

32ND LONDON GROUP · GUATEMALA CITY · 7–9 SEPT 2026

Advancing Ocean Accounts in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional progress · methodological lessons · policy linkages

Global Ocean Accounts Partnership — Marianne Feoli Martinez · Maria Fernanda Cuartas · Maria Alarcon-Blazquez

Presented by Marianne Feoli · GOAP Secretariat, CSDR UNSW Sydney

CONTEXT

Regional ocean leadership

LAC's ocean and coastal ecosystems are among its most significant economic and ecological assets — yet they remain largely absent from national statistical systems and policy frameworks.

Meanwhile the region leads globally: the 30×30 agenda, the Actioning Blue Declaration and Caribbean roadmap, expanding marine protection, and a coordinated LAC commitments package presented at OOC11.

Existing regional cooperation mechanisms — CMAR, CARICOM, OCEAN, CPPS and SICA — already drive coordinated work across the region, and each is a niche where accounts can contribute.

2017 → 2026

First London Group meeting in LAC since San José

20 countries, 6 from LAC

have signed the Pledge to Advance Ocean Accounts by 2030

SIX LAC SIGNATORIES



Costa Rica



Antigua and Barbuda



Mexico



Belize



Panama



Chile

THE OTHER FOURTEEN



Twenty countries and seven organisations have signed the Joint Pledge for Ocean Accounts. Viet Nam and Indonesia signed through a national institution rather than as a state.



WHERE THE REGION STANDS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Nine countries, four stages

OCEAN ACCOUNTS COMPILED

 Belize ♦  Ecuador

ROADMAP ADOPTED, UNDER WAY

 Costa Rica ♦

FIRST ACCOUNT AHEAD

 Mexico ♦  Panama ♦  Chile ♦

 Antigua and Barbuda ♦

GOAP MEMBER, ENGAGED

 Brazil  Peru

HOST, NO SUPPORTED PROGRAMME

 Guatemala

♦ Pledge signatory

20 countries and 7 organisations have signed the Pledge to 2030.

Six countries and four organisations are from Latin America and the Caribbean.

A community of practice, by design

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Charles Darwin Foundation (Ecuador) elected GOAP Co-Chair with Indonesia — the Partnership's first co-chairs from developing economies.

LAC Strategy 2024–2030 prepared at the Co-Chairs' request.

GOAP: 35+ members from 30 countries since 2019; the Secretariat directly supports 15+ national pilots.



Bilingual webinars, >100 participants

Ponentes: Costa Rica · Antigua y Barbuda · Belice · Banco Mundial



South–South exchange with Asia-Pacific

Meeting commitments panel · Bogor, Indonesia, 2026

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Guiding committee · Regional workshops and surveys · 2030 Action Plan · Quarterly newsletter · WhatsApp community · Partnership with ComLAC

CAPACITY EMBEDDED IN-COUNTRY

Tailored guidance, one-on-one meetings, and in-country trainings · Ocean Accounts Fellows Programme — national practitioners with GOAP mentoring

WHERE THE REGION STANDS

IMPLEMENTATION LEDGER

Different entry points, one framework

COUNTRY	ANCHOR ARRANGEMENT	FOCUS	STAGE
Belize	Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC) · Statistics (SIB) · research (UBERI) · coastal authority (CZMAI)	Ocean economy and tourism · reef extent and condition · social account pilot · MRV integration	Pilot → institutionalisation
Costa Rica	Central bank (BCCR) + environment ministry (MINAE) coordination through National Env. Accounts Council (CNCA)	National ocean accounts by 2030 · action plan · mangrove and coral ecosystems	Institutionalising
Ecuador	Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF)	Early national pilot · regional leadership	Pilot → leadership
Haiti	University of Limonade	Early understanding to account for mangroves, coastal tourism, fisheries, blue economy and sea salt production	Capacity building
Peru	Ministry of External Affairs / coordination through COMAEM (multisectoral maritime commission)	Maritime GDP measurement · National Maritime Policy	Joined GOAP 2026
Panama	Ministry of Environment	Prioritizing pilot work - possibly mangroves and seagrass	Stakeholder alignment and capacity building
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and Blue Economy.	Blue economy and blue carbon accounting	Stakeholder alignment

