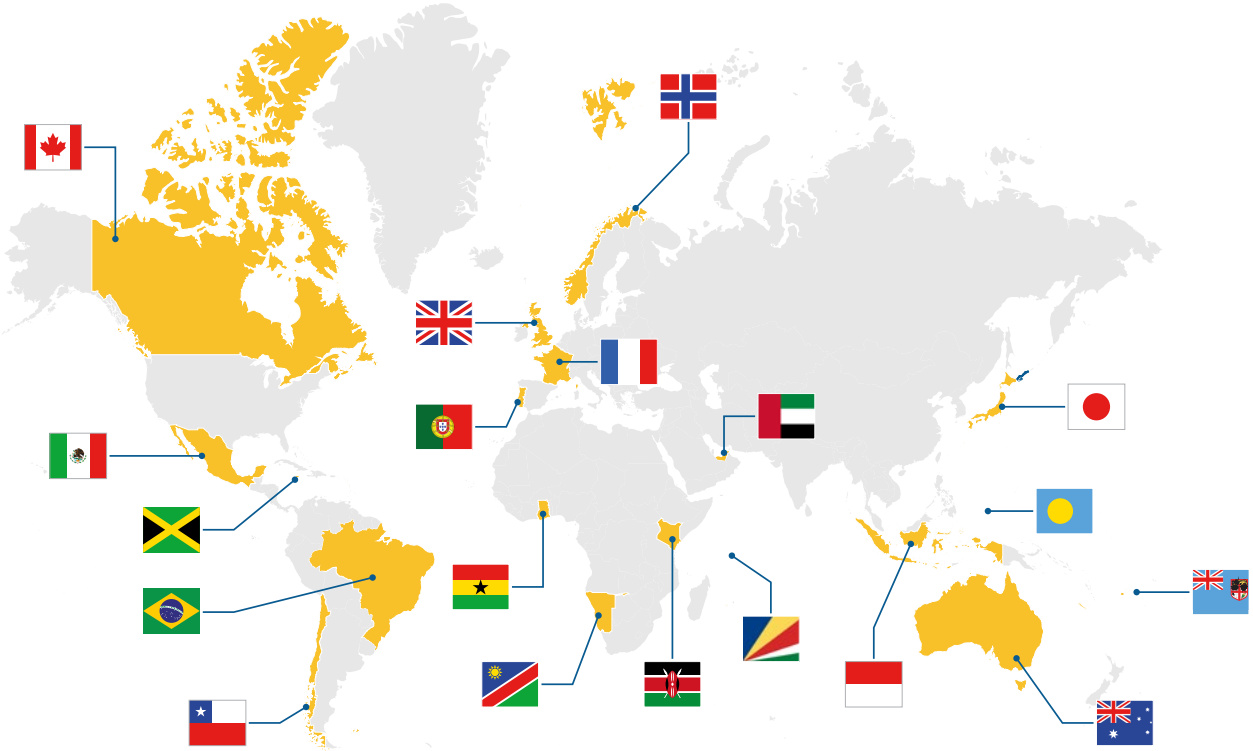
Ocean Panel Progress Report 2026

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

HIGH LEVEL PANEL *for*
A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY

About the Ocean Panel

Established in September 2018, the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) is a unique global initiative composed of 19 serving world leaders[1] who have collectively agreed to pursue a sustainable ocean economy in which effective protection and sustainable production go hand in hand to deliver equitable prosperity. By working with a diverse array of stakeholders, harnessing the latest knowledge and enhancing humanity's relationship with the ocean, the Ocean Panel aims to identify and apply innovative solutions to bridge ocean health, wealth and equity to accelerate and scale responsive action worldwide.



Foreword

As co-chairs of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), we remain committed to achieving 100% sustainable ocean management through Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) and are encouraged by the growing number of countries joining us in this ambition. We are pleased to present this third progress report highlighting tangible advances towards a sustainable ocean economy where sustainable production and environmental protection join to create equitable prosperity.

SOPs are gaining international momentum as the leading approach to effective management of the ocean. They bring together governments, industries, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and others to align national ocean policies, decision-making processes and investments with international agreements and commitments.

The 100% Alliance was launched in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024, in partnership with the Ocean Panel, to extend our headline commitment of 100% sustainable ocean management through SOPs beyond our membership. We are pleased to see how this group of ocean and coastal states has grown, and we welcome Colombia and Belize in joining this effort in 2026. We also welcome the increasing recognition of SOPs as the primary framework for effective and sustainable ocean governance, as seen in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's new Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management strategy (2025–30) and other major international processes, including at the Island States Ocean Summit in June.

Ocean Panel members have continued to develop these national plans, with most now in the later stages of production. This progress reflects their journey from commitment and planning to action and implementation. The updated *Handbook on Sustainable Ocean Plans: A Practitioners' Guide* is a crucial, comprehensive resource for governments and practitioners. It provides practical guidance on every stage of SOP development and delivery, and we invite others to make use of it.

We measure our collective progress against the priorities set when the Ocean Panel was established. In 2020, we published the landmark *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy*, which sets out 14 outcomes for 2030 and 74 priority action areas across the sustainable ocean economy's five pillars: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance. Building on the analysis undertaken in 2024, the third progress report assesses progress against 37 of those 74 priority actions (up from 26 in the second progress report).

The findings are encouraging, with progress evident across all five pillars of the *Transformations* agenda. For example, all members have now advanced early national strategies and targets for the decarbonisation transition, up from 13 in 2024, and all have progressed in implementing the Ocean Panel's "Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action," up from 15 in 2024.

Importantly, this report showcases how Ocean Panel members are not acting in isolation. The actions of our members are also creating a "ripple effect," helping to mobilise global coalitions, generate new knowledge, and raise ambition through major global ocean and climate processes.

Overall, the results of this report demonstrate how Ocean Panel members are moving beyond ambition and commitments towards increasingly tangible implementation of a sustainable ocean economy. Nevertheless, we recognise that our primary focus is to truly deliver a sustainable ocean economy. This report not only highlights the progress we have made but also candidly identifies the challenges that remain.

In 2025, the founding Ocean Panel members reached the five-year milestone for delivering their Sustainable Ocean Plans. Eight met this commitment, while five are working to complete their plans. This is not a reflection of reduced ambition or effort. Our own national experiences have shown that developing these plans is a complex undertaking that requires extensive stakeholder engagement and ability to navigate unforeseen challenges. Despite this, countries have continued to make progress and deepen the foundations needed for long-term success instead of rushing to deliver a plan that is incomplete. Looking at progress evaluated through priority actions, the report also makes clear that financing remains one of the most significant barriers to implementation. This will require moving beyond public finance alone and significantly scaling the capacity, knowledge, tools, institutions and partnerships that can attract private investment. We therefore welcome the transparency of this report, as only through sharing successes and setbacks from our own experiences can we identify best practices and lessons learned.

Each member of the Ocean Panel is a champion for the ocean, but our greatest impact comes through collective leadership. Recent geopolitical shifts have highlighted the fragility of the multilateral system on which global cooperation depends. Yet this cannot be a reason to retreat from collective action. It is in times like these that cross-national bodies like the Ocean Panel are needed most, demonstrating how national ambition and international cooperation can deliver a robust and stable transition to a sustainable ocean economy.

The ocean is a vital lifeline that supports our livelihoods, is home to some of the most incredible biodiversity and is key to regulating our climate. Yet it remains under increasing pressure. With the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Agenda just four years away, it's now more crucial than ever that we recognise our responsibility and continue to push the boundaries of our ambition.

We invite all nations, partners and stakeholders to join us in this effort. Together, we can build a sustainable ocean economy that works for people, nature and future generations.

Jonas Gahr Støre

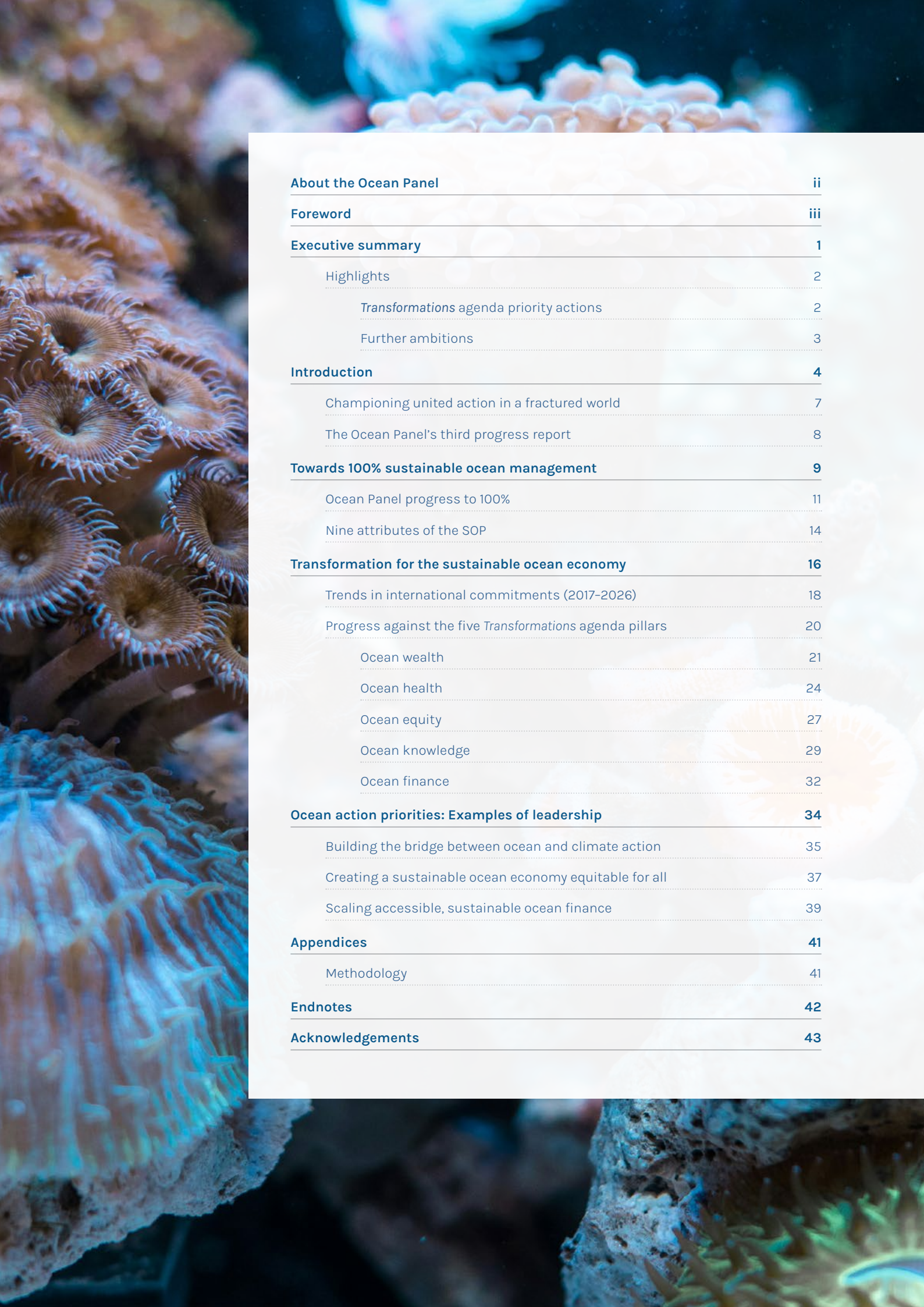
Prime Minister

For the Government of Norway

Surangel S. Whipps Jr.

President

For the Government of Palau



Executive summary

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) is an initiative of 19 serving world leaders[2] whose nations cover 40 percent of global exclusive economic zone (EEZ) area and 42 percent of global coastlines. Ocean Panel members have committed to sustainably managing 100% of their ocean area under national jurisdiction through the production of Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs).

SOPs are comprehensive "umbrella" frameworks that unify ocean-related policies, mechanisms and tools, ensuring alignment with international frameworks and best practices. All Ocean Panel members have committed to producing SOPs within five years of joining.

The commitment to 100% sustainable ocean management is guided by *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy* (the *Transformations* agenda) — a formative document that outlines 14 outcomes for 2030 and 74 priority action areas across five key pillars: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance.

Over the past few years, this approach has been recognised globally at international fora. The Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity initiative, launched in 2023, aims to establish sustainable ocean management across 100% of the Blue Pacific Continent. SOPs were credited as vital tools for integrated ocean management in the Barcelona Statement for the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in 2024 as well as the Apia Commonwealth Declaration, the Political Declaration for the third UN Ocean Conference and the Action Agenda Blue Package outcome at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2025.

Also in that same year, the Yaoundé Declaration saw eight Gulf of Guinea countries commit to sustainably manage 100% of their ocean area under national jurisdiction and to develop and implement SOPs. And in 2026, the new *Transitioning to a Sustainable Blue Economy: A Practical Framework* by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) explicitly recognised the alignment of the Ocean Panel's *Transformation* objectives with the goals of UNEP's Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework and that the process for developing and delivering SOPs is well aligned with its sustainable blue economy goals. Finally, the Island States Ocean Summit in June 2026 recognised SOPs as the primary framework for sustainable ocean governance.

Overall, the Ocean Panel maintains its pursuit of enhancing and sharing evidence-based knowledge, translating this to policy advice and concrete solutions and building literacy and diplomacy for ocean health and humanity's well-being. Ocean Panel members continue to work collaboratively to lead and build global ambition towards ocean action.

Highlights

- As of July 2026, **10** Ocean Panel members are in the updating and implementing phase of SOP production, **6** are in the development phase and **3** are setting scope. This highlights significant progress made across the Ocean Panel, with most members now in the advanced stages of SOP production.
- Technical expertise, institutional capacity and interministerial coordination remain key enabling factors for SOP development, with extensive stakeholder engagement noted as a new leading enabling factor in 2026. Budget limitations and conflicting interests among stakeholders remain significant challenges.
- Sixteen members have legislative measures or policies in place that strengthen the legal and institutional backing of their SOPs.
- Over half of all Ocean Panel members have a mechanism or strategy in place to ensure accountability in the use of allocated funds for SOP implementation.

Transformations agenda priority actions

- Across the priority actions assessed, Ocean Panel members are making steady progress, with actions initiated and implementation coming into focus with four years to go until 2030.
- Eighteen Ocean Panel members reported progress across 37 of the 74 priority action areas through a self-assessment survey[3]. The results showed steady progress across all five pillars:
    - *Ocean wealth*: **All** members have now progressed in establishing early national strategies for the decarbonisation transition and in investing in research to make ocean-based renewable energy cost competitive; **17** have progressed in prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies and developing plans for rebuilding depleted fish stocks.

