as Ørsted and Equinor.

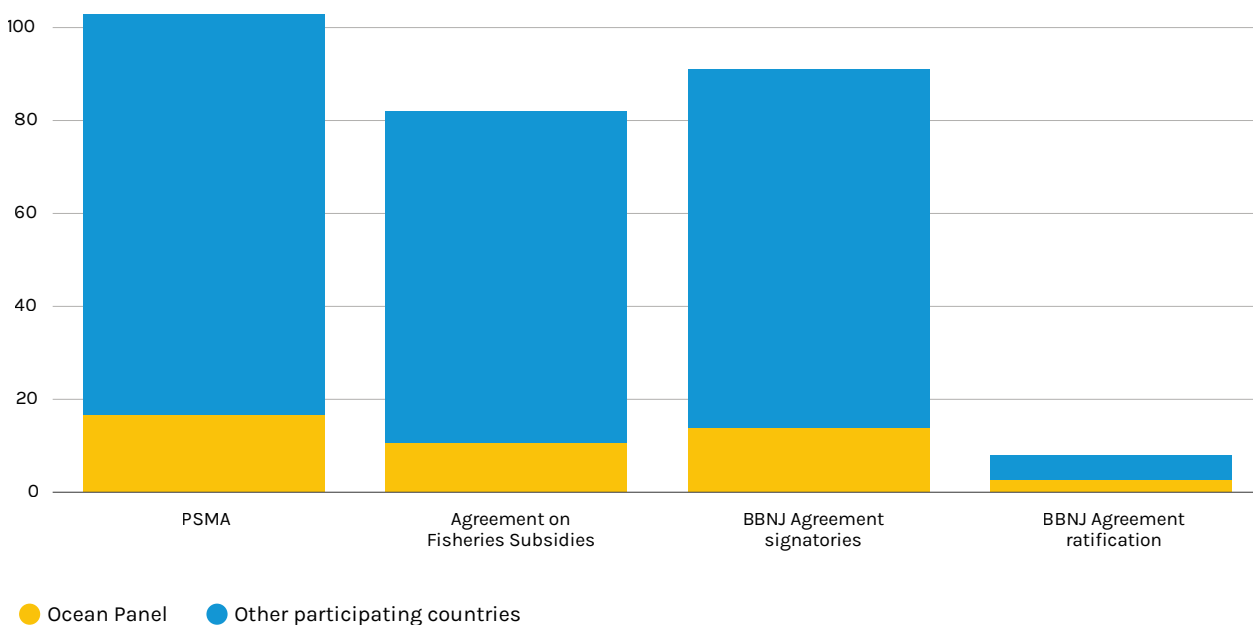
OREAC’s strong engagement led to the creation of two new initiatives to drive offshore wind energy, benefitting nature and the economy: the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) and Ocean Energy Pathway (OEP). GOWA is focused on lessons learned on how to apply offshore wind most effectively for people, nature and climate. It had 20 governmental members as of July 2024. OEP is an offshore wind accelerator aiming to unlock offshore wind at scale with a goal of achieving two terawatts of offshore wind generated by 2050 globally. It is active in 10 offshore markets and delivers technical assistance to governments and communities in their implementation of offshore wind.

As of August 2024, **17 out of 18** Ocean Panel countries assessed were party to the Port State Measures Agreement, which aims to strengthen and harmonise port controls to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the global market. Additionally, **11** Ocean Panel countries have accepted the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which prohibits types of harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to the widespread depletion of the world’s fish stocks. Moreover, the ratification of the BBNJ Agreement **by three Ocean Panel countries**

serves as a beacon of progress, illuminating the tangible steps taken towards realising shared aspirations. Additionally, **all** Ocean Panel countries are members of the International Maritime Organization and therefore have agreed to the revised (in 2023) Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

These commitments demonstrate the Ocean Panel’s dedication to transformative change (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Ocean Panel member participation in key international commitments (as of August 2024)



Note: This figure showcases the Ocean Panel’s commitments across three major agreements: the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) (signatories and ratification). Each bar represents the total number of countries that are signatories to or have ratified each agreement, highlighting the contribution of Ocean Panel member countries (yellow).

Source: Authors.



Ocean equity

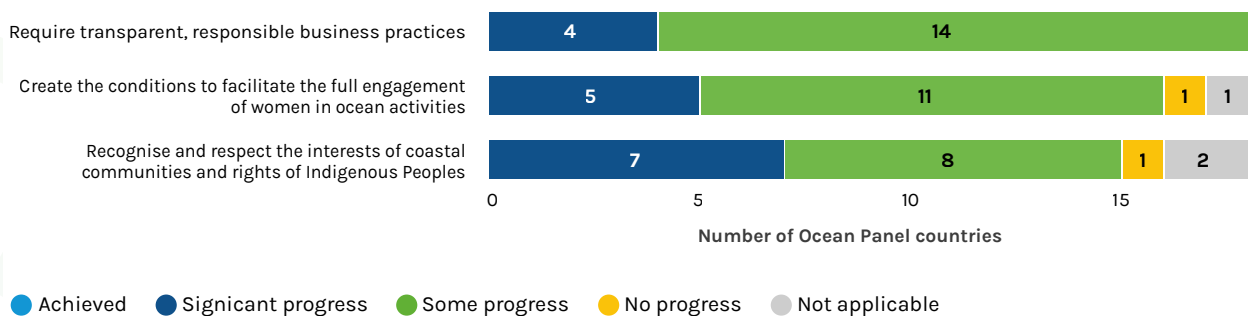
Create a people-centric, equitable and inclusive ocean economy that upholds human rights, ensures fair distribution of ocean wealth, provides equal opportunities for all, promotes transparent and ethical business practices, addresses the vulnerabilities of developing nations and safeguards the needs and rights of present and future generations.

Figure 14 shows encouraging progress in advancing the ocean equity principles across the Ocean Panel members, though some areas need further attention to fully realise an equitable and inclusive sustainable ocean economy. **All** countries assessed have made at least some progress towards transparent business practices, while Indigenous and coastal communities' rights and women's engagement in ocean activities have high proportions of countries that have made at least some progress. In the figure, the 'not applicable' designations for women's engagement in ocean activities and respecting the rights of Indigenous

Peoples may reflect that some nations do not separate out protected characteristics, have distinct Indigenous populations or legally recognise their local communities as Indigenous (see Methodology in Appendix C).

Many Ocean Panel countries have been making great strides in advancing ocean equity and justice. For example, under the guidance of the **Australian** environment minister's Indigenous Advisory Committee, the government established a dedicated national First Nations Sustainable Ocean Reference Group to provide strategic advice on culturally appropriate and respectful engagement with First Nations people in the development of the country's Sustainable Ocean Plan. This led to a series of inclusive, strengths-based and culturally responsive consultations with First Nations participants. The Australian government also delivered joint consultations and attended other First Nations forums to complement dedicated ocean-planning engagement activities.

Figure 14. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean equity priority actions



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.



The **United States'** ['Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge'](#) and [Ocean Justice Strategy](#) serve as another strong example. The White House engaged more than a thousand individuals, organisations and Tribal Nations on how Indigenous knowledge should be elevated in federal decision-making. Lastly, **Mexico's** feminist foreign policy, launched at the 31st Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls in January 2020, aims to dismantle structural gender disparities and foster a more equitable society. The policy is rooted in five core principles including integrating a gender perspective and feminist agenda in foreign policy, achieving gender parity within the foreign ministry, ensuring a violence-free work environment, promoting visible equality and infusing feminism across all ministry sectors.

