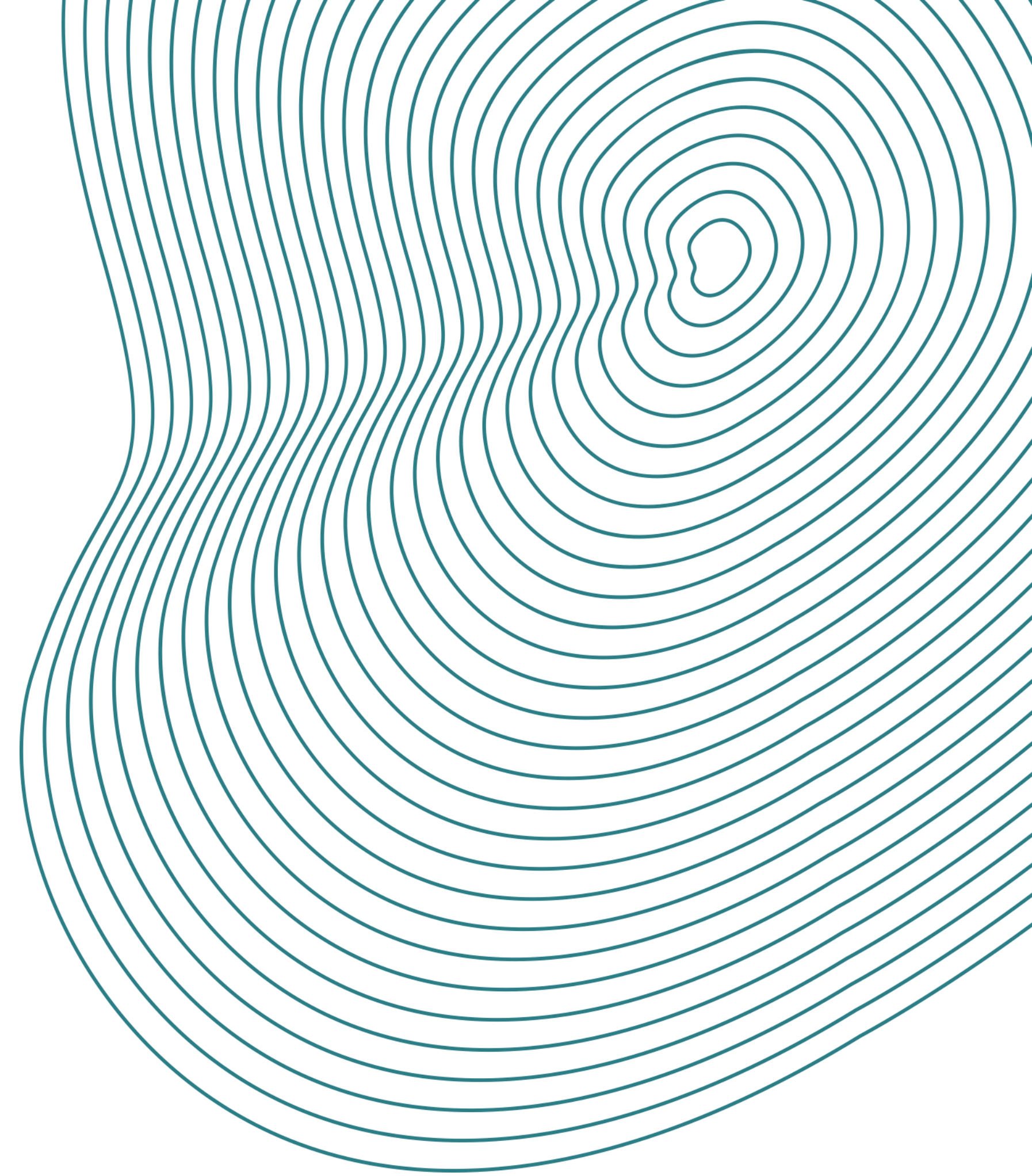


UNSW
Centre for
Sustainable
Development Reform

Pacific Priorities: Regional Dialogue for UNOC3 and Beyond



Making Voluntary Commitments at UNOC

Purpose

- Concrete pledges by stakeholders to support SDG14 implementation
- Drive collective action through measurable commitments
- Create opportunities for new partnerships and collaboration
- Attract public and private financing for ocean action