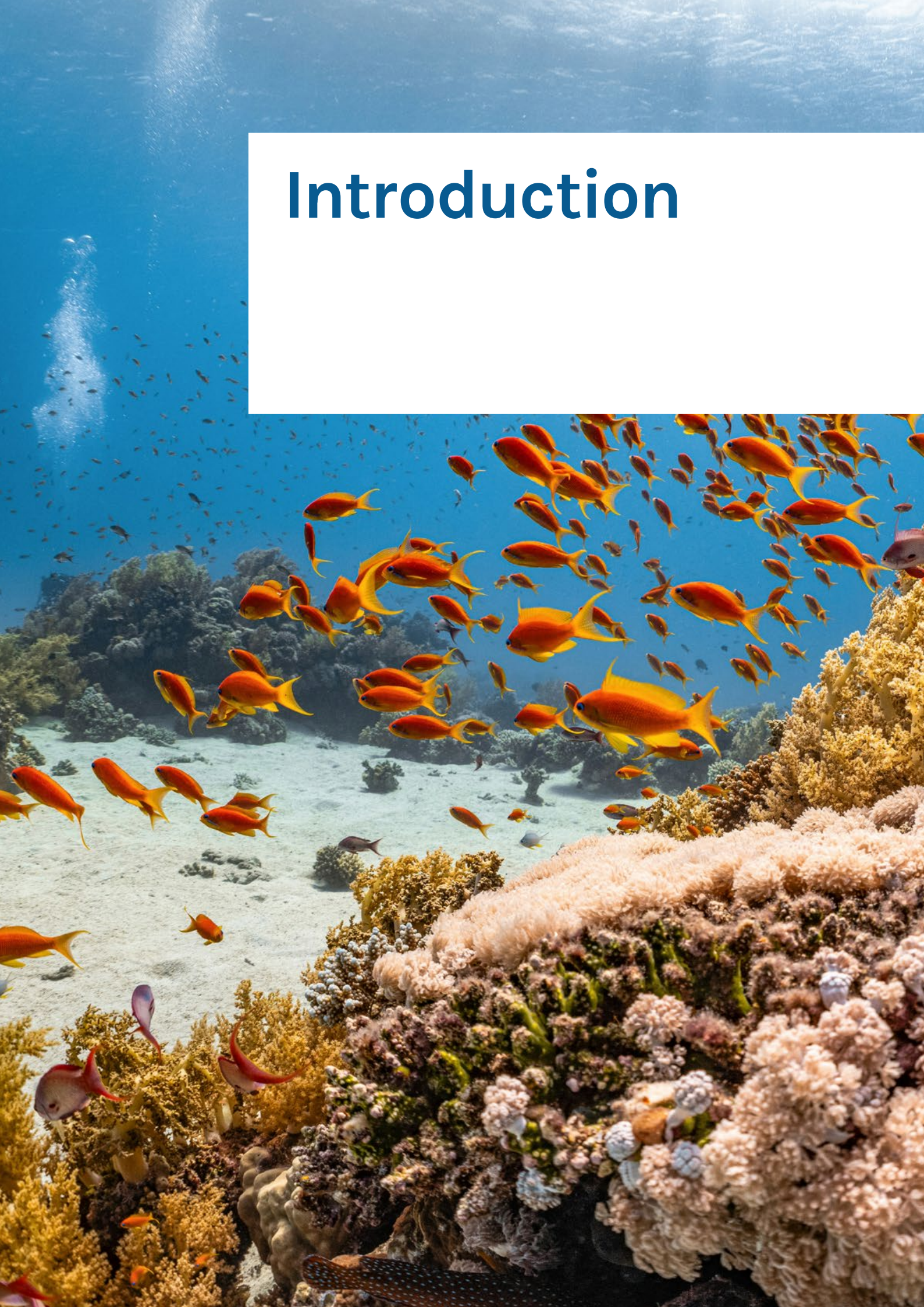
- *Ocean health:* **All** members have progressed in establishing and effectively managing marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures; in incentivising the development, production and use of sustainable plastic alternatives; in implementing the Ocean Panel's "Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action"; and in increasing the extent and halting the net loss of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- *Ocean equity:* **All** members reported progress in ensuring transparent and responsible business practices inclusive of all; **16** members reported progress on facilitating the engagement of women in ocean activities and in recognising and respecting the interests of coastal communities and rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- *Ocean knowledge:* **All** countries have progressed in investing in knowledge for ocean conservation and future sustainable ocean sectors as well as in promoting transparent open data-sharing; **17** have progressed in developing national ocean accounts and in investing in building ocean literacy to make knowledge available to everyone.
- *Ocean finance:* **Sixteen** members have progressed in directing public sector finance towards the sustainable ocean economy, **10** have progressed in supporting the use of voluntary sustainable finance principles and **7** reported at least some progress in de-risking investments by creating focused blended finance capacity.

Further ambitions

- Brazil joined as the 19th member of the Ocean Panel at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in 2025.
- In addition to advancing their own progress, Ocean Panel members are leading the wider international community by example on fundamental aspects of the *Transformations* agenda:
  - The 100% Alliance was launched in late 2024. Co-championed by Australia and Chile, and to which all Ocean Panel countries are members, this initiative calls for all ocean and coastal nations to join in the commitment to 100% sustainable ocean management through SOPs. Belize, Colombia, Panama and South Korea have all joined this endeavour.
  - In 2025, Brazil and France launched the Blue NDC Challenge. Now, 11 of the 17 members are Ocean Panel countries. This initiative calls on all parties to the Paris Agreement to include ocean-based climate solutions in their nationally determined contributions.
  - As of July 2026, 16 of the 19 Ocean Panel members are party to the Port State Measures Agreement, 14 have formally accepted the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and 15 have ratified 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).
  - At the 11th Our Ocean Conference, hosted by Ocean Panel member Kenya, over half of all total pledge finance (US$4 billion of the US$7.5 billion) came from Ocean Panel members.
  - As of August 2026, six Ocean Panel members have protected at least 30 percent of their EEZs through MPAs, and across the Ocean Panel membership, an average of 27.7 percent of members' EEZs are currently protected through MPAs.

Through its ambitious agenda, the Ocean Panel continues to drive momentum for ocean action on the international stage. At a time when international cooperation is increasingly strained and fragmented, the Ocean Panel demonstrates what can be achieved when countries unite around a shared vision, pairing multilateralism with national ambition.

Introduction



The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) is a unique initiative of 19 diverse ocean leaders from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom (UK).

Their collective commitment to 100% sustainable ocean management through Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) is outlined in the Ocean Panel's 2020 action agenda, *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy* (the *Transformations* agenda).[4] This framework for achieving effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity is split across five pillars: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance. Within these pillars, there are 14 outcomes for 2030 and 74 priority actions.

All Ocean Panel members are committed to achieving the 2030 outcomes, but not all the priority actions as their specificity may not apply to every country context. Nevertheless, these actions and the political will of the Ocean Panel provide a blueprint to transition towards a sustainable ocean economy, with the following aims for each member:

- Deliver the *Transformations* agenda at home, adapting to local needs and priorities.
- Collaborate with other members and countries outside the Ocean Panel in country-led collective action initiatives that progress priority actions from the *Transformations* agenda.
- Engage 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 in its headline commitment so that all ocean areas under national jurisdiction are sustainably managed by 2030.

The Ocean Panel is driven by three strategic principles: knowledge, policy and action (Figure 1). Since 2020, this leader-led group has commissioned and published 30 knowledge products covering a wealth of topics to further drive ocean ambition. These reports, written by a group of 431 experts spanning 62 different countries, make up the Ocean Panel's foundational scientific knowledge base that underpins its *Transformations* agenda, priority actions and progress towards SOP development. Together, these chart the course for transitioning to a sustainable ocean economy, targeting 2030 and the conclusion of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science and Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Figure 1. Three strategic principles

Knowledge	Policy	Action
• 20 Ocean Panel Blue Papers, 6 Special Reports, 3 handbooks and 1 working paper produced • Expert Group composed of 431 members from 62 countries • Comprehensive manual on producing SOPs published in 2025 and launched at the IUCN World Congress • Six Joint Learning Events hosted since 2021, including in Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda, and Costa Rica	• 10 SOPs in the implementation and updating stage • 17 Ocean Panel members have integrated ocean-based solutions into their NDCs • Launch of the Blue NDC Challenge at the fourth UN Ocean Conference with 8 members, now 17, including 11 from the Ocean Panel • UNOC Political Declaration and Barcelona Statement for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development both recognise SOPs	• Published the 2026–30 workplan, including seven strategic pillars for the next five years • Launched the 100% Alliance, recognised in the COP30 Presidency's Action Agenda • Eight Action Groups launched since 2018 (see Box 1) • Ocean Panel's 100% approach and SOPs built momentum for the development of IOC-UNESCO's Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management strategy (2025–30)

Notes: COP30 = 30th Conference of the Parties; IOC-UNESCO = Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; IUCN = International Union for Conservation of Nature; NDC = nationally determined contribution; SOP = Sustainable Ocean Plan; UN = United Nations; UNOC = United Nations Ocean Conference.

BOX 1 Ocean Panel Action Groups

Alongside the Expert Group, the Ocean Panel has worked closely with its eight dynamic Action Groups:

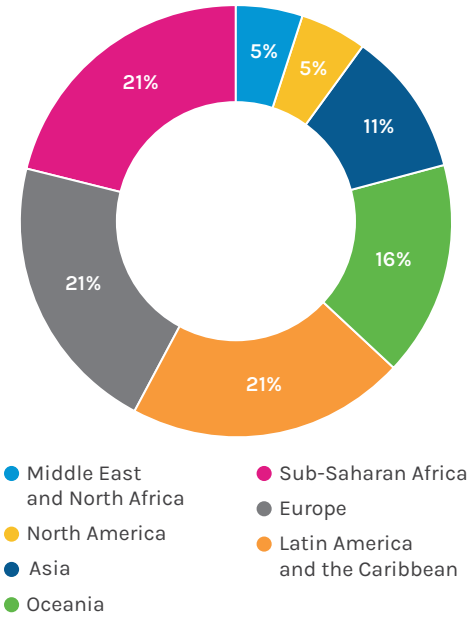
- Ocean Action 2030 (active)
- Global Ocean Account Partnership (active)
- Ocean Data Action Coalition (active)
- 1000 Ocean Startups (active)
- Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean (complete)
- Blue Food Partnership (complete)
- Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition (complete)
- Shipping Decarbonisation Action Coalition (complete)

These groups work across diverse ocean-related actors — from civil society and private industry to academia and the general public. Each group focuses on a key element of the sustainable ocean economy transition where collaboration is fundamental, with the aim to accelerate, scale and finance ocean action.

Championing united action in a fractured world

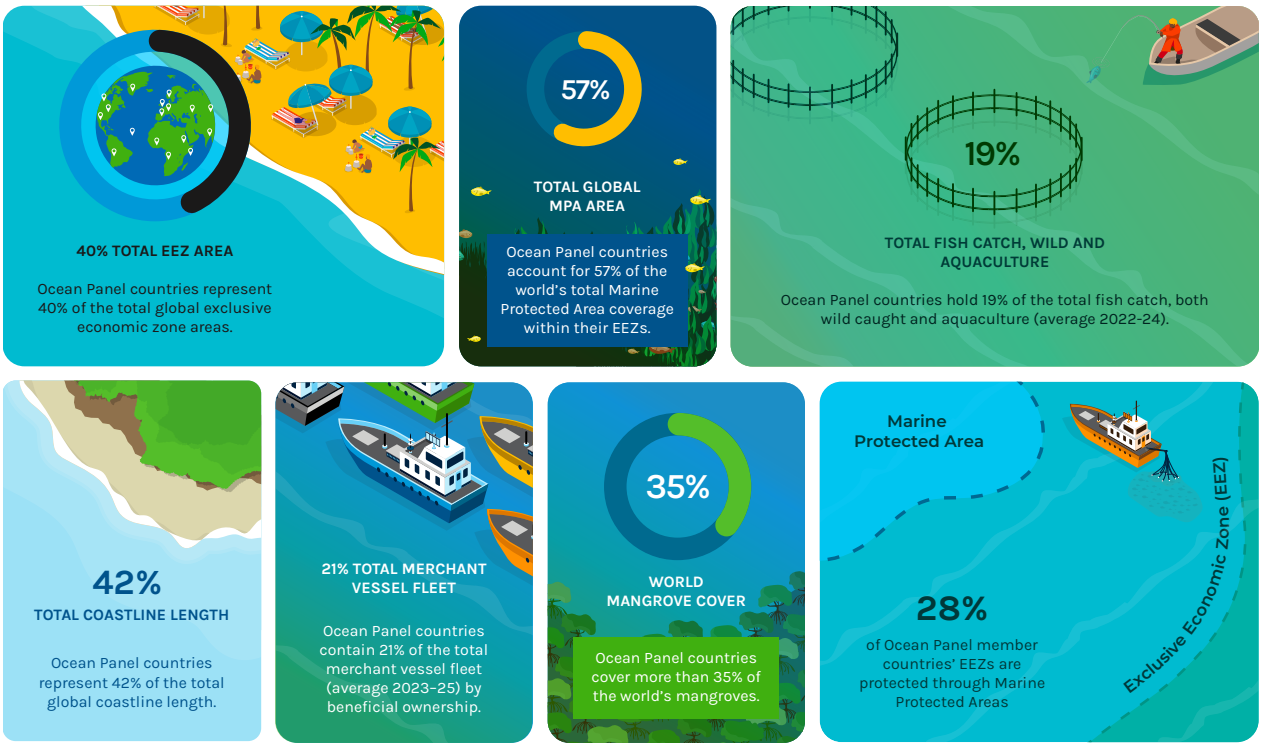
In an increasingly challenging geopolitical climate, the Ocean Panel represents a beacon of hope for what multilateralism can achieve when it is partnered with national ambition. While some members met their original goals in 2025, the Ocean Panel's 2026–30 workplan crystalises the shared agenda for the transition to a sustainable ocean economy into defined actions for the decade's end. The workplan further strengthens the Ocean Panel's shared goal of 100% sustainable ocean management and identifies six additional priority areas: global ocean observations, ocean-climate nexus, blue foods, ocean equity, ocean finance and the implementation and ratification of international agreements. By focusing on these collective targets, leveraging strategic partnerships and integrating national priorities with international commitments, this workplan positions the Ocean Panel as a leader in global ocean action.

Figure 2. Geographical spread of Ocean Panel members



Source: Authors.

Figure 3. Ocean Panel key statistics



Note: These data represent all 19 Ocean Panel Members. EEZ = exclusive economic zone; MPA = marine protected area.

Source: Authors and Sam Baum (designer).

The Ocean Panel has continued to extend its ambition beyond its member countries. The 100% Alliance, launched in 2024 and co-championed by long-standing Ocean Panel members Australia and Chile, invites nations to join the Ocean Panel in committing to 100% sustainable management of ocean areas under national jurisdiction. Belize, Colombia, Panama and South Korea have all joined the 100% Alliance. Additionally, in 2025, Brazil and France, both Ocean Panel members, launched the Blue NDC Challenge at the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3). Presently a 17-member group, 11 of whom are Ocean Panel members, this initiative strives for all ocean and coastal nations that are party to the Paris Agreement to include ocean-based climate solutions in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The Ocean Panel's third progress report

This third iteration of the *Ocean Panel Progress Report* showcases the continued commitment of Ocean Panel members to reach 100% sustainable ocean management. It illustrates how — with eight years of progress — many members are moving towards implementation of their SOPs and, in some cases, iterations. It shows how the existence of the Ocean Panel has created a community of like-minded ocean leaders who are willing to work in new and innovative ways, both within this member group and outside of it, to push for the ambition of a sustainable ocean economy.

The combined exclusive economic zones of Ocean Panel members constitute 59,829,643 square kilometres, an area nearly twice the total landmass of Africa.

This report uses the same analytical approach first used in the 2024 progress report to showcase developments by Ocean Panel members since 2020. The following section, "Towards 100% sustainable ocean management," illustrates member progress towards the headline commitment of 100% sustainable management of ocean area under national jurisdiction, guided by SOPs. "Transformation for the sustainable ocean economy" demonstrates progress made against a selection of priority actions of the *Transformations* agenda. "Ocean action priorities: Examples of leadership" showcases leading actions by members in three highly topical areas of the last two years, chosen following member consultations: the ocean-climate nexus, ocean equity and ocean finance.

Towards 100% sustainable ocean management

Since 2020, the Ocean Panel has committed to achieving 100% sustainable ocean management through SOPs (Box 2).

