

Public Disclosure Authorized



85824

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR A

GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOR OCEANS

Public Disclosure Authorized

Public Disclosure Authorized

Public Disclosure Authorized



**Published: March 2014**

**Acknowledgements**

This document was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Norwegian people through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Global Partnership for Oceans. Special thanks to Rachel Kyte and Juergen Voegelé of the World Bank for their leadership.

**Note on this document**

This document summarizes the approach that the GPO will take in its work with countries to help improve the health of the oceans and reduce coastal poverty. It is the product of close to two years of consultations and feedback from governments, partners and a wide range of interested stakeholders around the world, and has been guided by a working group of over 20 partners as well as the recommendations of an independent blue ribbon panel of 21 global experts and thought leaders.

**Disclaimer**

This document was made possible through support provided by the Office of Forestry and Biodiversity, Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Environment, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No. EGEE-IO-13-00001, and through support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Norway. The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this work do not necessarily reflect the view of or imply an official endorsement by the World Bank, its Board of Executive Directors, or the Governments they represent. The World Bank does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this work. Nothing herein shall constitute or be considered to be a limitation upon or waiver of the privileges and immunities of the World Bank, all of which are specifically reserved.

**Photo credits**

Cover: © Curt Carnemark/World Bank  
Page 5: © Thi Hoa/World Bank  
Page 14: © Curt Carnemark/World Bank  
Page 21: © Arne Hoel/The World Bank  
Page 32: © Arne Hoel/The World Bank

# Contents

Synthesis	3
Why a Global Partnership for Oceans?	7
What will the Global Partnership for Oceans do?	11
How will the Global Partnership for Oceans work?	15
Appendix I. A declaration for healthy, productive oceans to help reduce poverty	23
Appendix II. Non-exhaustive menu of potential activities to be supported by the GPO	25
Appendix III. Guidance from the Blue Ribbon Panel to the GPO	43

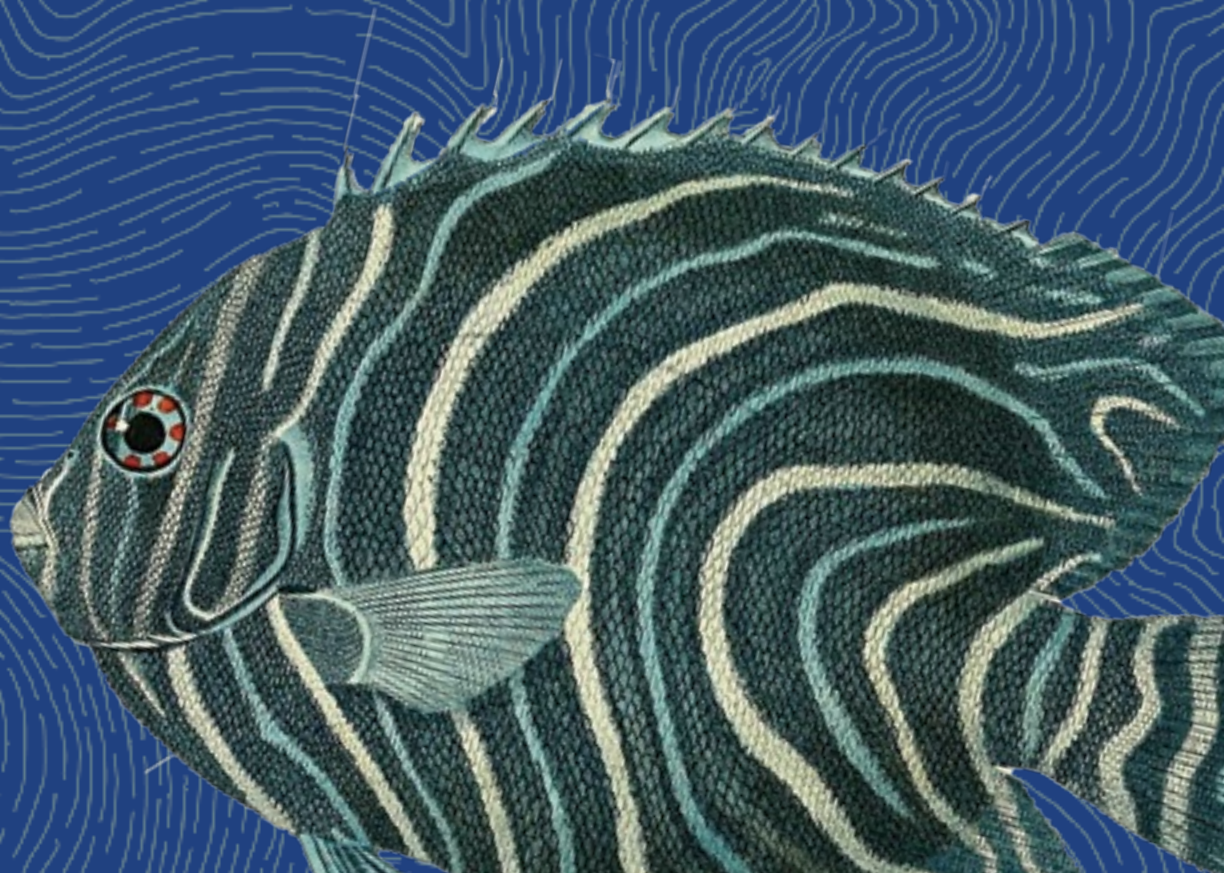
*Note:* All dollars are U.S. dollars unless indicated otherwise.



# SYNTHESIS

*“Fragmented approaches that fail to consider social, political, economic and ecological relationships will fail to meet the complex challenges facing ocean health”*

BLUE RIBBON PANEL REPORT, OCTOBER 16, 2013



Restoring the health of the world's ocean is a global challenge that can and must be solved if we are to alleviate poverty, build resilient communities, and foster strong coastal economies. Everyone stands to benefit if the ocean is better protected, better managed, and better understood for the important services that its ecosystems provide. For example, the estimated global benefits from more-effective, science-based management of fisheries are on the order of \$50–100 billion annually (World Bank and FAO 2009). Furthermore, Interpol cites estimates that illegal fishing alone costs the global economy up to \$23 billion annually. Similarly, coastal water pollution cost the world economy almost \$12.8 billion in 2006, according to the French



Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, and plastic waste alone results in over \$1.2 billion in annual damages to the Pacific region (Goodplanet.info 2009; Ocean Recovery Alliance 2012).

The natural systems underpinning the health of the ocean—and the livelihoods, food, and other services dependent upon them—are at risk, due largely to human action occurring in the context of weak institutions. The failure of institutions to manage human action affecting ocean ecosystems is degrading its ability to drive growth. Institutions and the formal and informal rules affecting policy design, implementation, and outcomes have failed to establish governance frameworks that incentivize better management of the goods and services provided by the ocean's ecosystems.

Fortunately, restoring the health of the world's ocean is possible—by aligning ocean health and human well-being. Working within the existing framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Treaty, the institutions governing human action in the ocean can be improved by recognizing that the well-being of communities, the viability of economies, and the sustainability of ecosystems are intricately linked (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). Drawing upon a continuum of approaches, there are more and more examples of successful reforms that can be customized to different country circumstances. Coordinated action to increase investment and cooperation around these proven solutions could unlock the ocean's potential to help alleviate poverty and promote shared prosperity. The international community has agreed on numerous occasions over the last 30 years to take such action. What is needed now is increased collaboration and resources across both public and private sectors in order to actually make it happen.

The Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) has been established as a convening platform that can help to reduce the barriers to countries obtaining the finance and expertise they need to restore ocean health. The GPO will coordinate this finance and expertise in a way that cuts across the traditional silos of fisheries, conservation, and pollution, sequencing interventions for maximum impact. It will help catalyze innovation and implement tailored, science-based solutions in response to country demand.

The GPO will help mobilize greater finance and knowledge to implement solutions. Building on existing commitments and institutions at the country, regional, and global levels, the GPO will respond to country demands for assistance by investing in the custom design of reforms and action plans to better manage their ocean resources, transition resources (that is, finance and knowledge) for wider replication and adoption of reforms and innovations, and sustainability and scale—leveraging long-term public and private investment based on the enabling conditions provided by the transition.

Based on recommendations from an independent Blue Ribbon Panel of global leaders, GPO support will follow five guiding principles:

1. *Sustainable livelihoods*, social equity, and food security, emphasizing the importance of marine ecosystems in delivering essential goods and services that underpin millions of livelihoods, social equity, and food security.
2. *Healthy ocean and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources*, ensuring investments contribute to the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of marine and coastal ecosystems, while recognizing that people are an essential part of the global ecosystem.
3. *Effective governance systems*, supporting innovative systems that provide incentives to private and public sector leaders at all levels to engage and support a healthy ocean and community well-being.

4. *Long-term viability*, making investments that are economically viable and socio-ecologically sustainable and that promote positive, self-sustaining outcomes, especially when transitional funding or other GPO assistance ends.
5. *Capacity building and innovation*, aiming to build on local knowledge and develop innovative solutions, human resource capacity, educational tools, and operating strategies, as well as new finance and policy vehicles.

To finance this support, the GPO will establish a new Global Fund for Oceans (GPO Fund), as well as an Ocean Investment Roundtable. The GPO Fund will finance the diagnosis of problems, map existing efforts, develop actions plans for reform, and identify the resources needed to implement them. Funds to implement these plans could come from members of the Ocean Investment Roundtable, who will harmonize investments in particular geographies, or from other interested public and private financing sources, including the World Bank's investment portfolio.

To mobilize the knowledge countries need, the GPO will include a network of expertise from the partners, coordinated through a global assembly of partners supported by the GPO Fund and a number of communities of practice established around specific issues and themes. These communities of practice will help develop, compile, and communicate solutions for interested countries, and will mobilize the expertise that countries need to develop action plans for reform.







# WHY A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS?

*Restoring the health of the world's ocean is a global challenge that can and must be solved. Leaders in business, government and civil society increasingly recognize this, and are building mechanisms and capacity for making this happen. Increasingly, inadequate policies, lack of political will, and institutional weaknesses are being overcome through new partnerships, coalitions and investments that have a high likelihood of helping reverse the decline of the ocean. Central to the success of these innovative strategies are global partnerships and networks that will enable the international community to tackle the problems at scale.*

BLUE RIBBON PANEL REPORT, OCTOBER 16, 2013





A healthy ocean is fundamental to human well-being and an indispensable part of Earth's life-support system, which sustains the species and the ecosystems upon which we depend. Some 70 percent of Earth's surface is covered by a vast body of salt water that moves between regions to form one interconnected system. The ocean regulates the climate and supplies half of the planet's oxygen. Eighty percent of all life on Earth is found in the ocean. Humankind depends on the functioning of ocean ecosystems (that is, ocean health)<sup>1</sup> to provide food and medicines for our growing population, support hundreds of millions of livelihoods, and contribute hundreds of billions of dollars annually to the global economy, all of which underpins the global effort to reduce poverty and promote shared prosperity. For example:

- **Food and nutrition:** Seafood contributes 16 percent of the animal protein consumed by the world's population, with 1 billion people in developing countries relying on this source of protein (a particularly critical source of nutrition, notably for early childhood and during pregnancy). Demand is expected to double in the next 20 years, with seafood already the most heavily traded food commodity in the world (FAO 2010).
- **Livelihoods:** Over 300 million livelihoods are estimated to depend on ocean fishing, aquaculture, and tourism, among other sectors, with 97 percent of livelihoods directly dependent on fisheries and aquaculture occurring in developing countries, mostly in small-scale operations in Asia (FAO 2010).
- **Economies:** Revenues in the global economy of more than \$190 billion annually come from seafood (FAO 2010), and some \$161 billion annually is derived from marine and coastal tourism and products, including antibiotics, antifreeze, fiber optics, antifouling paints, and a number of pharmaceutical products (UNEP 2006). A large number of developing coastal and island nations depend on tourism and fisheries for a significant part of their gross domestic product and public revenues.
- **Health:** Medicines that have improved many millions of lives—over 12,000 biochemical compounds have been isolated from sea creatures since the 1980s,

including anti-cancer agents, HIV drugs, pain medications, and others (European Science Foundation 2010; Faulkner 2001).

- **Homes and shelter:** Protection from natural hazards for the growing coastal population, particularly in small island developing states that depend on natural coastlines.
- **Mitigation of climate change:** Storage of carbon, which can generate significant value for both the local and global economy. "Blue carbon" sinks like mangrove forests, sea grass beds, and other vegetated ocean habitats can sequester up to five times the amounts of carbon absorbed by tropical forests (Nellemann et al. 2009).

However, the natural systems underpinning the health of the ocean—and the livelihoods, food, and other services dependent upon them—are at risk, due largely to human action occurring in the context of weak institutions.<sup>2</sup> For much of human history, the ocean has been viewed and treated as a limitless resource and a largely cost-free repository of waste. This misconception was enabled, in part, by the ocean's size and remoteness (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). Such mistaken beliefs, in combination with a rising resource demand (over the last 100 years, the world's population quadrupled to 7 billion and the gross world product increased 20-fold) and inadequate economic incentives and management tools to cope with this demand, have led to inefficiently regulated or unregulated competition among the various users (individuals, groups, and nations) (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). Currently, users compete for a share in the benefits derived from the ocean with little or no incentive to protect or improve those goods and services for future generations. This has resulted in excessive use, and in some cases irreversible change, of valuable ocean resources. As a result, ocean communities have been facing increasing risks to their future wealth, livelihoods, and food security (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013).