“Shifting a historical trajectory of persistent and increasing inequities will require strong leadership, inclusive governance and long-term planning that starts with a commitment to equity as integral to a sustainable ocean economy and relationships within and across nations.”

(Towards Ocean Equity, 2019)

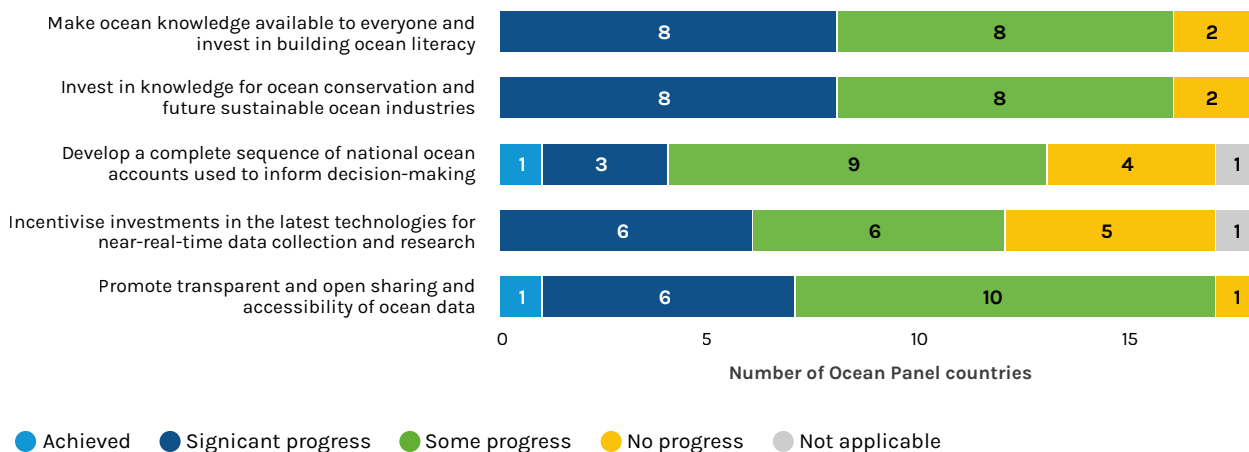
Ocean knowledge

Enhance global ocean literacy; value natural ocean capital; and leverage ocean science, data and technology to foster a comprehensive understanding of the ocean’s vital role and vulnerabilities, informing sustainable decision-making across all sectors of the ocean economy.

Good progress is being made across the Ocean Panel in enhancing ocean knowledge, literacy and cutting-edge science to inform sustainable decision-making (Figure 15). While there are still some gaps, the overall

trajectory shows advancements on multiple fronts. A highlight is around promoting transparent and open sharing of ocean data, with **10** countries reporting ‘some progress’, **6** countries reporting ‘significant progress’ and **1** country marking ‘achieved’ in this critical area. Having broad access to data provides the foundation for the knowledge-based approaches envisioned. Lastly, **16** countries have made some form of progress in ocean knowledge availability and investment.

Figure 15. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean knowledge priority actions



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

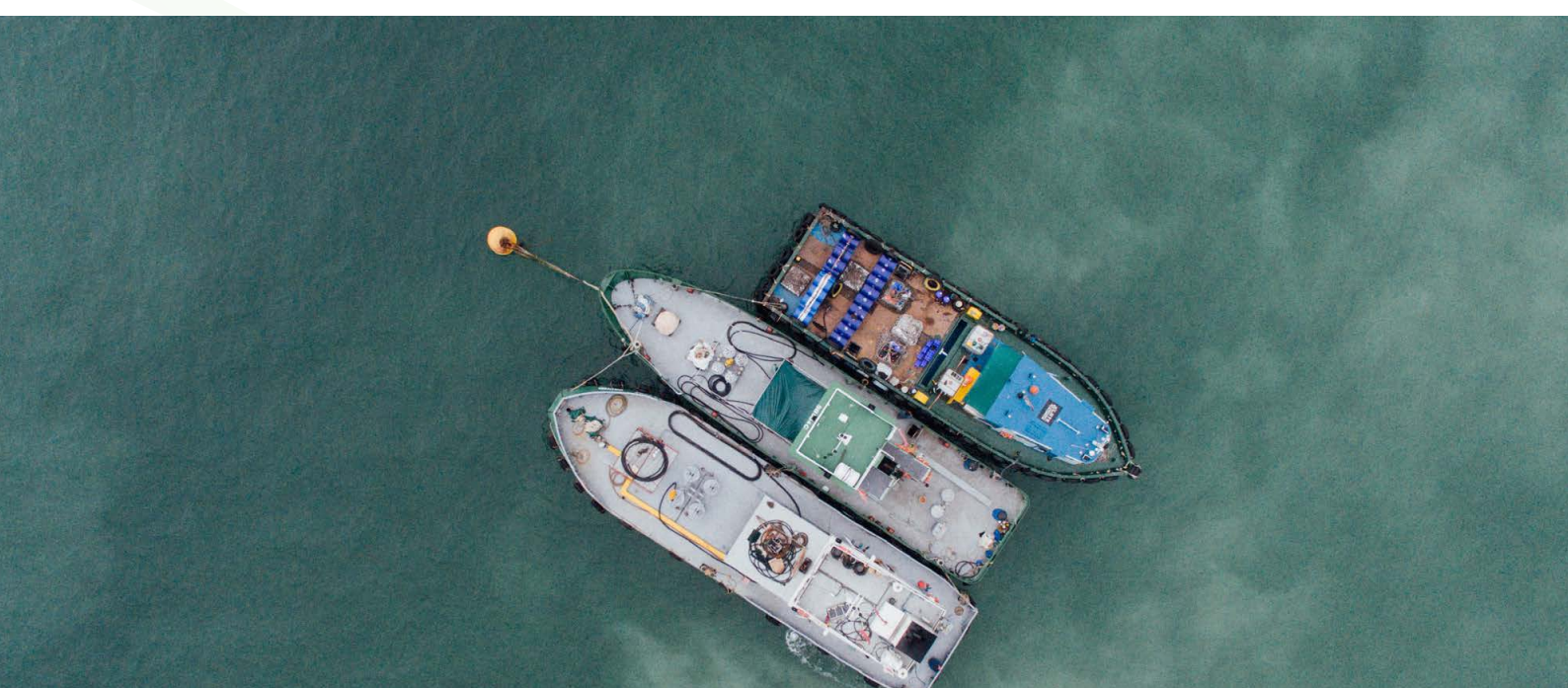
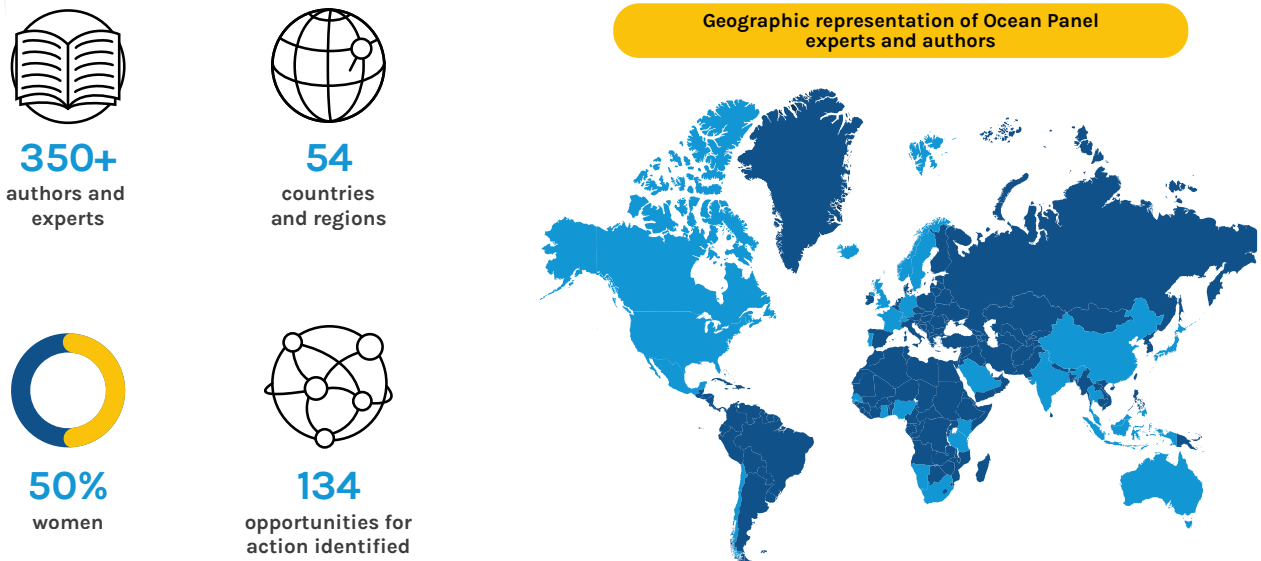