Value

- 541 individual commitments include the provision of financial resources, with total financing amounting to approximately US\$25.5 billion at UNOC1 (2017)
- Over 700 new commitments registered at UNOC2 (2022), with substantial financial commitments
- All commitments registered after July 2022 will be included in the Nice Ocean Action Plan



100% Alliance for Sustainable Ocean Management

Led by Government of France (Co-Chair of UNOC)

- The 100% Alliance campaign will focus on securing political pledges and commitments from all coastal and ocean states., to commit to and champion the goal of sustainable management of 100% of ocean areas under national jurisdiction, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans, by 2030
- Led by the government of France, in partnership with the Ocean Panel, and coordinated by the World Resources Institute
- A Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP) is a comprehensive framework designed to guide the sustainable management of a country's ocean resources. It serves as a unifying "umbrella" for ocean-related governance, integrating existing and new plans, processes, and policies into a coherent and integrated whole.
- Aligns with existing regional commitments to manage the Blue Pacific Continent and offers additional resources to strengthen ocean governance



100% ALLIANCE

FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN MANAGEMENT

This new campaign calls on all coastal and ocean states to commit to sustainably manage 100% of ocean areas under national jurisdiction.

Grounded in a [comprehensive evidence base](#) and network of over 350 global experts, the Ocean Panel has set out a clear case for a sustainable ocean economy through 100% sustainable ocean management — as critical to protect the health of the ocean and to achieve [SDG14 'Life below water'](#).

The '100% Alliance' will unite countries and partners in making commitments to protect, restore and sustainably manage the ocean. Led by the government of France, in partnership with the [Ocean Panel](#), and coordinated by the [World Resources Institute](#), the campaign will lead the charge for ambitious global action towards the next [UN Ocean Conference](#) (co-hosted by France and Costa Rica) in Nice in June 2025, and beyond. Its ultimate aim is to ensure that all ocean areas under national jurisdiction are sustainably managed by 2030.

Momentum is building. The 19 member countries of the Ocean Panel have committed to 100% sustainable management of their national waters, guided by [Sustainable Ocean Plans](#) — a unifying 'umbrella' for ocean-related governance and a policy framework that facilitates holistic sustainable use of the ocean. The leaders of the Pacific Islands have committed to the goal of 100% [effective sustainable ocean management of the Blue Pacific Continent](#). Also, Sustainable Ocean Plans are becoming increasingly recognised as critical in ensuring sustainable ocean management, for example under the UN, through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

The ocean, the world's largest ecosystem is facing a triple planetary crisis – from climate change, pollution, and overfishing. Ecosystems are breaking down, fish stocks are declining, and plastics are found in every corner of the ocean. These challenges cannot be addressed if some areas of the ocean are managed sustainably, yet other areas are left open to exploitation.

The 100% Alliance campaign will focus on securing political pledges and commitments towards 100% sustainable ocean management from **all** coastal and ocean states.

Advancing Ocean Accounts by 2030

Led by Government of Costa Rica (Co-Chair of UNOC)

- Costa Rica has committed to develop a fully integrated environmental-economic account for its ocean area by 2030.
- Global pledge asks countries to join them in making a pledge to **develop and implement ocean accounts by 2030**
- Countries have flexibility in exact wording of pledge to ensure alignment with national priorities
- Pledge to be signed at Ocean Accounts Exchange (24-27 March 2024), hosted by Costa Rica and the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership
- Fiji, Samoa, Tonga Vanuatu, Palau and Papua New Guinea, are all in the process of developing ocean accounts with support from development partners
- Ocean accounts are standardised information frameworks that bring together environmental, economic and social data about the ocean in a coherent way - from the extent and health of marine ecosystems to the economic benefits of ocean industries and the communities that depend on them

Advancing Ocean Accounts by 2030

What are Ocean Accounts?

Ocean accounts are integrated records of regularly compiled and comparable data concerning ocean environmental conditions, economic activity related and dependent upon the ocean, and social and livelihood indicators. They align with existing international accounting standards and frameworks and retain a similar structure to national accounts maintained by national statistical offices or finance ministries.

Why are Ocean Accounts important?

Ocean knowledge and data are fragmented across sectors and institutions and a lack of standardisation limits the ability to collate data in a coherent and transparent manner. Ocean accounts provide an integrated foundation for all ocean data, including indigenous and local knowledge, to inform evidence-based decision making and policy development of sustainable ocean management and blue economic development. Ocean accounts are able to:

- **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, dependence, food security and resilience).
- **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.