Three key threats to ocean health result from this combination of misconceptions on the limits of ocean resources, growing demand, and weak institutions: overfishing, habitat change, and pollution (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005). In the context of weak institutions, a combination of

1. "Healthy ocean" refers to an ocean that is "clean, safe, prospering and sustainably managed. It contributes significantly to the economy, supporting multiple, beneficial uses such as food production, development of energy and mineral resources, recreation and tourism, transportation of goods and people, and the discovery of novel medicines, while preserving a higher level of biodiversity and a wide range of critical natural habitats" (U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy 2004).

2. Institutions are defined here as the formal and informal rules affecting policy design, implementation, and outcomes (North 1990).

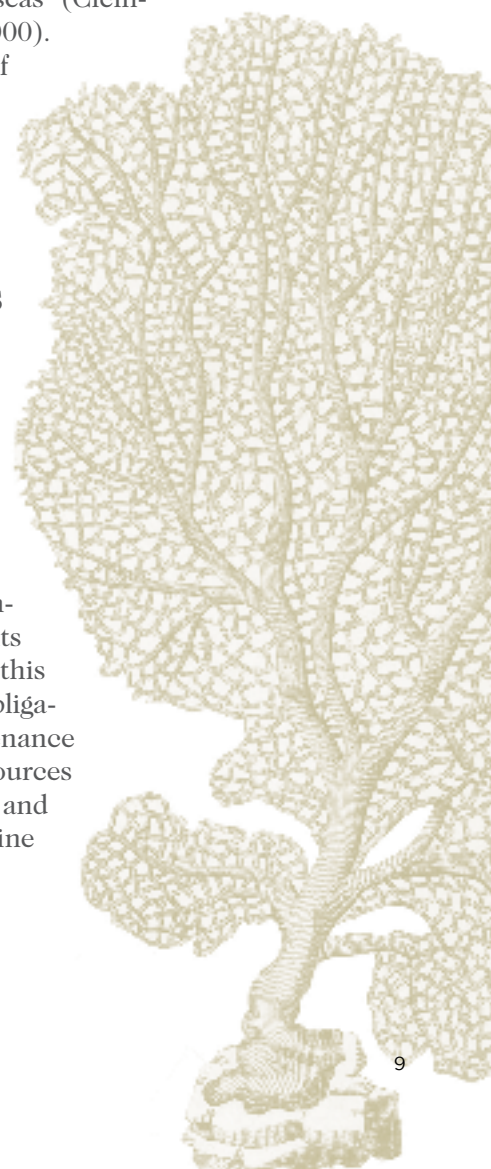
technological improvements and rising demand for seafood has driven overfishing. The current global fishing capacity is estimated to be 2.5 times greater than what is needed to catch fish at sustainable levels, and millions of tons of fish are caught illegally each year. Some 30 percent of the world's assessed ocean fisheries are currently overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion (up from 10 percent in 1970), while an estimated 11–25 million tons of fish are captured via illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing each year (Agnew et al. 2008). As both consequence and cause, the condition and extent of natural habitats in the ocean (and particularly coastal habitats) continues to decline. The world has lost 20 percent of its sea grass and mangrove habitats since, respectively, 1970 and 1980, while coral reefs have declined globally by 38 percent since 1980 (UNEP 2012). As coastal cities and populations have grown alongside global agricultural production and energy consumption, so too has the level of pollution entering the ocean, 80 percent of which now comes from land-based sources (UNEP 2012). Pollution continuously worsened from 1995 to 2012 in three areas: excess nutrients, wastewater/sewage, and marine litter (including, potentially, the emerging issue of micro-plastics).

Increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions are leading to climate change, warming surface water temperatures, lower surface water pH, and rising sea levels. Over the coming decades, these changes will increasingly stress the physics, chemistry, and biology of the ocean (Oceana et al. 2011). In terms of ocean acidification, the mean surface ocean pH has decreased from 8.2 to 8.1, and under current trends a decrease to 7.7 or 7.8 is projected by 2100, which is expected to be a major threat to coral reef communities and shellfish (UNEP 2012). Taken together, climate change and ocean acidification will affect the ocean in ways we are only beginning to understand. For example, the United States recently proposed listing 66 coral species under the Endangered Species Act as a result of rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and disease—all directly or indirectly linked to greenhouse gas emissions and a changing climate. Addressing the first three key threats to ocean health now—overfishing, habitat change, and pollution—offers the ocean the best chance to adapt to the changes caused by increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, as

long as there is sufficient action to reduce projected increases in the concentrations of these gases (IDDRI 2012).

The world has responded to these threats to ocean health with an array of treaties, agreements, and targets over the last 30 years, all committing signatory countries and organizations to concrete action. In 1982, to address the challenge of the ocean as a global commons, countries adopted the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). To date the convention has been ratified by 162 countries and the European Union. UNCLOS established a global governance framework for the use and management of ocean resources by balancing rights, interests, and responsibilities between coastal state jurisdiction and the areas beyond. Among its most important provisions, UNCLOS provides for a territorial sea not to extend beyond 12 nautical miles and a contiguous zone not to extend beyond 24 nautical miles, coupled with the right of innocent passage for ships from all states; an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) not to extend beyond 200 nautical miles; and freedoms in the high seas (Cicin-Sain and Knecht 2000).

With the delimitation of EEZs, UNCLOS put an additional 35 percent of the ocean's surface under national control with regard to management of natural resources (WCED 1987). UNCLOS defined a regime that gave governments a mandate to control the use of a much larger area of the ocean and the opportunity to address the threats to the health of the resources and to sustainably capture the benefits they could provide. With this opportunity came the obligation to ensure the maintenance of the ocean's living resources and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.



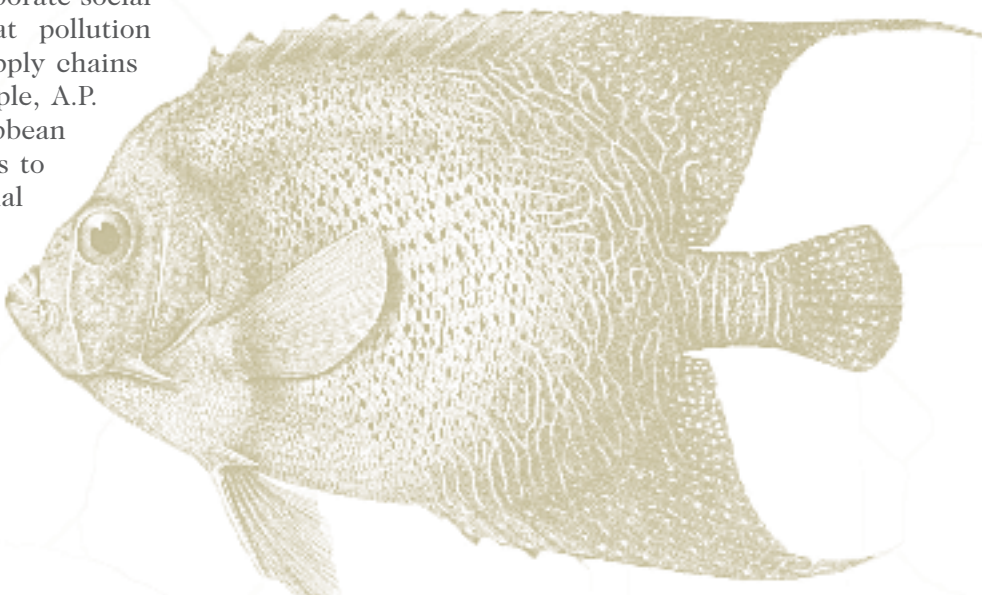
Since UNCLOS there have been over 80 global commitments to help address specific threats to ocean health, most notably at Rio in 1992, Johannesburg in 2002, and Nagoya in 2010, among others. Nations further reiterated many of these commitments in Rio in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (UNCSD 2012). Based upon these agreements, treaties, and targets, a vast array of programs and initiatives have been launched since 1992, often sector- or region-specific.

Many of these commitments have resulted in real action on the ground. Local bright spots include an increase in the use of novel management tools and user rights arrangements to help reduce fishing effort, rebuild fish stocks, and restore profitability in fishing (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). For example, territorial fishing rights recently implemented in fishing cooperatives and community-based organizations in Mexico, Chile, and Bangladesh have generated new economic and social returns as well as healthier fish stocks. There have been major efforts in recent years to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, including regulations requiring certification that fish imported into the European Union were caught legally, and the development of an international monitoring, control, and surveillance network. Interpol has launched Project Scale—a global initiative to detect, suppress, and combat fisheries crime (Interpol 2013).

These successes have not been confined to fisheries. The amount of ocean under formal protection has doubled in five years, as communities and governments have established a growing number of marine protected areas within competing uses, which have acted as “fish banks” or ecotourism hubs to generate new economic returns. Additionally, some progress has been made in leveling off and even reducing marine pollutants from a number of sources since 1992. The private sector, as part of corporate social responsibility efforts, has shown that pollution reduction is an important aspect of supply chains and overall business models. For example, A.P. Moeller Maersk Group and Royal Caribbean Cruises track and reduce waste streams to enhance productivity. The International Maritime Organization has developed effective alliances with the oil industry to establish training programs throughout West Africa for communities to prepare for

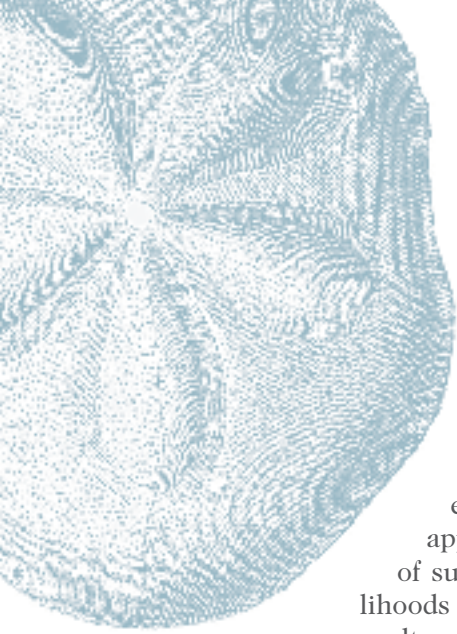
possible oil spills at local, national, and regional levels. Innovative enclosed wastewater management systems, including recycling, are being developed by firms such as Grundfos as part of the management of a number of densely used tourism developments. Several cities in developed and developing countries have established cost-effective solutions to costly wastewater treatment plants through natural “nutrient cleaning” that can be provided in lagoons, ponds, and wetlands. In Kolkata, India, 0.6 million m<sup>3</sup> of sewage and wastewater is treated daily in the East Kolkata Wetland System. The wetland produces a yearly catch of 11,000 tons of fish, accounting for about a third of the city’s fish demand (KEIP 2012). In Lake Manzala, Egypt, a demonstration wetland is treating 25-50,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater a day, substantially reducing the wastewater inflow from Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea (GEF 2012).

But progress remains uneven, and many global commitments are unfulfilled—hence the rationale for a global partnership to mobilize resources for this effort. Replicating the lessons from bright spots—with fit-for-purpose policies, underpinned by sound science, robust monitoring, and enforcement, and the resources and strengthened institutions to implement them at scale and tailored to local context—could help achieve the commitments the world has made for a healthier ocean. Leaders in business, government, and civil society increasingly recognize this and are building mechanisms and capacity for making this happen. The Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) is one response designed to bring financing and technical assistance to the ocean in the pursuit of poverty alleviation, resilience, and inclusive green growth. It aims to bring resources to countries for the implementation of commitments and replication of successes.



# WHAT WILL THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS DO?





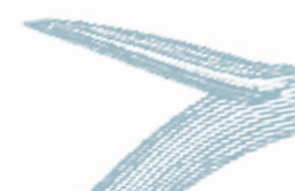
The Global Partnership for Oceans is a convening platform that aims to help reduce the barriers to countries obtaining the finance and expertise they need to improve ocean health.

The GPO will help coordinate this finance and expertise in an integrated approach across the sectors of sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture, conservation or enhancement of critical coastal habitats and biodiversity, and pollution reduction. It will also serve as a forum to share lessons across countries and regions.

The GPO does not advocate a one-size-fits-all approach to solving problems in the ocean. The GPO focuses on supporting countries to diagnose critical needs and opportunities for improving ocean health, custom design reforms and action plans to capture these opportunities, build a constituency of support for these reforms and plans, and mobilize access to any finance and expertise to implement them. These efforts will be government-owned and -led, with the GPO mobilizing the technical expertise and catalytic funding to develop reforms and plans with locally appropriate, evidence-based solutions from a spectrum of proven approaches. Given the diversity of issues facing the ocean and ocean-dependent communities, the approaches most likely to work will vary significantly from place to place and will need to be tailored to particular socio-ecological systems (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). No single approach will be sufficient to address the complexity of issues that face the world's ocean today (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). Instead, solutions must be multidimensional and integrate all aspects of the socio-ecological system (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). In general, some key aspects that underlie successful approaches include careful allocation of rights and responsibilities, thoughtful design of management practices, the efficiency of markets, and appropriate incentives and public-private partnerships (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013). A detailed menu of potential approaches and solutions within the four areas mentioned in paragraph 10 can be found in Appendix II.