BOX 2 Sustainable Ocean Plans

Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) are strategic, knowledge-based and participatory frameworks that a country develops to ensure the sustainable management of 100% of its ocean area under national jurisdiction. SOPs should serve as a comprehensive and holistic "umbrella" framework that unifies all ocean-related policies, governance, tools and mechanisms and helps align ocean policies with international frameworks and best practices. Although they are country-specific plans, each SOP should embrace the following nine attributes:

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

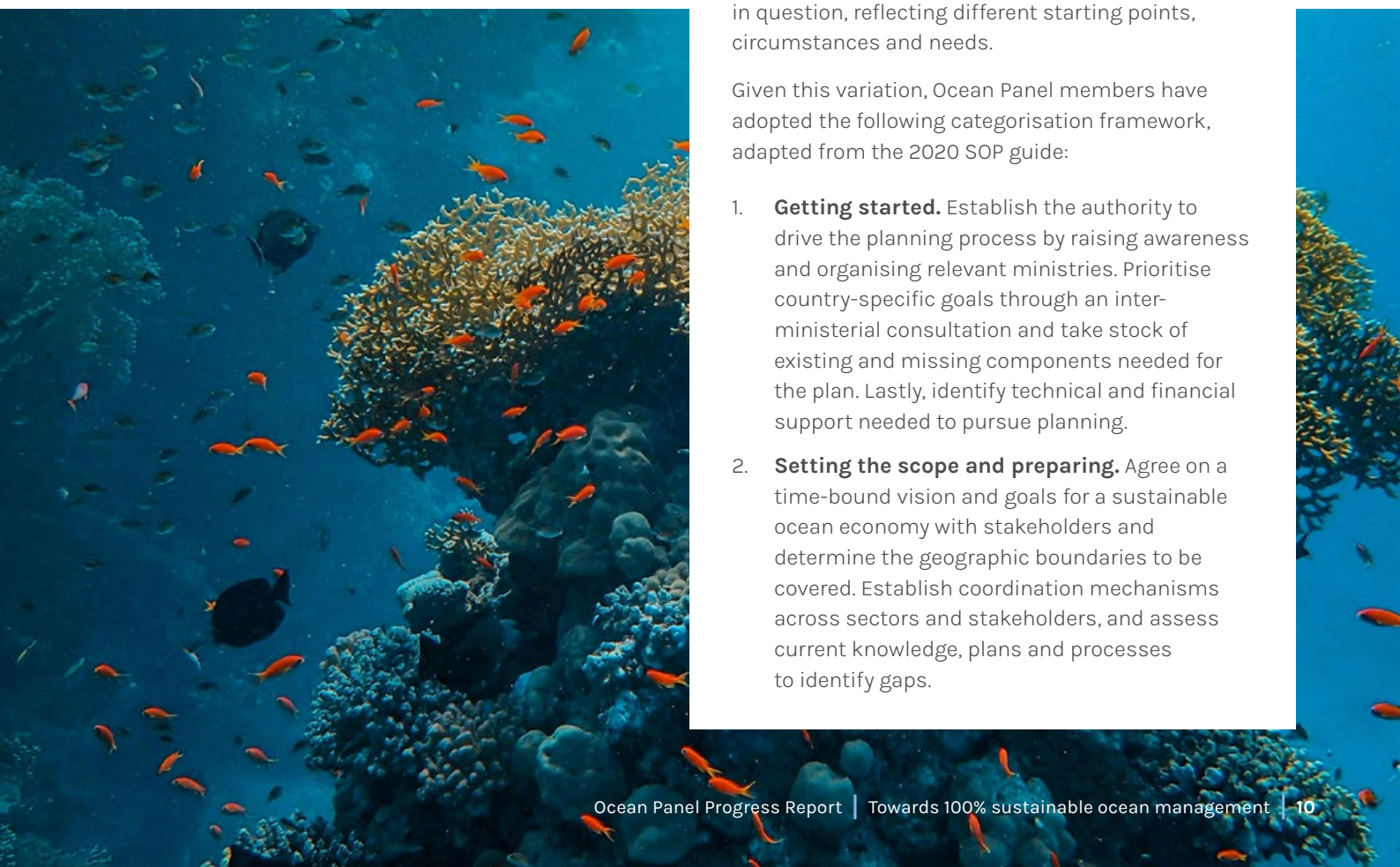
The initial guide published in 2020, *100% Sustainable Ocean Management: An introduction to Sustainable Ocean Plans*, outlines the priority aspects of SOPs and the value of their implementation and development. In 2025, the Ocean Panel published a comprehensive step-by-step manual for SOPs. The *Handbook on Sustainable Ocean Plans: A Practitioners' Guide* provides a detailed breakdown of SOP production through five key steps:

- Setting objectives and defining the scope of the SOP through collaboration and coordination
- Financial planning and resource mobilisation
- Defining the baseline and analysing potential future conditions
- The building blocks of SOPs
- Implementation and action planning

Collectively, these documents provide the blueprint for developing and implementing SOPs. Importantly though, each SOP is **country specific**, and so there is no one-size-fits-all approach. As such, SOP development pathways can differ greatly from country to country. One may choose to focus on a specific area of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), or defined sectors, first, before expanding to include 100% of its ocean area under national jurisdiction. It is a continuous process that takes time to allow for learning, capacity-building and adaptive management in order to produce effective results. The time taken varies depending on the country in question, reflecting different starting points, circumstances and needs.

Given this variation, Ocean Panel members have adopted the following categorisation framework, adapted from the 2020 SOP guide:

1. **Getting started.** Establish the authority to drive 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 needed for the plan. Lastly, identify technical and financial support needed to pursue planning.
2. **Setting the scope and preparing.** Agree on a time-bound vision and goals for a sustainable ocean economy with stakeholders and determine the geographic boundaries to be covered. Establish coordination mechanisms across sectors and stakeholders, and assess current knowledge, plans and processes to identify 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 SOP over time and/or periodically monitor and update the plan as implementation unfolds; economic, social and/or environmental conditions evolve; and/or the state of knowledge improves.

Ocean Panel progress to 100%

Ocean Panel members commit to 100% sustainable ocean management through SOPs within five years of joining. The founding members of the Ocean Panel reached this milestone in 2025, with eight of those members having successfully completed their first SOP iteration and a further six still developing their plans. They will continue to strive towards a completed plan that is properly coordinated, integrated into their governance systems and inclusive of all possible stakeholders.

Of the 19 Ocean Panel members assessed, 10 are implementing and/or updating their plans and 6 are in active development — highlighting significant progress made across the Ocean Panel, with most members now in the advanced stages of SOP production. Figure 4 shows the spectrum of stages of SOP development across Ocean Panel members.

During the last two years, several members in the final stage of development reached significant milestones:

- In 2024, **Norway** updated its integrated ocean management plans through a white paper to parliament and has now published an English translation of its plan.
- **Chile**, **Ghana** and **Mexico** formally published their SOPs in 2025.
- **Portugal** is advancing its SOP through the implementation and potential update of the National Ocean Strategy 2021–2030, supported by dedicated action plans and structured annual monitoring mechanisms.

Figure 4. Stages of SOP development (as of August 2026)

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

Note: Green arrows represent those members whose stage of Sustainable Ocean Plan production has changed since the 2024 progress report.

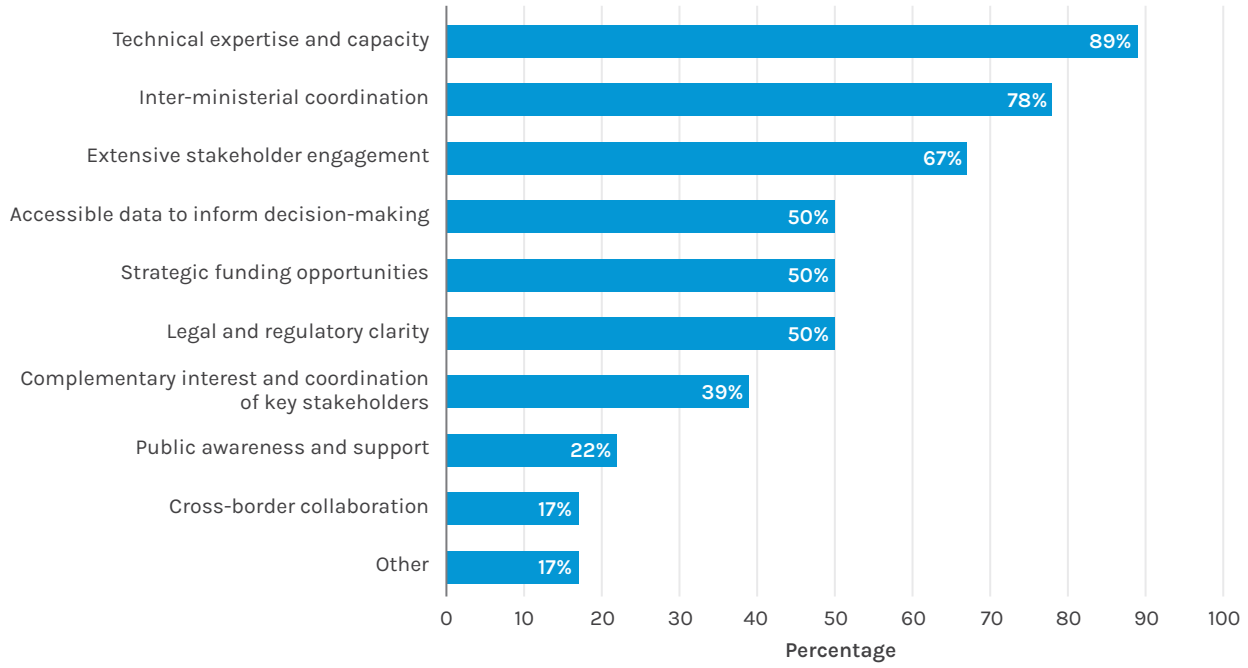
Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

Those members in the other stages of development are also progressing:

- **Jamaica**, the **UAE** and the **UK** are in the "setting the scope and preparing phase," with progress already being made in implementing coordination mechanisms, determining knowledge gaps and producing SOP goals and visions. The UAE, for example, has already developed and formally approved the governance structure of its SOP, as well as a national SOP proposal and road map of significant milestones. Its next major step is to complete a national stocktake and gap analysis for all participating entities.
- As part of the "developing" phase, **Australia**, **Brazil**, **Canada**, **Kenya**, **Namibia** and **Palau** are all working towards ensuring the process is inclusive and iterative. For example, Canada has conducted numerous consultations and held meetings with officials from the provinces, territories and Indigenous groups. These consultations and meetings resulted in the publication of the *What We Heard Report* in 2024 and the Blue Economy Regulatory Roadmap — a plan of action to inform the SOP that responds directly to issues raised by Canadians. Similarly, Brazil's Planejamento Espacial Marinho (PEM), which will act as the country's SOP, is being produced through dedicated participatory mapping and sectoral workshops with traditional peoples and communities along the coast.

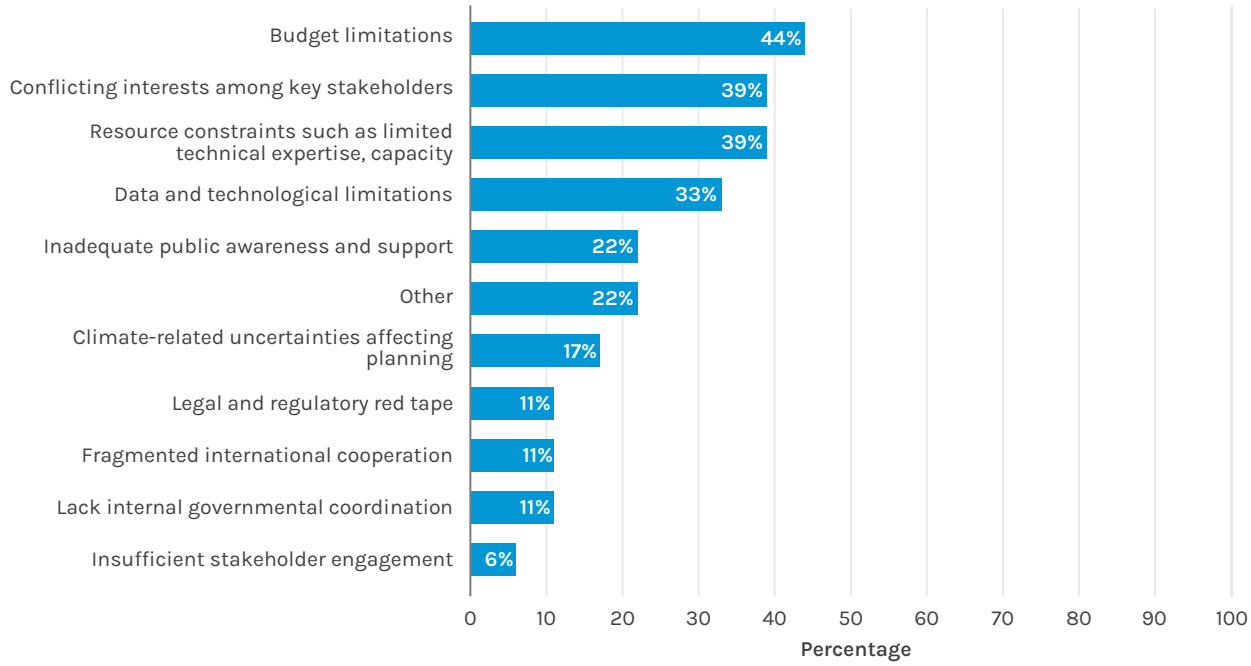
In the 2026 self-assessment survey, Ocean Panel members were asked to identify key enabling factors that supported SOP development as well as the main barriers that hindered progress. These results provide an insight into the shared experiences of Ocean Panel members and highlight the key foundations needed to develop SOPs successfully. Members noted technical expertise and capacity, inter-ministerial coordination and — differing from the 2024 survey — extensive stakeholder engagement as key enabling factors to facilitating progress so far (Figure 5). Budget limitations were noted as the major challenge hindering faster progress, followed by conflicting interests among stakeholders, similar to the results of 2024 (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Key enabling factors in developing SOPs



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

Figure 6. Key challenges in developing SOPs



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

Nine attributes of the SOP

Figure 7 is a comparative assessment of the Ocean Panel's progress in developing and implementing SOPs from 2024 to 2026, taken from the self-assessment survey results from both years. It should be noted that the composition of Ocean Panel member countries who completed these surveys differs between 2024 and 2026.[5] Therefore, although comparison is shown here, there is not a 1-to-1 equivalence of the sample used. The results indicate the direction of travel in progress made across the Ocean Panel membership as a whole rather than a point-to-point comparison between these years.

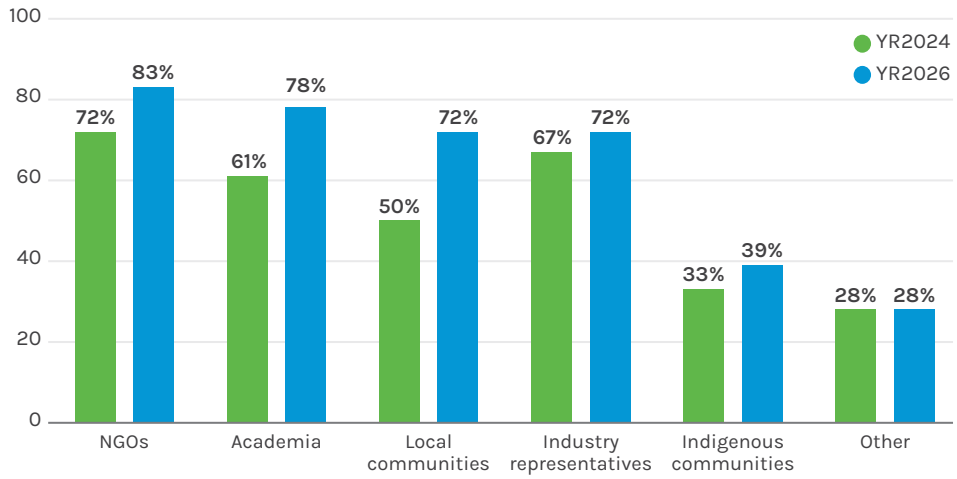
Figure 7. Ocean Panel progress in advancing Sustainable Ocean Plans across the nine attributes

PROCESS

INCLUSIVE

Is the plan's development process inclusive?

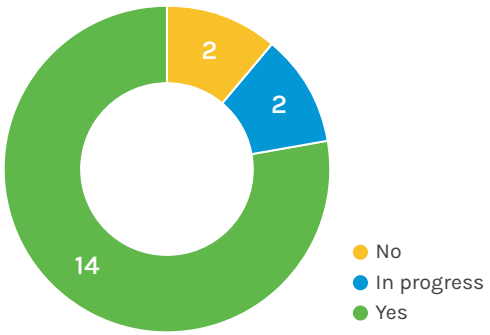
The stakeholder groups most actively engaged in SOP planning outside of the government are **NGOs and academia**, differing from that shown in the 2024 progress report of NGOs and industry. **Across all stakeholder groups except 'other,' more Ocean Panel members recorded active engagement** during their plan development compared to 2024.



INTEGRATIVE

Does the plan integrate government agencies, sectors and processes?

