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Bogor Strategic Action Plan

South–South Collaboration to Accelerate Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development

Reflecting outcomes and discussions at the South–South Ocean Accounting Exchange, IPB University International Convention Center, Bogor, Indonesia, 30 March – 1 April 2026

Context and Purpose

The South–South Ocean Accounting Exchange brought together practitioners, policy-makers, statisticians and technical experts from more than 23 countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside Indonesia's National Ocean Accounting Workshop. The Exchange was co-organised by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia (MMAF), IPB University, and Rekam Nusantara Foundation, with support from the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and the United Kingdom Government through the Blue Planet Fund. The actions below reflect the practical challenges, opportunities, and recommendations surfaced through technical workshops, fellowship exchanges, panel discussions, government working-group sessions, and development-partner consultations.

The Exchange took place at a moment of significant momentum for ocean accounting. The role of ocean accounting in decision-making has been recognised across multiple multilateral frameworks: in the outcome documents of the Convention on Biological Diversity — including COP-15 Decision 15/24 on marine and coastal biodiversity, which explicitly calls for ocean accounting and economic valuation of marine ecosystem services, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in which several Targets call for the integration of biodiversity values into policies and accounts — and in the UNOC 3 Political Declaration (Nice, June 2025), which recognised ocean accounting for the first time in a major multilateral ocean instrument. The Pledge to Advance Ocean Accounts by 2030 has been signed by 19 countries and 7 organisations. The Ha Long Consensus (March 2025) established the first regional commitment to ocean accounting in South and Southeast Asia, and further commitments have been made in the Western Indian Ocean, the Pacific, and other regions. More than 60 ocean accounting initiatives are now active across 50+ countries, including 7 multi-country initiatives at a regional level.

Throughout this trajectory, Global South countries have played a distinctive technical and strategic leadership role — through co-chairing of the Partnership, pioneering national implementations, developing operational dashboards and data systems, and driving regional consensus-building across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. This Action Plan builds on that leadership and the practical experience shared at Bogor.

This document is intended to serve as a practical reference for countries and partners to draw on when making the case for better resourcing of ocean accounting and for aligning technical support with national priorities.

The Value Proposition

Ocean accounts aim to organise environmental, economic and social information into an integrated, internationally comparable framework anchored in the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting (SEEA). Their intended value lies in enabling countries to move beyond GDP by measuring what national accounts alone do not capture: the ocean wealth and its changes, the contribution of marine ecosystems to economic sectors and livelihoods, and the social and governance conditions that determine whether ocean use is sustainable.

Ocean accounts serve multiple audiences simultaneously, for example: policy-makers assessing whether ocean management is effective; finance ministries integrating natural assets into fiscal planning; regulators quantifying the risk and cost of ecosystem loss; investors evaluating the viability of ocean-related investments; and communities seeking recognition of their dependence on and contribution to ocean health. This cross-cutting function underpins the action areas below.

Common Barriers

Participants across various regions identified a number of common challenges facing countries in the Global South.

- **Data fragmentation.** Ocean data sits in silos across ministries, statistical offices, geospatial agencies, universities and NGOs, with no common framework for integration. Open-source data is often available but not validated, and centralised government portals for ocean data are rare.
- **The data-to-accounts gap.** Having data is not the same as having accounts. The methodology and institutional capacity to translate raw data into structured statistical accounts remain under-resourced and under-explained.
- **Disconnection from finance.** Ocean accounting currently provides evidence but does not yet reliably connect ecosystems to capital. The pipeline from functioning projects to bankable proposals is incomplete.
- **Institutional ownership.** Technical solutions stall without political champions and clear institutional homes. The ministry responsible is often young and not well integrated with national development plans, while resources are normally allocated to larger sectors.
- **Ocean accounting needs to be owned by decision-makers,** not only by scientists.
- **Capacity and sustainability.** Technical capacity gaps — in human resources, institutional systems and long-term data maintenance — are primary barriers, particularly in SIDS and least developed countries. The regeneration of professionals in ocean accounts and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge must be sustained. Ensuring that ocean accounting continues beyond initial pilot phases is a recurring concern.

- **Data sensitivity.** Countries face data sensitivities that can affect engagement with certain categories of accounts, for example those involving sensitive natural resources and security matters. Sovereign discretion over the scope and timing of any disclosure is recognised, noting that the development of accounts does not in itself entail public disclosure. Trust frameworks and clear protocols for data security, attribution and confidentiality can, as appropriate, support voluntary and targeted disclosures and broader participation.