Figure 16. Ocean Panel data on Blue Papers and Special Reports



Source: Authors.

The Ocean Panel’s knowledge base now includes 25 peer-reviewed research papers that analyse the latest ocean science and knowledge and identify opportunities for action. Over 350 experts, operating across 54 countries, contributed to this knowledge base, 50 percent of whom were female (see Figure 16). Voices from the global north and global south were represented, with opportunities for relevant action in all countries. The resulting Blue Papers not only map out where action is needed to protect and restore the ocean, but provide solutions in technology, policy, governance and finance that can be applied immediately. A core selection of these papers was published in 2024 as a single body of work by Springer Nature called [The Blue Compendium](#).

The Ocean Decade

The Ocean Panel and the UN Decade of Ocean Science share a common foundation of promoting and using the best available science and knowledge to help us achieve a healthy ocean that is protected, is productive and supports a prosperous population.

The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, held in Barcelona, identified sustainable ocean plans underpinned by collaborative ocean science and knowledge as a key future priority, and announced two new Ocean Decade programmes on sustainable ocean planning and sustainable ocean management in Africa. The [Barcelona Statement](#) called for increased engagement with the health sector to better understand connections between ocean health and human health inspired by the most recent Ocean Panel Blue Paper on the topic, [How Can a Healthy Ocean Improve Human Health and Enhance Wellbeing on a Rapidly Changing Planet?](#)

Two of the Ocean Panel’s Action Groups, Ocean Data Action Coalition (ODAC) and Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP), support the ocean knowledge pillar by leveraging ocean science and valuing natural capital. See the case studies in Box 5 on ODAC and GOAP.

Ocean Panel Action Groups leveraging ocean science and valuing natural capital

Ocean Data Action Coalition: Pioneering data transparency

The Ocean Data Action Coalition, an Action Group of the Ocean Panel run by HUB Ocean and Microsoft, brings together leaders from science, technology and governments to unlock ocean data across all sectors. At the core of this work is the Ocean Data Platform, a tool that makes it easier to share, collect, store and work with ocean data.

ODAC's mission aligns with the *Transformations* agenda 2030 outcome of 'A globally shared data revolution has contributed to sustainable ocean management worldwide' and shares the same goal of 100% sustainable ocean management. To achieve the Ocean Panel's priority actions, ODAC strives to do the following:

1. Build solutions to overcome technological and human barriers to ocean data sharing
2. Advance industry sustainability through new business models that include ocean data sharing
3. Cultivate the regulatory and policy incentives for ocean data sharing

To continue unlocking and sharing ocean data, ODAC has partnered with companies to drive impact.

Examples of ODAC's many success stories include Ecowende (a Dutch offshore wind company) sharing ecological data from more than 2,000 sensors; Petroleum Geo-Services providing 15 years of data from marine mammal observations off Brazil to better understand their distribution and enhance operations by avoiding unplanned stoppage; and Aker Biomarine sharing 10 years of acoustic data from the Antarctic showing krill body mass. Scientists are now working with these data on the Ocean Data Platform.

Global Ocean Accounts Partnership: Ocean accounting for sustainable ocean management

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership is an international, multi-stakeholder partnership established in 2019 to support countries in going beyond traditional gross domestic product metrics for the ocean. It currently has nearly 40 members from governments, research institutions and international organisations.

Co-chaired by Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and Ecuador's Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galápagos Islands, GOAP provides global guidance on ocean accounting methodologies, supports countries in delivery of their ocean accounting initiatives, facilitates expert collaboration through global panels and working groups, supports the mobilisation of finance and provides a platform for capacity building within the global community.

GOAP was also one of the first organisations to join the Ocean Panel's Action Groups under the *Transformations* agenda. At the recent Global Dialogue for Sustainable Ocean Development, GOAP launched a [guidance document](#) for countries looking to integrate ocean accounts as part of their sustainable ocean planning processes.

GOAP's objectives are to accelerate and implement the five pillars of the *Transformations* agenda and support the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets (especially related to Targets 3, 14 and 19) and Sustainable Development Goals (especially 14, 15.9 and 17.19). Through its efforts, GOAP has supported more than 15 countries in undertaking pilot projects that have mapped 10.8 million hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems, demonstrating tangible progress in valuing and accounting for critical ocean ecosystems.

Ocean finance

Mobilise and equitably distribute capital investments, guided by sustainable principles, to catalyse the transformation towards a regenerative and socially inclusive ocean economy, while addressing the unique needs of developing coastal nations and unlocking public-private financing opportunities.

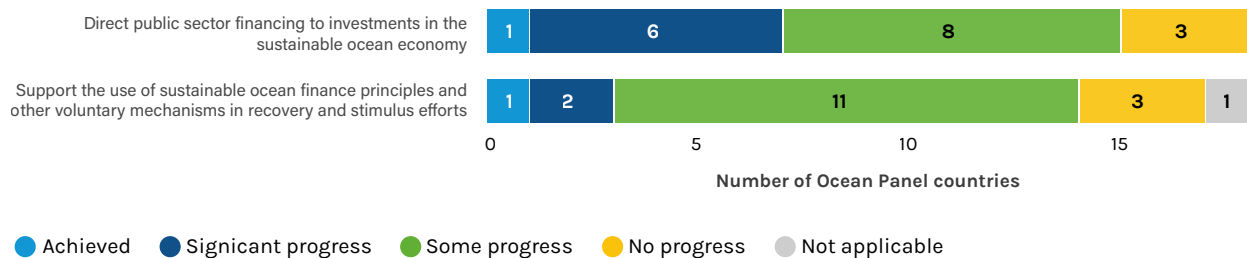


Figure 17 indicates Ocean Panel members' momentum in mobilising investments and sustainable financing to drive the transition towards a regenerative and equitable blue economy. **Fifteen** countries have made at least some progress in directing financing to sustainable ocean economy investments and **14** countries are working to support sustainable ocean finance principles. Shifting government spending and fiscal policies to prioritise nature-based solutions, coastal resilience and responsible blue sectors is gaining traction across the Ocean Panel.