14 Ocean Panel members, the same number as reported in 2024, have a **cross-sectoral mechanism** formally established and in place through policies, agreements or official documentation; **2** members reported to be working to put this in place, up from **1** member in 2024**.**

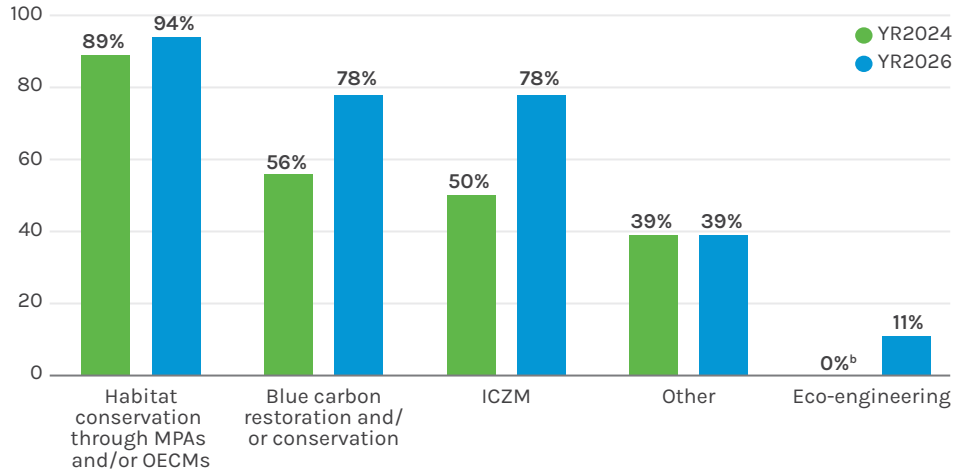


ITERATIVE

Is the plan's process iterative?

6 Ocean Panel members have put in place **monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plans** to assess pre-agreed goals, compared to the 7 recorded in 2024;[a] **8** are in the process of putting MEL plans together, one more than recorded in 2024; and **4** do not have one in place as of yet.

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

CONTENT	
PLACE BASED *Does the plan address the entire marine/ ocean area under national jurisdiction?*	**All** Ocean Panel SOPs aim to achieve 100% coverage of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, with many aiming for **30% protection** of their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) through marine protected areas (MPAs). Some of the members have already achieved this, with **6** members recording over 30% of their EEZ being protected by MPAs, while others are working towards this goal.
ECOSYSTEM BASED *Is the plan grounded in an ecosystem-based approach?*	**17** countries include or intend to include habitat conservation through effective management of MPAs and/or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in 2026, compared to the **16** recorded in 2024. **14** members, up from **10** in 2024, include or intend to include blue carbon restoration and/or conservation of, for example, mangroves, seagrasses and/or salt marshes. **14** members also include or intend to include integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) systems, up from **9** in 2024. **2** members include or intend to include eco-engineering methods. 
KNOWLEDGE BASED *Is the plan underpinned by knowledge and evidence?*	Similar to 2024, **all** Ocean Panel members incorporate various data sources when producing their SOPs. The most widely used method — recorded by **15** members in 2026 — was interviews and consultations, which was only used by **12** members in 2024. This was followed by peer-reviewed scientific literature, used by **13** members in 2026, up from **12** members in 2024. The same number of Ocean Panel members, **12**, reported using online databases and repositories in 2024 and 2026.

IMPACT	
ENDORSED *Is there national political support for the SOP?*	**15** Ocean Panel members, the same number as in 2024, have publicly communicated political commitments related to their SOP or the 100% approach through official statements, speeches or endorsements. **16** countries have legislative measures or policies to strengthen their plan's legal and institutional backing. This is **2** more than was reported in 2024.
FINANCED *Is there sufficient financing for sustainable ocean planning?*	**10** countries in 2026 have a mechanism or strategy in place to ensure accountability in the use of allocated funds for plan implementation. This is **2** more than the 8 reported to have such a mechanism in 2024.
CAPACITATED *Is there sufficient human capacity for the plan?*	**7** countries reported currently having sufficient personnel trained and capacitated for effective plan implementation, up from **6** in 2024[c]; however, **8** countries reported to be in the process of building sufficient support, up from **3** in 2024.

Notes: NGO = nongovernmental organisation; SOP = Sustainable Ocean Plan; a. This lower value is a result of different countries being represented in the Ocean Panel data between the years 2024 and 2026; b. Eco-engineering has 0 percent because it was not recorded as one of the categories for Ocean Panel members to respond to in 2024; c. This lower value is a result of different countries being represented in the Ocean Panel data between the years 2024 and 2026.

Transformation for the sustainable ocean economy

The *Transformations* agenda, with its five key pillars and 14 outcomes for 2030 (see Table 1) directly aligns with the wealth of international agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 85 percent of the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Table 1. 2030 outcomes of the Transformations agenda

Pillar	2030 outcome
OCEAN WEALTH	**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. **Sustainable ocean energy.** Ocean-based renewable energy is fast-growing and on the path to becoming a leading source of energy for the world. **Sustainable ocean-based tourism.** Coastal and ocean-based tourism is sustainable and resilient, addresses climate change, reduces pollution, supports ecosystem regeneration and biodiversity conservation and invests in local jobs and communities. **Sustainable ocean transport.** Shipping investments have effectively accelerated the shift towards zero-emission and low-impact marine vessels. **Sustainable new ocean industries.** Innovation and investments in new ocean industries have boosted environmentally responsible and inclusive economic growth. **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 is ecologically sustainable.
OCEAN HEALTH	**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. **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. **Reduce ocean pollution.** The ocean is no longer a sink for pollution, and ocean dead zones are minimised.
OCEAN EQUITY	**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.
OCEAN KNOWLEDGE	**Build ocean literacy and skills.** Through the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 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. **Account for the value of the ocean.** Decision-making affecting the ocean reflects the value of and impacts on the ocean's natural capital. **Harness ocean science, technology and data.** A globally shared data revolution has contributed to sustainable ocean management worldwide.
OCEAN FINANCE	**Sustainable ocean finance.** Sustainable ocean finance is accessible for all and drives ecologically sustainable and socially equitable economic growth.

Trends in international commitments (2017–2026)

The Our Ocean Conference (OOC; held annually) and the UNOC (held every three years) are two of the leading international processes driving cooperation and ambition on ocean issues. Both record voluntary ocean commitments across a wealth of different sectors and stakeholders, ranging from raising awareness to financial obligations towards decisive action.

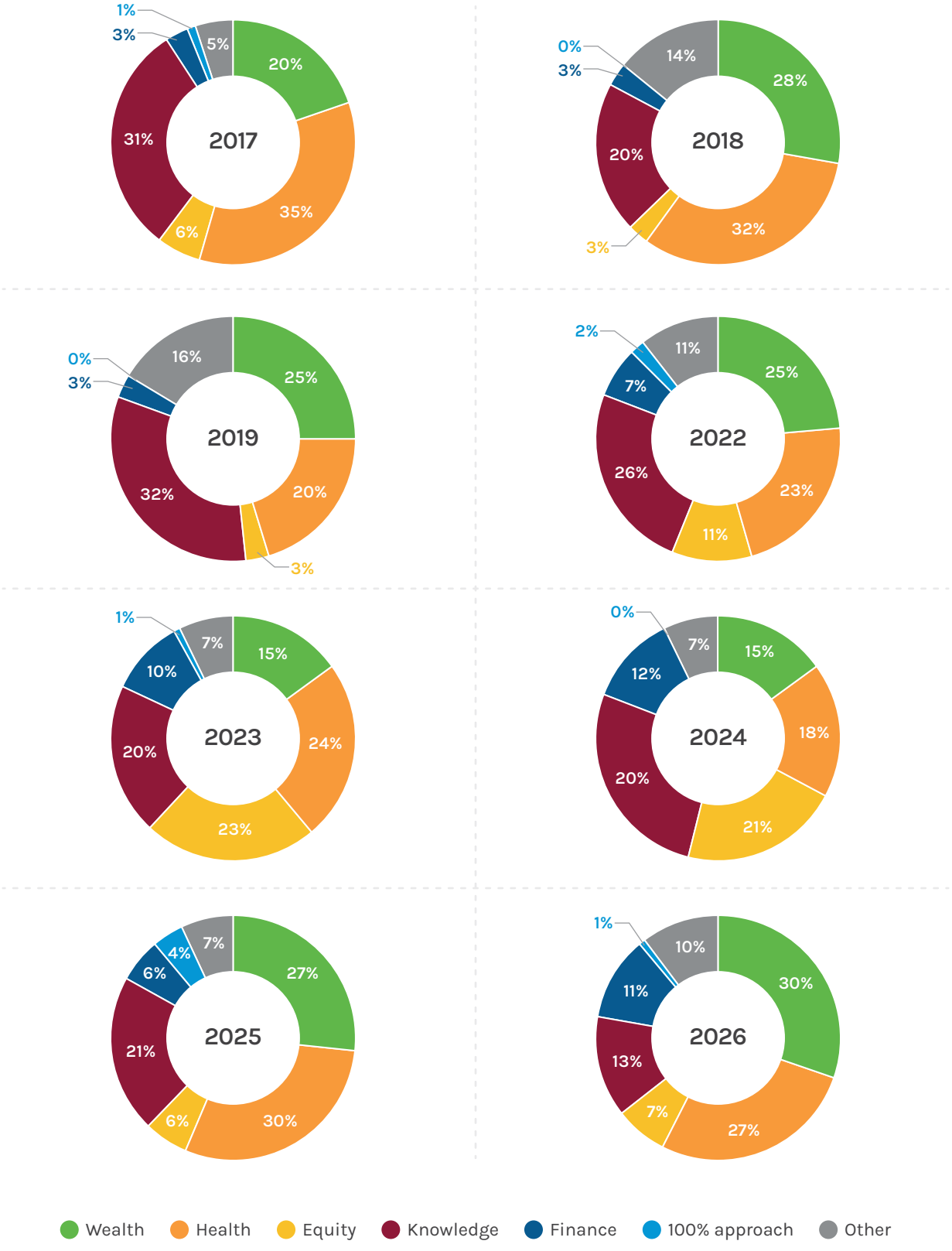
To follow on from analysis in the 2022 and 2024 progress reports, we have mapped Ocean Panel country commitments from these two international fora from 2017 to 2026 against the *Transformations* agenda (Figure 8). The analysis shows that the Ocean Panel continues to make progress across all five pillars, with the spread of commitments across the different priority areas showing greatest diversity in 2023 and 2024. In 2025 and 2026, there was a reversion to similar focuses on ocean health and ocean wealth, as seen in earlier years, and less focus on ocean equity. In 2026, 30 percent of commitments were pledged around ocean wealth, 27 percent on ocean health, 13 percent on ocean knowledge, 11 percent on ocean finance, 7 percent on ocean equity and 1 percent on the 100% approach.

Ocean Panel members are continually committed to raising ambition through announcements at these fora. This was demonstrated in 2026 at OOC11, where host **Kenya** pledged US$1 billion of the US$7.5 billion committed, and Ocean Panel members committed over half (US$4 billion) of the conference's total pledged finance. This show of leadership will hopefully continue with the next OOCs — which will be hosted by Ocean Panel members **Canada** in 2027 and **Jamaica** in 2029 — and the UNOC, which Ocean Panel member **Chile** will co-host with South Korea in 2028.

The Ocean Panel has also made significant progress in advancing other international commitments and agreements. All members are parties to the Convention for Biological Diversity and are committed to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, including Target 3, known as the 30x30 target, which calls for the effective conservation and management of at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas and of coastal and marine areas. As of August 2026, **six** Ocean Panel members have protected at least 30 percent of their EEZs through marine protected areas (MPAs). Across the Ocean Panel membership, MPAs currently protect an **average of 27.7 percent** of members' EEZs.

Also as of August 2026, **16** of the 19 Ocean Panel members are party to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) — the first legally binding international treaty to target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The PSMA aims to strengthen and harmonise port controls to prevent vessels engaging in IUU fishing from using such ports, landing their catches and delivering these products to national and international markets. In addition, **14** Ocean Panel members have now formally accepted the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. This agreement prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies, therefore aiming to combat the widespread depletion of global fish stocks.

Figure 8. Trends in Ocean Panel member commitments from the OOC and UNOC (2017–2026)



Note: Data on the Our Ocean Conference voluntary commitments were taken from the Our Ocean Conference Commitment Tracker. The United Nations Ocean Conference data were provided by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs team. Data for both are aggregated for the years of overlap (2017, 2022, 2025) to provide an indication of the trend in priority area commitments across both conferences. The Ocean Panel members represented in each year reflect the membership at that time. The percentages are rounded to the first whole number.

Source: Authors.

In 2025, the Agreement Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) reached the required 60 ratifications for entry into force, which subsequently happened on 17 January 2026. Currently, **15** Ocean Panel members have ratified the BBNJ Agreement. Finally, as **all** Ocean Panel countries are members of UNCLOS, all are part of the International Maritime Organization.

The Ocean Panel remains committed to collaborating on strengthening ratification, implementation and coordination across ocean-related processes through the 2026–30 workplan (Box 3).

Progress against the five *Transformations* agenda pillars

Below, Ocean Panel member progress is measured for each pillar against 37 of the 74 priority actions towards the 2030 outcomes.

Ocean Panel members agreed to assess progress against an increased number of priority actions (37) (see the appendix for the methodology).[6] The priority actions focused on within each 2030 outcome vary by country according to each member's national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

BOX 3

Championing international agreements through member leadership

Mexico is championing the Ocean Panel's work on international agreements under the 2026–30 workplan. This work responds to the growing number of agreements shaping ocean governance, including the Agreement Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, the Port State Measures Agreement, the global plastics treaty process, biodiversity frameworks and regional fisheries management arrangements.

Recognising that ratification is only the first step, Mexico is developing a structured and replicable methodology to help countries move from international commitment to domestic implementation. Beginning with the BBNJ Agreement, the approach focuses on identifying common legal, institutional and capacity needs; supporting peer learning; and sharing practical national experiences that can be adapted to other ocean-related agreements over time.

The work aims to help members identify shared implementation challenges, exchange practical approaches and explore areas where informal coordination or regional collaboration may be useful, particularly among countries that share marine ecosystems, ocean regions or similar implementation needs.

Through peer exchanges, practical discussions and engagement with relevant partners, Mexico aims to support more coordinated implementation of international ocean agreements while helping members improve coherence across global commitments, Sustainable Ocean Plans and national ocean strategies.