The focus of the GPO's work is to alleviate poverty and achieve food security for communities dependent on ocean resources—aligning ocean health and human well-being. Traditionally, non-exclusive access rights to ocean resources (such as an open-access fishery) are granted to citizens to provide food or economic returns. This simple allocation of access rights can work well as long as the resource vastly exceeds the demands placed on it. But given the non-exclusive nature of this right, often other users crowd in, depleting the resource, dissipating net returns, and increasing poverty. So the GPO will prioritize approaches that benefit artisanal fishing communities and the poor over approaches that expose them to more uncertainty, leave them vulnerable to external shocks, or hamper their chances of future prosperity, building on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and the Committee on World Food Security's Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. For example, though often used as a cure-all for ocean habitat health, marine protected areas (MPAs) are not always pro-poor. MPAs involve exclusion rights that can be difficult to uphold without sufficient enforcement capacity, de facto privileging some access—usually the better-capitalized and harder to catch—over other access. At other times, MPAs themselves can be designed such that the exclusion right is given to one group at the expense of access rights of a community that depends on the area for its resilience and food security. As such, the GPO will work exclusively to empower local ocean users—the owners of this public resource—to take a long-term stake in the health of those resources and will help them to reap the benefits from them.

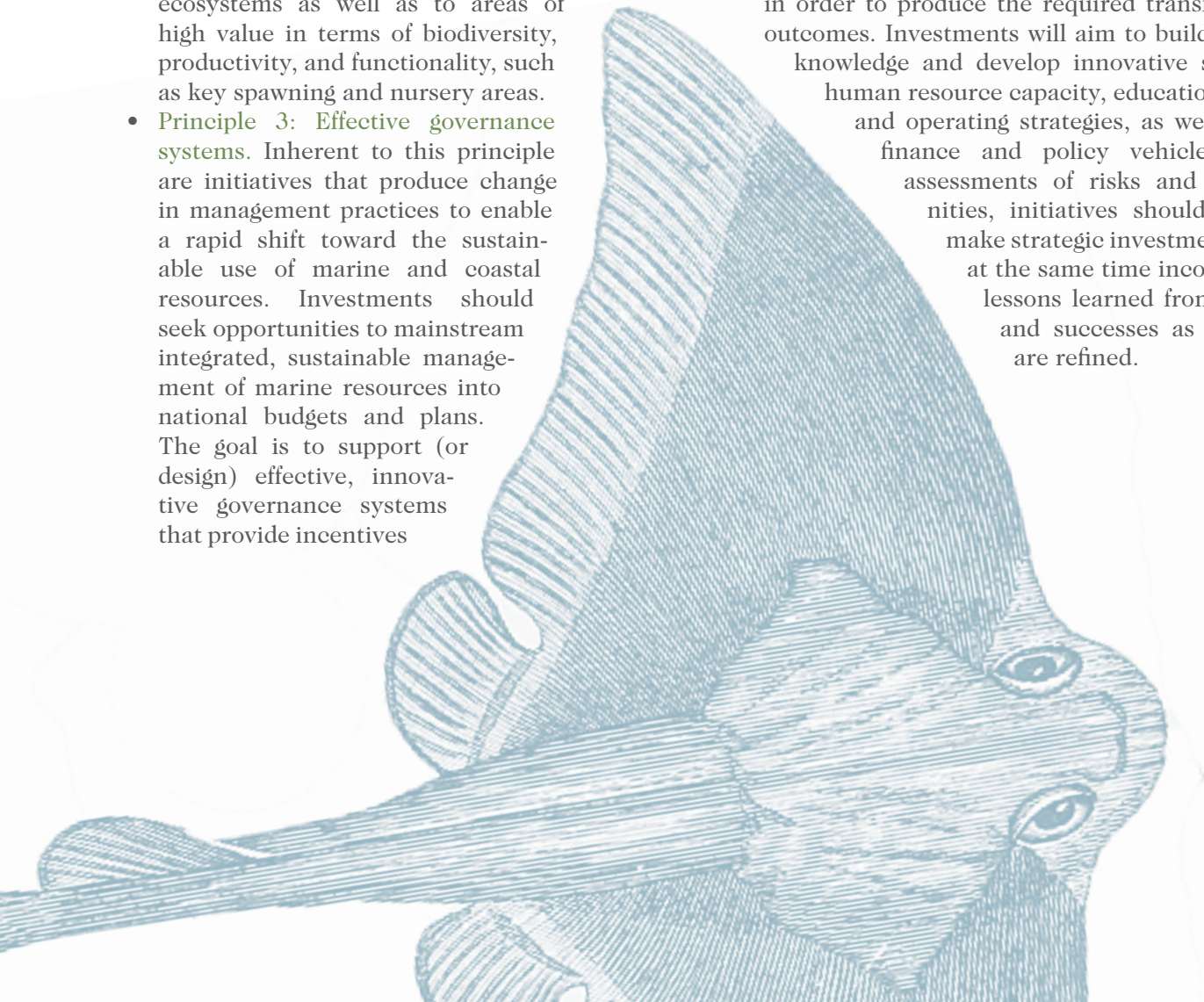
Five principles will guide the GPO in prioritizing approaches and solutions for support. As part of the design of the GPO, an independent panel of experts (the Blue Ribbon Panel) was created to advise on the development and implementation of the partnership and particularly to recommend the foundational principles for prioritizing GPO investments, considering ecological, economic, and community sustainability. Partners of the GPO nominated and helped select the panel members, consisting of leaders from 16 countries and representing government, the private sector, non-profit organizations, academia, and multilateral institutions. Based on the advice of this panel, the GPO will be guided by the following five principles (see Appendix III for the panel's full report):



- **Principle 1: Sustainable livelihoods, social equity, and food security.** This principle emphasizes the importance of marine ecosystems in delivering essential goods and services that underpin millions of livelihoods, social equity, and food security. Central to this principle is the need to align the use of resources to optimize the well-being of people today and in perpetuity. Further, efforts need to reduce conflicts over resources by using an integrated ecosystem management approach that considers economic, environmental, and social aspects. Key objectives for investments include incentivizing socio-ecologically sustainable use of ocean resources.
- **Principle 2: Healthy ocean and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.** Investments should contribute to the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of marine and coastal ecosystems. Central to this theme is the recognition that people are an essential part of the global ecosystem and that efforts to enhance ecosystem health must align with the goals of all stakeholders involved in the socio-ecological system. Particular emphasis should be given to fragile or vulnerable ecosystems as well as to areas of high value in terms of biodiversity, productivity, and functionality, such as key spawning and nursery areas.
- **Principle 3: Effective governance systems.** Inherent to this principle are initiatives that produce change in management practices to enable a rapid shift toward the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Investments should seek opportunities to mainstream integrated, sustainable management of marine resources into national budgets and plans. The goal is to support (or design) effective, innovative governance systems that provide incentives

to private and public sector leaders at all levels to engage and support a healthy ocean and community well-being.

- **Principle 4: Long-term viability.** Consistent with this principle are investments that are economically viable and socio-ecologically sustainable and that promote positive, self-sustaining outcomes, especially when transitional funding or other GPO assistance ends. Successful management frameworks, designed to restore depleted resources, will require long-term investment horizons and consistent monitoring. Ideally, they will build on and scale up existing efforts and incorporate pre-existing skills, networks, and organizations locally as well as globally. In pursuing this principle, efforts need to consider market and social forces and instruments that value and cause internalization of all environmental goods and services costs and that promote optimal development, management, and utilization of public goods.
- **Principle 5: Capacity building and innovation.** In accordance with this principle, investments should seek to scale up and integrate proven solutions and develop novel ideas and strategies in order to produce the required transformative outcomes. Investments will aim to build on local knowledge and develop innovative solutions, human resource capacity, educational tools, and operating strategies, as well as new finance and policy vehicles. Using assessments of risks and opportunities, initiatives should seek to make strategic investments while at the same time incorporating lessons learned from failures and successes as solutions are refined.



Guided by these principles, the GPO will build on the international governance arrangements, convention processes, and agreements that already exist to achieve agreed outcomes for a healthier ocean. The GPO builds on lessons learned, agreed international commitments, and targets made in Rio in 1992 under Agenda 21, and subsequently at Johannesburg in 2002, in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Nagoya in 2010, and at Rio +20. Moreover, the GPO will work with its partners to achieve the outcomes presented in the Declaration for Healthy Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty (see Appendix I). The GPO will design multidimensional indicators for each of these outcomes, in accordance with the five principles above, so that progress against them can be measured effectively. The GPO will also work to design broader impact indicators to measure the impact of achieving these outcomes on poverty and resilience.

The GPO will support countries to work in partnerships across private and public sectors. Individuals, communities, and industries that benefit from goods and services must jointly determine how to manage and share ocean resources within governance frameworks that are equitable and fair to all stakeholders. One instrument for holistic solutions is well-structured public-private partnerships that resolve pressing ocean issues by incorporating the five principles just described (Blue Ribbon Panel 2013).





# HOW WILL THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS WORK?





The GPO is an inclusive, open partnership of public, private, and civil society organizations and governments collaborating in knowledge and financing platforms to assist countries. New members may join at any time by formally endorsing the GPO Declaration and committing to help implement the GPO. In order to help reduce the barriers to countries obtaining the finance and expertise they need to improve ocean health, the partnership will provide a knowledge platform that shares lessons from success and failure and that mobilizes global knowledge and expertise along with a financing platform to mobilize the seed funding to identify and develop solutions and the larger capital needed for their implementation.

The following partnership arrangements are designed to help achieve GPO objectives.

### KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

- **Assembly of Partners.** The Assembly of Partners includes all partners in the GPO. This group contributes to the development and implementation of the partnership, representing a broad network of stakeholders, healthy ocean supporters, ambassadors, and advocates for healthy oceans. It can help develop and showcase innovations and solutions that can be supported and scaled by the GPO. The Assembly will review progress with GPO objectives, and its innovations, knowledge, and broad network of expertise may inform the dialogue of the GPO Fund Steering Committee as well as that of other partners' finance. The Assembly will aim to meet annually, although not less than every two years. Partners will fund their own participation, though

the GPO Secretariat will support participants from developing countries where necessary. Information on the status and progress of GPO investments and activities will be available to all partners, allowing the Assembly to monitor progress and contribute to specific activities. Consolidation of this information, as well as coordination of the annual meeting, is the joint responsibility of the Secretariat and the Partners.

- **Ad-hoc Working Groups of Partners (for example, communities of practice).** From within the Assembly, working groups of GPO partners will be established as needed around specific subjects/themes and to support requests from countries/regions. The working groups will be developed around focused terms of reference with specific and time-bound deliverables, such as incubating, compiling, and showcasing solutions and successes and developing and maintaining an active roster of global expertise on key topics likely to be needed by countries.

### FINANCING PLATFORM

- **Global Fund for Oceans (GPO Fund).** The GPO Fund is a multidonor trust fund (MDTF) managed by the World Bank, under a single governance framework and common standard provisions and following Bank policies and guidelines. The MDTF will provide grants to developing country governments (and/or regional organizations acting at their request) to undertake activities in support of GPO objectives, as well as funds executed directly by the World Bank for the same purpose. Planning, allocation, and reporting on finance from the GPO Fund, for support to countries and for global activities, is based on an annual work program that summarizes the activities to be financed in order to achieve the objectives, depicted alongside parallel and co-finance from partners (to the extent information is provided). The World Bank will have fiduciary responsibility over the use of the proceeds of the Fund and will manage and supervise the MDTF per World Bank guidelines governing Trust Funds.

A GPO Fund Steering Committee will be established to provide strategic guidance on the overall use of the MDTF. The Steering Committee will provide

---

3. Given the role of the GPO Fund Steering Committee in endorsing the work program and budget, provisions and procedures would be developed to address any potential conflict of interest considerations for members.

strategic guidance on the overall use of the GPO Fund, review and endorse the GPO Fund's annual work program and associated budget prepared by the secretariat, and review annual progress and financial reports of activities financed by the GPO Fund. The committee will include donors to the GPO Fund, the World Bank, and a limited number of other stakeholders who are critical to the MDTF's achieving the GPO objectives, as determined by the Steering Committee.<sup>3</sup> The committee will be chaired by one of its members, nominated by the full Committee at its first meeting. The Chair will rotate every two years. Decisions will be made by consensus in an open and transparent process, with meeting minutes made available to the Assembly of Partners and the general public. Meetings will be held on at least an annual basis, and initially as frequently as on a quarterly basis. Over time, some meetings could be virtual to reduce transaction costs. The composition and terms of reference for the GPO Fund Steering Committee will be further developed by the GPO Secretariat for proposed adoption by the Steering Committee at its first meeting, building on good practice experience.

