

World Resources Institute (WRI)

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The World Resources Institute (WRI) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Ocean Action Panel 2 on “Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.” We urge countries to commit to the 100% sustainable management of ocean areas under national jurisdiction — as a foundation for long-term resilience, prosperity, and climate security.

WRI hosts the Secretariat of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), an initiative of 18 Heads of State and Government, united by the belief that ocean protection and production can go hand in hand. The Panel’s headline goal is to ensure that 100% of national ocean waters are sustainably managed by 2030, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs).

SOPs are country-led, science-based strategies that align biodiversity, climate, and economic development priorities. They reduce policy fragmentation, enable targeted investments, and deliver measurable benefits for people and nature. Over half of the Ocean Panel countries have now published their SOPs, with others actively developing theirs.

SOPs are also powerful tools for delivering on international commitments. They can help achieve Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (30x30), support adaptation and mitigation goals under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and serve as a framework for unlocking blue finance, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

WRI supports countries in developing and implementing these plans through Ocean Action 2030, a coalition of technical partners. We also coordinate the 100% Alliance, co-led by France and Chile, which invites all coastal and ocean states to join this ambition.

We urge all countries to join the 100% Alliance, adopt Sustainable Ocean Plans. Together, we can shift from fragmented action to integrated, inclusive, and accountable stewardship of the ocean — ensuring healthy marine ecosystems that support thriving communities for generations to come.