

## **About this Paper**

This paper is an extract from the report of the Global Online Stakeholder Consultation: Inputs to Ocean Action Panels Concept Papers, which summarizes inputs received from stakeholders to a global online stakeholder consultation organized by UN DESA in connection with the <u>2025 United Nations Ocean Conference</u> which will be held from 9 June to 13 June in Nice, France.

The main Report can be found **here**, including links to all responses and all inputs to the ten Ocean Action Panels, as well as detailed background information and a summary.

This paper presents summaries of key messages for Ocean Action Panel 2: Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology, and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.







Under this topic, 121 contributions were received, and more detailed inputs are available <u>here</u>.

### **Main Challenges**

Many stakeholders emphasized the critical need for more financial resources to drive ocean conservation efforts. The challenge lies in securing adequate, long-term funding to support initiatives, particularly in coastal restoration, marine conservation, and sustainable development projects.

"Practitioners, researchers, traditional owners, communities, industry and others should investigate innovative financial mechanisms for restoration which consider the advantages and disadvantages of a range of financing options, including blended funding models which offers a future path to engage the financial sector in restor-

ation to address risk and identifying and implementing learnings from successful international large-scale funding models." (Africa Sustainable Climate and Environment Foundation)

Several stakeholders pointed out the need for increased awareness and knowledge dissemination, particularly targeting younger generations and local communities. Without widespread understanding of sustainable practices and ocean conservation needs, it becomes difficult to foster long-term engagement and behavioral change.

According to stakeholders, building strong and effective partnerships across countries and regions is essential for driving comprehensive ocean conservation strategies. However, stakeholders noted that the pace of forming these collaborations has been too slow, which impedes



## Partnership Spotlight

The <u>AIS Forum on Adjustment of Blue Economy Development Index</u> supports the adjustment and enhancement of the Blue Economy Development Index (BEDI) under the AIS Forum, which currently includes 22 out of 51 member countries. The partnership aims to expand the BEDI framework from the macro level to the meso level, allowing individual countries to adopt and tailor the index to their national blue economy goals. Financially, this partnership focuses on leveraging both public and private funding sources to support the shift from macroeconomic measurements to more granular, country-specific economic indicators. By increasing investment transparency and adaptability, the partnership contributes to SDG 14 by enabling countries to better measure and track their sustainable marine economy . (Submitted by HACOSTA)

large-scale progress in protecting marine ecosystems. Stakeholders also mentioned how outdated or fragmented regulations, coupled with slow-moving policy frameworks, are major obstacles to advancing ocean conservation. Stakeholders identified the need for better governance structures, streamlined policies, and international cooperation to overcome these barriers.

"Innovations in financing mechanisms are required for achieving a healthy and sustainably managed ocean. Challenges in blue finance include creating an enabling policy environment, community involvement, enhancing the role of commercial banks, and addressing sustainability and project impacts. Blending financing, ensuring ownership, and building capacity are also hurdles. Solutions involve engaging with financial facilities like the African Bank and the World Bank to support ocean conservation through investable programmes, which is not yet successfully adapted for smaller scale initiatives." (Marine Regions Forum)

#### **Transformative Actions**

Stakeholders mentioned the importance of involvina corporate entities through initiatives. By engaging private sector actors, ocean conservation efforts can gain access to additional funding and resources, accelerating progress. They also mentioned the vast financial resources required to shift toward a sustainable blue economy, urging stakeholders to invest in solutions that regenerate marine ecosystems and address long-term risks. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of international collaboration to significantly increase financial commitments to climate and biodiversity goals. Redirecting financial flows toward nature-positive investments is essential for achieving SDG 14.

"Countries must close the climate and biodiversity finance gaps, including by agreeing a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance that goes far beyond the current \$100 billion, and by redirecting financial flows in nature-positive ways." (The Nature Conservancy)



Figure 9: Keywords associated with Ocean Action Panel 3: "Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14." according to stakeholders.

Source: UN DESA

# I TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE

# **Partnership Spotlight**

The <u>IUCN CEC/UNESCO Earth Network/Ocean Literacy Global Taskforce</u> focuses on funding and supporting nature conservation through various international initiatives. By collaborating with global organizations, such as UNESCO and UNEP, the taskforce aims to advance ocean literacy and generate financial support for conservation projects. By leveraging international funding channels, this initiative contributes to SDG 14 by promoting sustainable use of marine resources and raising awareness about marine ecosystems. (Submitted by IUCN CEC/UNESCO Earth Network/Ocean Literacy Global Taskforce)