Several countries are leading by example in ocean finance. **Canada**, for instance, is investing \$75 million CAD (US\$55 million) over five years for the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund to restore aquatic ecosystems and mitigate human impacts on Canadian coastal and marine environments,

while **Australia** is investing \$30.6 million AUD (US\$20 million) across four years into the Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program. Additionally, the **UK** government has launched several marine official development assistance (ODA) programmes to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal developing states in better protecting the marine environment, supporting climate change adaptation in coastal areas and growing sustainable blue economies that alleviate poverty. These include the £154 million (US\$198 million) Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition programme, the £36 million (US\$46 million) SIDS-focused Sustainable Blue Economies Programme and investments into the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the World Bank's PROBLUE Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

Figure 17. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean finance priority actions



Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Ocean finance: Ocean-related official development assistance

As part of the Sustainable Ocean for All initiative, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has created a comprehensive tracker of funds directed towards initiatives related to the ocean economy.

Total sustainable ocean economy ODA commitments have been on an increasing trend since 2010, peaking in 2020 at US\$2.46 billion (Figure 18). Ocean Panel countries (Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Norway, Portugal, the UK, and the United States) made up **40 percent** of sustainable ocean economy ODA between 2021 and 2022, a decrease of 18 percent compared with the 2019–20 period. For 2021–22, Ocean Panel countries' ODA for the ocean economy focused predominantly on three sectors: **maritime transport** (US\$596.44), **marine protection** (US\$445.80 million), and **fisheries** (US\$172.83 million). For maritime transport, only 17.7 percent of the share of the ocean economy integrated sustainability considerations; for marine protection, this was 100 percent, and for fisheries this was 94.9 percent.

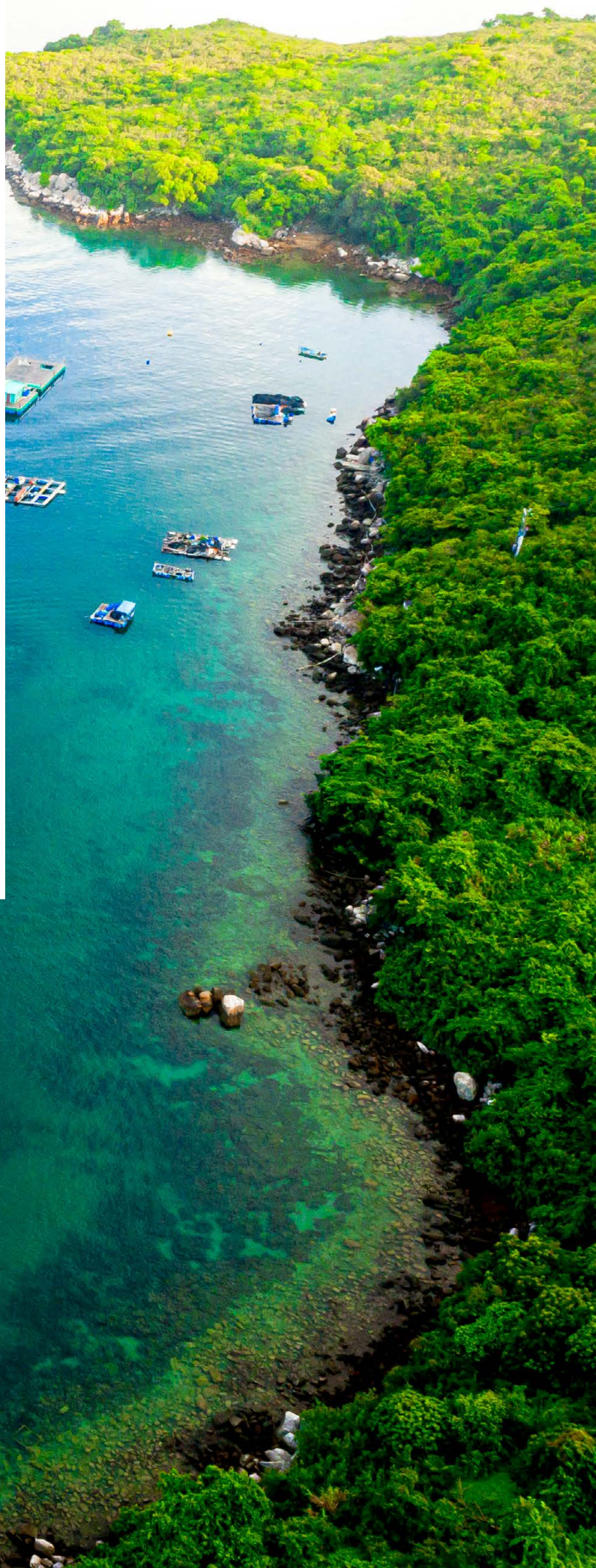
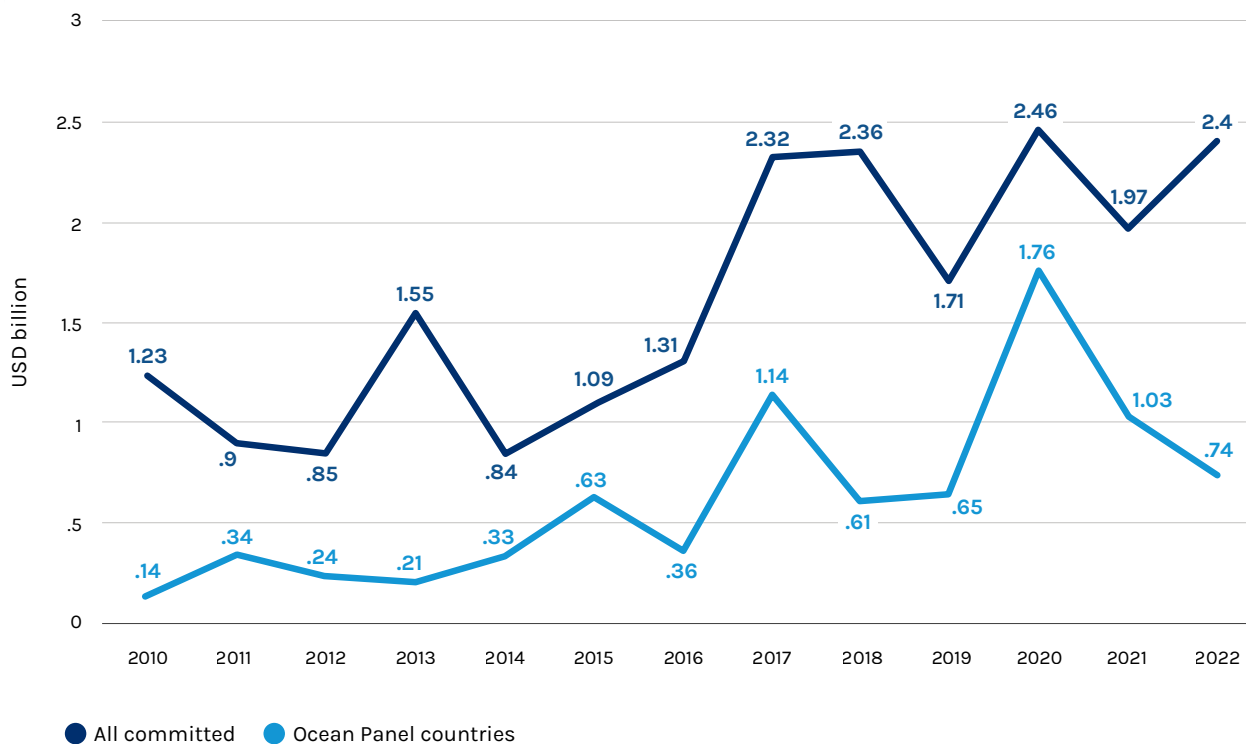


