



Why ocean accounts matter

Ocean knowledge and data are fragmented across sectors, institutions and communities, and a lack of standardisation limits the ability to collate data in a coherent and transparent manner. This is where ocean accounts come in – **they provide an integrated foundation of information to inform evidence-based decision making and holistic policy development for blue economy and sustainable ocean planning and management approaches.**

Ocean accounts integrate key components:

1. **Macro-economic accounts** where economic measures help identify the “ocean” component of economic sectors to produce indicators, such as Ocean GDP.
2. **Environmental-economic accounts** that link environmental assets and their flows, impacts of economic activities (e.g., wastes) and expenditures, taxes and subsidies related to environmental activities.
3. **Ecosystem Accounts** which provide a spatial approach to account for the extent and health (i.e., condition) of ecosystems and the value of services they provide to society and the economy.
4. **Social accounts** that illustrate dependencies and relationships between human wellbeing, livelihoods and the ocean, and
5. **Accounts** that describe the **technology, governance and management** of ocean space.

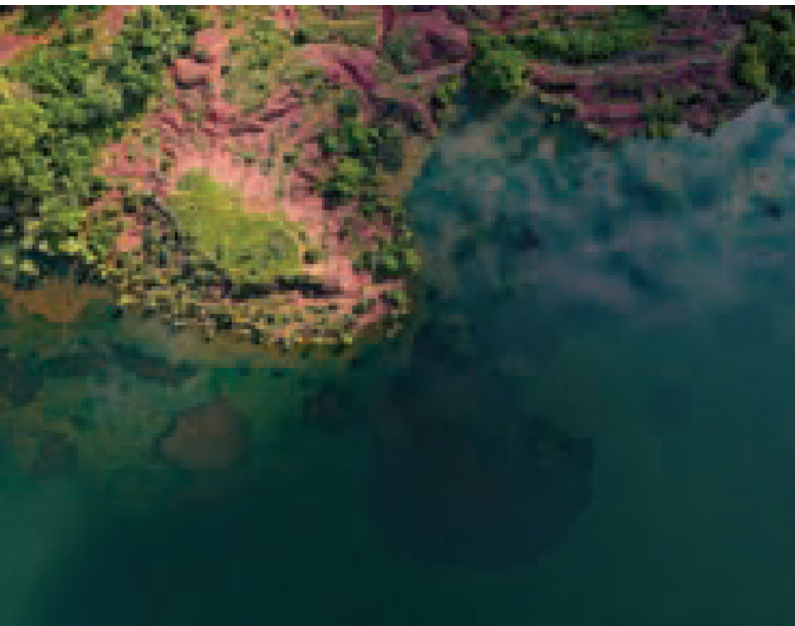
By integrating multiple data sets from a range of sources into a common information infrastructure, ocean accounts enable countries and stakeholders to:

- **Track the size**, condition and changing structure of the ocean economy.
- **Re-enforce** evidence-based decision-making for ocean planning and management to balance the sustainable use of the marine ecosystem across multiple sectors and stakeholders.
- **Activate** private sector financing in the ocean economy and ecosystem restoration projects.
- **Identify** who is benefitting from the ocean economy (e.g. through ocean-related income, employment and welfare).
- **Organise**, present, and communicate information in manner that decision-makers can easily understand (e.g. as dashboards or scenarios).
- **Support** and enhance international reporting by identifying comparable, headline indicators that include environmental and social dimensions.

What are ocean accounts?

Ocean accounts are **integrated records of regularly compiled and comparable data** concerning ocean **environmental conditions** (e.g. extent/condition of mangroves), **economic activity** (e.g. sale of fish) and **social conditions** (e.g. livelihood dependency).

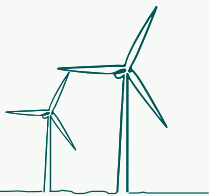
Ocean accounts align with existing international accounting standards and frameworks and retain a similar structure to national accounts maintained by national statistical offices or finance ministries.



Measuring and managing progress towards ocean sustainable development

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is **multistakeholder partnership** established to enable countries and other stakeholders to go Beyond GDP to measure and manage progress towards sustainable ocean development using ocean accounts. The Partnership is Co-chaired by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan Republik Indonesia), Indonesia and Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

GOAP brings together governments, international organisations and research institutions to build a global community of practice for ocean accounting to ensure that the diverse values of the ocean are recognised in all decision making related to social and economic development.



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Support available from GOAP

GOAP supports Members and non-Members in the development of pilot ocean accounts and application of these to blue economy and sustainable marine management approaches. Using a country-led approach is at the centre of the GOAP delivery model and ensures bespoke support matched with the specific needs and policy objectives of each country.

Assist in sourcing financial or in-kind support for the development and implementation of ocean accounting initiatives.

Advisory support and technical guidance on linking ocean accounts with broader ocean policy objectives including gap assessments, stakeholder engagement meetings and interviews, capacity building workshops, on-the-ground support for data collection, management and analysis.

Catalyse and connect ocean accounts experts to host workshops and capacity building events and regularly convene a Global Expert Panel to facilitate the creation of new knowledge to advance the development and global uptake of ocean accounting.

Provide a communication and collaboration platform for the global community of practice, and Communities of Practice in Africa, Pacific, Americas and Europe, to engage in mutual capacity development and share knowledge on ocean accounting.

Where we work

