



Feedback from the European Marine Board Secretariat to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference - Global Online Stakeholder Consultation - Inputs to Concept Papers - Ocean Action Panels

(27 August 2024)

The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the [2025 UN Ocean Conference](#)) will be held in Nice, France, from 9 – 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica.

Following the [preparatory meeting on 2 July 2024](#), the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and France, issued a [letter](#) with the final themes of the Ocean Action Panels:

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

In preparation for the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference will prepare, in consultation with the co-hosts of the Conference, **concept papers for each of the themes of the Ocean Action panels, with inputs from Member States and the UN System.** Resolution A/RES/78/128, op 24 also indicates that **stakeholders, as referred in paragraph 4 (d), should also submit their inputs.**

Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities

and other actors are invited to **contribute substantive inputs to the concept papers of the Ocean Action Panels** through this global online stakeholder consultation.

Deadline for submission is **30 August 2024**.

For more detailed information, please visit [here](#).

###

*** Indicates required question**

Email *

info@marineboard.eu

Country of Residency *

Belgium

Name of organization *

**By adding the name of the organization, you confirm you are authorized to submit inputs on its behalf.*

European Marine Board

Name of contact person *

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Gender *

Female

Age *

Below 18 years old

18-24 years old

25-34 years old

35-44 years old

45-54 years old

55-64 years old

65+

Prefer not to say

Organization website *

<https://www.marineboard.eu/>

Please indicate which sector your organization belongs to.*

Please, note that this consultation is dedicated to non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Non-Governmental Organization

Please indicate the region in which your organization operates. *

****Check all that apply.***

Europe

Please indicate at what level your organization operates. *

****Check all that apply.***

Global

Regional

National

Local

Where does your organization fit?

Based on the 10 themes of the Ocean Action Panels, please select up to 3 that your organization most directly contributes to.

Please select up to 3 themes

- a. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.
- b. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.**
- c. Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.
- d. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.
- e. Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.**
- f. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.
- g. Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security.
- h. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.**

- i. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.
- j. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.

###

Ocean Action Panel 1: Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers***, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

To ensure sustainable fisheries management and support small scale fishers the most important action that is required is for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to become operational, and that requires two-thirds of the 164 members of the WTO to formally adopt the agreement. Currently only 55 members have accepted the agreement. This agreement, adopted in June 2022 by the 12th Ministerial Conference, is crucial for curbing harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overfishing and depleting global fish stocks. WTO members must implement this agreement promptly to prohibit government support for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other harmful practices. Additionally, continued negotiations are essential to ensure that subsidies contribute to sustainability and are not harmful.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The End-User-Centric Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Management used in the EcoScope project (<https://ecoscopium.eu/>) is one innovative approach that has shown promise in accelerating the implementation of SDG 14. It involves the active and continuous engagement of stakeholders throughout the development of the management tools. This approach co-develops tools with end-users, including decision-makers, regulatory bodies, NGOs, scientists, and fishers. This ensures that the tools meet the diverse needs of different user groups, that might require easy-to-understand summaries or detailed statistical data.

This approach has been implemented in the EcoScope project through several stakeholder engagement activities, including online surveys and workshops, which have been instrumental in shaping the development of ecosystem management tools. The first workshop and survey gathered feedback on the specific requirements of the stakeholders, such as addressing uncertainties, incorporating socio-economic data, and presenting information to various audiences. The second workshop will present the tools to the stakeholders to ensure that the tools are taken up and further used. This process not only ensures the tools are user-friendly and effective but also fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including

policy-makers, NGOs, and scientific bodies. A similar methodology is being rolled out by the new EU Horizon Europe project SURIMI.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.***

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Local knowledge;

ecosystem-based fisheries-management

Ocean Action Panel 2: Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems***, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

Develop and implement standardised strategic environmental impact assessment methodologies at the regional scale in order to understand and manage human impacts and the associated risks in the Ocean (including in the deep sea), and integrate these methodologies into international regulatory practices. Support the scaling up of marine habitat mapping to increase coverage and biological resolution of maps in order to better inform conservation, restoration and management activities. The EMB Future Science Briefs on "Deep Sea & Ocean Health" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/deep-sea-and-ocean-health>) and "Marine Habitat Mapping" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/marine-habitat-mapping>) provide more information on how this could be done.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The European Marine Board (EMB) Policy Brief on "Blue Carbon" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/blue-carbon>) and the Position Paper on "Coastal Resilience" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/building-coastal-resilience-europe>) highlight the significant role that restored coastal habitats can play in carbon sequestration, contributing to climate change mitigation, and emphasize the importance of nature-based solutions, such as managed Realignment. Managed Realignment is a transformative approach that involves the strategic breaching of coastal defenses to allow natural processes to restore intertidal habitats like saltmarshes, mudflats, and mangroves. It has been used successfully in the UK and the Netherlands to restore extensive coastal habitats which provide critical ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, flood protection, and biodiversity enhancement.