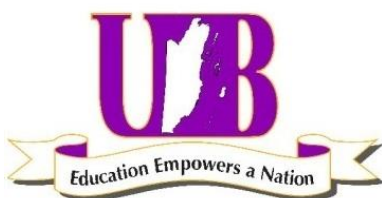
Case study of Belize



SIB

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

Ocean Economy and Ocean Tourism
Thematic Accounts: ocean sectors' contribution to GDP; economic data collection and methodology; ocean tourism share



UBERI

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Reef condition accounts: SEEA EA indicators; AGRRA reef dataset validated and standardised



CZMAI

COASTAL ZONE AUTHORITY

Spatial data & governance: coral extent mapping, data-sharing protocols under the Coastal & Ocean Management Act, SDF training



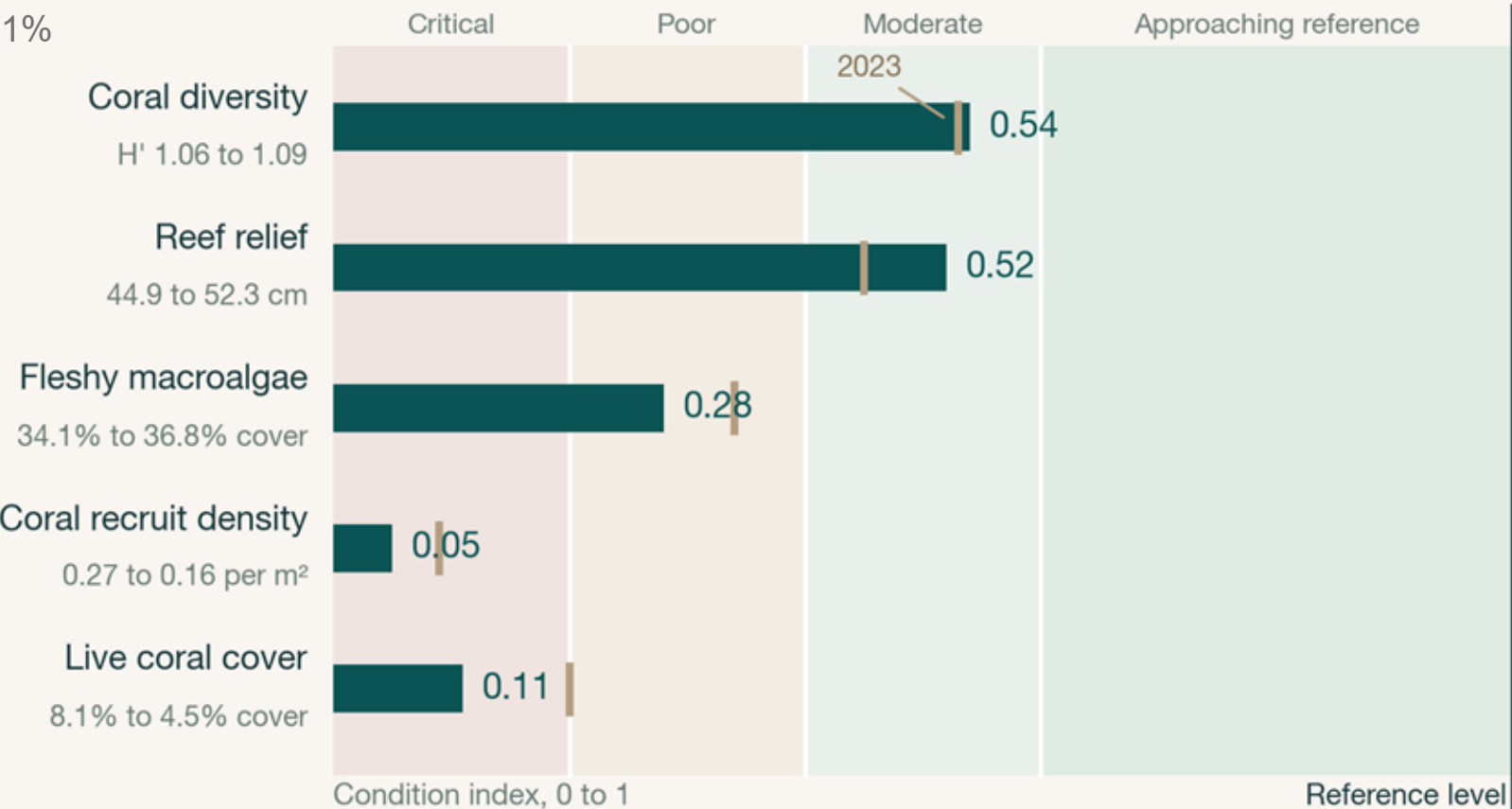
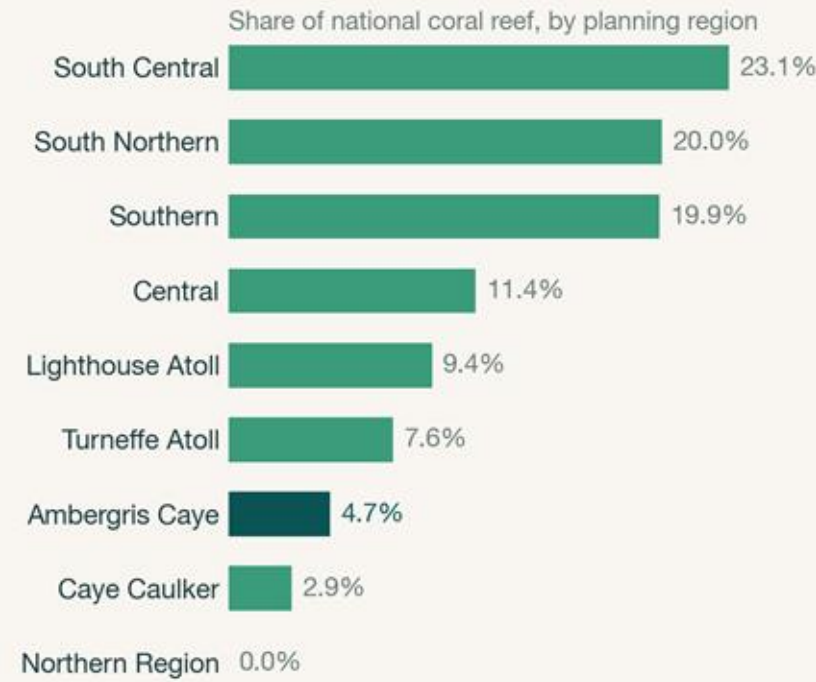
Ocean accounts are being considered as the data foundation of the national Blue Economy MRV system — connected to the blue bond's commitments