- ***Ocean Investment Roundtable.*** Given the scale of the funding needed to support countries to implement the reforms necessary to achieve the GPO's objectives for healthier oceans and to help end poverty, an Oceans Investment Roundtable of GPO financiers (that is, bilateral and multilateral donors, dedicated finance instruments, and foundations) will be established as a subset of the Assembly. This will help fund investment opportunities as they are identified and developed by partners and the GPO Fund. The Roundtable will provide a flexible, coordinated platform to inform public, private, and philanthropic capital toward projects and investments identified and developed by the partners and the GPO Fund in response to country demand. Roundtable members will invest in opportunities of their choosing and according to their own procedures. The Secretariat's role is to foster a project or project pipeline for consideration by Roundtable members, as a service to and in consultation with the clients of the GPO. Interested members work with project proponents to develop concepts into full projects and investments.

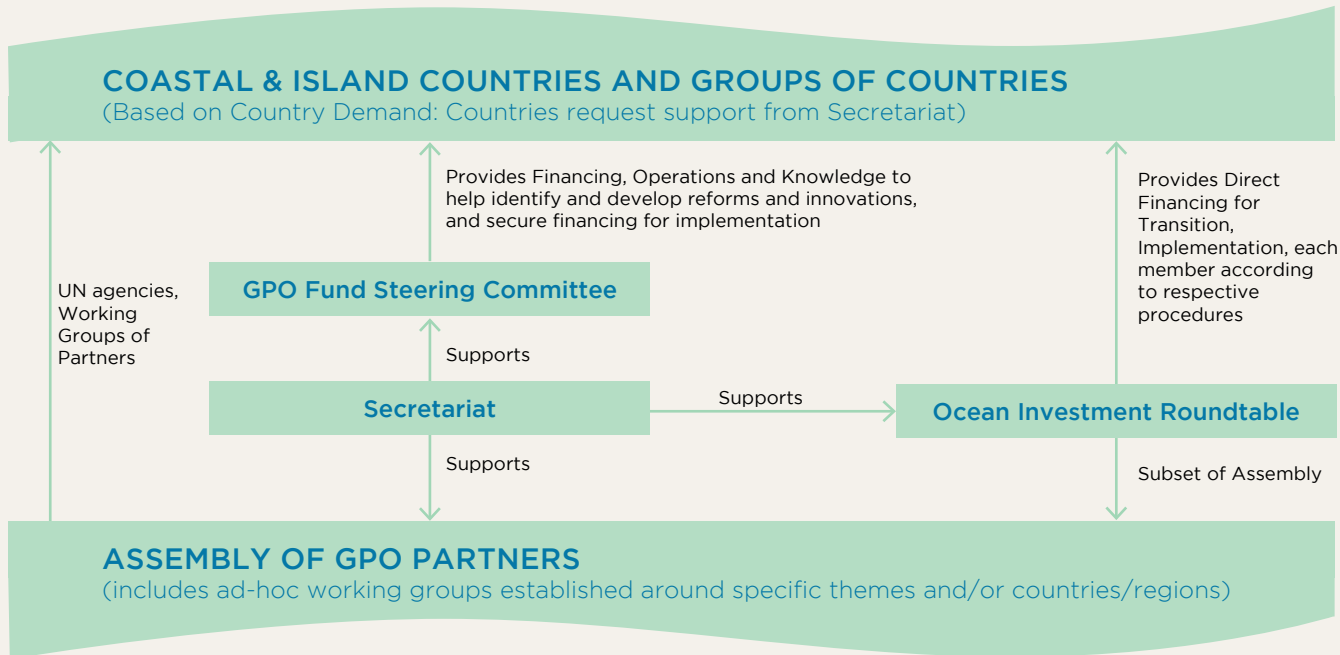
The Roundtable therefore focuses on matching ideas to finance, while at times it might also serve as a marketplace for predesigned programs, helping to

foster a diverse portfolio of ocean investments tied to GPO objectives and country priorities. Membership could grow over time, with members potentially financing Roundtable operating costs through an annual membership fee. Partners become members of the Roundtable in one of two ways. They can sign a Memorandum of Understanding to participate and can commit to a minimum level of future investment in the oceans as a best endeavor, for example through a dedicated financing fund or a pipeline portfolio committed to the GPO's objectives, in order to ensure that they can make a significant contribution—on the order of \$10 million over three years. Or they can contribute to the GPO Fund. The Roundtable aims to attract investments from partners with their own project selection and funding disbursement systems who also seek to work in partnership and at a scale beyond their individual reach. Partners participating in the Roundtable agree to share information on the investments made so that all partners can track progress toward achieving the GPO's objectives.

## ADMINISTRATION

- ***GPO Secretariat.*** The Secretariat, based in the World Bank, will include staff assigned to provide administration and operational support covering the day-to-day program management and administration of the GPO—including the GPO Fund, support of all partnership bodies (Assembly and partner working groups, Ocean Investment Roundtable, and GPO Fund Steering Committee), results tracking, and fund-raising—and the operations of the GPO, including coordination and implementation of the overarching work program among partners, brokering critical knowledge products and information, supporting achievement monitoring, and facilitating trilateral public-private-civil society partnership in this space. The Secretariat includes a core administrative team and draws upon a wider group of technical experts in the three components of the GPO (sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, habitat conservation, and pollution reduction) to provide momentum, support catalytic actions, and proactively maintain communication and facilitation with and between GPO partners. The Secretariat draws upon global experts and thought leaders from private and public sectors as needed for project implementation, beginning with the expertise from the Assembly of Partners.

## THE VARIOUS PARTNERSHIP BODIES WILL INTERACT AS FOLLOWS:

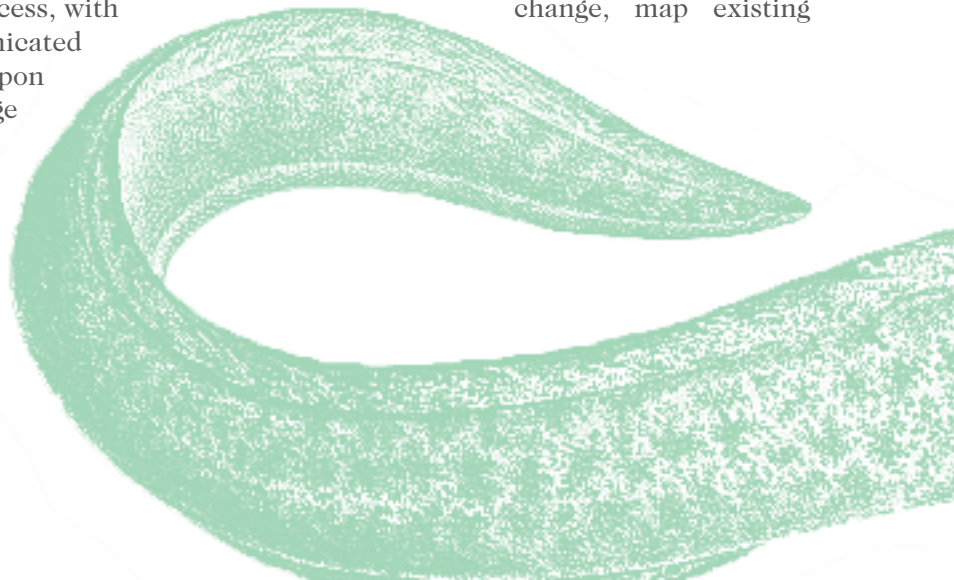


## THE GPO OFFERS A THREE-STAGE PROCESS TO RESPOND TO COUNTRY DEMAND

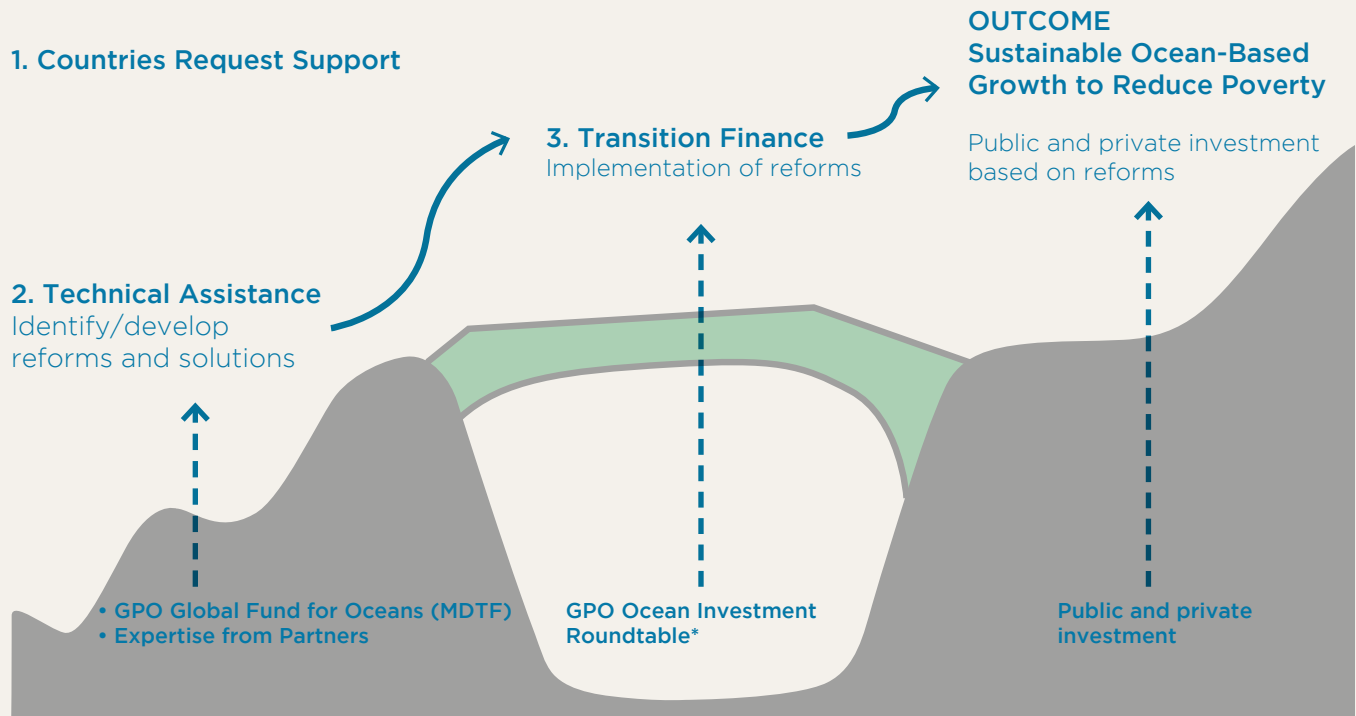
- Stage One: Country demand for GPO support.* The process begins with country demand, when countries or groups of countries request GPO support through the Secretariat. Requests for support from the GPO Fund will be prioritized based on their contribution to measurable progress as part of the five guiding principles described previously (see Appendix II for a fuller description of the principles and accompanying prioritization criteria). Transparency will be critical to this process, with country requests for support communicated widely to the partners to help build upon existing efforts and crowd in knowledge and resources where possible. Demand for GPO support is expected, often, to be multicountry in scale. GPO support will be concentrated primarily in waters under national jurisdiction (EEZs), although not to the exclusion

of areas beyond national jurisdiction. EEZs are where much of the world's fisheries production takes place, where natural habitats are under the greatest pressure, and the source of most of the pollution that enters the oceans.

- Stage Two: Global expertise mobilized to help identify, develop, and support reforms and action plans.* When possible under the GPO Fund, the Secretariat will support multidisciplinary teams, combining local and global expertise as warranted, to assess the needs, opportunities, and baseline conditions for transformational change, map existing



## GPO 3-STAGE PROCESS:

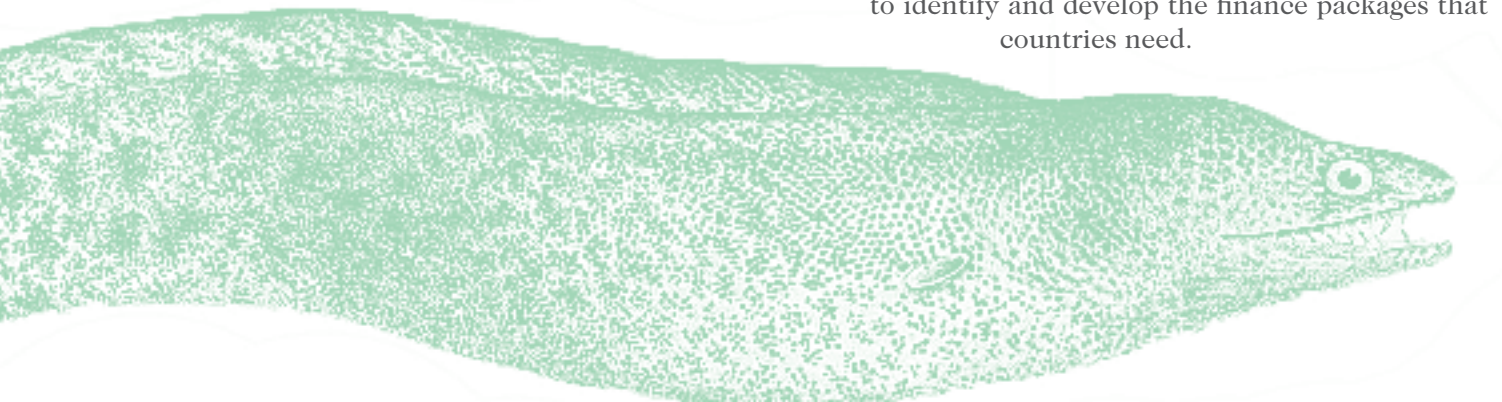


\*Note: All funds are governed according to the arrangements and procedures of the respective institutions.

efforts, help countries develop reforms and action plans, and identify the resources needed to implement them—all in consultation with stakeholders. The teams will look for local successes and opportunities for reform where support could help achieve the GPO's objectives in accordance with the five guiding principles, drawing as needed upon the GPO's knowledge platform for appropriate approaches from elsewhere. Pipeline and existing investments in an area would be clearly identified, both to avoid duplication and to build on or complement existing investments. The resulting reforms and action plans would include attainable and measurable performance measures toward achieving the GPO's objectives. As such, the action plans would provide a principle-based framework

for increased collaboration and resources for healthier oceans in that area of focus, creating a common agenda for action that draws upon workable solutions, while building upon existing work in each country. Action plans are owned and led by client countries, and progress against them is updated as commitments for support and action are made by interested partners.