Ocean wealth

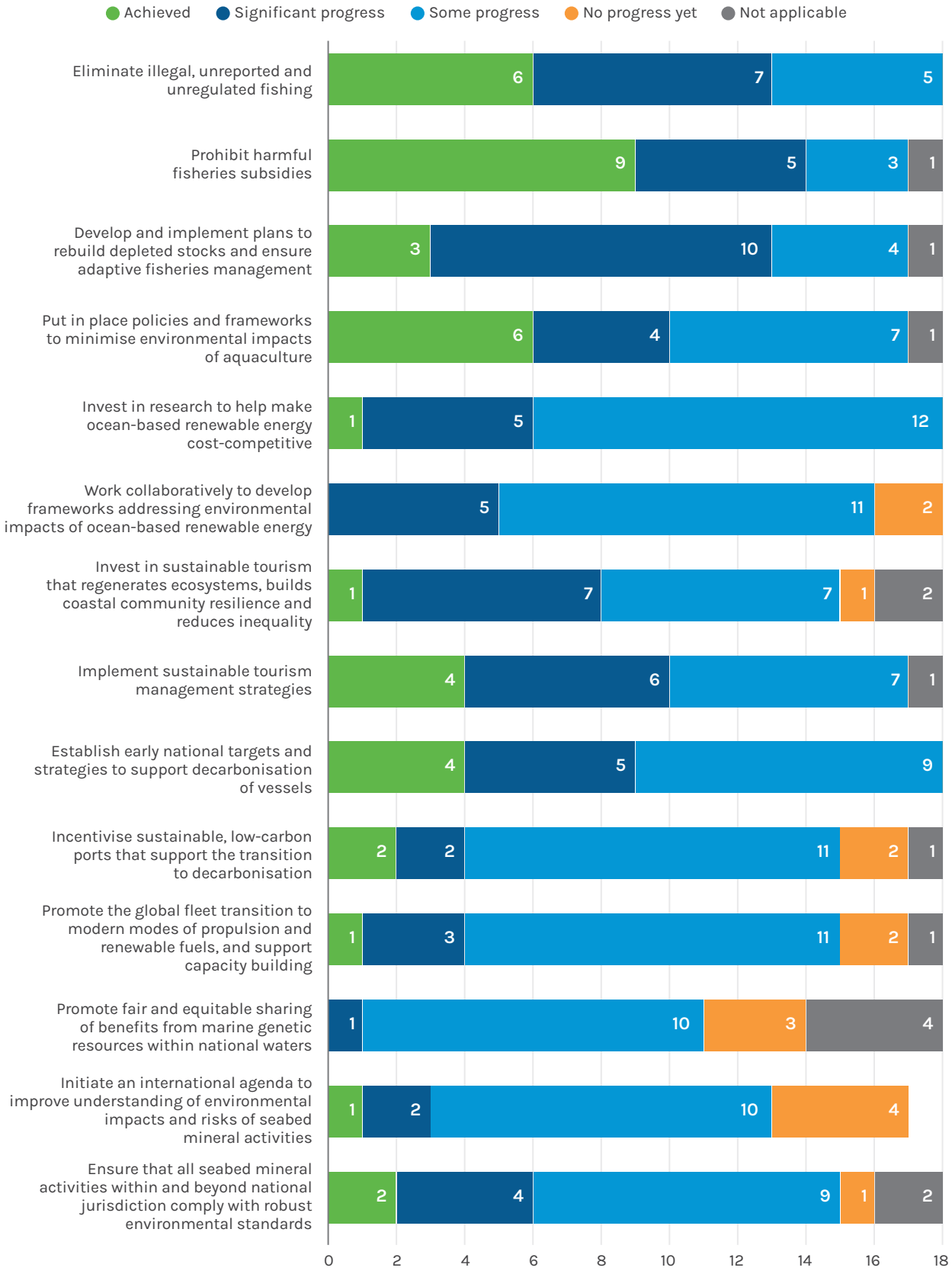
Undergo a transformative shift towards a sustainable and regenerative ocean economy, where ocean-based industries flourish while the ocean's ability to provide for present and future generations is safeguarded.

Ocean Panel members have progressed to varying degrees across the assessed priority actions for the ocean wealth pillar (Figure 9). **All** members have reported progress (either "some progress," "significant progress" or "achieved") in establishing early national targets or strategies for the decarbonisation transition and in investing in research to make ocean-based renewable energy cost competitive. Similarly, **all** members have made some progress in eliminating IUU fishing. **Seventeen** members reported at least some progress on prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies, with **nine** members having achieved this. **Six** members have put policies and frameworks in place to minimise the environmental impacts of aquaculture, **four** have implemented sustainable tourism management strategies and **four** have created early national strategies to decarbonise vessels. Progress on fair benefit-sharing for marine genetic resources is limited.

Ocean wealth is a key pillar, with all Ocean Panel members actively making progress against its goals. Below are some examples of members' efforts:

- **Chile** committed to the implementation of the international Fisheries Transparency Initiative Standard at OOC9 in 2024, continuing its focus on innovation and transparency in fisheries management.
- **Canada** launched the Whalesafe Fishing Gear Strategy 2026–2030 at OOC11 to reduce whale entanglements and support sustainable fisheries.
- The **UK** outlined its proposed second phase of the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions Programme (2026–30) in September 2025, committing £448 million for research and development to accelerate technological advancement for the decarbonisation of the UK maritime sector.
- **Palau** published its Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2025–2028 in June 2025, which includes measures to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to access tools and financing for resilient tourism business.

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



Note: Some priority actions have fewer than 18 respondents due to no data being recorded from some members for either 2024 or 2026.

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

Collaboration among members continues to push the ambition of nations on ocean wealth priorities:

- The **IUU Fishing Action Alliance**, to which **Canada** and the **UK** were initiators, and **Chile**, **France** (on behalf of its overseas territories), **Ghana** and **Norway** are members, continues to work to ensure commitments to combat IUU fishing are translated into meaningful national enforcement actions.
- At the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), **18** of the 19 Ocean Panel members signed the **Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge,** committing to work collaboratively to triple the world's installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts by 2030.

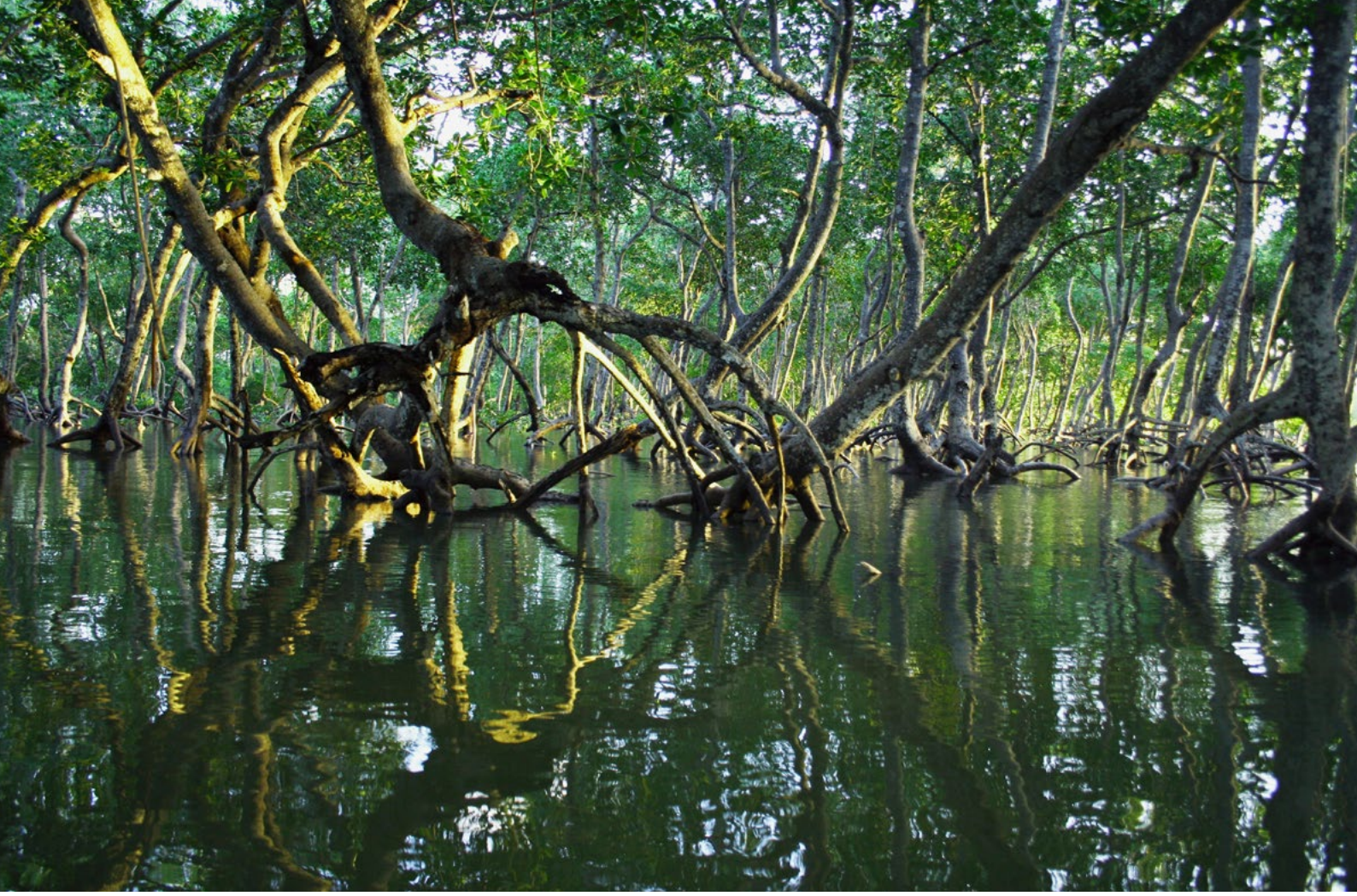
Ocean Panel members also continue to champion new knowledge about ocean wealth priorities to help support government decisions, particularly regarding new ocean industries. In 2025, the Ocean Panel launched the Blue Paper "Principles for Responsible and Effective Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Development and Governance" to inform evidence-based decision-making on marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) (Box 4). This paper, launched at the 2025 One Ocean Science Congress, provides crucial knowledge about the current status of and suggested government action on mCDR technologies as countries look to these approaches to potentially complement deep emissions reductions to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

BOX 4 Principles for Responsive and Effective Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Development and Governance

This Blue Paper provides a summary of the state of knowledge and technical readiness of proposed marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) approaches, an overview of relevant governance frameworks and recommendations for what governments can do to develop mCDR responsibly. It discusses these mCDR approaches:

- Ocean alkalinity enhancement, including ocean liming, silicate and carbonate rocks and electrochemical methods.
- Direct ocean carbon capture, including electrolysis and electrodialysis
- Restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass meadows
- Phytoplankton growth, including iron fertilisation and nutrient (nitrogen, phosphorus) fertilisation
- Macroalgal growth, including seaweed farming and deposition into the deep sea, and sargassum deposition into the deep sea
- Artificial downwelling, including pumps, pipes and downwelling turbines

Recommendations for governments include ensuring rigorous standards for publicly funded trials; updating national permitting systems; establishing clear, science-based regulatory pathways; and designing a fit-for-purpose governance framework to ensure mCDR activities are safe, equitable and environmentally sound.



Ocean health

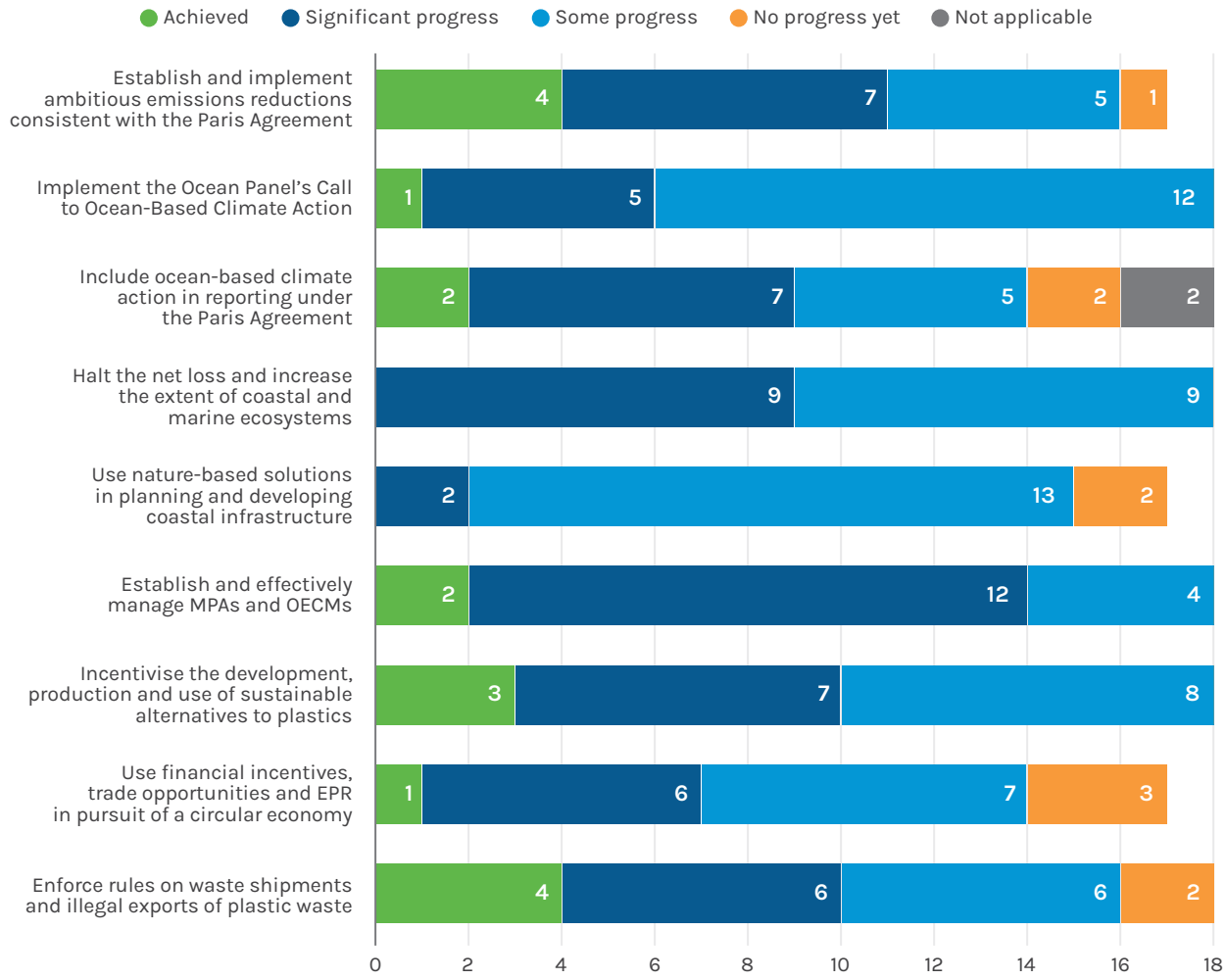
Establish a healthy and resilient ocean — which mitigates climate change impacts and preserves planetary well-being — by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preventing biodiversity loss, restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, curtailing pollution and adopting a precautionary approach to economic activities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

Ocean Panel members show progress across all ocean health priority actions (Figure 10). **All** members have made at least some progress in implementing the Ocean Panel's "Call to Ocean-Based Climate Action" by scaling up investments in ocean-based climate solutions; halting the net loss and increasing the extent of coastal and marine ecosystems; incentivising the development, production and use of sustainable alternatives to plastics; and establishing and effectively managing MPAs and OECMs. **Four** members have reported establishing and implementing ambitious emissions reductions consistent with the Paris Agreement and in enforcing international rules on waste shipments and illegal exports of plastic waste.

Ocean Panel members are actively implementing actions on ocean health domestically:

- **Jamaica's** ongoing blue carbon restoration activities in Southern Claredon aim to restore 1,600 hectares of degraded mangrove ecosystem, with the target of the first 800 hectares by 2026.
- **Brazil** published its National Strategy for a Plastic Free Ocean in 2025. This framework promotes coordinated stakeholder action for the prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic pollution in the marine environment by 2030.
- **Namibia**, working with the Namibian Nature Foundation and the Blue Marine Foundation in 2025, held strategic government workshops and then produced a road map for achieving the national commitment of 10 percent of the country's EEZ being protected by MPAs by 2030.
- The **UAE** announced its commitment to planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030 at OOC9 in 2024, showcasing its focus on leveraging nature-based solutions to address environmental challenges.

Figure 10. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean health priority actions



Notes: Some priority actions have fewer than 18 respondents due to no data being recorded from some members for either 2024 or 2026. EPR = extended producer responsibility; MPA = marine protected area; OECM = other effective area-based conservation measure.