A Social Account pilot — finalizing in September 2026.

Four accounts, one country

108,157 ha 344,341 ha

coral reef, 18.2% of the accounting area seagrass meadow, 58.1% of the accounting area



OCEAN ECONOMY SATELLITE ACCOUNT · 2024

BZD 645M **10.1%**

gross value added of national GDP

14,513

direct jobs, 13% of employment

The **reef that is failing** and the **revenue that depends on it**

One account cannot see this. Two can.

CONDITION ACCOUNT · AMBERGRIS CAYE

45% loss

in live coral cover in two years, 8.1% to 4.5%



TOURISM ACCOUNT · SAN PEDRO

26%

of national tourism revenue, BZD 207M, and 4,122 marine tourism jobs

Groundwork laid, ambition set

DONE Diagnostics on data and governance	IN PLACE A powerful coordinating committee It allows articulation between institutions — a common blockage elsewhere.	UNDER WAY Groundwork to pilot and broadcast accounts Fulfilling the roadmap and the ambition to develop a comprehensive ocean account by 2030.
--	---	--

NATIONAL PRIORITY ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED

- Reefs and mangroves — extent and condition
- Ecosystem services related to tourism, fisheries and carbon
- Social accounts

POLITICAL WILL

Costa Rica championed the Pledge to Advance Ocean Accounts, and has strong political will and support to ensure this is embedded into their national decision-making process.

