



HIGH LEVEL PANEL *for*
**A SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN ECONOMY**

Marine biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience

UNFCCC 2024 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue
11-12 June 2024

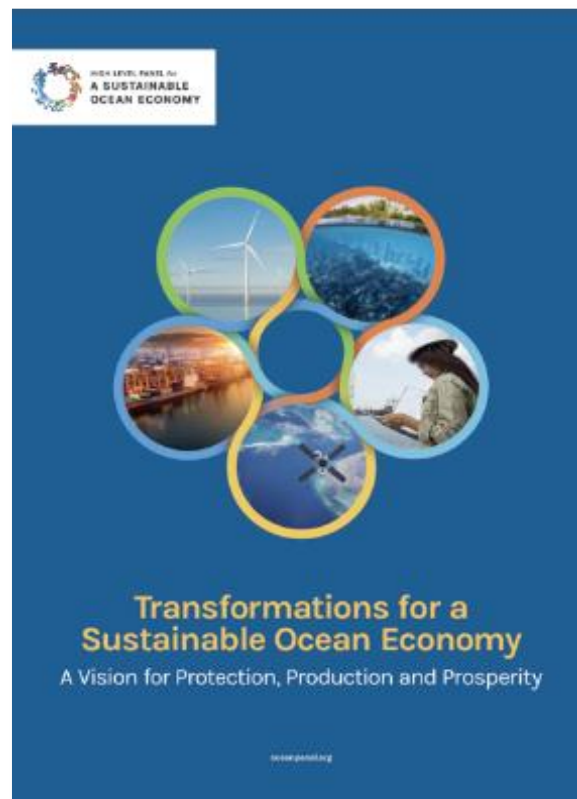


The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy ('Ocean Panel')

Mission



Transformations 2030 Ocean Action Agenda



100% Sustainable Ocean Management

WE COMMIT

to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans, by 2025*

WE URGE

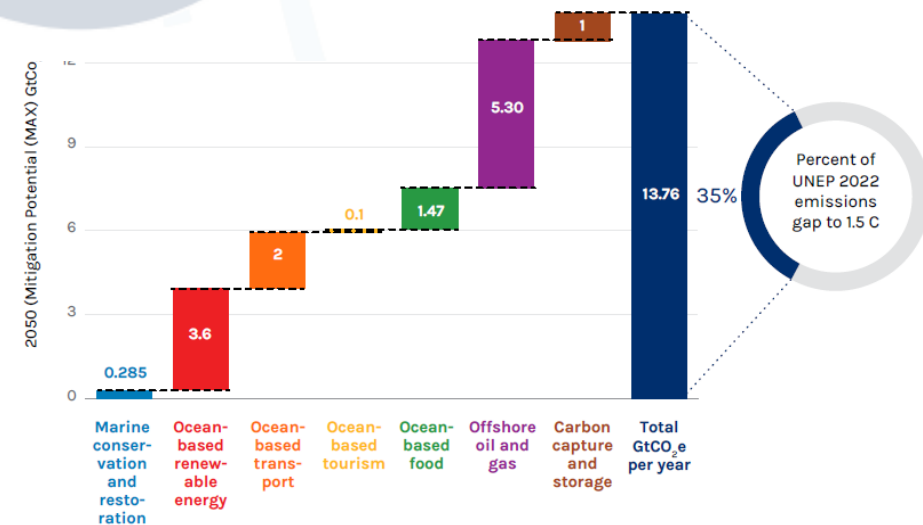
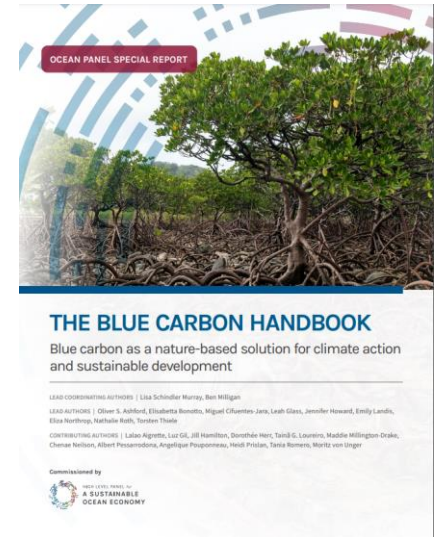
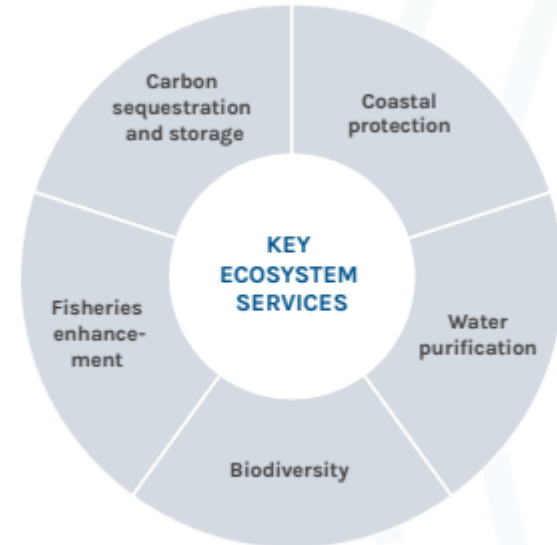
all coastal and ocean states to join us