- *Stage Three: Support for countries to secure transition/implementation finance as needed to implement reforms and action plans.* Once reforms and action plans are identified and developed, the GPO will help countries secure the long-term public and private investment finance needed to implement them. To this end, the GPO could draw upon its Ocean Investment Roundtable to identify and develop the finance packages that countries need.



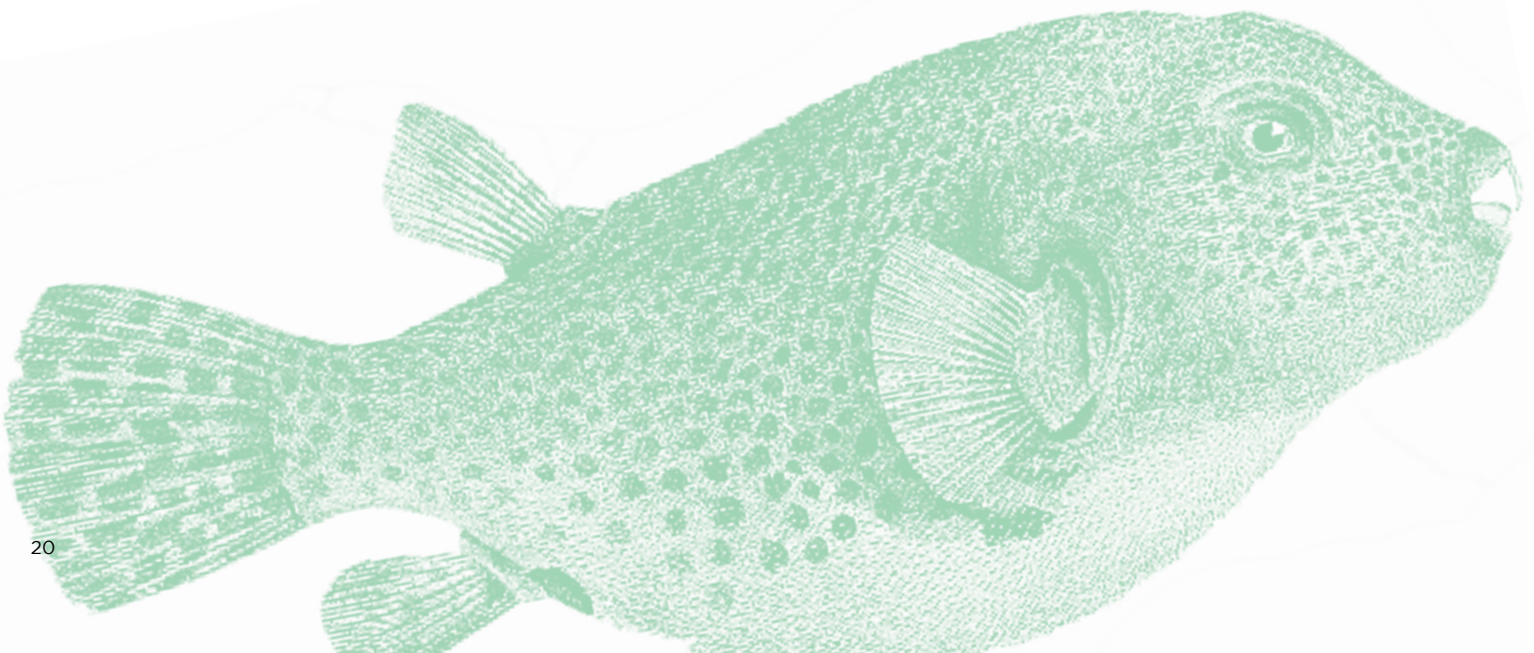
## GPO SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONAL POLICIES

- *National ownership.* GPO support will be requested and determined by countries, whether for implementation in specific countries or at the regional level on their behalf, and will be guided by national plans and priorities.
- *Mutual accountability.* GPO support in each country or region will be guided by the relevant national and regional policies and frameworks. Similarly, GPO support will be implemented through existing institutions to every extent possible, rather than creating new ones, working to build and strengthen capacity.
- *Alignment and harmonization.* GPO support will be aligned with and augment existing efforts of governments, partners, and stakeholders to ensure the GPO is adding value to what is already in place.
- *Empowerment.* GPO investments will aim to strengthen or reform the institutions managing the use of the oceans in such a way as to empower users to every extent possible, recognizing that the more decision-making responsibility that users have, the lower the transaction costs of management (and the higher the economic returns).
- *Scientific basis.* GPO investments will not only support projects with science-based actions but also support improving the science and access to reliable, relevant, and timely data related to the three goal areas, building on existing mechanisms, as appropriate.

- *Traditional knowledge.* Efforts will be made to ensure the historical expertise and cultural experience of island and coastal people are fully taken into account and incorporated into projects.
- *Socially and environmentally responsible investment.* GPO investments will follow applicable social and environmental standards, building on the World Bank's Social and Environmental Safeguards (see [worldbank.org/safeguards](http://worldbank.org/safeguards)), the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards (see [www.ifc.org/performance-standards](http://www.ifc.org/performance-standards)), and the Equator Principles (see [www.equator-principles.com](http://www.equator-principles.com)).

## GPO PARTNERS WILL PLAY DIFFERENT ROLES ACCORDING TO THEIR COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

- *Donor partners contributing to the GPO's finance platform,* either as a donor to the GPO Fund (formalized via an agreement with the World Bank) and/or a member of the Ocean Investment Roundtable (formalized via a memorandum of understanding with the World Bank).
- *Knowledge partners participating and contributing to the GPO's knowledge platform,* via the Assembly and various working groups to provide ocean research and information, wider knowledge products, experience, and on-the-ground operational capacity to help support GPO implementation.



- *Participating countries leading and implementing the reforms needed for healthier oceans.*
- *Private investors providing long-term finance for enterprises linked to healthy oceans, building off of reforms supported by the GPO.*

**The GPO is envisaged as a 10-year program.** However, to ensure proper follow-through and to capitalize on and replicate successes, the GPO may benefit from

a program of consolidation and renewal that could extend beyond 10 years. The first five years would enable a good assessment of the effectiveness of the GPO and the new financing instruments to support and catalyze the additional efforts of partners, after which successful activities could be replicated even further to achieve the objectives and targets.







# APPENDIX I. A DECLARATION FOR HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE OCEANS TO HELP REDUCE POVERTY



**W**e the Participants in the Global Partnership for Oceans, commit to develop and help implement this Partnership, in recognition of humankind's dependence on healthy oceans to feed the planet's growing population, support millions of livelihoods, contribute hundreds of billions of dollars annually to the global economy, and to provide essential environmental services, including climate regulation.

Despite global commitments made to date as well as the efforts of many organizations, governments, enterprises and individuals, the oceans remain under severe threat from pollution, unsustainable harvesting of ocean resources, habitat destruction, ocean acidification and climate change.

Building upon and better coordinating existing efforts and programs, including in support of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, our Global Partnership will convene stakeholders to mobilize significant human, financial and institutional resources for effective public and private investments in priority ocean areas. These investments will improve capacity and aim to close the gap in implementing global, regional and national commitments for healthy and productive oceans.

## **The Partnership Will Work toward Meeting the Following Interrelated Objectives by 2022**

### ***Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture***

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments\* and taking into consideration growing impacts of climate change:

- Significantly increase global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental and disease risk to stimulate investment;
- Reduce the open access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights for fishers and incentives for them to hold a stake in the health of the fisheries; and
- Enable the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing.

### ***Critical coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity***

In line with previous internationally agreed targets and to address the growing impacts of climate change:

- Halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management;
- Increase marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and
- Conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

### ***Pollution reduction***

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments and taking into consideration the growing impacts of climate change:

- Reduce pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and
- Support implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess nutrients, and further develop consensus for achievable goals to reduce these pollutants.

**The Global Partnership for Oceans is an inclusive partnership of Governments, civil society organizations, private sector companies and associations, research institutions, UN agencies, multi-lateral banks and foundations** whose membership will grow over time. We will contribute resources according to our respective comparative advantages which may include capability for implementation, knowledge, and/or monetary support towards investment on behalf of healthier oceans in a number of priority ocean areas.

**A Global Partnership for Oceans Fund** will be established and governed by a committee representative of the diversity of the membership and stakeholders of the Global Partnership for Oceans, and with an advisory process that will ensure that investment choices are evidence-based. Within the next six months, the partners will seek to finalize the governance and working arrangements for the Partnership.

\*Note: The previously agreed international commitments and targets referenced in this Declaration include those made in Rio in 1992 in Agenda 21, and subsequently at Johannesburg in 2002 and in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Nagoya in 2010.



## APPENDIX II. NON-EXHAUSTIVE MENU OF POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE GPO

This Appendix provides a non-exhaustive sampling of the types of activities that the GPO could fund in pursuit of diagnosing problems and custom-designing reforms and action plans for countries.

### SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD AND LIVELIHOODS FROM CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

The global demand for seafood continues to grow and is expected to double in the next 20 years. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (FAO 2012), in 2010 world aquaculture attained an all-time high production of food fish for human consumption at 59.9 million metric tons, representing 47 percent of food fish production (up from 9 percent in 1980). As such, the GPO will finance activities aimed at both capture fisheries and aquaculture, with the aim of guiding both toward more-sustainable paths, taking into consideration the interests and working conditions of fishers, with a particular focus on the interests of those engaged in subsistence, small-scale, and artisanal fisheries. In the case of fisheries, the GPO will support policy, legal, and regulatory reforms, coupled with sound scientific knowledge for management advice and robust enforcement to enhance compliance. In the case of aquaculture, the GPO will build on successful models to help encourage greater investment in sustainable management of aquaculture at the ecosystem scale to help reduce the main risks of disease and negative impacts on the environment.

**CAPTURE FISHERIES ACTIVITIES** could include:

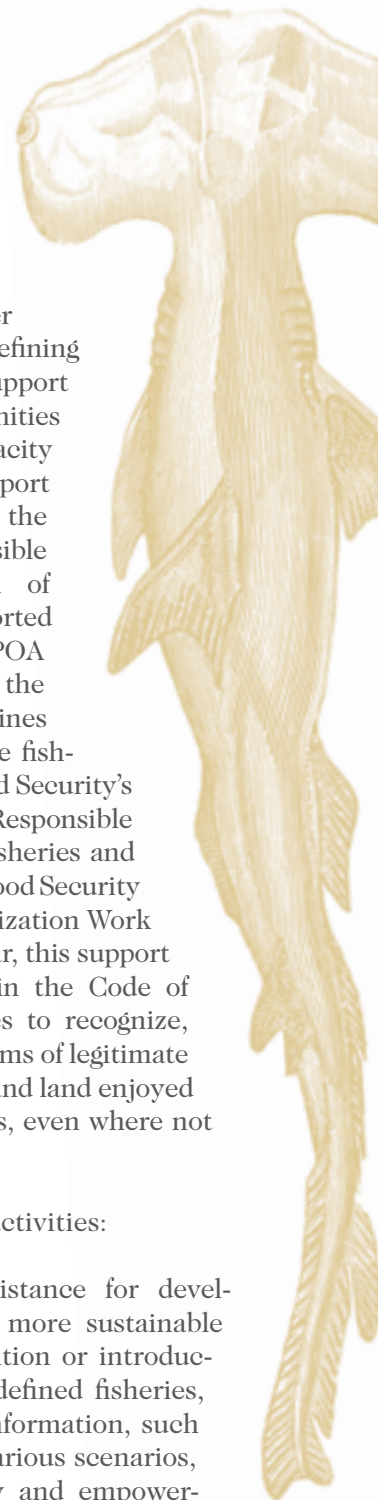
#### *National and Regional Policy and Legal Reforms*

Strengthening and reforming the policy and legislative framework at the national (and, where appropriate, regional) level is the essential entry point for improving the institutions that manage the fisheries. This subcomponent would aim to provide the support governments need to ensure that an adequate

institutional, scientific, and legal framework is in place for introducing, supporting, and enforcing tenure rights<sup>5</sup> that respect the rights of present and future generations, address broader human rights principles when defining and allocating rights, and support empowerment of fishing communities through social inclusion and capacity and capability building. This support would take into consideration the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, the IPOA for managing fishing capacity, the forthcoming international guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, the Committee on World Food Security's Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the International Labor Organization Work in Fishing Convention. In particular, this support would draw upon the guidance in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to recognize, respect, and protect the various forms of legitimate tenure rights to aquatic resources and land enjoyed by small-scale fishing communities, even where not formally recorded in law.