Action Area 1: Closing the Implementation Gap — From Data to Decision-Ready Accounts

1. **National ocean data coordination mechanisms.** Participating countries are encouraged to establish or strengthen cross-agency coordination bodies — bringing together the national statistical office, line ministries, geospatial agencies and research institutions — with agreed data custodianship, access protocols, community engagement mechanisms, and quality standards.
2. **Integrated ocean data platforms.** The development of consolidated ocean data platforms that bring environmental, economic and social data together is encouraged, where feasible connected via APIs and system integration to reduce manual data entry and support verification and validation. Existing national implementations may offer models for adaptation.
3. **From data to statistical accounts.** Support the progression from baseline data collection towards structured statistical accounts that could inform national planning. This would benefit from standardised data structures at the national level and an accessible methodology for translating data into accounts through harmonisation, aggregation and centralisation.
4. **Longitudinal data investment.** Commit to sustained investment in time-series data collection — the prerequisite for establishing baselines, measuring change and demonstrating trends. Incomplete or intermittent records undermine the credibility and usefulness of ocean accounts.
5. **Indicator harmonisation and standard methodologies.** Align indicator methodologies and classification systems across agencies within each country, and work towards cross-country comparability through SEEA and GOAP technical guidance. The development of standard operating procedures for routine data collection, supported by regulatory instruments where appropriate, could strengthen consistency.
6. **Modular architecture.** Build core data infrastructure before layering analytical tools. Remote sensing, GIS and AI should extend well-structured data systems, not substitute for them.

Action Area 2: Connecting Ocean Accounts to Finance and Investment

1. **Accounts as a data pipeline to capital.** Embed four functions into ocean accounting practice from the outset: (i) baseline valuation of ecosystem services; (ii) risk assessment of natural asset stocks and revenue flows; (iii) standardised impact indicators that investors can independently verify; (iv) post-investment ecosystem monitoring. The concept of data as a pipeline to capital must be designed in from the start, not retrofitted.
2. **Investment-readiness criteria for nature-based solutions.** Collaborate with multilateral development banks, regional financial institutions, insurance markets, and private investors to define 'investment-ready' for nature-based solution projects that align with international frameworks. Such criteria could help narrow the gap between operational initiatives and those that meet investor due diligence requirements, and could be developed as shared guidance through GOAP.
3. **Blue financial instrument development.** Support the co-development and scaling of blue financial instruments, including bonds (sovereign and non-sovereign), parametric insurance products and high-integrity blue carbon markets, underpinned by ocean accounting data that reduces transaction costs and perceived risk.
4. **Ecosystem assets in fiscal frameworks.** Explore pathways for integrating ecosystem valuation results into national budget processes and fiscal architecture, so that the contribution of ocean ecosystems to economic sectors and livelihoods is recognised commensurate with its importance — supporting the transition of ocean accounting from a technical exercise towards a fiscal planning tool.
5. **South–South finance exchange.** Share practical experience across the Global South on the use of ocean accounts to mobilise development finance, support community-level investment models, and develop emerging financial instruments. Structured finance exchanges should be a standing feature of future South–South events.

Action Area 3: Strengthening Governance, Institutional Ownership and Political Will

1. **Secure domestic champions at every level.** Design capacity development programmes that cultivate national and institutional champions for ocean accounting — individuals and institutions willing to own and drive the agenda domestically. Technical work is unlikely to be sustained without political ownership.
2. **Embed ocean accounts in national planning frameworks.** Integrate ocean accounting into national development plans, blue economy roadmaps, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies

and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and marine spatial planning processes, including in the implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The aim is for ocean accounts to actively inform policy decisions.

3. **Advance inter-ministerial coordination.** Establish or strengthen inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms — such as ocean accounts task forces, environmental account councils, or equivalent bodies — with clear mandates, regulatory backing, and compulsory data-sharing requirements across national agencies.
4. **Leverage regional platforms for political buy-in and practical application.** Use existing regional architectures to accelerate adoption through collective political momentum, exchange and share learning, rather than country-by-country persuasion. National development plans and priorities-led initiatives, including national marine spatial plans and blue economy strategies, provide natural entry points at the country level. Relevant regional organisations and mechanisms, sectoral bodies and commissions, and technical cooperation platforms also play a useful role in raising awareness, fostering peer learning, and supporting implementation at the regional level.
5. **Advance governance and social accounts.** Contribute actively to the development of standardised international methodologies for governance and social accounts, with the aim of ensuring that the perspectives and governance traditions of Global South countries help shape emerging standards. Governance accounts could usefully capture both formal and informal management mechanisms — including traditional and customary systems — and assess management effectiveness, not merely the presence or absence of formal structures.
6. **Community voice in national accounts.** Pilot social accounting methodologies that connect community perspectives and traditional knowledge to national accounting frameworks, with the aim of making visible the cultural, livelihood and wellbeing dimensions of ocean use that may be absent from large-scale planning processes.

Action Area 4: Building Human Capacity and South–South Peer Networks

1. **Recurring South–South Exchange programme.** Explore the institutionalisation of the Exchange as a recurring platform — with regular peer-learning events, technical workshops, study visits, and practitioner secondments between countries at different stages of implementation — to generate concrete, feasible outputs, with dedicated support for SIDS and LDC participants.
2. **Data-to-accounts translation guidance.** Develop practical, step-by-step methodology guidance for converting raw data into structured ocean accounts, drawing on the lived experience of countries that have navigated this transition. Deliver as worked examples, standard operating procedures and case studies — not only as technical manuals.