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

Ocean Panel members continue to show collective action outside of the panel itself towards ocean health priorities:

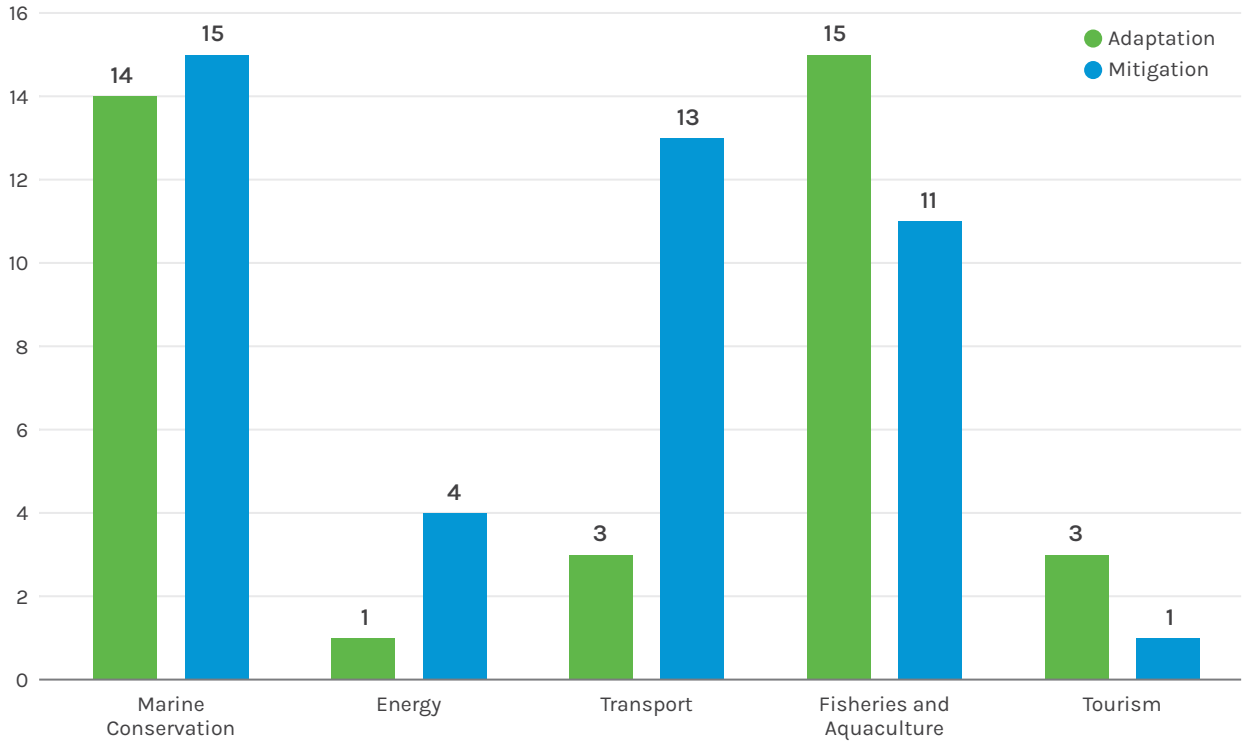
- The **Americas for the Protection of the Ocean Declaration**, co-led by **Canada** and **Chile**, along with seven other countries, including **Mexico**, agreed to establish a network of ecologically interconnected MPAs along the Pacific coast of the Americas in 2022.
- **Fifteen** Ocean Panel countries are members of the **High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution**, with **Norway** one of the co-leads. This coalition, launched in 2022, is committed to developing the Plastics Treaty — an ambitious, legally binding instrument for urgent actions and effective interventions along the full life cycle of plastics, with the aim to end plastic pollution by 2040.
- The **Blue NDC Challenge**, co-led by **Brazil** and **France**, currently consists of 17 members, **11** of which are Ocean Panel members. This coalition of like-minded states is calling for all ocean and coastal nations that are party to the Paris Agreement to include ocean-based climate solutions in their NDCs (Box 5). At COP30, it was announced that this challenge is transforming into the **Blue NDC Taskforce** for the implementation of said ocean-based NDCs.
- At New York Climate Week in 2024, **Chile** announced the **BBNJ First Movers Initiative**, supported by the United States and **Canada** to fast-track the establishment of the first generation of MPAs in the high seas as part of the BBNJ Treaty.

BOX 5 Ocean Panel "blue NDCs"

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are the primary tool through which countries outline their specific actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

As of July 2026, **17** Ocean Panel members have included at least one ocean-based climate measure or target in their NDCs — 3 more members than assessed in 2024. The most common type of ocean-based climate action recorded was on marine conservation and restoration, closely followed by action on fisheries and aquaculture (Figure B5-1).

Figure B5-1. Ocean Panel NDCs with ocean-based climate action



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.

Ocean Panel members have reported progress on ocean equity priority actions (Figure 11). **All** members that were assessed recorded at least some progress in transparent, responsible business practices. **Sixteen** members reported at least some progress in engagement with women and recognising and respecting the interests of coastal communities and rights of Indigenous Peoples when it comes to ocean activities. Finally, **15** members reported some or significant progress in incorporating Indigenous and local community knowledge in decision-making. Members who selected "not applicable" for some of these priority actions may not separate out protected characteristics, have distinct Indigenous populations or legally recognise their local communities as Indigenous.

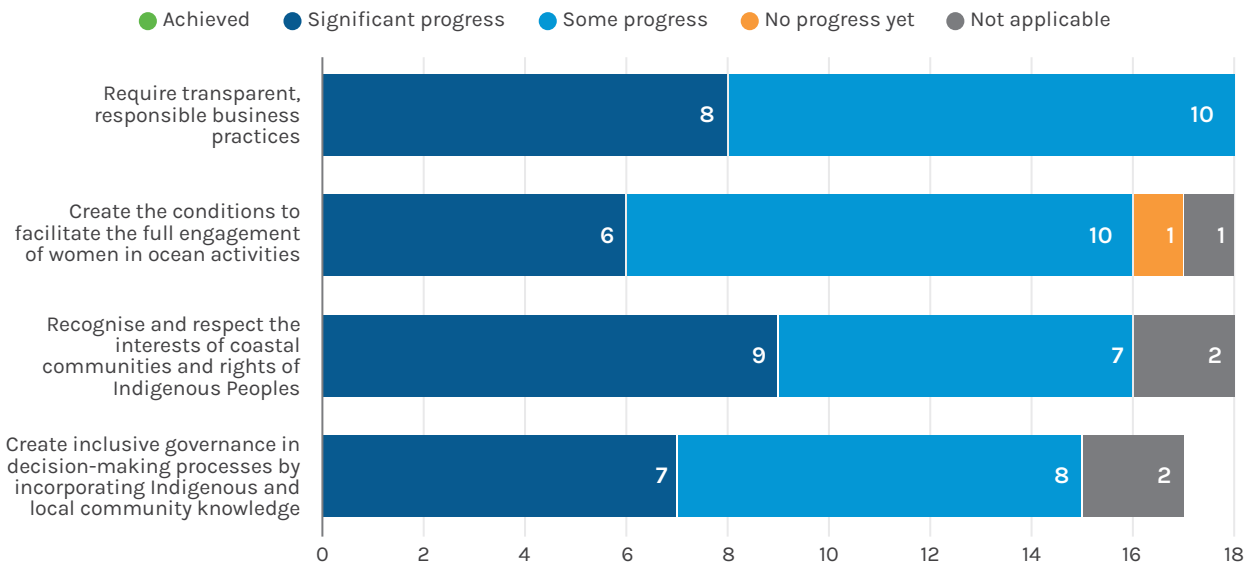
Several Ocean Panel members have made significant strides to ensure their national sustainable ocean economy is developed equitably:

- **Kenya** published its National Gender Policy in 2024 which targets women's access to credit and training to support a gender-responsive blue economy.
- **Fiji's** Lau Seascape initiative is a long-term community-driven project running from 2018 until 2030, endorsed by the Bose Vanua o Lau (a traditional governance structure), that seeks to establish enduring marine and agricultural value chains that enhance employment opportunities and income levels while fostering self-determination among Indigenous communities.
- **Mexico** announced a further three fishery refuge zones as part of the already existing network in the Boca del Álamo–Punta Pescadero corridor in 2026. This was upon the request of local fishing cooperatives and will work with community support to help restore commercially important fish stocks.

Collective action across Ocean Panel members has also continued to promote equity for the sustainable ocean economy:

- **Portugal** and the **UAE**, as co-champions of the ocean equity (2026–30) priority action, have developed an **ocean equity–specific workplan** (see Box 6) for how to work collectively as the Ocean Panel on promoting an equitable, sustainable ocean economy.
- **Australia, Seychelles** and the **UK** are all signatories to the **Women Ocean Guardians** initiative which aims to elevate women on the front lines to meaningfully participate in decision-making and to transform ocean governance for a sustainable, resilient ocean economy.

Figure 11. Ocean Panel member progress towards ocean equity priority actions



Note: Specific priority actions have fewer than 18 respondents due to no data being recorded from some members for either 2024 or 2026.

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

BOX 6 Embedding ocean equity in sustainable ocean governance

Portugal and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** are co-championing ocean equity under the Ocean Panel's 2026–30 workplan, supporting efforts to place people more clearly at the centre of sustainable ocean governance and the ocean economy. Their work responds to the need for ocean policies, Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) and marine spatial planning processes to better reflect those who depend on the ocean and how and what they stand to gain or lose from ocean-related decisions. This includes Indigenous Peoples, local communities, small-scale fishers, women, youth, differently abled people and future generations.

As co-champions, Portugal and the UAE are developing an ocean equity Policy Brief to provide practical guidance for Ocean Panel members. The brief will explore how equity can be embedded through participatory decision-making, fair access and benefit-sharing and the recognition of traditional and local knowledge alongside scientific evidence.

The co-champions are also exploring the use of decision-support tools, including the Ocean Dependence Framework, to help make the human dimensions of ocean governance more visible to policymakers. The initiative aims to provide actionable and replicable recommendations for embedding equity into SOPs and wider ocean governance processes.

Ocean knowledge

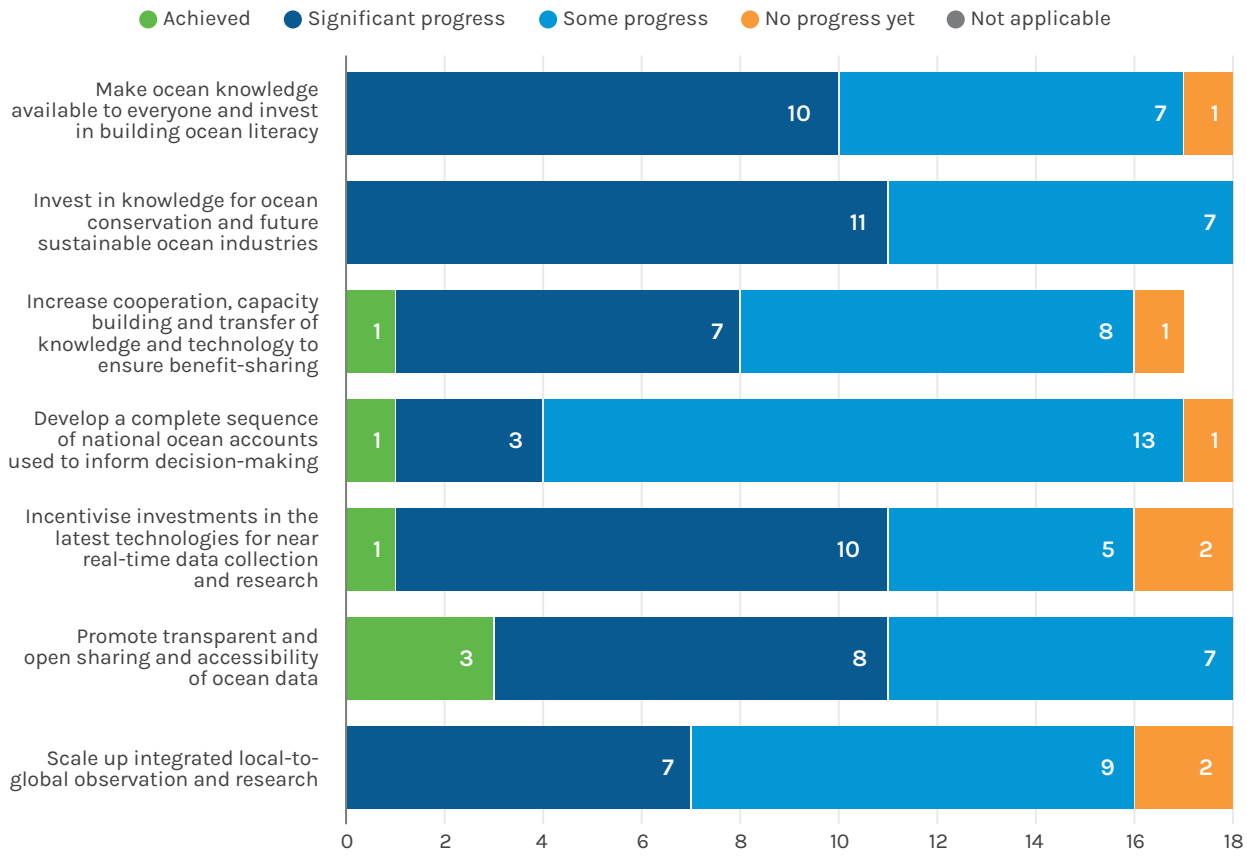
Enhance global ocean literacy; value natural ocean capital; and leverage ocean science, data and technology to foster a comprehensive understanding of the ocean's vital role and vulnerabilities, informing sustainable decision-making across all sectors of the ocean economy.

Ocean Panel members are making progress across the ocean knowledge priority actions (Figure 12). **All** members recorded progress in investing in knowledge for conservation and sustainable ocean industries and for promoting transparent and open data-sharing and accessibility. **Three** members reported that they had "achieved" the promotion of data-sharing. **Seventeen** members reported at least some progress in developing national ocean accounts as well as with investing in building ocean literacy to make ocean knowledge available to everyone. **Sixteen** members recorded at least some progress in incentivising investment in technologies for data collection and research. Finally, for both ensuring benefit-sharing through knowledge transfer, capacity-building and cooperation and scaling up local-to-global observation, **15** members reported some or a significant level of progress.

Ocean Panel members continue to showcase their ambitious work to enhance ocean science, knowledge and literacy within their nations:

- **Indonesia** launched its national Ocean Accounts dashboard at the Fifth Global Dialogue on Sustainable Ocean Development in 2024. This is an interactive, publicly available platform containing all data related to these accounts.

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



Note: Specific priority actions have fewer than 18 respondents due to no data being recorded from some members for either 2024 or 2026.

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

- **Portugal** launched its SEAMInd 5.0 platform in June 2026, a crucial technological tool for monitoring indicators to understand and evaluate socioeconomic and environmental dimensions relevant to the sustainable ocean economy.
- **Kenya** has operationalised its Maritime Training Institutes to educate and build a skilled national workforce for the sustainable ocean economy.
- **France** announced Mission Neptune at UNOC3 in 2025 — a global platform to support large-scale ocean expeditions; bolster a new generation of researchers; and bring together scientists, policymakers and the public to share knowledge for collective action.