This could include the following activities:

- *Policy Reform.* Technical assistance for development of policy reforms for more sustainable fisheries, including the recognition or introduction of clear tenure rights to defined fisheries, based on sound science and information, such as bio-economic modeling of various scenarios, and emphasizing transparency and empowerment in decision making.



Consistent with the FAO Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO 2013), the term "tenure right" is used in accordance with the contents of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and hence the notion that tenure determines who can use which natural resources, for how long, and under what conditions. It hence encompasses other commonly used terms, such as "access right," "use right," and "management right."

- *Legal Framework.* Technical assistance to support any necessary revisions to the legal framework in order to implement policy reforms. This would include support for public and participatory processes to review and modify as appropriate the basic laws and regulations.
- *Operational Framework for Policy Implementation.* Technical assistance and training for review and reform of fisheries management institutions and operations in order to implement the policy vision for the sector, emphasizing transparency and empowerment in decision making.

### *National and Regional Fisheries Management Operations*

With the appropriate policy and legal framework in place, as well as the operational framework, this subcomponent would provide the support needed to strengthen countries' fisheries management institutions (public and private), supported by science-based, environmental baselines for fishing activities.

This could include the following activities:

- *Science-based Fisheries Information Systems.* Training, equipment, and technical assistance to establish and implement the data collection, data management, activity monitoring, and information systems, including a fishing vessel and tenure rights registry and fishery-dependent biological and socioeconomic data (catch and bycatch-per-unit-effort from observers and logbook data, biological sampling from observers and fishers, offloading data, fishing inputs/costs, vessel monitoring system tracks, etc.).
- *Training for Scientific Analysis.* Training and technical assistance to support the analysis of these data to monitor socioeconomic and biological trends in the fishery and the stock. Provide funding for coastal state scientists and managers to participate in scientific meetings of multilateral/regional fishery management organizations.
- *Training for Management.* Training and technical assistance to support the development implementation of management measures based on the best available scientific advice, including regular monitoring of whether goals are being achieved.



### *Coastal Fisheries*

Coastal fisheries, as with inland fisheries, often play a particularly important role in the economies of communities, and with specific challenges. For this reason, the GPO will include a specific focus on providing support, where appropriate, to community-based initiatives for management of coastal fisheries.

This subcomponent will include the following activities, notably in demonstration sites:

- *Facilitation, Extension, and Advisory Services.* Workshops, study tours, training, facilitation, and social media to facilitate communication and

awareness building within and between community groups in taking ownership of and making investments in the sustainability of their fisheries. These activities will build upon existing customary arrangements and recognize the traditional leadership structure in participating communities. Study tours would allow different community groups to share and learn from a variety of experiences, as well as supporting periodic lessons learned meetings for multiple communities (for example, the locally managed marine area network from the Pacific; see [www.lmmanetwork.org](http://www.lmmanetwork.org)).

- *Training.* Providing training for fishery participants in a variety of areas, including fishery operations, seafood handling, and safety training and equipment (vessel structure, life vests, emergency gear) to ensure adequate safety-at-sea for fishery participants and for on-board observers serving under domestic and international programs.

### *Surveillance and Compliance to Reduce Illegal Fishing*

Strengthened institutions for capture fisheries will only be effective if they are enforceable and compliance is high. For this reason, at the regional, national, and local levels, this subcomponent would provide the support needed to build social capital and compliance and would implement robust monitoring and surveillance of the fisheries, in order to enforce tenure rights and reduce illegal fishing.

This could include the following activities:

- *Enhanced Compliance and Educational Enforcement: Technical support and training on building social cohesion and capital for compliance, particularly at community levels.*
- *Design of Monitoring and Surveillance Systems.* Technical support and training to design and implement monitoring, control, and surveillance measures to ensure compliance with access, use, and management rights, as well as gear restrictions for biodiversity conservation (such as bycatch) and any other measures necessary to enhance and enforce the effectiveness of the management system. This would include design and implementation of technical services, computer and hardware capacity for vessel monitoring systems, and/or similar monitoring systems adapted to targeted small-scale fisheries, as well as supporting and linking into regional and international networks.

- *Sea and Shore-Based Patrols and Enforcement Activities.* Financing for at-sea and shore-based enforcement activities, including through use of decommissioned fishing vessels, aerial surveillance, partnerships with other agencies and/or coastal countries, observers at-sea providing eyes on the water, etc.

### *Social Investments to Support the Transition to More-Sustainable Fisheries, Particularly in Communities*

The transition to new management arrangements for fisheries, particularly in overexploited fisheries, may often involve a reduction in fishing effort in some form in order to reduce pressure on the stocks and allow them to rebuild. For this reason, the GPO would provide a range of support as needed to assist stakeholders, and particularly fishing communities, in this transition.

This could include the following activities:

- *Training and Small Grants for Transition.* Training, financing (grants), toolkits, and other goods and services to offset any loss of employment during stock rebuilding periods (decreased catch allowance) and/or when fishing capacity is reduced for efficiency purposes. Where possible, this would include partnership with private banks and coastal state government for private loans guaranteed by the government, including local commercial micro-finance institutions.

### *Public and Private Investments in Value Addition*

Significant inefficiencies exist in fisheries value chains around the world, particularly in coastal and island developing nations, often due to a lack of skills, technology, and infrastructure. Once the transition to more-sustainable fisheries management has been made, this subcomponent would support public and private investments, via public/private partnerships where applicable, to help increase fisheries value addition.

This could include the following activities:

- *Public and Private Infrastructure and Services.* Grants or loans in hardware/infrastructure and other public services that will increase the value of fishery production by ensuring quality and market

access—for example, upgrading offloading facilities (ease of offloading, clean area for preparing fresh product, provision of ice, transportation network to local and outside markets, providing contact with potential buyers in niche markets, etc.). These activities, which would offer price increases to offset decreases in fishery volume under rebuilding or capacity reduction, would only occur once secure, enforced access, use, and management rights were in place, such that price increases do not result in expansion of fishing effort.

- *Access to Markets and Skills Development.* Technical assistance to targeted value chains to expand access to markets and skills development, reinforcing sustainable practices where applicable.

**AQUACULTURE ACTIVITIES** could include:

### *Enhanced Tenure Arrangements for Aquaculture*

To help countries capture the potential of sustainable aquaculture for their economies, this subcomponent would provide technical assistance to introduce spatial and other associated rights and/or reduce tenure risk in aquaculture production, in order to ensure stability and investment.

This could include the following activities:

- *Legal Framework.* Technical assistance to introduce legal and regulatory measures to ensure spatial and other associated rights for sustainable and responsible aquaculture (taking into account any broader planning framework in each case), to support management at the ecosystem scale and the use of environmental performance bonds.
- *Stakeholder Participation in Regulatory Reforms.* Workshops, meetings, and background analyses of proposed regulations, in order to ensure a participatory and informed regulatory review and development process for aquaculture that includes a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from coastal land-based activities and from the harvesting sector.
- *Business Development.* Technical assistance to public and private financial sectors to prepare proposals and facilitate investments in aquaculture enterprises.

### *Reduced Disease Risk*

Disease outbreaks have cost the global aquaculture industry tens of billions of dollars over the last 20 years and represent the major firm-level risk, even before potential future impacts of ocean acidification on shell/bivalve aquaculture. For this reason, the GPO would support investments that reduce the risk of disease in aquaculture production, in order to ensure stability and encourage investment. Practical measures to ensure biosecurity in aquaculture based on lessons learned from some key, well-documented epidemics with an emphasis on developing countries and with a specific focus on South-South experience sharing to support political momentum for change would represent a global public good. Such measures would also be of particular relevance to the many developing countries where aquaculture is expanding rapidly but where regulatory frameworks, including aquatic animal health services, are weak.

This could include financing for the following activities:

- *Regulatory Reform.* Technical assistance to advance regulatory reforms to enable better disease monitoring and enforcement at an ecosystem scale, including proper siting, production density, and avoidance of externalities on capture fisheries.
- *Veterinary Services.* Technical assistance, training, goods, and equipment to strengthen national veterinary services.
- *Research and Adoption of Technologies to Reduce Risk.* Facilitate adoption of improved technology and aquaculture disease management practices through public-private partnerships that establish regional and subregional research centers where appropriate.
- *Advisory Services.* Extension of advisory services to improve aquaculture management practices.

## *Reduced Environmental Impacts from Aquaculture*

The past organic growth of aquaculture may not be able to sustainably meet the demand in the next 20 years, and new efforts will be needed to reduce negative environmental impacts, moving beyond the farm level to that of the larger aquatic ecosystem of which aquaculture forms only a part. This subcomponent would support investments that reduce the environmental impacts from aquaculture (including low-trophic-level aquaculture and integrated production systems when feed inputs are involved), such that real or perceived impacts are minimized.

This could include the following activities:

- *Spatial Planning and Impact Indicators.* Technical assistance and training to governments on carrying capacity modeling, development of impact indicators, and implementation of spatial planning for aquaculture zoning to ensure that future growth is better managed and does not reduce the natural productivity of ocean ecosystems (taking into account any broader planning framework in each case).
- *Implementation of Environmental Management Strategies.* Technical or financial support for the implementation of improved environmental management strategies for aquaculture.
- *Environmental Performance Bonds.* Technical assistance to establish environmental performance bonds as appropriate.
- *Promotion of Low-Trophic-Level and Integrated Aquaculture.* Technical or financial support to promote aquaculture of low-trophic-level species, especially filter-feeding species, to reduce pollution and enhance water quality, and production systems that integrate aquaculture into agriculture and other resource users in the watershed.

## *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Operations*

The sustainable seafood movement is growing and can play a significant role in helping to improve the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture operations. To help small- and large-scale seafood operations improve sustainability and make a greater contribution toward ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity, this could include the following activities:

- *Small Grants to Develop Training Programs.* Build capacity to initiate and implement improvement programs.
- *Extension and Advisory Services.* To develop technical regional expertise to deliver fisheries improvement in a cost-efficient manner (this is about reducing costs of undertaking audits, pre-assessments etc.).
- *Private Investment in Networks and Platforms.* To empower fishers and fishing organizations to pursue market-endorsed improvement projects.
- *Leveraged Finance and Low-Cost Loans.* To kick-start fisheries and aquaculture improvement opportunities.

## **CONSERVATION OR ENHANCEMENT OF CRITICAL HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY**

Given all of the various goods and services that natural ocean habitats can provide for coastal and island economies (and in the case of carbon storage, for the global community), conservation or enhancement of these systems and their biodiversity via institutional reforms becomes a good investment. For this reason, building on the wide range of efforts in natural capital accounting to better document the value of these goods and services, and the recommendations emerging from the Agenda for Action produced by the GPO's habitat conservation community of practice (GPO Habitat Community of Practice, 2013), the GPO would support investments in reforms that help internalize the costs of ocean habitat change as an incentive for conservation and sustainable use (drawing upon natural capital accounting and carbon footprint tracking where appropriate), as well as direct public investments in cases of public goods. This support would



be linked to the establishment of clear access, use, and management rights and liability rules to coastal development and use of coastal space. Such institutions provide the incentives and framework for bankable investments in healthier ocean habitats because they create market mechanisms that allow rights holders to receive benefits in exchange for the costs of conservation. This component would investigate and pilot a range of these market mechanisms to help capture the benefits of conservation, which might include, for example, carbon credit schemes for preservation of mangroves and sea grass habitats (that is, “blue carbon”). The carbon dioxide sequestered as a result of these efforts could also be counted toward national greenhouse gas reductions targets (and would of course be closely integrated with overall national policy and practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation).

This could include:

#### *Policy and Legal Reforms for Enhanced Coastal Tenure and Strengthened Institutions*

The use of coastal habitats such as mangroves, sea grass beds, coral reefs, etc. has traditionally reflected the value of these areas and served to ensure that any trade-offs in their use were fully considered. However, as coastal populations, cities, and industries have grown, many of these rights have been weakened or not fully recognized, so that the consequences of habitat change were often not borne by those who benefited from the transformation of the areas—essentially a negative externality in coastal and island communities. For this reason, the GPO would support the development of more-secure tenure rights in coastal areas where applicable, together with sound regulatory frameworks (see 2.2 below), in order to empower all users and communities to make decisions that consider both the benefits and consequences of habitat change. Where communities or individuals have such rights, they can invest in sustainable use and improved overall health of the habitats and capture the benefits of the services these

economically and ecologically important areas can provide—for instance, for tourism and local fisheries that provide livelihoods and food security, for preserving the option of use by future generations, etc.