These initiatives involve diverse stakeholders, including environmental scientists, coastal engineers, policymakers, and local communities. But leadership comes from partnerships between governmental agencies, environmental NGOs, and local communities. The collaborative nature of these projects ensures that they are scientifically sound, economically viable, and socially acceptable.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: **Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.**

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Good governance <https://www.ohchr.org/en/good-governance/about-good-governance>

Systems approach

Ocean Action Panel 3: Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: **Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level**, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

A transformative action that needs to happen in the EU is the adoption of the Ocean Observing Initiative. This initiative was proposed by the European Commissions' DG MARE, and aims to coordinate the Ocean observations in the EU by ensuring that it is clear who is responsible for which Ocean Observations in each European Member State. As managing the use and study of Ocean is a devolved responsibility in Europe, it is unclear who is taking which measurements, and where the data goes. Each observation is critical to ensure that we know what is happening in the Ocean and how we are influencing Ocean resources. The action is therefore for the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the EU to adopt this initiative.

Considering the proposed theme: **Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level**, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The European Marine Board (EMB - <https://www.marineboard.eu/>) is a good example of how regional cooperation can accelerate the implementation of SDG 14 by fostering collaboration, aligning research priorities, and influencing policy. As a strategic pan-European forum for marine science, the EMB brings together national marine research institutes, funding agencies, and university networks across Europe. Through this cooperative approach, the EMB has developed influential science-policy documents and research agendas that guide sustainable ocean management and research funding, addressing marine and coastal challenges across the region. Highlighting this model at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference could inspire similar collaborative efforts in other regions, further advancing global progress toward SDG 14.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: **Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.**

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Communication;

Science-policy interface

Ocean Action Panel 4: Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: **Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities**, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

A transformative action that needs to happen is the implementation of stronger, globally coordinated policies and regulations that address the entire lifecycle of pollutants, particularly plastics and chemicals, from production to disposal. This action should be led by national governments in collaboration with relevant international bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). These entities should work together to establish binding international agreements that enforce strict controls on land-based sources of pollution (such as the UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution and the Stockholm Convention on Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants), ensuring that harmful substances do not reach the marine environment. Promoting this action at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference would underscore the importance of a holistic approach to pollution control. It would also encourage countries to commit to stronger regulations and better enforcement, creating a unified global effort to protect marine environments from the impacts of land-based pollution.

Considering the proposed theme: **Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities**, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

One effective approach is targeted campaigns aimed at reducing plastic pollution. One example are the campaigns on payment for plastic bags, which have now been in force in Europe for about a decade and closer to two decades in many other countries. This measure has had significant positive impacts on the waterways, for example in Rwanda and South Africa. Campaigns promoting plastic bans, encouraging the use of reusable products, and raising awareness about the impact of single-use plastics have led to significant reductions in plastic waste entering the (marine) environment. These initiatives have not only changed consumer behavior but also influenced policy changes at local, national, and international levels from multiple angles, from reducing production and consumption, to improving waste management practices. These campaigns are typically driven by a coalition of environmental NGOs, local communities,

policymakers, and businesses. Leadership is often shared among these groups, ensuring that the campaigns are inclusive and that the solutions proposed are both practical and sustainable.