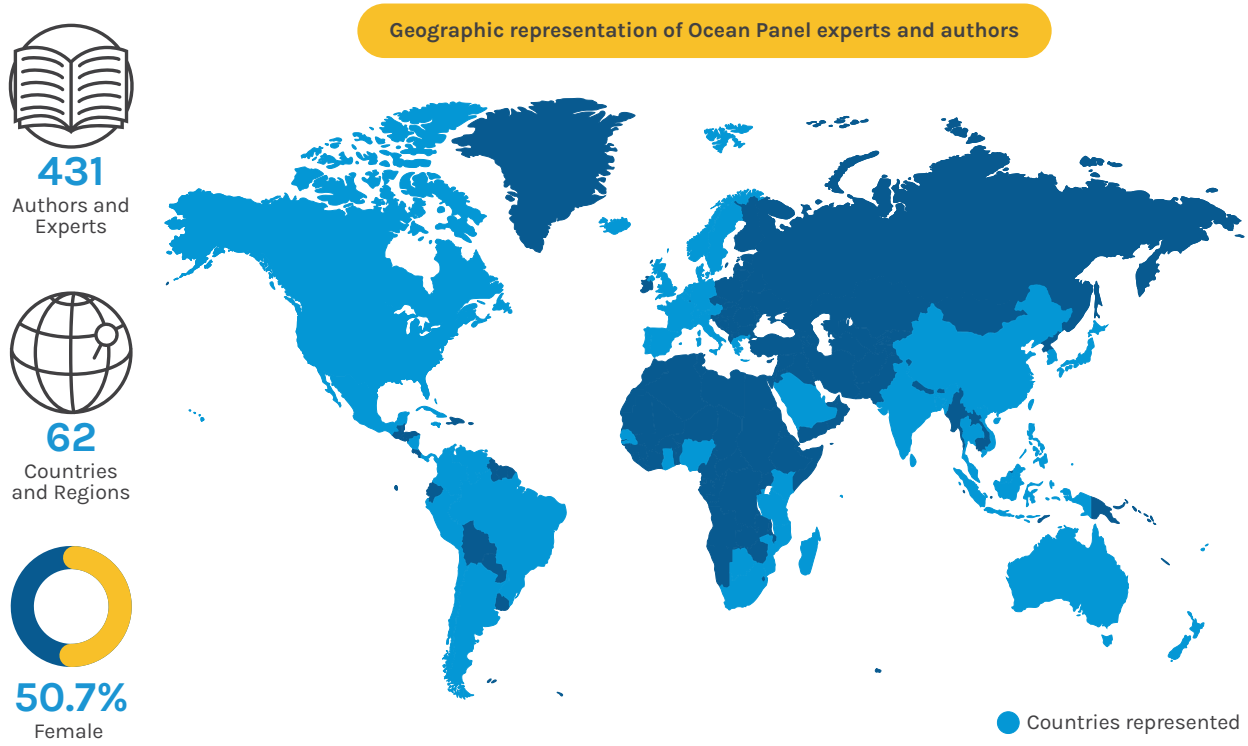
Ocean Panel members have also championed collective action globally to enhance ocean knowledge by sharing expertise, promoting transparent data practices and building global ocean literacy:

- In September 2025, Ocean Panel members issued a statement entitled "The Ocean Panel: Scaling Up Ocean Observation." This calls for ocean exploration and the importance of observation networks to be reinforced and expanded. It also communicates support for increased investment in the Global Ocean Observing System and better public and private ocean data accessibility.
- The **International Alliance for the Global Ocean Observing System**, co-hosted by the European Union (including **France** and **Portugal**) and **Canada**, signed by **Norway** and supported by the Ocean Panel Secretariat, calls for support towards ocean observation. This includes through pledges and commitments, including the European Union's OceanEye initiative, which is aimed at improving our understanding and management of the ocean and marine activities.
- **Eleven** Ocean Panel members have signed the **Pledge to Advance Ocean Accounts by 2030** in which signatories commit to considering ocean accounts data in decision-making processes, supporting efforts to enhance capacity and knowledge-sharing to improve global capabilities and advancing ocean accounts by 2030 in alignment with national priorities.

The Ocean Panel's knowledge base, a crucial foundation of academic expertise for its members, has also expanded since 2024. The number of peer-reviewed knowledge products now totals 30, with 20 Blue Papers, 6 Special Reports, 3 handbooks and 1 working paper. In 2025, 4 products were published covering the topics of sustainable ocean planning, ocean finance, the blue workforce and mCDR governance. This knowledge base was contributed to by many of the Ocean Panel Expert Group. This group consists of 431 experts, operating across 62 countries, representing voices across the Global South and North, and of whom 50.7 percent are female (see Figure 13).

This group is spearheaded by the three lead experts: Dr. Jacqueline Uku (Principal Research Scientist, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute), Professor Matt Frost (Head of the International Office, Plymouth University) and Dr. Judith Kildow (Director Emeritus of the National Ocean Economics Program). Together, they have initiated a new annual horizon scan to provide Ocean Panel members with insights on upcoming global policy priorities using the expertise of the Expert Group.

Figure 13. Ocean Panel data on Blue Papers and Special Reports



Source: Authors and Sam Baum (designer).

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.

The Ocean Panel has made progress towards mobilising investment and sustainable finance for the ocean economy (Figure 14). **Sixteen** members have reported at least some progress in directing public sector financing into the sustainable ocean economy, and **one** has reported achieving this feat. **Ten** members are progressing in supporting the use of principles and voluntary mechanisms for sustainable finance, but only **seven** have de-risked investments by building blended finance capacity.

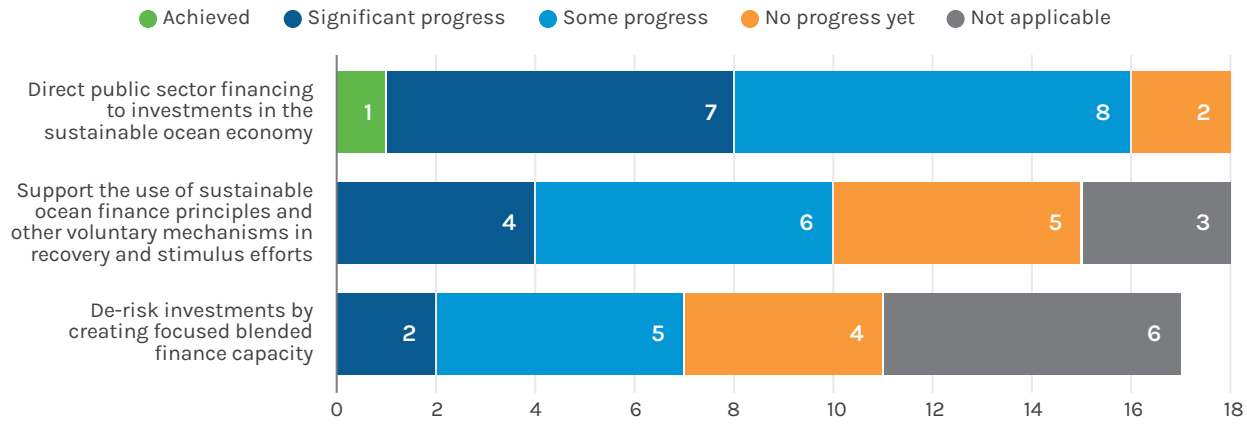
Ocean Panel members are working to scale and improve accessibility to finance for the sustainable ocean economy:

- **Japan** is currently providing grant aid of over ¥4 billion to five South Pacific countries to supply fishery survey and surveillance vessels. These vessels help monitor the abundance and distribution of fishery resources to promote sustainable fisheries.
- **Seychelles** issued the first-ever blue bond in 2018, pioneering the innovative financial instrument. The blue bond, totalling US$15 million, supports sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.
- **Australia** announced an additional AU$3.91 million towards the Pacific Maritime Boundary Project at OOC11. This will go towards assisting Pacific island countries to secure maritime judicial rights consistent with international law.
- **Norway** committed US$10.2 million at OOC10 in 2025 to support sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Ghana** has so far mobilised US$155 million through the West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project and used this to advance key policy reform, including its SOP, advance knowledge systems and investing in conservation and restoration initiatives.

Unlocking and scaling finance takes collaboration, and Ocean Panel members have been leading in shared efforts to prioritise and promote this:

- At **OOC11, hosted by Kenya**, **11 Ocean Panel members** pledged in total US$4 billion, making up over **53 percent** of the total US$7.5 billion committed.
- Ocean Panel members have provided **42 percent** of the official development assistance (ODA) going towards the sustainable ocean economy for 2023–24, with the majority going to marine transport, marine protection and sustainable fisheries (Box 7).

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



Note: Specific priority actions have fewer than 18 respondents due to no data being recorded from some members for either 2024 or 2026.

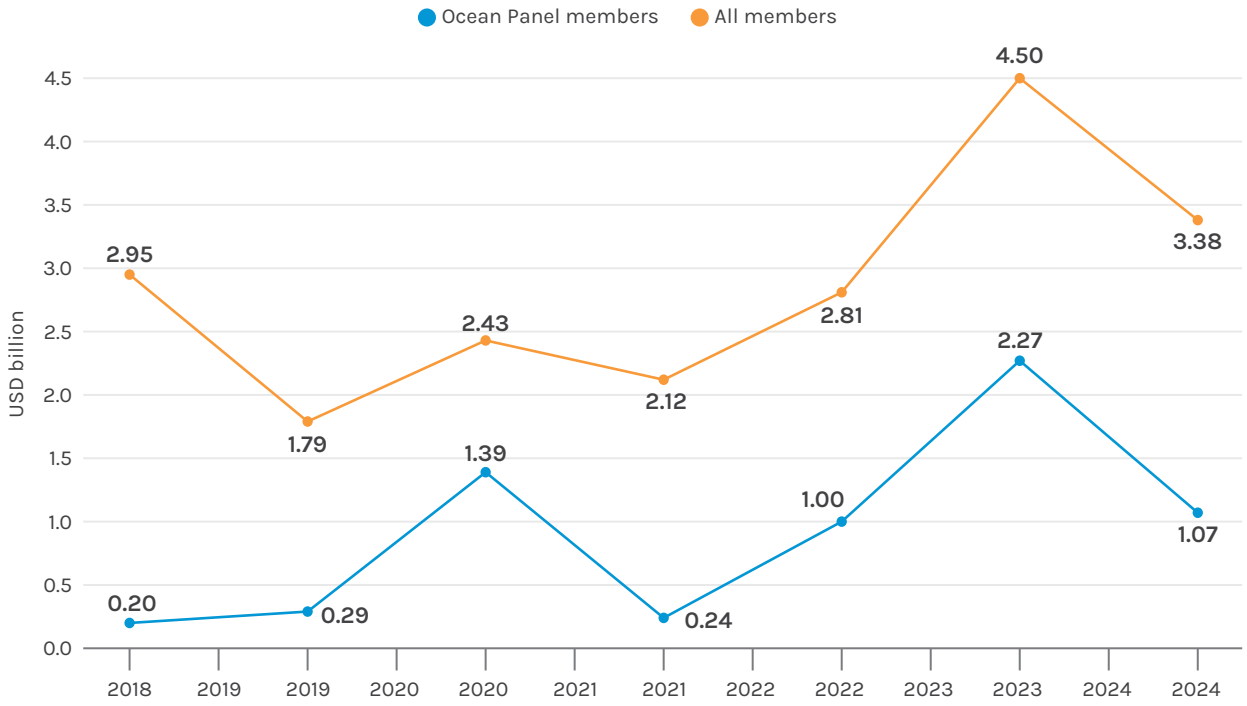
Source: Responses are from a self-assessment survey completed by Ocean Panel members.

BOX 7 Ocean Panel members' ocean-related ODA

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, through its Sustainable Ocean for All initiative, has been comprehensively tracking official development assistance (ODA) funding directed towards activities for the ocean economy.

On average, ODA for the sustainable ocean economy has been increasing since 2018 and peaked at US$4.5 billion in 2023 (Figure B7-1). The Ocean Panel members who provided ODA made up 42 percent of the 2023–24 sustainable ocean economy ODA committed, increasing significantly from 25 percent for 2021–22[a]. The ODA for 2023–24 focused predominantly on three sectors: **maritime transport** (US$657 million), **marine protection** (US$421 million) and **fisheries** (US$252 million). The percentage share of the Ocean Panel members' ODA for the ocean economy targeted at sustainability from 2023–24 was 60 percent for maritime transport, 100 percent for marine protection and 95 percent for fisheries.

Figure B7-1. Trend in sustainable ocean ODA committed by Ocean Panel members compared with all sustainable ocean ODA (2018–2024; US$, billions)



Notes: The Ocean Panel members included for each year reflect the member status at that point in time. As such, the sustainable ODA values for Australia, Japan, Norway and Portugal are included throughout; Canada is included from 2019; France, the United Kingdom and the United States are included from 2022; and the United Arab Emirates is only included in 2024. ODA = official development assistance.

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2024. "Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy." Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative. https://oecd-main.shinyapps.io/ocean/.

The 11 Ocean Panel members that are recipients of ODA received 12 percent of the sustainable ODA committed in 2023–24. This, however, may not be a complete representation of the ODA received by these countries because it only includes ODA provided directly to the country in question — not ODA that is provided to regional funds or unspecified. Of this ODA, the major sectors targeted are marine protection, marine transportation and fisheries.

Note: [a]For each of the ranges, 2023-2024 and 2021-2022, the sustainable ODA value was calculated as an average of the two years.

Ocean action priorities: Examples of leadership

The Ocean Panel has recognised the need for a holistic approach to 100% sustainable ocean management. To address this, the Ocean Panel published the 2026–30 workplan to drive action on 100% sustainable ocean management as well as six other priority areas: global ocean observations, ocean-climate nexus, blue foods, ocean equity, ocean finance and the implementation and ratification of international agreements. To further ambition in these areas, Ocean Panel members have agreed to develop collective annual plans organised around leadership moments, championing and demonstrating action and enhancing knowledge and strategic communication. This includes activating leaders and ministers at key international moments; advancing action through dedicated champions; and actioning joint learning, tool development and strategic engagement and outreach to amplify key messages and progress.

Over the last few years, the Ocean Panel has advanced action and shown leadership across all priority areas. However, Ocean Panel members selected three stand out areas as particularly prominent across the ocean community and international stage: the ocean-climate nexus, ocean equity and ocean finance. The following examples showcase how Ocean Panel members are leading by example across these, providing the crucial steps to achieve an ocean economy that is more resilient and sustainable for people and the planet.

Building the bridge between ocean and climate action

The ocean is a natural buffer against the greenhouse gas emissions that have been increasing since the industrial revolution. Yet extreme heat waves, increased sea surface temperatures and growing acidification of waters are rapidly damaging ocean health. Urgent action is needed to combat these threats. The ocean is not, however, just a victim of climate change — it is also a solution. In 2023, the Ocean Panel–commissioned report *The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Updated Opportunity for Action* highlighted the potential for ready-to-implement ocean-based climate solutions to close the emissions gap by 35 percent on a 1.5°C pathway by 2050. With increasing recognition of the ocean's role in climate policy, and more countries than ever submitting ocean-based climate solutions to their NDCs, the ocean has a real opportunity to feature prominently in climate action.

Below are examples of Ocean Panel members leading initiatives on the ocean-climate nexus:

- At UNFCCC COP30, **Brazil** and **France** — co-leads of the Blue NDC Challenge — announced the initiative's transition to the **Blue NDC Taskforce**. The group of now 17 countries will work together to move from mobilisation to action, working to close the opportunity gap by integrating ocean action into NDCs; mobilising finance; and facilitating technical assistance, knowledge exchange and peer learning.
- In 2025, **Norway** committed 1 billion kroner over the next five years to **Arctic Ocean 2050** — a Norwegian joint interdisciplinary research programme to facilitate the development and implementation of management principles in the Arctic following the impacts of climate change.
- **Portugal** initiated the development of its first **National Action Plan to Combat Ocean Acidification (PACAO)** in 2025, with the draft plan released for public consultation in early 2026. PACAO establishes six strategic objectives covering carbon dioxide emissions reduction,

pollution control, ocean monitoring, ecosystem protection, raising awareness and governance. As the first dedicated national instrument on ocean acidification, PACAO integrates climate and ocean policies, aligning with SDG 14.3, OSPAR commitments and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

- **Japan** commenced a series of **marine surveys** in 2025 to formulate methodologies and acquire scientific knowledge regarding the absorption and sequestration of carbon dioxide emissions through blue carbon as part of its aim to achieve net zero by 2050. The aim is to follow this with support targeted at social implementation by private companies and others as well as launching a platform for public-private partnerships.
- **Kenya** continues to embed the ocean within its climate response through mangrove restoration under the **15 Billion Tree Initiative**. This initiative seeks to restore 10.6 million hectares of degraded landscape, including wetlands and marine ecosystems, by 2032.
- **Mexico** is working to reduce emissions from the National Port System and strengthen the sustainability of port cities through its **Port Decarbonisation Strategy** which was launched in 2024. The strategy establishes a road map for developing emissions inventories, process digitalisation, adopting energy efficiency measures, developing sustainable infrastructure, reforestation programmes and other initiatives to strengthen the port-city relationship.
- **Jamaica** has shared its ambition to build climate-resilient coastal settlements and restore ecosystems to reduce the vulnerability of communities and ecosystem services in its **2050 Long-Term Emission Reduction and Climate-Resilient Strategy**.
- The **UK**, with partners, has developed the **Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon**. Launched in 2022, this global platform aims to unite the ocean community to share, obtain and identify data, knowledge and science to scale up sustainable blue carbon projects and reporting against national climate goals.
- **Seychelles** is working alongside UN Development Programme to develop climate resilience at both regional and local levels through the implementation of **coral reef restoration efforts with thermal tolerant corals** as adaptation to climate change.
- The **UAE** announced its **National Carbon Sequestration Project** in 2024, which includes the commitment to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030. This highlights the country's continued focus on leveraging ocean solutions to address climate change challenges as part of its goal to achieve net zero by 2050.