This could include:

- *Policies, Laws, and Regulations for Coastal Tenure.* Technical assistance, training, and consultations to develop/strengthen and implement policies, laws, and regulations for more-secure tenure rights in coastal areas where applicable (such as nearshore coastal waters within Exclusive Economic Zones).
- *Strengthened Institutions to Support Coastal Tenure.* Technical and legal assistance and training to help government institutions adapt to a more supportive and demand-based role, to meet the demands of coastal communities and stakeholders in exercising tenure rights to more effectively manage coastal habitats and biodiversity. This would represent a paradigm shift for many government institutions to a more bottom-up approach.

#### *Incentive-Based Regulatory Frameworks to Reduce Habitat Loss*

On the basis of secure local tenure rights, the GPO would support local and national governments, and in some cases regional bodies, to introduce regulatory frameworks and associated innovative financing mechanisms that reduce habitat loss from coastal and port development and patterns of land use, and at the same time create economic incentives for habitat conservation and enhancement, in some cases as a climate change adaptation and risk reduction strategy. Such regulations are often referred to as “cap and trade” regulations because they set fixed targets or objectives for the total amount of habitat change permitted (such as zero net impact) and allow the use of market-based mechanisms to meet them. For example, some countries where secure tenure rights already exist have introduced regulations that fix an objective for coastal wetland change—that is, no net loss of wetlands—and then allow for “offset” of wetlands loss in one area with the restoration of wetlands in another, increasingly through the use of credits and banking of offset areas. Other countries have introduced “biodiversity banking,” which again allows for offsets of habitat





change in one area, with restoration, protection, or enhancement of habitat supporting similar levels of biodiversity in another area.

This could include financing:

- *Regulatory Frameworks and Associated Innovative Financing Mechanisms.* Technical assistance, training, and consultations for local and national governments to develop and introduce regulatory frameworks and associated innovative financing mechanisms that reduce habitat loss from coastal and port development and land use and at the same time create economic incentives for habitat conservation and enhancement.

### *Marine Protected Areas*

Protection of critical ocean habitats from specified uses (including terrestrial habitats in the coastal zone that can impact ocean ecosystems) often provides benefits that extend far beyond the boundaries of the targeted area, for example in terms of replenishing adjacent fishing grounds due to the protection of spawning grounds, supporting low-environmental impact (but often high-value) tourism, reducing the risk from natural hazards to nearby communities or cities as in the case of mangrove protection, maintaining carbon sequestration capacity, and supporting globally significant biodiversity. However, to be socially as well as ecologically sustainable, such marine protected areas (MPAs) must generate positive and sustainable net economic benefits for those who pay the costs of protection (in terms of both opportunity and operating costs) and must integrate multiple objectives (for example, relating to climate change, fisheries, and biodiversity) based on sound science and economic analysis and underpinned by sound institutional and regulatory frameworks for clear tenure rights and/or recognition of customary uses (see 2.1 above). On the basis of such institutional, customary, and regulatory tools, the GPO would support the establishment or strengthening of MPAs, for example to retire critical ocean habitats from fishing and other extractive or damaging uses (these might include arrangements, for instance, entered into by tourism developers who wish to preserve habitat to support tourism or NGOs who wish to enter into debt for nature swaps). In cases where such institutional and regulatory frameworks are in place, there may be opportunities for public investments in conservation of key habitats and

maintenance of ecological processes, linked to broader management frameworks as well as principals cost recovery, in order to help rebuild the natural capital and generate positive economic returns. GPO support to existing or new MPAs would thus be made on the basis that the areas are designed and managed so as to deliver sustainable net benefits to stakeholders and, where possible, to meet multiple objectives concurrently; that institutional, customary, and regulatory frameworks for clear rights are in place that allow for empowerment and, when needed, for compensation of local users; and that sustainable finance for operating costs of such areas is identified and implemented.

This could include:

- *Identification, Designation, and Management of Marine Protected Areas.* Goods and equipment, technical assistance, training, and consultations to assist governments and/or rights holders to identify/demarcate, manage, and protect critical coastal and ocean habitats, in cooperation with established regional and international mechanisms where applicable (such as under the International Maritime Organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity), so as to deliver sustainable net economic benefits. This support would include geospatial mapping of important ecological and economic zones, using remote sensing and global positioning system tools where necessary, and would aim to ensure that the areas identified are established compatibly with complementary uses and the management of the broader ocean area with a given jurisdiction (including applicable international rules and regulations on maritime traffic). Investments in goods such as buoys or maps to delineate protected areas would also be eligible, as would local monitoring of ecological and social indicators of change.
- *Education and Awareness to Build Compliance.* Technical assistance, training, and communication support as needed to promote awareness and ensure bottom-up ownership and compliance with regulations surrounding marine protected areas.



- *Monitoring and Surveillance to Enforce Compliance.* Goods, works, and services as needed to support initial investments in monitoring and surveillance to enforce compliance with the regulations for targeted marine protected areas. Such efforts could be a mix of community-based monitoring with support from local and national government agencies for more comprehensive compliance, including support for legal processes when needed.
- *Financing Mechanisms for Operating Costs.* Marine protected areas, particularly those established and operated by governments, often suffer from a lack of sufficient long-term financing to cover operating costs. A growing number of examples are emerging around the world to demonstrate innovative financing mechanisms to sustainably cover such costs, including cost recovery mechanisms based on charging fees for services provided (for instance, direct use fees such as entrance fees for tourists, as well as indirect use fees such as for replenishment of fisheries), permits, green taxes, fines, and conservation trust funds with sufficient endowments to finance costs from interest. The GPO would provide financing for technical assistance and training to help design and/or establish such sustainable financing mechanisms and/or capitalization for conservation trust funds where appropriate (for example, if the benefits provided are global).

### *Habitat Restoration or Enhancement*

The GPO would also support rights holders or governments investing in habitat restoration or enhancement where feasible, particularly where the goods or services provided are public in nature—such as with restoration of natural barriers to flooding. In fact, such investments can often be a cost-effective and viable strategy for communities to reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

This could include:

- *Habitat Restoration or Enhancement Investments.* Goods, works, and services for habitat restoration or enhancement, particularly in support of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

### *Development of Sustainable Tourism and New Markets to Drive Conservation*

Given the role that sustainable tourism can play in driving conservation or enhancement of critical habitats and biodiversity, in priority ocean areas the GPO would support the private sector, governments, and communities to design a “GPO brand” of sustainable tourism that applies directly to the aims of the partnership. In addition to sustainable tourism, the



GPO would support the development of new markets for the goods and services provided by natural ocean habitats, such as carbon sequestration. This could include support to improve understanding and tools for assessing carbon services of coastal habitats and to implement any measures linked to monitoring and protection efforts needed for access to existing sources of carbon finance (rather than trying to create new competing sources). Emphasis would be placed on mechanisms to distribute the benefits of sustainable tourism and new markets to those who have invested in the health of the habitats, such as local communities.

This could include:

- *Support for Reef-Based Tourism.* With the hotel industry, dive firms, communities, civil society, and governments, technical assistance to design measures for harmonizing multiple efforts for conserving and regenerating coral reef systems, in order to enhance the tourism experience while increasing the fish population of the lagoons and inner waterways for local consumption.
- *Support for Recreational Fisheries.* Support for recreational fishing enterprises that reinforce sustainability, via, for example, recreational fishing associations and island tourist boards. Associated aquaculture projects on-shore for local food as well as bait.
- *Development of Blue Carbon Markets.* Technical assistance to use blue carbon credits for investment in GPO activities, starting with the tourism sector. This would include identifying a government partner to help develop the Blue Carbon market linked to the global carbon market, as well as support to attract carbon credits from travelers to oceans for ocean-related sustainable tourism, biodiversity conservation, and carbon capture activities.
- *Capacity Building for Sustainable Tourism.* Enhancing local capacity to manage sustainable tourism industries by investing in curriculum development to embed teaching tourism from the elementary school level.
- *Market Identification and Development.* Technical assistance to support the development of new markets for the goods and services provided by natural ocean habitats in priority ocean areas.

### *Public Awareness, Education, and Training*

The GPO would support efforts to promote societal awareness of the benefits of habitat restoration, conservation, and sustainable use that supports behavioral change.

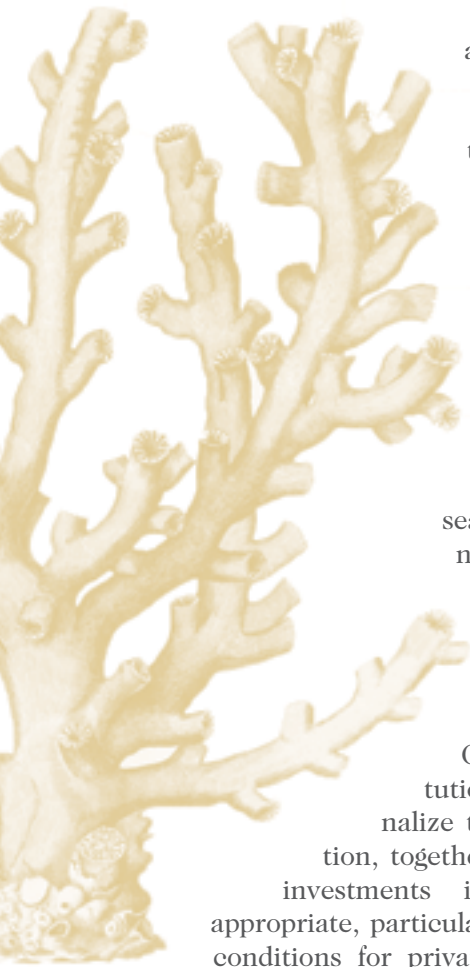
This could include:

- *Public Awareness, Education, and Training Activities.* Technical assistance and awareness campaigns to empower children and youth in targeted priority ocean areas, for example through education and scholarship programs to assist in supporting movements away from destructive behavior, as well as campaigns for communities and local governments to better understand the benefits of sustainable management of critical habitats.
- *Strengthening Relationships along the Value Chain.* Technical assistance and communications as needed to help understand and strengthen vertical and horizontal connections along targeted value chains that depend on natural ocean habitats, in order to both enhance competitiveness in the marketplace as well as increase social capital and trust, with the aim of disseminating good practices, increasing compliance with regulations, and wider resource management reforms.

### **POLLUTION REDUCTION**

Pollution is an externality that reduces the value of the goods and services provided by the oceans, both to specific countries and globally to the entire economy. For this reason, the GPO would work with governments and the private sector to find solutions that can meet international commitments made within the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), notably in the January 2012 Manila Declaration during the Third Intergovernmental Review of the GPA. Relevant agencies and programs would be supported at both the local





and the regional level to help reduce the three sources of marine pollution that are currently increasing: sewage/wastewater, nutrients (particularly from agricultural runoff and coastal deforestation), and marine litter. Additionally, in targeted ocean areas pollution risks such as from extractive industries (such as deep-seabed mining in areas under national jurisdiction) and maritime transportation would be addressed.

To help reduce these sources of degradation on ocean health, the GPO would support institutional reforms to help internalize the costs of marine pollution, together with public and private investments in infrastructure where appropriate, particularly to create the enabling conditions for private sector investment and successful business models for pollution prevention and management (including exchanging good policies, management practices, and regulations). Where applicable, the GPO would leverage the large existing portfolio of multilateral financial institutions investments in agriculture, coastal urban infrastructure, extractive industries, and maritime transportation, via the provision of additional finance to support marine pollution reduction.

This could include:

#### *Water Quality Management (WQM) Studies in Ocean Areas*

In countries requesting support, as a starting point the GPO would finance WQM studies that set targets (building on the work of the GPA and Regional Seas Programs)<sup>6</sup> and baselines and that develop pollution reduction plans at the local, national, and, where

appropriate, regional level. Taking into account the current information about pollution levels in each area, these studies would focus on sewage/wastewater, nutrient, and marine litter pollution, although depending on the local context they may also include other pollutants such as oil (spills from ships and offshore oil exploration and production), anthropogenic chemicals, heavy metals, and thermal pollution. Within the context of already established regional programs in the targeted ocean areas (such as regional seas Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS/A) pollution reduction programs), the WQM studies would be used to generate consensus for targets and implementation plans among key participating countries, cities, municipalities, and other geographic locations. The WQM studies would consider the linkages between deforestation and impacts on coastal water quality, opening up the opportunity for “ridge to reef” efforts to enhance water quality.

This could include:

- *Water Quality Management Studies.* Technical assistance to undertake WQM studies to define and develop the following: an evaluation of pollution information to determine the most significant problems (the extent upon which the priority ocean areas are polluted); the main sources (geographic locations and sectors) of significant pollution problems; the baselines upon which targets are being set for pollution reduction (utilizing standard monitoring protocols such as those developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic; the economic and physical impact of significant pollution on human health and ocean ecosystems in targeted areas; and the most cost-effective plans for reducing significant pollution problems. These studies could also potentially contribute to the Global Integrated Marine Assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects undertaken through the United Nations General Assembly.

6. Regional Seas LBS/A programs are, for example, established for the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, the ROPME (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE) Sea, South East Pacific, Wider Caribbean, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Western and Central Africa. A LBS/A program is also under way for the Caspian region.