The success of these campaigns demonstrates that reducing pollution through collaborative efforts is a powerful tool in achieving SDG 14. Promoting similar initiatives and partnerships at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference could inspire further action, helping to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution on a global scale.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.***

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Reduce, reuse

[Ocean Action Panel 5: Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.](#)

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: **Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages**, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The transformative action that is required to leverage ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages is the integrated, interdisciplinary collaboration of environmental scientists, social scientists, engineers, local/indigenous knowledge holders and local communities to ensure the success of Nature-based Solutions, such as Blue Carbon solutions. All Blue Carbon habitats provide ecosystem services, which can be valued (to improve environmental economics) and management decisions will need to be made on trade-offs. However, social governance approaches will be required to achieve the many co-benefits of Blue Carbon ecosystems, such as protecting coastlines against flooding through coastal vegetated Blue Carbon ecosystems and increasing biodiversity (and the services it provides) in coastal areas. An integrated, interdisciplinary approach will be essential for understanding the environmental, economic and social value of the services within each Blue Carbon ecosystem and for initiating the implementation of sustainable use and protection of these highly valued ecosystems.

Considering the proposed theme: **Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages**, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

As highlighted in the European Marine Board's Position Paper on "Coastal Resilience" case study (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/building-coastal-resilience-europe>) on the Maharees Peninsula in Ireland is a good example of community-led, science-informed coastal management that integrates Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to enhance local resilience. Faced with multiple pressures such as sea-level rise, heatwaves, and overcrowding from tourism, the Maharees community, through the Maharees Conservation Association (MCA), has worked closely with stakeholders, including local and national government agencies, to address these challenges. This collaborative approach utilized the IPCC's

Climate-Resilient Pathways framework to identify key vulnerabilities and opportunities, leading to actions such as dune fencing and marram grass planting. These community-driven efforts not only helped to mitigate immediate environmental threats but also laid the groundwork for future sustainable coastal management. The project's outcomes highlight the importance of empowering local communities to take the lead in managing their coastal environments. The MCA's work has influenced new government bodies in Ireland that are now incorporating lessons from these community-led initiatives into broader coastal governance strategies.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: **Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.**

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Multi-level collaboration

Ocean Action Panel 6: Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: **Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind**, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

As highlighted in the European Marine Board's Position Paper on "Coastal Resilience" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/building-coastal-resilience-europe>), a transformative action that is required for advancing sustainable ocean-based economies and coastal community resilience, is the adoption of a systems approach to coastal management based on adaptive, cross-sectoral and coherent policies. In Europe, as Integrated Coastal Zone Management is not mandatory under EU legislation, the EU's existing Environmental Policies should be enhanced to include all aspects of the land-sea interface, which requires explicit links between marine- and land-based policies. Adaptive coastal management, including participation of local communities, should consider activities in adjacent areas (including on land) and aim to balance mitigation of and adaptation to multiple pressures. However adaptive spatial planning will require more participatory tools, and forecasting and scenario analysis should be integrated into land-sea regional plans. Deep rooted institutional practices should be overcome and policy objectives aligned between different legislation. Transboundary cooperation and timely risk management through effective early-warning systems are required. The adaptive capacity of human communities should be enhanced at multiple scales (e.g. local, national, regional, international) by increasing assets available in times of need, developing flexibility to change strategy, improving the ability to organise and act collectively, promoting learning in order to recognize and respond to change; and developing agency to decide how to respond to change.

Considering the proposed theme: **Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind**, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The European Marine Board Position Paper on “Coastal Resilience” (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/building-coastal-resilience-europe>) highlights the ongoing efforts to preserve the Venice Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, through innovative approaches and partnerships (highlighted below) that are helping with the implementation of SDG 14. The Venice Lagoon's approach serves as a model for other coastal regions seeking to advance sustainable ocean-based economies while preserving the environmental and cultural heritage that supports local communities. By sharing these experiences at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, similar strategies could be adopted globally, ensuring that coastal communities are resilient and inclusive in the face of environmental and socio-economic challenges.

One transformative initiative has been the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Venice Lagoon, which incorporates scientific knowledge, social participation, and innovative infrastructure solutions. This approach has been supported by various tools, such as blue-green infrastructure projects including salt marsh restoration, seagrass transplantation, and grey infrastructure like mobile barriers to prevent flooding. These efforts have been crucial in addressing critical issues like pollution, high water events, and fisheries decline. The enactment of Italy's Special Law n°. 171 of 1973, provides a comprehensive framework for safeguarding the landscape, environment, and socio-economic viability of Venice and its Lagoon. This legislation underscores the importance of coordinated action among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and scientific institutions. Despite these successes, challenges remain, particularly in managing the pressures of mass tourism and ensuring that all stakeholders' interests are balanced. The experience of the Venice Lagoon highlights the importance of continuous monitoring, scenario planning, and open dialogue among stakeholders to build resilience and adapt to changing conditions.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.***