Figure 18. Trend in sustainable ocean ODA committed by Ocean Panel providers compared with all sustainable ocean ODA (2010–22; US\$, billions)



Note: ODA = official development assistance.

Source: “Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy,” Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, 2024, <https://oecd-main.shinyapps.io/ocean/>.

Ten Ocean Panel countries were recipients of ODA in 2021–22 and received **19 percent** of the ODA committed towards the sustainable ocean economy. This, however, may not be a true representation of all the sustainable ocean ODA received given challenges in

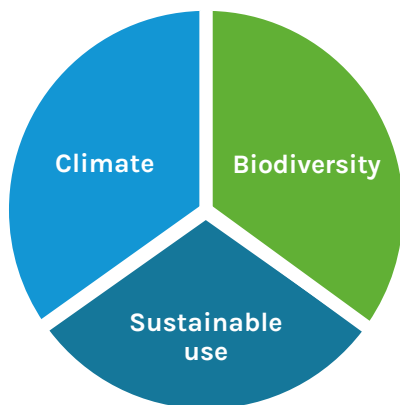
tracking the final recipients of several regional funds, or in some cases where recipients are unspecified. The top three sectors that Ocean Panel countries received ocean ODA for in the period 2021–22 were marine protection, marine transportation and fisheries.

3. Ocean action areas: Leading-by- example stories



The Ocean Panel recognises the intricate connections among climate, biodiversity and sustainable use in the marine environment. This interconnectedness requires a holistic approach to sustainable ocean management, one that aligns with and supports key international frameworks while bridging ocean health and wealth.

The Ocean Panel's work complements and reinforces the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing these three critical areas in concert, Ocean Panel countries are demonstrating how integrated ocean action can simultaneously mitigate climate change, protect marine biodiversity and promote equitable prosperity. This approach not only enhances the effectiveness of individual initiatives but also leverages synergies among these interconnected global challenges.



The following examples highlight how Ocean Panel members are leading by example across the three interconnected critical areas, harnessing the latest knowledge and engaging diverse stakeholders to create a better, more resilient future for people and the planet.

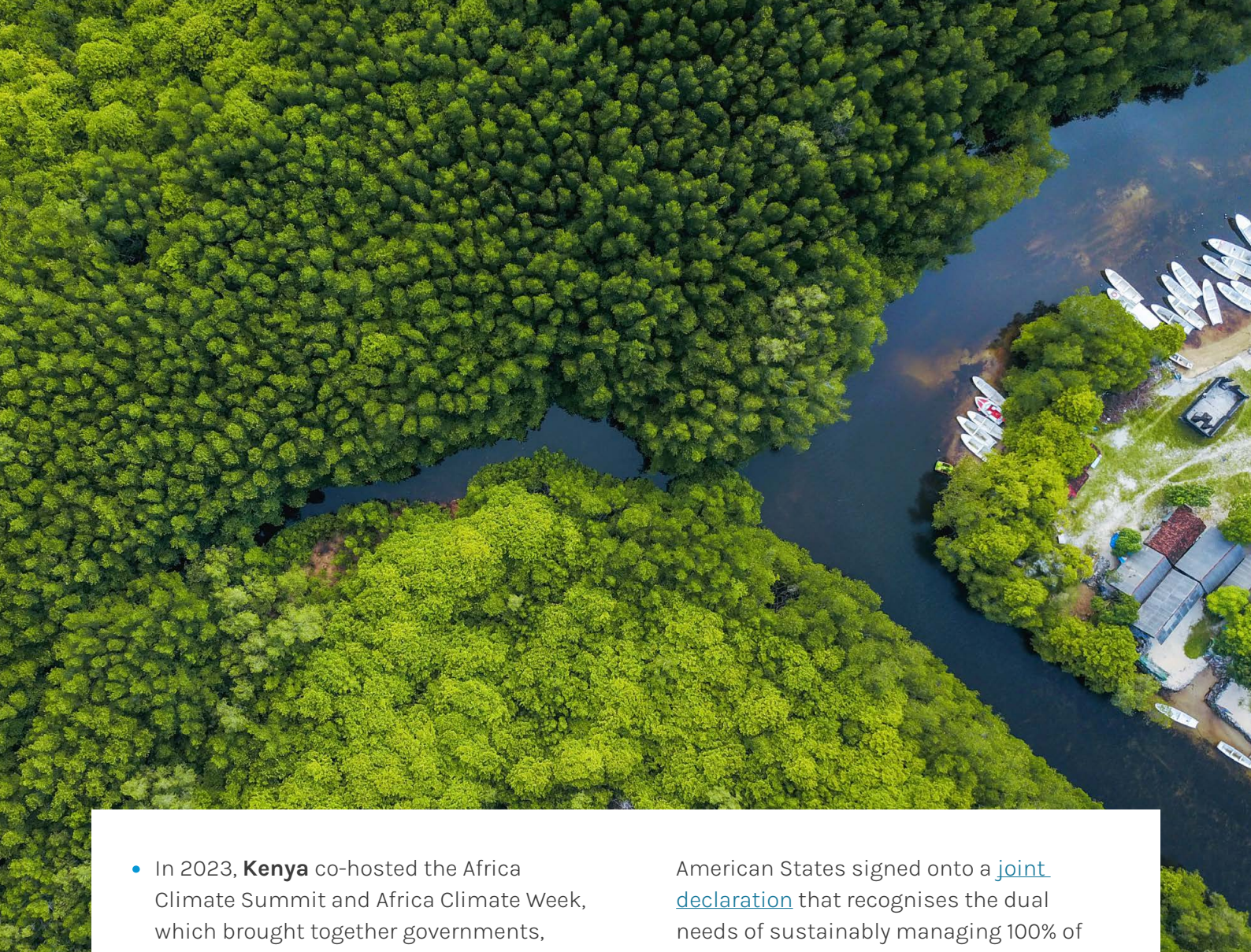


Ocean Panel leadership in climate action

For decades, the ocean has absorbed excess greenhouse gas emissions, acting as a buffer against climate change. However, this has taken a significant toll on its health. Though the ocean was once considered too vast to be significantly impacted, it is now evident that human activities are profoundly influencing the ocean's ability to combat climate change. Increased attention to the ocean's role in international climate policy has been largely driven by the leadership of countries in the Ocean Panel, which currently account for over 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The following is a compilation of initiatives led by Ocean Panel countries exemplifying their ocean-climate leadership:

