



## 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.

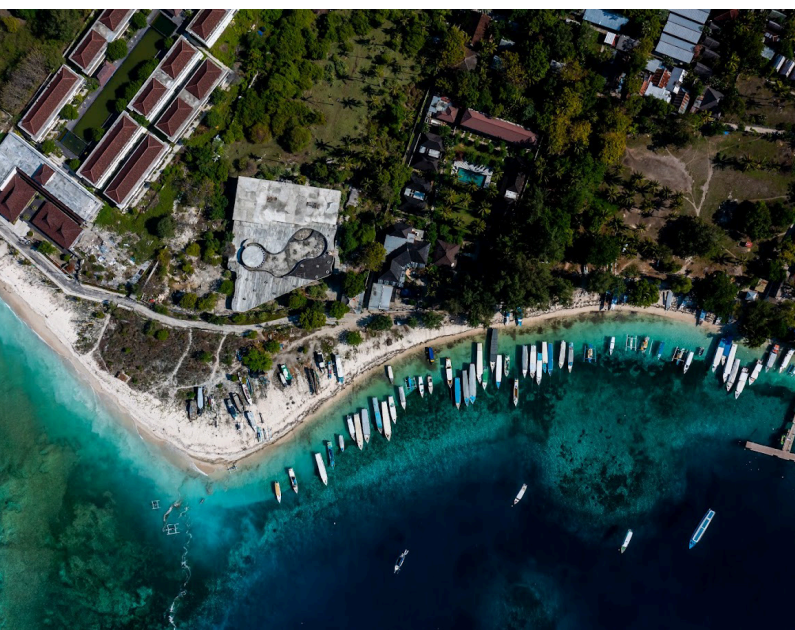
### By integrating multiple data sets from a range of sources into a common information infrastructure, ocean accounts enable countries and stakeholders to:

- **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.



**Contact**  
[info@oceanaccounts.org](mailto:info@oceanaccounts.org)  
[www.oceanaccounts.org](http://www.oceanaccounts.org)  
[@OceanAccounts](https://twitter.com/OceanAccounts)

## 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