One framework, many applications



Marine spatial planning

extent and condition accounts as the evidence base



Climate — NDC reporting

blue carbon stocks and flows from the same accounts



Biodiversity — GBF Indicators A.2 & B.1

ecosystem extent and services indicators drawn directly from
SEEA EA-aligned ocean accounts



Sustainable finance

blue bond monitoring; trusted evidence that reduces investment
risk and helps unlock public and private finance



Regional commitments

30×30 / Actioning Blue, Sustainable Ocean Plans, Caribbean Ocean Coordination Mechanism — tracked from one integrated base

Lessons learned from early-stage implementation

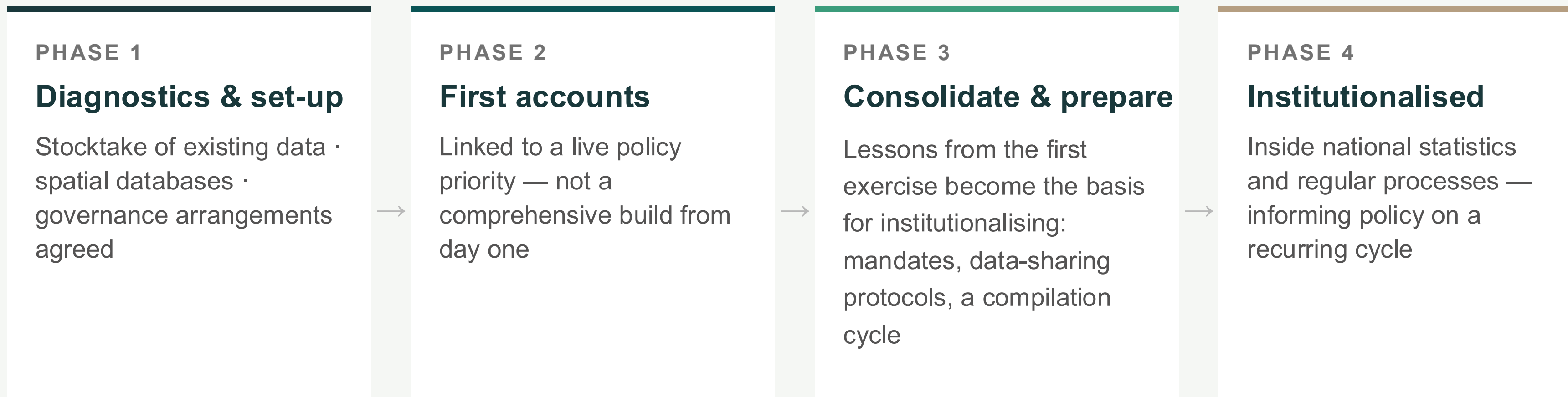
COMMON PATTERNS

- **Coordination is the bottleneck** everywhere — inter-agency data governance before data
- **Policy demand leads:** accounts advance fastest tied to a live obligation (bond, MRV, 2030 goal)
- **Embedded capacity sticks** — fellows inside institutions outperform external consultancies
- **Regional exchange accelerates every stage** (CoP, South–South)
- **Limited human resource** across the institutional accounting stakeholder chain - addressing with AI support?

KEY DIVERGENCES

- **Anchor institution varies** — central bank, NSO, coastal authority, research institution — and shapes the account sequence chosen
- **Data infrastructure maturity** differs by an order of magnitude across the region
- **Stage:** from first diagnostics to institutionalised compilation — no single “LAC model”, but a shared framework

Progressive implementation, by design



Recommendations for scaling: anchor accounts in a mandated national institution from the start; enter through a live policy priority; set reference levels by habitat; combine global data layers with sovereign national infrastructure.

And invest in the regional layer — the CoP, ComLAC partnership, fellows and South–South exchange are what turn one country's lesson into the region's head start.

32ND LONDON GROUP · GUATEMALA CITY

Thank you · Gracias

As LAC leads on ocean conservation and 30×30, ocean accounts are the information system that turns ambition into implementation — and this region's experience is now evidence for the global SEEA community.

Join the LAC Community of Practice — open to all, membership not required.

oceanaccounts.org/latin-america-and-caribbean-community-of-practice · m.feoli_martinez@unsw.edu.au



**Global Ocean
Accounts
Partnership**