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Adaptive management

Ocean Action Panel 7: [Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security.](#)

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security***, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

The unequal power distribution between fishing countries and fishing territories needs to be elucidated: A good example is the relations between the EU and West Africa where poor data and opaque agreements makes equitable fishing agreements difficult. The countries that need these fishing resources need to ensure that international fishing agreements prioritize sustainable fishing practices, FAIR data principles and the rights of local communities. These agreements should ensure that an adequate portion of the catch is reserved for local consumption and that small-scale fishers have preferential access to marine

resources. Additionally, these agreements should include data sharing and capacity-building to enable local fishers to manage their own fisheries and to adopt sustainable practices and improve their economic resilience. An example of economic resilience is the development of a wide range of adaptation strategies to anticipate and respond to climate change impacts such as how Galician shellfishers harvest pricier and more abundant species, and increase social involvement in shellfishery associations.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The European Marine Board (EMB) Future Science Brief on “Big Data in Marine Science” (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/big-data-marine-science>) highlights Global Fishing Watch (GFW), a transformative initiative that provides a publicly accessible, near real-time map of global fishing activity, and leverages satellite technology, big data, and machine learning to increase transparency in global fisheries. This transparency tool helps combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing thereby contributing to the preservation of fish stocks, ensuring long-term food security and livelihoods for communities dependent on marine resources.

GFW was founded through a partnership between Oceana, Google, and SkyTruth, and has since expanded its collaboration to include governments, NGOs, and research institutions worldwide. These partnerships have been instrumental in expanding GFW's coverage and effectiveness, making it a global leader in fisheries transparency. National governments use the platform for monitoring and enforcement, NGOs for sustainable fisheries advocacy, and academic institutions that utilize GFW data for research and policy development. For example, Indonesia became the first nation to share its vessel tracking data publicly through GFW, setting a precedent for other countries. Global Fishing Watch's model of open data sharing fosters collaboration among stakeholders by providing a common platform where data and insights are shared freely. This openness has led to enhanced cooperation between governments, NGOs, and the private sector, amplifying efforts to safeguard marine resources and ensure sustainable food from the ocean.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security***.

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Equitable fisheries agreements

Ocean Action Panel 8: Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen***

the science-policy interface for ocean health, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

A transformative action would be the creation of a global network for early-career policy makers focused on ocean governance and management. This initiative could be modeled after successful programs like the European Marine Board (EMB) Young Ambassador Programme and other young ambassador programmes worldwide, such as the UN ECOPs, which bridge the gap between science and policy by empowering young professionals to actively engage in the science-policy interface. By investing in the next generation of policy makers, this initiative would future proof the science-policy knowledge exchange and help address the current challenges in translating scientific research into effective ocean policies. It would empower young leaders to champion sustainable ocean management, ensuring that future policies are not only informed by cutting-edge science but also by the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas of early-career professionals.

To achieve this, the network could offer mentorship, training, and collaborative opportunities for early-career individuals in ocean policy, providing them with the tools, knowledge, and connections necessary to influence ocean governance and drive innovation. It would also facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, connecting emerging leaders in policy with (early career) marine scientists, technologists, and educators to ensure that policy decisions are grounded in the latest scientific knowledge. The establishment of this network should be led by international organizations, such as UNESCO, in collaboration with existing regional bodies like the European Marine Board, and should be supported by national governments, NGOs, and academic institutions in order to link to similar networks of early career scientists. These organizations would provide the necessary resources, platforms, and visibility to foster a global community of young policy makers.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The impact of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) (and its regional and national counterparts, such as European EOOS, Australian IMOS, etc.) on the science-policy interface demonstrates the critical importance of integrated and collaborative approaches to ocean observation. The collaborative nature of these initiatives has fostered global and regional cooperation, which is essential for addressing transboundary ocean challenges. By bringing together a wide array of stakeholders—from national governments and international organizations to research institutions and the private sector—these initiatives promote that ocean observation efforts are coordinated and aligned with both global and regional priorities. This cooperative framework not only enhances the quality and reach of ocean observations but also ensures that the resulting data is shared openly and used effectively across borders. This has been particularly beneficial in regions like the Arctic and the Mediterranean, where multiple countries share marine resources and face common environmental challenges.