Ocean accounts support the implementation of sustainable ocean plans, implement Sustainable Development Goals 14 (life below water), targets 15.9 (value nature in decision-making) and 17.19 (measurement of progress complementing GDP) and the Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 (value of biodiversity).

The Pledge

Nations are asked to join under the headline pledge to progress ocean accounts by 2030 for sustainable ocean development in line with national priorities. Further, to consider the ocean accounts data in decision-making processes and support efforts that enhance capacity and share knowledge to improve global capabilities in ocean accounting.

We invite all nations to join in this effort to develop and implement ocean accounts by 2030, creating a foundation for informed decision-making and sustainable ocean management.

Support

Costa Rica has already committed to developing their national ocean accounts by 2030. The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is the global organisation set up to assist countries and stakeholders to go beyond GDP. The GOAP is co-chaired by the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Charles Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. The organisation will assist all countries to mobilise funding to support their efforts, provide technical advice and support to deliver on the pledge and provide a network and community to go beyond GDP.

Contact

For more information contact Marianne Feoli Martinez and Philip James at the GOAP Secretariat:
info@oceanaccounts.org

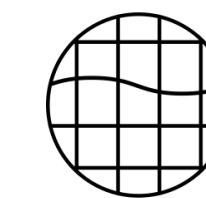
Potential Regional or Sub-Regional Voluntary Commitments

Drawing from the Regional Collective Actions (RCAs) outlined in the Ocean and Environment section of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2030, several opportunities exist for regional voluntary commitments

- Review and strengthen the **regional ocean policy framework** by updating the Framework for the Pacific Oceanscape to ensure effective integration of sectoral policies and cross-jurisdictional ocean governance, while addressing overlapping national interests (RCA 3)
- Support Pacific member efforts on two key legally binding instruments (RCAs 7 & 8):
 1. - Implementation of the new **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ Agreement)** and strengthening management in areas beyond national jurisdiction, advancing the Blue Pacific Continent vision.
 - Development and implementation of the new **global plastics treaty** to address marine plastic pollution
- Develop regional models for natural resource sector management that ensure comprehensive assessment of environmental, social, and economic risks (RCA 4). Such as the implementation of **ocean accounts** to provide an integrated statistical framework for **measuring and monitoring ocean wealth, ecosystem health, and sustainable development of the blue economy**

Ocean Action Panels

1. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.
2. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring **marine and coastal ecosystems** including deep-sea ecosystems.
3. Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.
4. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.
5. Leveraging **ocean, climate and biodiversity** interlinkages.
6. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable **maritime transport** and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.
7. Promoting the role of **sustainable food from the ocean** for poverty eradication and food security.
8. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.
9. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.
10. Mobilizing **finance** for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.



Engaging in UNOC: Ensuring a Pacific Voice

1. Plenary speaking roles
2. Ocean Action Panels
3. Side Events
4. Others?



Plenaries

- 10 plenary meetings (9-13 June)
- Morning and afternoon sessions with opening ceremony on first day
- Led by Conference Presidents (France and Costa Rica)
- Focus on Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Member States
- **Opportunity:**
 - High-level statements on implementation progress
 - Announcement of **voluntary commitments**

Ocean Action Panels

- 10 thematic panels run in parallel with plenaries
- Focus on concrete actions
- Each panel runs for minimum 2 hours
- Two co-chairs (developing/developed country)
- Up to 4 panellists per session
- **Opportunity:** Elevate priorities through:
 - PSIDS Co-Chairs
 - PSIDS panellists

Co-Chairs' summaries of Panels to be included in final report along with recommendations for accelerating SDG14 implementation

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Side Events

1. In-person events at Conference Venue (Blue Zone)

- 75-minute maximum duration
- No hybrid format allowed
- Limited to registered conference participants

2. In-person events off-site across Nice

- Organisers responsible for venue and costs
- More flexible format options

3. Virtual events

- Organisers choose and manage platform
- Encouraged to accommodate multiple time zones

Selection Process

- One application per entity for Conference Venue events
- Deadlines: Conference Venue events: March 14, 2025. Off-site and virtual events: April 21, 2025
- Selection based on regional and thematic balance

Priority given to:

- Member State-organised events and Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Events linked to Voluntary Ocean Commitments

Other opportunities

1. Pacific pre-meeting (in Nice)
2. Pacific space/venue
3. Strategic and coordinated communications - "Ocean Messages Guide and Pacific Priorities"
4. Pacific artists
5. Pacific youth
6. Others?



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Thank you

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