2030 OUTCOME

*Countries joining after 2020 may commit to deliver plans within 5 years of joining the Panel

Marine protection, conservation and restoration: the global and local case for climate action and sustainable development

- Our marine environment is a vital natural asset
- Sustainably managed habitats, marine protected areas, nature-based solutions can provide a myriad of environmental, social and economic benefits
- A healthy ocean is also vital for human health



Meeting International Commitments: Strengthening ocean-based action

- Integrating the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems into international commitments can drive resources and global, national and local action
- Protection and restoration can contribute multiple international commitments
- A holistic approach can support alignment and maximise synergies, whilst recognising the specific purpose of specific commitments

[*Blue Carbon Handbook*](#) (Schindler Murray, Milligan et al. 2023)

GLOBAL FORUM OR UN CONVENTION	AGREEMENT AND TYPE OF NATIONAL REPORT	RELEVANCE TO BLUE CARBON
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p><i>Paris Agreement</i> (2015)</p> <p>Nationally determined contributions</p> <p>Biennial transparency report</p> <p>National adaptation plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-based solutions (NbS) are an integral component of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement (UN 2015a). • Parties are required to conserve and enhance areas that are important GHG stores and sinks, such as marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. • Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are a country's climate action plan and highlight the national-level efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. • NDCs can include plans, policies and measures to protect, conserve and restore their blue carbon ecosystems in their NDCs or adaptation communications (e.g. national adaptation plans). • Blue carbon can be part of the land sector mitigation targets, when included in the national GHG inventory. • Inclusion in the NDC serves as a strong signal of national policy priorities, driving resources and action at the global, national and local scales.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (UN 1992)	<p><i>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i> (2022)</p> <p>National biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection, restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems is integral to collective global action on biodiversity needed by 2030 and 2050. • Parties are required to develop, implement and regularly review NBSAPs, which can integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into decision-making. • Several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are relevant to blue carbon: Target 2 (restoration of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas); Target 3 (conservation of at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas); Target 8 (use of NbS and/or ecosystem-based approaches to minimise impacts of climate change)*. • The review and update of NBSAPs, or at least national targets, by 2024, reflected in Decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/6, represent a key opportunity to capture enhanced blue carbon action in support of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use (CBD 2022).
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (UN 1971)	<p><i>Wetlands of international importance</i> ('Ramsar sites')</p> <p>National reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramsar Convention provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. • It uses a broad definition of wetlands, including all lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, peatlands, mangroves and other coastal areas. • Resolution XIII.14 encourages conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coastal blue carbon ecosystems. • Countries can promote blue carbon action through wetland management policies and plans in both Ramsar and non-Ramsar wetland sites and report on implementation through their national reports.
UN Sustainable Development (UN 2015c)	<p><i>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2015)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the cornerstone of the UN 2030 Agenda. • The importance of restoring and protecting blue carbon ecosystems is reflected across several goals given its cross-cutting nature. • For example: SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), through its Target 6.6 on protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems; SDG 13 (Climate Action), calling for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and SDG 14 (Life below Water), calling for action to conserve marine and coastal ecosystems. • SDGs inform and guide their mainstreaming into national planning frameworks through national development plans or sustainable development strategies and can include ecosystem restoration and protection to drive national and local action (UNDESA n.d.).

Sustainable Ocean Plans: a unifying framework

Key attributes:



Sustainable Ocean Plans

Impact

Endorsed
Financed
Capacitated

Process

Inclusive
Integrative
Iterative

Content

Place-Based
Ecosystem-based
Knowledge-based

Ocean Panel Publications Library



How can a healthy ocean improve human health and enhance wellbeing on a rapidly changing planet?



The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Updated Opportunities for Action



Blue Carbon Handbook



Opportunities for Transforming Coastal and Marine Tourism: Towards Sustainability, Regeneration and Resilience



100% Sustainable Ocean Management: An Introduction to Sustainable Ocean Plans



Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy



Coastal Development: Resilience, Restoration and Infrastructure Requirements



Ocean Finance: Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Ocean Economy



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OCEAN ECONOMY**

Thank You

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