By providing a holistic understanding of ocean systems, these initiatives help policymakers adopt a more integrated approach to ocean management, considering the interconnections between different marine ecosystems and human activities. For example, data collected through GOOS has supported the creation of early warning systems for ocean-related natural disasters, such as tsunamis and hurricanes, enabling governments to take actions to protect coastal communities. In addition, it has been instrumental in the development of global climate models that inform international climate negotiations and agreements, such as the Paris Agreement. The continued development and expansion of such frameworks will be vital in addressing the complex challenges facing the global ocean and in ensuring that science continues to guide policy decisions in the years to come.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.***

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

multi-level collaboration

[Ocean Action Panel 9: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.](#)

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS***, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

The implementation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement is a transformative action that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. If this agreement is effectively enforced, the international community can address the critical challenges facing the high seas, strengthening global Ocean governance, protect marine biodiversity, promote the equitable use of marine resources for the benefit of all, and enhance environmental impact assessments. This action is vital for achieving the goals outlined in UNCLOS and in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and for ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of the world's oceans.

All countries must ratify the agreement and incorporate its provisions into national legislation. Governments should also allocate resources for monitoring and enforcement and engage in regional and global collaborations to ensure compliance. International bodies such as the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), among others, play a crucial role in facilitating the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. These organizations can provide technical support, coordinate capacity-building initiatives, and ensure that the agreement's provisions are aligned with existing international frameworks. Research is also essential for providing the data and knowledge needed to implement the BBNJ Agreement effectively. The private sector, particularly industries involved in marine activities such as fishing, shipping, and biotechnology, must adhere to the guidelines set by the BBNJ Agreement.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

A key example is the IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change. This collaborative initiative brought together experts from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to explore the synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate action. The workshop emphasized the importance of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss together rather than in isolation, recognizing that these issues are deeply interconnected. The leadership provided by both IPBES and IPCC in organizing this workshop showcases how interdisciplinary collaboration can lead to more holistic approaches to global challenges. Promoting this model of collaboration at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference could encourage similar collaborative efforts with Ocean initiatives (such as BBNJ-ISA-RFMOs), driving integrated solutions to the interrelated challenges facing our oceans and the planet.

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS***.

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

BBNJ Agreement implementation, Science as a human right

[Ocean Action Panel 10: Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.](#)

Please, share one transformative action that needs to happen, and by whom, to overcome the challenges and to create better conditions to accelerate progress in achieving the theme: ***Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14***, and that must be promoted at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

As highlighted in the European Marine Board's forthcoming flagship publication *Navigating the Future VI* (<https://www.marineboard.eu/navigating-future-vi>), to ensure that our interactions with the Ocean are sustainable, we will need to adopt new financing methods that complement or replace existing investment or financial products (e.g. debt for nature swaps). These instruments should mobilise private sector investments in climate and Ocean finance, such as green bonds or Blue Carbon credits. These investments could also hold 'blue labels' to indicate the expected biodiversity, conservation and societal benefits. It is necessary that the scale of capital activated meets the scale of the challenges we face. This will require sustained political commitment, as well as effective governance and regulation to ensure transparency, accountability and alignment with the goals of Ocean conservation and sustainable use. There is also a need to align the global economy with sustainability goals, which will require transformative change in government policies, and radical shifts in deeply-rooted human values, education systems and behaviour. Top-down influence from governments and finance ministries is needed to drive change in banks and financial markets.

Considering the proposed theme: ***Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14***, what evidence can you share of new ways of working/new approaches/partnerships that have proved helpful to support accelerated implementation of SDG 14? Please indicate the name of the initiative/approach, and if possible, evidence of the results achieved, leadership provided, stakeholders involved and ways of collaboration.

A few examples of initiatives will be highlighted in the Summary report.

Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which asks to “*Mobilise US \$ 200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including US \$ 30 billion through international finance*” is an example of the innovative funding reallocation schemes that will be needed to enable the necessary infrastructure for future Ocean research, conservation and sustainable development (<https://www.naturefinance.info/>).

Can you propose one or two keywords that come to your mind related to this theme: ***Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14***.

Please limit this answer to one or two words.

Finance adapted to those most affected

By submitting this form, I agree to have my inputs made publicly available. I understand that my name and contact details will not be publicized.*

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Yes