- The 'Because the Ocean' initiative was launched in Paris during COP21, now signed by 41 countries, **11 of which are Ocean Panel members**.
 - **Fiji** hosted the first 'Blue COP' at COP23 in 2017, launching the Ocean Pathway Partnership to achieve an ocean-inclusive UNFCCC process. This evolved to become an influential group called Friends of the Ocean and Climate.
 - At COP24 in 2018, The Talanoa Dialogue, sparked by the 2017 Fijian presidency, informed the 2020 NDCs and served as the first global assessment taking stock of current collective action on national climate pledges. The Fijian term [talanoa](#) means to hold a conversation in an inclusive and receptive space, sending an important political signal.
 - **Chile** hosted COP25 in 2019, also known as the Blue COP, which led to the first bespoke Ocean Climate Dialogue under the UNFCCC and boasted over 100 events discussing the ocean and climate change, showcasing great leadership. Chile put its mark on COP25, establishing the ocean as a priority of the presidency.
- Formal and informal spaces were established for a technical discussion that allowed Parties to agree that the ocean should be considered in the COP25 outcomes. It was the first time that the COP decided to include the ocean in an official event as a single topic.
- At COP26, hosted by the **UK**, the Glasgow Climate Pact secured annual reoccurring Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues under the UNFCCC, and commitments to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action across the UNFCCC. The Ocean Panel issued a '[Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action](#)', urging all actors to join in the transition to a sustainable ocean economy and ensure that the ocean plays a vital role in tackling climate change. Additionally the UK launched the Clydebank Declaration, bringing together 24 signatories to agree to establish green corridors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from shipping.
 - At COP27, two members of the Ocean Panel, **Norway** and the **United States**, launched a new initiative, the [Green Shipping Challenge](#), to cut greenhouse gas emissions from shipping, and challenged other countries, ports and companies to join them.



- In 2023, **Kenya** co-hosted the Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week, which brought together governments, businesses, international organisations and civil society to make ambitious climate pledges. As their countries face disproportionate burdens and risks from climate change, African leaders proposed a new financing mechanism to restructure the continent's debt and unlock climate funding.
- The **United States** launched its ocean climate action plan in 2023, which is a core tenet of its Sustainable Ocean Plan, featuring ongoing and planned federal ocean-based climate mitigation and adaptation activities.
- At COP28, the Ocean Panel and the Secretariat of the Organization of

American States signed onto a [joint declaration](#) that recognises the dual needs of sustainably managing 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction and urging other countries around the world to join in committing to safeguard the long-term health and resilience of the ocean.

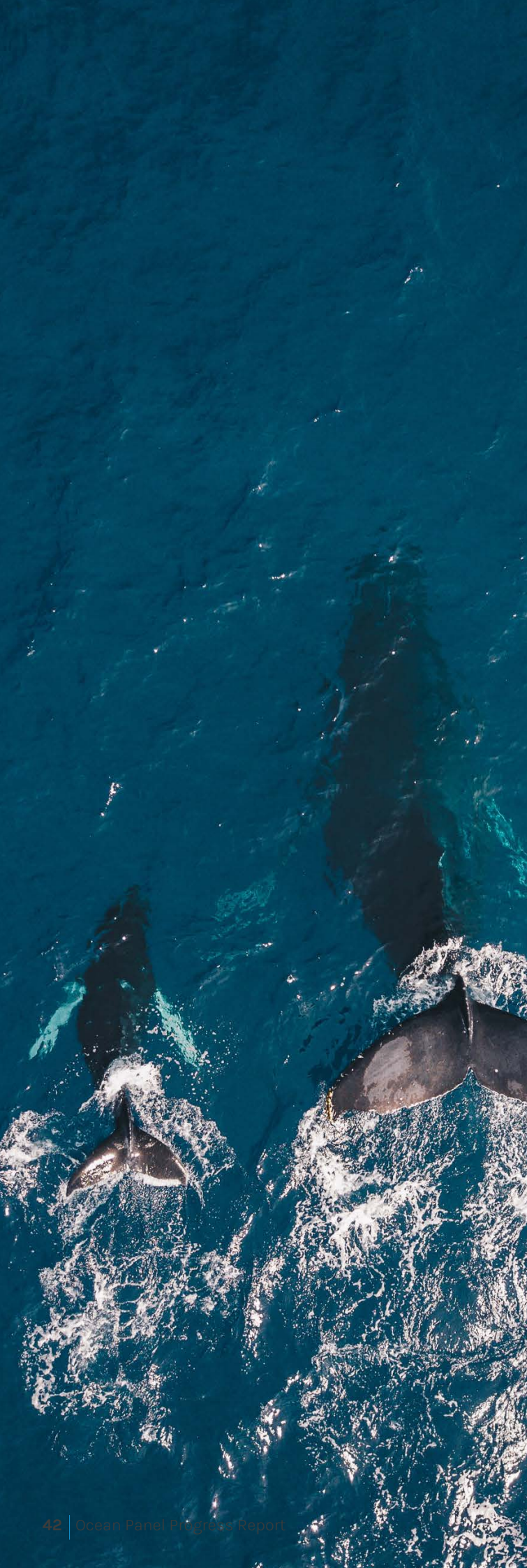
- **Chile** and **Canada** are co-facilitating the United Nations Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue for the 2023–24 biennium and will present the highlights from this year's dialogue at COP29.

Advancing comprehensive action on marine biodiversity

Marine biodiversity supports essential ocean ecosystems that provide food, jobs and medicine. Nearly half the world's population relies on a healthy ocean for their livelihoods. These ecosystems also mitigate climate change impacts by storing carbon and protecting coasts. However, marine biodiversity is declining due to warming temperatures, pollution and overexploitation. Urgent action is needed to address these stressors. The Ocean Panel's *Transformations* agenda promotes sustainable ocean management, aiming to sustainably manage 100% of ocean areas within national jurisdictions to protect nature and people effectively.

Ocean Panel countries have introduced a number of initiatives that are making significant impact in the area of marine biodiversity:

- **Chile** has established a network of marine protected areas, covering 43 percent of its jurisdictional waters. Furthermore, Chile's NDC includes plans for the effective implementation of these marine protected areas and recognises their role in addressing climate change.
- **Jamaica** has secured approximately 57 hectares for coastal restoration activities in Winns Morass where the biodiversity and hydrology of the previously bare areas have improved.
- **Fiji** is implementing a groundbreaking National Ocean Policy which includes designating effective protection for 30 percent of its marine area as well as committing to 100% sustainable management of the ocean area under national jurisdiction. These commitments, as well as strong policies on single-use plastics and packaging to tackle marine litter, are helping to improve the health and resilience of the marine ecosystems upon which marine life and humans depend.
- **Indonesia** is currently implementing the Blue Economy Vision 2045 to ensure a healthy and sustainably used ocean for nations and people which includes the expansion of marine protected areas to 30 percent by 2045, the Quota-Based Capture Fisheries Policy and a seaweed-focused blue food programme consisting of 1 million hectares of seaweed from 2024 to 2029.
- **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, including through the MAREANO programme, to expand knowledge around the habitats and species in its 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, Mexico and Norway** are tackling the challenge of recovering and recycling discarded fishing nets and marine debris (called ‘ghost gear’), largely made from plastic, which can have a devastating impact on marine life.
- **Ghana** has introduced a closed season for artisanal and industrial fishers, which provides a window of rest for fish populations to rise, bolstering ecosystem productivity and recovering overexploited and depleted fish stocks.
- **England (UK)** has designated three Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), the highest level of protection in English waters. HPMAs aim to protect the whole ecosystem—from the seabed to the sea surface—to allow nature to fully recover to a more natural state and prevent further degradation and damage.
- The **United States** has established a critical protection and management model for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which is 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.

