

# Ocean Accounts State of Play

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Advancing sustainable oceans

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Global policy priority

## High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy

- **Ocean Panel composed of heads of government of 14 countries**
- **Report noted ocean accounts as one of pillars for transformation to sustainable ocean economy**
  - Priority action goal of “complete sequence of national ocean accounts”
- **Governments taking steps to meet these commitments**

Asia-Pacific policy priority  
**ESCAP resolution**

## **Resolution 76/1**

Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

- **Strengthening of current partnerships and building of new ones**
- **Providing technical assistance for implementation of conventions related to oceans**
- **Building national capacities related to ocean accounting, including through Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP)**

Global statistical priority

## Support for a SEEA-Ocean standard

- **UN Statistical Commission supported SEEA-Ocean concept at March 2021 meeting**
  - Will build from international standards (SEEA Central Framework, SEEA Ecosystem Accounting)
- **Research agenda developed to progress toward standard**
  - Technical and conceptual issues and gaps
- **ESCAP will work with United Nations Statistics Division to advance research agenda**
  - Pilot country experiences provide important practical experience/inputs

Global ocean accounting action

## The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP)

- **Co-Chaired by ESCAP and Fisheries and Oceans Canada**
- **Voluntary partnership to share lessons learned from ocean accounts, build guidance, and advance implementation**
- **Membership continues to grow—most recent new member is Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia**

# Global Oceans Accounts Partnership pilots are underway

- **Funding received from UK government to support ocean accounts development**
  - Asia and the Pacific
    - Fiji, Thailand, and Viet Nam
  - Africa
    - Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa
- **Funding from Australia to conduct scoping and community of practice development in India**
  - Led by University of New South Wales and Madras School of Economics

# ESCAP work with pilot countries continues

- **ESCAP completed pilots in 5 countries in 2018-2020 (China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand, Viet Nam)**
  - Covered varied thematic areas (fisheries, tourism, waste)
- **Fiji, Palau, and Samoa focus of efforts from 2021-2022**
  - Ecosystems likely to include mangroves, corals
  - Initially scoping extent and condition accounts
- **Providing technical support to other countries developing ocean accounts**

## **National efforts have been made to highlight the ocean's economic contribution to GDP**

- **Canada**
- **China**
- **Norway**
- **Portugal**
- **United States**
- **Others?**



## **National pilot work on ocean ecosystem accounts ongoing or planned globally**

- **Australia**
- **Canada**
- **Indonesia**
- **Mexico**
- **Netherlands**
- **South Africa**
- **UK**
- **Others?**

## ESCAP exploring development of dashboards for ocean ecosystem accounts in Asia and the Pacific

- **Dashboards can be a way of displaying high-level indicators of interest**
  - EU, Norway, US, for example, have dashboards related to ocean economy
- **Extend to extent, condition or services**
- **Potential to use global datasets or national alternatives**
- **Will ground-truth with pilot countries**

# Discussion Questions

- **Are London Group members aware of ocean ecosystem accounts pilots not already mentioned (even if preliminary)?**
- **Are there priority issues that immediately come to mind related to a global set of ocean accounts?**
- **How might the London Group like to be involved/engaged in the inputs into the SEEA-Ocean process and in updates related to pilots?**

# THANK YOU

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