Creating a sustainable ocean economy equitable for all

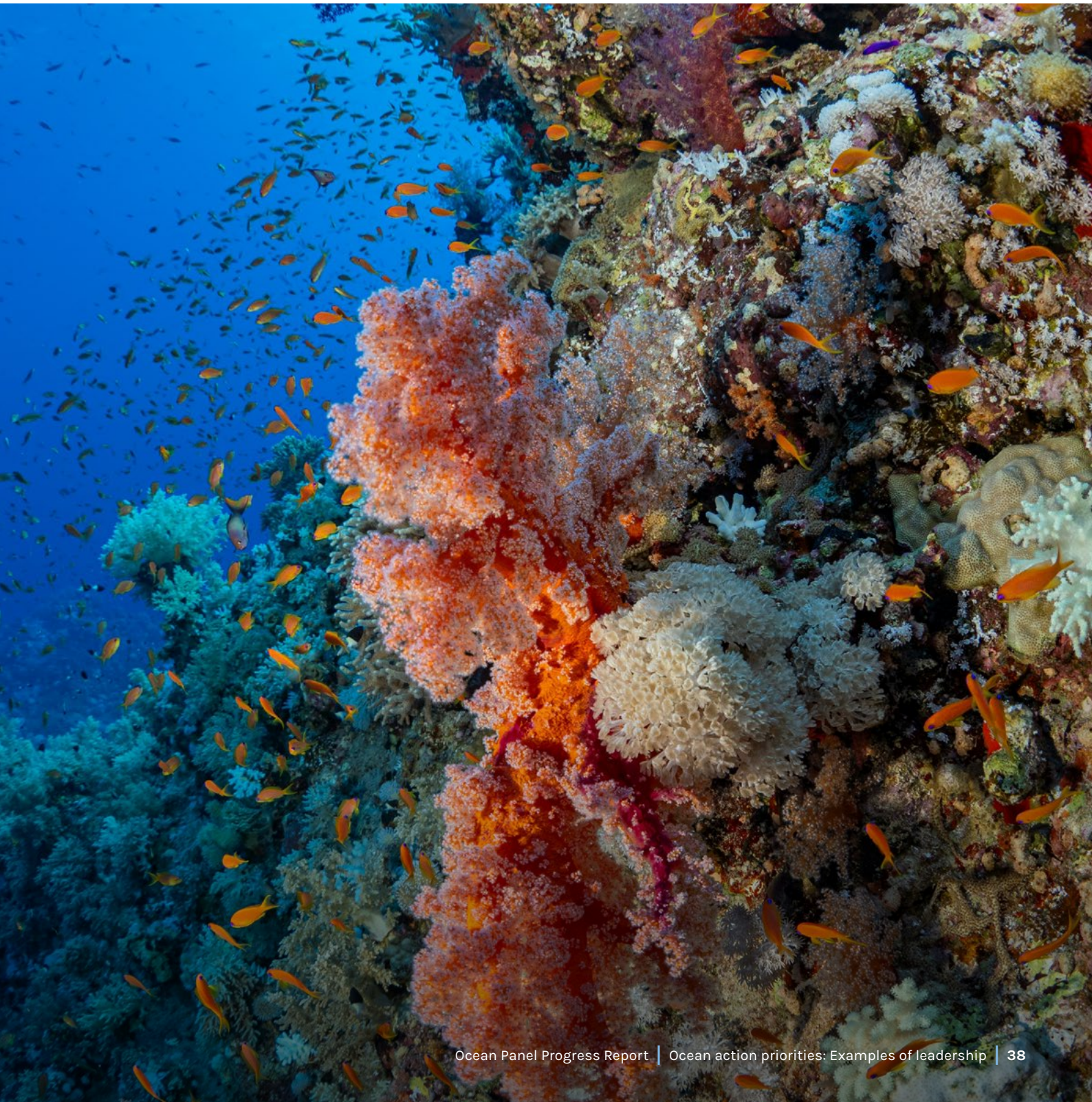
To achieve a sustainable ocean economy, equity must be seen as foundational to the sustainable development of the ocean. Existing inequities — for example, the unequal distribution of ocean benefits and the lack of representation in decision-making of marginalised or minority groups such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women — must be addressed. In 2024, the Ocean Panel published the Blue Paper "Co-producing Sustainable Ocean Plans with Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge Holders." It highlights the importance of recognising the rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, establishing equitable partnerships, respecting knowledge plurality and tailoring SOPs to local contexts from the outset. Equity in ocean policy development and decision-making has been prominent on the world stage for several years. However, it is now more vital than ever for equity to be at the forefront of all international negotiations given that those most impacted by inequalities will be the first affected by geopolitical tensions.

Ocean Panel members have been leading by example to ensure equity is a prerequisite in building a sustainable ocean economy:

- **Australia** has set up the **Sentinels of Sea Country,** a First Nations-led approach that combines ranger knowledge with emerging technology, such as artificial intelligence, to support safer, faster and more consistent monitoring of ghost nets and marine debris. This project won the Diversity and Inclusion in Data Award at the 2026 Australian Public Service Data Awards.
- **Canada** brought into force the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act** in 2021, working with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to develop action plans to strengthen their participation across fisheries, marine conservation and aquatic stewardship. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is enhancing partnerships grounded in recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and collaboration, including in fisheries management, marine habitat protection and at-risk species conservation.
- **Fiji** has partnered with the International Labour Organization and is actively working on improving **labour inspection systems and ensuring adherence to labour laws within the fishing industries**. Furthermore, the monitoring initiatives encompass the *Trafficking in Persons Report: Fiji* (2022 and 2024) aimed at addressing human trafficking and exploitation.
- **Ghana** has implemented a **community-led marine conservation and eco-tourism programme** protecting endangered sea turtles along Ghana's Western Region coastline. This initiative empowers the local coastal communities because it combines biodiversity protection with sustainable livelihood creation that is coordinated with traditional authorities and local governance structures to ensure legitimacy and community ownership. The eco-tourism revenue generated is reinvested into local development projects, including water, sanitation and community infrastructure.
- **Indonesia** is improving the welfare, productivity and economic independence of its fishing communities through its **Kampung Nelayan Merah Putih initiative**. This programme provides integrated infrastructure and capacity support across the fisheries value chain, including fish markets, cold storage, ice plants, training centres and boat repair workshops. The first phase began in 2025, targeting 65 coastal village locations with a budget of around 1.34 trillion rupiah.
- **Kenya** successfully transformed **150 Beach Management Units into registered cooperatives**, strengthening local enterprise formation, accountability and the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the fisheries value chain. This has successfully linked governance reform with enterprise development, local ownership and inclusive economic participation.
- **Mexico** is introducing compulsory social impact assessments; strengthening prior, free and informed consent processes; and **creating joint monitoring with Indigenous authorities to ensure a just energy transition** as solar and wind power are scaled. These measures aim to improve benefit-sharing, clarify participation rights and align large-scale renewable development with environmental justice, community voice and more inclusive local economic opportunities.

- **Portugal's Escola Azul** is an educational programme with a mission to promote ocean literacy across schools through interdisciplinary projects that connect scientific knowledge with local realities and global challenges, driving behavioural change and raising awareness for ocean preservation and protection. This model is recognised by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and, due to its replicability, serves as a model for similar initiatives worldwide, including in Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste.

- In 2026, **Chile** announced the full protection of the **Juan Fernández Archipelago** and the **Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park** after local residents submitted a proposal for expanding conservation areas around these archipelagos. The local community has successfully managed the local lobster fishery sustainably since 1890, and it will be working collectively with the government to ensure the success of this expansion.



Scaling accessible, sustainable ocean finance

The ocean is the world's largest natural asset. It is the foundation for multiple industries, responsible for the livelihoods and nutrition of more than 3 billion people, and it is home to an incredible diversity of life. If the sustainable ocean economy is to be developed, it must be financed. Finance must be redirected away from harmful practices and simultaneously funnelled into sustainable activities. It must ensure the conservation and restoration of the ocean and also flow towards sustainable ocean sectors. In 2025, the Ocean Panel published the working paper "Ocean Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy" to provide a high-level overview of existing financial mechanisms and provide overarching recommendations for governments on how to unlock and scale finance for the ocean. It is now crucial that governments work collaboratively with all financial institutions, private industry and local communities implementing sustainable practices on the ground to showcase the investment opportunity of the ocean and provide the necessary policy and regulatory framework to redirect finance to sustainable practices.

The Ocean Panel is already leading on the international stage to create the effective enabling environment for unlocking and scaling ocean finance:

- **Kenya's Mikoko Pamoja Project** is the world's first community-led mangrove carbon credit project. The project uses mangrove conservation and restoration in Gazi Bay to generate carbon credits through a payment for ecosystem services agreement that is then re-invested into the community. The funds have been used to hire a project manager and guards to prevent illegal deforestation as well as community projects such as purchasing books and installing clean water pumps in schools.
- **Indonesia** launched the Indonesian **Coral Reef Bond** at UNOC3 in 2025 — an outcome-based blue finance instrument to support coral reef conservation and improve the management of selected MPAs. The initiative targets three MPAs covering 1.9 million hectares of coral reef ecosystems.
- The **UK's ODA programmes** have to date provided technical assistance to 26 countries, helped sustainably manage 420,000 hectares of the ocean, avoided 4.5 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and produced over £500 million in additional finance for the ocean.
- **Australia** is working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on the **Insurance for Seafood** project, which aims to evaluate how insurance mechanisms could distribute risk more equitably across fishing communities. The initiative has four key objectives: assessing whether insurance can support adaptation, comparing outcomes with and without insurance coverage, estimating probable maximum losses for insurers and quantifying how premiums would affect net revenues under different harvest scenarios.
- **Namibia** published its **Blue Economy Policy (2022–2031)** in 2022. This includes a strategic objective to grow and expand the ocean economy by promoting investments in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture as well as renewable energies; it also explores a carbon market approach, particularly for blue carbon trade and blue bonds.
- In 2024, the governments of **Canada** and British Columbia, 17 First Nations, philanthropic partners and Coast Funds signed the **Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence Agreement**. This initiative mobilises US$335 million to implement the Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area Network, with a potential contribution of 0.3 percent towards Canada's marine conservation targets. It also expands the coastal conservation economy by creating more than 3,000 jobs and 200 businesses and generating a targeted US$742 million over 20 years.
- **Fiji** launched the **Blue Economy and Green Community Development Programme** in 2025. This initiative leverages co-financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility to enhance livelihoods and climate resilience through investments that are closely tied to ecosystems and improve market access and biodiversity protection.

- **Island States Ocean Summit** was held in **Japan** in June 2026, organised by The Nippon Foundation and co-hosted by the IOC-UNESCO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The event featured discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans including financing and investment, as well as challenges facing island nations, such as sea-level rise caused by climate change.
- **Portugal** has launched two complementary blue economy–focused financing instruments that combine public and private capital across different stages of enterprise development: **Portugal Blue** and the **Indico Blue Fund**. Portugal Blue targets over €75 million for blue economy enterprises, and the Indico Blue Fund is a €50 million private fund dedicated to start-ups and SMEs. Some examples of companies invested in include a regenerative bivalve aquaculture company and a floating offshore wind developer.
- **Seychelles** was the first country to undertake a **debt-for-nature swap**, converting US$21.6 million in debt for conservation and fisheries management in 2017. Since then, the independent Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust fund, which was set up to manage the funds from this conversion and other sources, has distributed US$5.3 million in small grants to 96 local projects focusing on MPAs, fishery closures, aquaculture and community-based climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

Appendices

Methodology

The Ocean Panel Secretariat followed the same methodology stated in the second progress report (published in 2024) to gather critical insights on progress, impact, challenges, lessons learned, achievements and priorities for future collaboration among Ocean Panel members. This was guided by the following principles:

- **Accountability and transparency.** The mechanism must enable progress to be relayed openly over time through regular assessment and evidence-sharing and by transparently recognising successes and challenges.
- **Importance of qualitative nuance.** Quantitative metrics must be paired with qualitative insights to capture the context-specific realities of national interests, capacities, policies and priorities.
- **Alignment with existing reporting processes.** Additional reporting burdens are minimised through coordination and coherence with existing reporting mechanisms (e.g., UNFCCC and Convention on Biological Diversity) to encourage participation and recognise members' efforts, achievements and challenges while incorporating emerging information and methodologies.

The methodology was composed of three self-assessment surveys with its member focal points (Brazil, due to its recent joining of the Ocean Panel, was not included in the assessments):

- **Survey 1:** Assessment of progress towards SOP development
- **Survey 2:** Assessment of progress against the 74 *Transformations* agenda priority action areas, focusing on 37 key priorities (data are accurate as of August 2026)
- **Survey 3:** Voluntary submission of case studies across the following three themes: ocean-climate nexus, ocean equity and ocean finance.

Survey 2 included the original 26 priority actions surveyed in 2024 plus 11 more to increase coverage while also pushing for further ambition towards the sustainable ocean economy. The rating scale used is outlined below. All results for Survey 2 were aggregated to show the Ocean Panel's collective overall progress.

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 are 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.

In addition, the Secretariat continued the analysis of other commitments from the 2024 progress report on ocean-based actions in NDCs and the voluntary commitments at both the OOC and UNOC from 2017 to 2026. The latter involved conducting an inventory of commitments by Ocean Panel members mapped across the *Transformations* agenda and the 100% approach.

Endnotes

1. As of August 2026, the 19 members of the Ocean Panel are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
2. As of August 2026, the 19 members of the Ocean Panel are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
3. Only 18 members are included in the survey analysis as Brazil was exempt given the recency of its joining the Ocean Panel. France did not complete the self-assessment survey for 2026.
4. Countries commit to producing their SOP within five years of joining.
5. The United States was included as part of the self-assessment survey in 2024 but not in 2026, and the UAE was included in the self-assessment survey in 2026 but not in 2024. Brazil was not included in 2026.
6. Brazil was not included in the self-assessment survey due to the recency of its joining the Ocean Panel. Data for France are taken from the 2024 self-assessment survey because a response was not received within the required time frame for 2026.

Acknowledgements

This report was commissioned by the Ocean Panel and prepared by the Secretariat. The primary author was Amy Swift, Program Associate in WRI's Ocean Program, and the Lead Coordinator was Tsvetilena Bandakova, Program Manager for the Ocean Panel at WRI, with support from John Lyons, Senior Communications Manager; Katie Wood, Communications Officer; Oliver S. Ashford, Senior Program Associate; Cynthia Barzuna, Deputy-Director; and Tom Pickerell, Global Director of the Ocean Program for WRI. The Secretariat would like to thank the Ocean Panel focal points for all their efforts in the formation of this report: from reviewing the approach to strengthen this latest assessment, to completing the self-assessment surveys, to providing vital text and examples of actions on the ground (listed in alphabetical order by affiliated organisation):

Sabine Rock, Adam Clark and Jennie Chainey (Government of Australia); Andrew McMaster and Julie Lord (Government of Canada); Barbara Macedo Perrenoud and Eden Clabuchar Martin (Government of Brazil); Ximena del Pilar Alcayaga Claussen and Patsey Nicole Contardo Urra (Government of Chile); Andrew Coriakula (Government of Fiji); Eyram Agbemava (Government of Ghana); Amanda Himawan (Government of Indonesia); Dale Webber (Government of Jamaica); Anna Sakuma (Government of Japan); Betty Nyonje (Government of Kenya); Daniela Castellanos Villaseñor (Government of Mexico); Ndesheetelwa Shitenga (Government of Namibia); Andrea Byfuglien and Husem Frida Enholm (Government of Norway); Adelle Lukes Isechal (Government of Palau); André Guimarães (Government of Portugal); Chirssant Barbe (Government of Seychelles); Maitha Al Hameli, Deborah Bernardi and Shahbano Tirmizi (Government of the United Arab Emirates); and Fiona Charlesworth, James Smith and Jessica Dark (Government of the United Kingdom).

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HIGH LEVEL PANEL *for*
A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

10 G Street NE
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20002, USA
+1 (202) 729-7600

oceanpanel.org