Sustainable use: Transforming coastal and marine tourism

Coastal and marine tourism accounts for a significant portion of the global tourism industry, representing at least 50 percent of total tourism activities worldwide. This sector is of paramount economic importance, particularly for SIDS and some coastal nations, where it serves as the largest economic driver. However, the success of this industry heavily relies on the quality and health of the coastal and marine ecosystems that attract visitors. Consequently, the sector is highly vulnerable to threats such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Examples of innovative action and ambition from a subset of the Ocean Panel are outlined here:

- **Australia** is building the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef, aiding local restoration efforts through adaptive government policies and with programmes such as the Tourism Reef Protection Initiative, which empowers high-standard tourism operators to monitor and protect the sites they visit, and the Master Reef Guides programme, which educates tourists and encourages environmental stewardship.
- **Canada** committed \$20 million CAD (US\$15 million) for an Indigenous Tourism Fund and \$4.8 million CAD (US\$3.5 million) to support the Indigenous Tourism Association, aiding post-pandemic recovery and long-term growth.
- **France's** Reinventing Heritage programme aims to support tourism and cultural activities that safeguard heritage while attracting both local populations and visitors.
- In **Indonesia**, Bunaken National Park's collaborative management ensures that tourism benefits the local community, supported by the North Sulawesi Watersports Association and the Bunaken Local Community Forum, which employ locals as dive guides, captains and staff.
- **Jamaica's** Blue Ocean Strategy supports sustainable tourism recovery post-COVID-19, enhancing tourism zones to preserve and enrich each destination's unique elements and characteristics.
- The **Japan** Sustainable Tourism Standard for Destinations (JSTS-D), launched in June 2020, supports sustainability in socioeconomics, culture and environment. The JSTS-D aided five destinations in 2020 and 15 in 2021.
- **Namibia**, the first African country to enshrine environmental management in its constitution, is shifting its tourism industry towards comprehensive sustainability.
- **Portugal's** Tourism Strategy 2027 promotes environmental, social and economic development by valuing cultural resources, boosting the economy, fostering innovation, enhancing knowledge and improving connectivity.
- **Palau** is the first country in the world to change its immigration law to ensure environmental protection whereby upon entry, visitors must sign a passport pledge that they will act in a culturally and environmentally responsible way for the duration of their trip.
- In 2023, **Seychelles** introduced an environmental sustainability levy for travellers to promote responsible travel and safeguard natural beauty, contributing to global conservation efforts.

Appendix A. Ocean Panel Action Groups

Table A-1. Overview of Ocean Panel Action Groups and major deliverables to date

Action Group	Mission	Status
Ocean Action 2030	<p>The Ocean Action 2030 coalition was formed in response to the new ocean action agenda launched by the Ocean Panel in 2020 in which member countries announced a shared vision for the sustainable development of the ocean in the next decade—where effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand in hand. It aims to provide technical and financial assistance to countries to help them develop and implement SOPs. The coalition does this by raising ambition, providing technical and/or financial assistance and sharing best practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coalition hosts bi-monthly meetings with SOP focal points to facilitate capacity building and knowledge exchange, and has held four joint learning events to-date including three in-person events in Mexico, Panama, and Antigua and Barbuda, and one virtual event. • Ocean Action 2030 launched the Rapid Assistance Fund to address the challenge of accessing traditional large-scale financing for sustainable ocean management. By providing expedited access to smaller amounts of funding, it will enable countries to kick-start the process of developing their SOPs. • The coalition is in the process of building a knowledge platform to provide up-to-date information, tools and resources for current and prospective countries to develop and implement Sustainable Ocean Plans. 	Active
Global Ocean Accounts Partnership	<p>GOAP's aim is to enable countries and other stakeholders to go beyond GDP to measure and manage progress towards sustainable ocean development using ocean accounts. GOAP brings together governments, international organisations and research institutions to build a global community of practice for ocean accounting to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate and implement the Ocean Panel's commitments, SDG 14, targets 15.9 and 17.19 and other relevant international agendas. • Assist in sourcing financial or in-kind support for the development and implementation of ocean accounting initiatives (aiming for at least 30 countries by 2030 to build complete sequences of national ocean accounts). • Catalyse and connect ocean accounts experts to establish a global expert panel to facilitate the creation of new knowledge to advance the development and global uptake of ocean accounting in decision-making, development planning, policies, laws and other ocean governance processes. • Provide a communication and collaboration platform (facilitating events, workshops and trainings) for the global community of practice to engage in mutual capacity development and share knowledge on ocean accounting. 	Active

Action Group	Mission	Status
Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean	TACSO drives collective action to build resilience by measurably increasing coastal and marine protection and ecosystem restoration through nature-based solutions. It aims to enhance stakeholder engagement to increase socioeconomic benefits at host destinations and across the value chain. TACSO has created a resource portal for implementing sustainable tourism in the ocean (the Blue Tourism Resource Portal) through collaboration with the World Bank. This enables stakeholders to access knowledge to support implementation on sustainable ocean initiatives and coastal tourism.	Active
1000 Ocean Startups	The 1000 Ocean Startups coalition unites the global ecosystem of incubators, accelerators, competitions, matching platforms, and venture capital and corporate venture capital firms supporting start-ups for ocean impact. The coalition's existing 49 members are leading players in the ocean impact innovation ecosystem and have collectively backed over 350 ocean start-ups around the world, with more than US\$2 billion in assets under management. 1000 Ocean Startups' vision is to mainstream the ocean impact innovation ecosystem and bring the sector to maturity. The coalition aims to scale at least 1,000 transformative start-ups by the end of the UN Ocean Decade to restore ocean health and achieve SDG 14.	Active
Blue Food Partnership	The BFP brings together stakeholders from the private sector, non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations, scientists and governments to build the sustainability of blue foods by improving the sector's transparency, governance and management structures. Connecting to policy and science, it is informed by the Ocean Panel's 2030 ocean food priority areas and the scientific findings of the Blue Food Assessment , which seeks to better understand the role of blue food in global food systems and to support decision-makers in evaluating the opportunities and trade-offs in implementing solutions.	Active
Ocean Data Action Coalition	ODAC brings together leaders from science, technology and governments to unlock ocean data across all sectors. At the core of this work is the Ocean Data Platform, a tool that makes it easier to share, collect, store and work with ocean data. HUB Ocean aims to do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break down technological and human barriers to ocean data sharing • Develop business models that promote the unblocking of business data • Dismantle the regulatory and policy barriers to ocean data sharing 	Active