3. **Science-to-policy translation.** Bridge the gap between technical ocean accounting outputs and actionable policy. Ocean accounts must be communicated in formats and language that decision-makers, finance ministries and development planners can use directly.
4. **Education and professional development.** Embed ocean accounting into university curricula and professional training programmes, building on the GOAP Education Series and emerging national curriculum initiatives. Universities and research institutions serve as multipliers — generating primary data, providing scientific credibility, and building the next generation of ocean accounting scientists and practitioners.
5. **Trust frameworks for data sharing.** Support cross-institutional data exchange, as appropriate, by addressing data security concerns and establishing clear protocols for data access, use, attribution, confidentiality and mutual benefit, consistent with national circumstances.
6. **Country commitment is a prerequisite.** Technical support and initial funding from partners is most effective when accompanied by demonstrated country commitment — in political will, institutional resources and sustained engagement. Participants noted that ocean accounting is unlikely to take root without domestic ownership.

Action Area 5: Expanding Scope — Toward Integrated and Sub-National Accounts

1. **Cross-domain integration.** Connect ocean accounts with land-based accounting, plastic and pollution accounts, freshwater accounting, and blue carbon frameworks under coherent platforms. Ocean data dashboards should serve as integration points that link marine information to broader environmental-economic accounting systems.
2. **Sub-national and community-level accounts.** Strengthen regional and local government capacity for ecosystem valuation and ocean accounting. Sub-national accounts can identify economic value potential, inform licensing and spatial planning decisions, and empower regions to manage ocean resources as development assets.
3. **Holistic dashboard design.** Ensure that ocean accounting dashboards present decision-makers with integrated indicators covering ecosystem health, economic performance, social well-being, nature-positive investment opportunities, and governance effectiveness, providing the holistic view needed for sustainable development planning.

Partner Support Needs

Participants identified specific forms of support that partners can provide to accelerate ocean accounting implementation. These requests cut across all action

areas and reflect the practical realities faced by countries at different stages of the ocean accounting journey:

- Technical support to translate data into structured ocean accounts, including hands-on guidance, advisory support, a sustainable financing plan, and help communicating results to stakeholders.
- Funding for national ocean accounting programmes — including data collection infrastructure, personnel, and institutional coordination. Lack of dedicated funding remains a fundamental constraint.
- Open data and pilot studies. Partners should facilitate access to validated open data sources, support pilot studies, and coordinate regional data sharing portal efforts to build evidence and demonstrate value.
- Gap identification. Partners should help identify specific gaps in current data and institutional ecosystems that are hindering progress, enabling targeted interventions rather than generic support.
- Facilitate the convening of a community of practices across sectors and expertise to mainstream ocean accounts in national and global frameworks.
- Tailored technical support aligned with each country's specific context, data framework needs and stage of implementation — recognising that one-size-fits-all approaches are insufficient.

Existing Institutions and Processes to Host Ocean Accounting

Participants mapped existing institutions and processes that could serve as hosts for ocean accounting work nationally and regionally:

Geographic Focus Area	Key Institutions and Governance Frameworks
Asia - South and Southeast Asia	Regional development banks (including AIIB and ADB); regional cooperation mechanisms, including the ASEAN Coordinating Task Force on Blue Economy (ACTF-BE), the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework (ABEF), and SAARC-related environmental and maritime cooperation platforms; regional frameworks for marine sustainability, ocean governance and coastal resilience; and national frameworks for natural capital accounting, ocean governance and blue economy strategies.
Africa – East and Indian Ocean	Nairobi Convention (regional policy and portal); Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA); national marine spatial plans; national blue economy strategies; MACMA/NDOC
Africa – West	Abidjan Convention; Africa Ocean Institute

Geographic Focus Area	Key Institutions and Governance Frameworks
Pacific	Pacific regional frameworks, national statistical offices, and maritime authorities
Cross-cutting / National	Environmental account councils; inter-ministerial task forces; national statistical offices; statistics departments and academic institutions; multi-stakeholder partnerships (community, local government)

Implementation

Coordination. Implementation may be pursued flexibly through relevant regional and multi-country structures, with support from the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP). This distributed model can enable action at the level closest to national and regional realities, while maintaining coherence through GOAP's technical guidance and convening role.

Timeline. The commitments outlined in this Action Plan are conscious of the timelines agreed in the Pledge to Advance Ocean Accounts by 2030 and the UNOC 3 Political Declaration, and should be pursued in alignment with those frameworks.

Resourcing. Implementation requires sustained investment from domestic budgets, international development partners, multilateral finance and the private sector. Partners are called on to consider aligning programming and funding with the actions set out here.

Mutual accountability. Technical support from partners and the international community must be matched by demonstrated country commitment in political will, institutional resources and sustained engagement. Ocean accounting is a shared endeavour that requires investment from all sides.

Openness. This Action Plan is open to endorsement by any country or organisation committed to advancing ocean accounting for sustainable development.

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