Action Group	Mission	Status
Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition	<p>Spearheaded by the Global Wind Energy Council, OREAC was formed in response to the 2019 call for ocean-based climate action by the Ocean Panel, and represented ocean energy in the global dialogue on a sustainable ocean economy. It did the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased awareness</i> of the benefits of ocean-based renewable energy for economic development (e.g. GDP, industrial development), social development (e.g. jobs in coastal areas) and environmental protection • <i>Developed a report</i> outlining how to achieve 1,400 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2050 • <i>Created a toolkit</i> to help countries self-assess market and regulatory readiness for scaling offshore wind • <i>Engaged governments</i> to assess their offshore wind potential, identify socioeconomic opportunities and secure national commitments to expand offshore wind capacity <p>OREAC's success led to the creation of two new initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global Offshore Wind Alliance: A diplomatic, multi-stakeholder alliance comprised of up to 20 members to ramp-up offshore wind 2. Ocean Energy Pathway: An offshore wind accelerator to advance global clean energy by unlocking the immense resource of offshore wind power 	Complete
Shipping Decarbonisation Action Coalition	<p>To deliver decarbonised shipping by 2050, without which it will be impossible to decarbonise global supply chains and the global economy, the coalition called upon world leaders to work together with the private sector to deliver the right enabling environment with clear and unambiguous timelines and regulations.</p>	Complete

Note: GOAP = Global Ocean Accounts Partnership; TACSO = Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean; BFP = Blue Food Partnership; ODAC = Ocean Data Action Coalition; OREAC = Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition; SOP = Sustainable Ocean Plan; GDP = gross domestic product; SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

Appendix B. Status of Sustainable Ocean Plan development among Ocean Panel members

Table B-1. Stages of Sustainable Ocean Plan development

Country	Status	Sustainable Ocean Plan	Publication date or expected publication date
Australia	Developing	Draft Sustainable Ocean Plan (draft open for public consultation)	End of 2024–early 2025
Canada	Developing		By 2025
Chile	Implementing and/or updating	National Ocean Program 2023 (Spanish)	June 2023
Fiji	Implementing and/or updating	Republic of Fiji National Ocean Policy 2020–2023	February 2021
France	Implementing and/or updating	National Strategy for the Sea and Seashore 2024–2030 (French)	June 2024
Ghana	Setting scope		August 2025
Indonesia	Implementing and/or updating	Presidential Regulation Number 34 of 2022 on Plan of Action for the 2021–2025 Indonesia’s Maritime Policy (plan updated every 5 years)	Update by 2026
Jamaica	Setting scope		By 2025*
Japan	Implementing and/or updating	Fourth Basic Master Plan on Ocean Policy	April 2023
Kenya	Getting started		By 2025
Mexico	Developing		By 2025
Namibia	Getting started		By 2025
Norway	Implementing and/or updating	Update of the integrated ocean management plans Meld. St. 21 (2023–2024): Helhetlige forvaltningsplaner for de norske havområdene – Barentshavet og havområdene utenfor Lofoten, Norskehavet, og Nordsjøen og Skagerrak (Norwegian) (plans revised every 4 years)	June 2024
Palau	Developing		By 2025
Portugal	Implementing and/or updating	National Ocean Strategy 2021–2030	May 2021
Seychelles	Implementing and/or updating	Seychelles Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap Charting the Future (2018–2030)	By 2028
United Kingdom	Setting scope		By 2027*
United States	Implementing and/or updating	National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy	June 2024

Note: This table reflects self-reported data from Ocean Panel members. * For Jamaica and the United Kingdom, which have not specified publication deadlines, the table shows the default five-year timeline for SOP publication (calculated from their dates of joining the Ocean Panel).

Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.



Appendix C. Methodology

To track progress transparently and openly, the Ocean Panel Secretariat conducted two self-assessment surveys with its member country focal points (the UAE, which joined during report production, was not included in the assessments). The first survey focused on each country's progress in developing and implementing its Sustainable Ocean Plan. The second survey evaluated self-assessed progress against the 74 priority actions outlined in the *Transformations* agenda, focusing on 26 key priority action areas. Data are accurate as of August 2024.

We selected this subset of 26 actions to ensure comprehensive coverage across members while maintaining consistent reporting. Not all countries can realistically commit to every target; for instance, those without mangroves are unable to address mangrove restoration targets. If countries could not address a particular target for similar reasons, they marked it as 'not applicable'.

The second survey utilised a rating scale from 'no progress yet' to 'achieved', shown below, to indicate advancement levels for each of the 26 priority actions. All results beyond those indicating countries' Sustainable Ocean Plan development stages are presented as aggregated data to show the Ocean Panel's overall progress as a collective.

Rating scale:

- Not applicable: The specific priority action is not relevant to the country's context or circumstances and/or not currently prioritised.
- No progress yet: No substantial action or effort has been initiated for the specified priority action.

- **Some progress:** Initial steps or partial efforts have been undertaken towards achieving the goals outlined in the priority action, but significant work remains.
- **Significant progress:** Substantial aspects of the priority action have been achieved, with notable milestones accomplished and meaningful outcomes realised.
- **Achieved:** All aspects of the priority action have been fully implemented and achieved according to the intended goals and outcome.

The surveys aimed to gather critical insights on progress, impact, challenges, lessons learned, achievements and priorities for future collaboration among Ocean Panel countries. Additionally, the Ocean Panel Secretariat conducted various other analyses on Ocean Panel activities, including an assessment of ocean-based actions in nationally determined contributions.

The Ocean Panel Secretariat also continued the assessment completed in the first progress report of commitments registered at the Our Ocean Conferences and the UN Ocean Conferences, focusing on the collective progress towards the *Transformations* agenda between 2017 and 2023. This involved conducting an inventory of commitments by Ocean Panel members mapped across the *Transformations* agenda and the 100 percent approach. Ocean Panel members provided brief narrative updates and case studies focused on concrete actions taken across various sectors.

Several principles guided the development of this reporting mechanism:

1. **Accountability and transparency:** For a reporting mechanism to be robust, it must enable progress to be relayed openly over time through regular progress assessments, experience sharing and transparent recognition of successes and challenges. This helps identify potential roadblocks to address barriers effectively.
2. **Importance of qualitative nuance:** While quantitative metrics provide valuable indicators, qualitative insights capture the nuanced, context-specific aspects of each country's progress, reflecting diverse national realities, interests, capacities, policies and priorities.
3. **Alignment with existing reporting processes:** Coordination and coherence with existing reporting mechanisms (e.g. UNFCCC, CBD) are prioritised to minimise additional reporting burdens; encourage participation; and recognise each member's efforts, achievements and challenges, while incorporating emerging information and methodologies.

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Endnotes

- 1 The United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined as the 19th and newest Ocean Panel member country in September 2024. As it was not a member at the time of writing, this report does not contain progress data on the UAE.
- 2 Countries joining the Ocean Panel effort after 2020 commit to develop and be guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans within five years of joining, with the aim of sustainably managing 100 percent of the ocean area under national jurisdiction.
- 3 Rating scale: Not applicable: The specific priority action is not relevant to the country's context or circumstances and/or is not currently prioritised. No progress yet: No substantial action or effort has been initiated for the specified priority action. Some progress: Initial steps or partial efforts have been undertaken towards achieving the goals outlined in the priority action, but significant work remains. Significant progress: Substantial aspects of the priority action have been achieved, with notable milestones accomplished and meaningful outcomes realised. Achieved: All aspects of the priority action have been fully implemented and achieved according to the intended goals and outcome.
- 4 Excluding France and Portugal, whose contributions are represented by the European Union's NDC, which is accounted for in the analysis.



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