## *Sewage/Wastewater Pollution Reduction*

At present, only some 10 percent of all wastewater generated in developing countries is treated—meaning that 90 percent is discharged untreated directly into rivers, lakes, and oceans. Expanding the proportion of wastewater that is treated will require very substantive financial resources, depending on the level of treatment and the technology selected for the treatment process. For this reason, the GPO would finance wastewater treatment to help reduce this externality on ocean health, aiming to scale up lowest-cost options to the extent possible. This support will be selective, given that large-scale wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facilities in larger cities with populations of more than 1 million often cost hundreds of millions to about a billion dollars (total treatment capacity of up to 2–3 million m<sup>3</sup> wastewater per day). Overall, the capital requirements for expanding substantively the WWTP capacity in cities and towns throughout the developing world may reach several hundred billion dollars. In countries where the GPO would support WWTP capacity, the capital requirements would be achieved through cooperation between public and private partners where sufficient cost-recovery plans are put in place to leverage private investments (such as through project finance schemes) and pursuit of lower-cost treatment options. Appropriate treatment technology and management strategies would be designed to fit the specific needs of a city, town, or village that requires new or upgraded wastewater treatment facilities.

This could include:

- *Policy and Regulatory Reform.* Technical assistance at the local, national, and, where applicable, regional scale in order to introduce or strengthen policies and regulations to promote economic incentives for the private sector to reduce sewage and wastewater pollution affecting the oceans, as well as improving the efficiency of public (and also privately funded) infrastructure for collection, treatment, and, where possible, reuse of wastewater. This assistance would also provide policy guidance documents where applicable.
- *Management and Quality Control of Sewage/Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plans.* Technical assistance and in particular capacity building to local and national governments to provide guidance on proper management and

quality control for sewage and wastewater treatment plans and programs, in order to help ensure innovative financing for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, monitoring, upgrading, and/or decommissioning of the facilities.

- *Finance in Sewage/Wastewater Treatment and Collection Systems.* Goods, works, and services to provide additional financial and managerial support to selected sewage and water treatment and collection programs in particularly smaller cities and towns, initially on a pilot basis and subsequently at scale. This support may also include facilitation of public/private partnerships for delivery of treatment systems where feasible.
- *Reforms of Industry Sources.* Technical assistance and pilot programs, particularly to support cleaner production (reduce pollution at source) and pretreatment programs for industries, including sustainable supply chain management, generating large sewage/wastewater volumes.
- *Public Health Advocacy and Action Plans.* Technical assistance to develop and implement educational campaigns to raise public awareness about the dangers of ocean pollution to human health, and actions that can be taken to minimize risk to exposures to contaminated conditions or food sources. This would include, where feasible, support to introduce measures and lessons from Zero Waste Cities to tourism-related facilities in island and coastal urban areas, including sea terminals, leisure craft, airports, hotels, and restaurants.

## *Nutrient Pollution Reduction*

To help address this key source of marine pollution that results largely from agriculture, the GPO would support increased fertilizer use efficiency (FUE) and use of best management practices to reduce excess nutrients from entering watersheds and affecting coastal waters of countries requesting support, via pilots, extension, and training for better application, combined with regulations and enforcement. Due to an overall increased consumption of meat in many diets around the world, waste from animal husbandry and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) has also increased drastically, and in certain watersheds nutrient loads from animal husbandry and CAFO wastes have reached similar quantities to fertilizer run-offs. While section 3.2 indicated the challenge of traditional and costly WWTP approaches to meet the drastic increases in wastewater, particularly in



developing countries, alternative and lower-cost reuse of nutrient approaches may also exist, with reusing the nutrient in wastewater through the “nutrient cleaning” capacities that can be provided in lagoons, ponds, wetlands, and coastal forests (in some cases via protection or restoration, following a “ridge to reef” vision of coastal water quality). The GPO will work with the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and other relevant institutions to help and finance key gaps in the watersheds of countries requesting support with regard to improved nutrient management that will reduce waste and improve the resilience of marine ecosystems as a contribution to the promotion of food security.

This could include:

- *Policy and Regulatory Reforms to Introduce Economic Incentives for Increasing FUE and Reducing Waste from Animal Husbandry and CAFO Facilities.* Technical assistance, including for sector strategic environmental assessments, to governments to work with stakeholders to identify, develop, and implement policy and regulatory frameworks that provide economic incentives to reduce land-based and marine pollution resulting from both fertilizer application to agriculture and waste from animal husbandries/CAFOs, in a way that respects traditional and customary rights.
  - *Research, Technology, and Innovation for Increased FUE to Reduce Excess Nitrogen Runoff.* The GPO would support the research and technology transfer needed to increase fertilizer efficiency. The work could include identifying the right form of fertilizer, the method and time of application, matching nutrient supply with crop demand, minimizing the application in the wet
- season to reduce the leaching, and, if possible, test supplying fertilizer to the plant rather than the soil. Research and innovations could also include improving early crops through higher (hybrid) seed qualities, higher plant densities, reduction in pest (combined pesticide management), and improved water management (UNEP 2010).
  - *Research, Technology, and Innovations to Approach Waste from Animal Husbandry/CAFOs.* Based upon the extent that animal husbandry and CAFO waste contributes to the inflow of nutrients in parts of targeted ocean areas, the GPO would support research and technology transfer for improvements in animal feeding and manure management, such as lower protein animal feed, barn adaptations, covered manure storage, and better manure application (UNEP 2010). One approach is to consider managing animal husbandry /CAFO waste as industrial point source (rather than as a non-point source).
  - *Investments in Low-Cost Natural “Nutrient Cleaning.”* As an alternative to large-scale and costly WWTP options for nutrient reduction, the GPO would support nutrient reduction via protection or enhancement of wetlands, lagoons, and ponds in coastal regions of countries requesting support. This would include investments to support greater retention of sediment and nutrients in agricultural areas through vegetation buffers between watershed resources or streams.
  - *Apply Best International Practices for “Nutrient Reduction.”* Through the information forum outlined in section 4.2, the GPO would support the introduction and implementation of best nutrient reduction practices through, for example, the US-based “Whole Farm” integrated nutrient management plan (right nutrient, right time, right place, right rate), the nitrate directive of the European Union, agricultural hot spots application in the Baltic Sea (Helsinki Convention), selected waste reuse practices applied in Chinese farming communities, and nutrient cleaning applied through wetland restorations in India, Egypt, and along the shores of the Danube in Bulgaria This effort would link to support for sustainable tourism (see Component 2.5), to ensure GPO-branded tourism properties use organic plant water cleansing systems where feasible.
  - *Research and Awareness on Links between Nutrient Pollution, Reduced Ocean Ecosystem Productivity, and Impacts on Human Health and*

*Nutrition.* Technical assistance to support targeted research, to accompany investments, on the impacts of nutrient loads leading to ocean “dead zones” and the human health consequences.

### *Marine Litter Reduction*

Based on a broad and global analysis of where and how marine litter, and particularly plastic waste, is affecting the ocean, the GPO would finance a range of activities in countries requesting support, building in particular on the work carried out by the GPA (that is, the Honolulu Strategy, a global framework for prevention and management of marine debris), the Regional Seas Program of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), and UNEP’s Partnership on Waste Management. While marine litter includes pollutants like fishing gear, cargo, fishing and aquaculture equipment, damaged and lost vessels, munitions, and other hazardous materials as well as land-based and domestic solid waste that have reached marine environments, the GPO would particularly focus on plastic. When plastic waste is targeted, cleaner feedstock streams for organics and other waste materials make it easier to handle those resources in new ways, improving the overall waste management segment of the community or area in focus. Moreover, it also appears that the plastic waste is becoming a greater concern due to the accumulation of plastics over the last 40–50 years, which now has increasingly shown its tremendous negative impact on ocean ecosystems and possibly human health. In particular, the GPO would target coastal cities and island nations, which are among the largest sources, and how these nations handle proper reuse, recycling, or disposal of collected marine litter in order to reduce the amount transmitted to the ocean.

This could include:

- *Waste Management Programs.* The GPO would provide technical assistance, goods, and works to support governments (particularly in cities) to develop and implement programs to better manage plastic waste, through partnerships with the private sector to implement large-sale collection, recycling, reusing acceptable material, composting programs, development of secondary recycling markets, and creation of new financing mechanisms. At the same time, the GPO would work with producers to

transition to substitute materials for plastic with lower environmental impact.

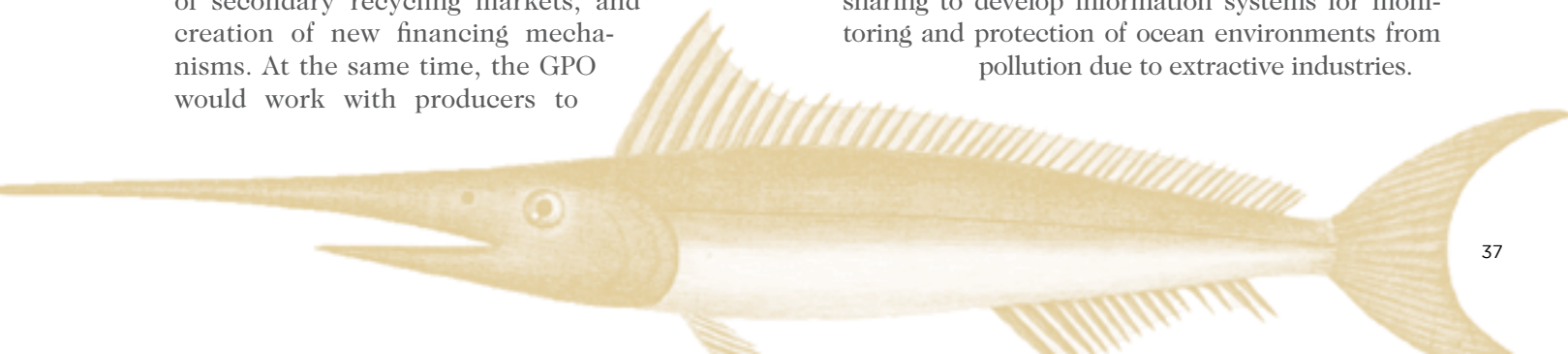
- *Expanded Network of Port Reception Facilities in Priority Areas.* The GPO would provide technical assistance, goods, and works to support governments (particularly in ports) to develop and implement programs to better manage ship-borne wastes, including garbage, through partnerships with the private sector to implement large-sale collection, recycling, composting programs, development of secondary recycling markets, and creation of new financing mechanisms.
- *Awareness-Raising for Behavioral Change.* Where appropriate, the GPO would support governments to promote greater use of biodegradable options, to reduce the volume of litter in coastal areas.

### *Reduction of Additional Pollution Risks in Targeted Areas, such as from Extractive Industries*

Based on the results of the WQM studies (see section 3.1), the GPO could support governments to enhance their knowledge and capacity to reduce the risk of additional sources of pollution in selected ocean areas, for example related to extractive industries (with an initial focus on offshore environmental protection). The implementation gaps identified would promote collective action among government ministries of natural resources, national regulatory agencies, and private industry, to cooperatively discuss and adopt the best operating practices that are responsive to all stakeholders, and in particular of benefit to developing countries.

This could include:

- *Implementation of Sound Policies and Regulations.* Technical assistance to support governments in the development of sound policies, laws, and regulations to reduce pollution, as well as to protect sensitive habitats, for example from maritime extractive industries such as seabed mining, and to provide for the use of tools such as environmental performance bonds.
- *Development of Information Systems for Monitoring.* Technical assistance and knowledge sharing to develop information systems for monitoring and protection of ocean environments from pollution due to extractive industries.



- *Development and Implementation of Risk Management and Emergency Response Plans.* Technical assistance, exchange of best practices.
- *Provision of Emergency Response Capabilities.* Technical assistance, exchange of best practices.

### *Pollution Reduction in Targeted Supply Chains*

To help reduce both nutrient pollution and marine litter, the GPO would consider mechanisms to increase private sector engagement and investment in this area, as well as enhance the sustainability of key supply chains in targeted areas. This work would build upon an emerging interest among private and particularly private multinational companies to minimize environmental externalities in their supply chains in a market that is increasingly focused on greener and cleaner products.

This could include activities, possibly carried out through parallel funding or a private investment fund, relating to:

- *Cleaner Production Facilities.* Cleaner production (or even zero discharge) in production facilities in identified land-based polluting enterprises in the targeted ocean areas (throughout primary source, processing, and manufacturing).
- *Cleaner Transportation.* Reduced pollution as a result of transportation from manufacturing to final markets (retailer and consumer).
- *Cleaner Production and Marketing Models.* Cleaner production and marketing models for local private companies.

### **GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND ADVOCACY FOR HEALTHY OCEANS**

A comprehensive and strategic approach to communications, knowledge sharing, and capacity building is central to the GPO's success. The GPO will support partner communications and facilitate knowledge exchanges to increase global advocacy for healthy oceans. This will be particularly important in priority ocean areas where there is immediate need for, and benefit to be derived from, sharing and scaling of lessons learned

(including monitoring and evaluation). This sharing of information (for instance on investments, operations, legal issues) will ensure more-effective uptake of solutions and action. Through a coordinated communications effort with partners, the GPO will reach a global audience of partners, stakeholders, and the engaged public. In promoting an evidence-based approach, the GPO will provide for careful monitoring and evaluation of investments, in order to track progress and share lessons learned.

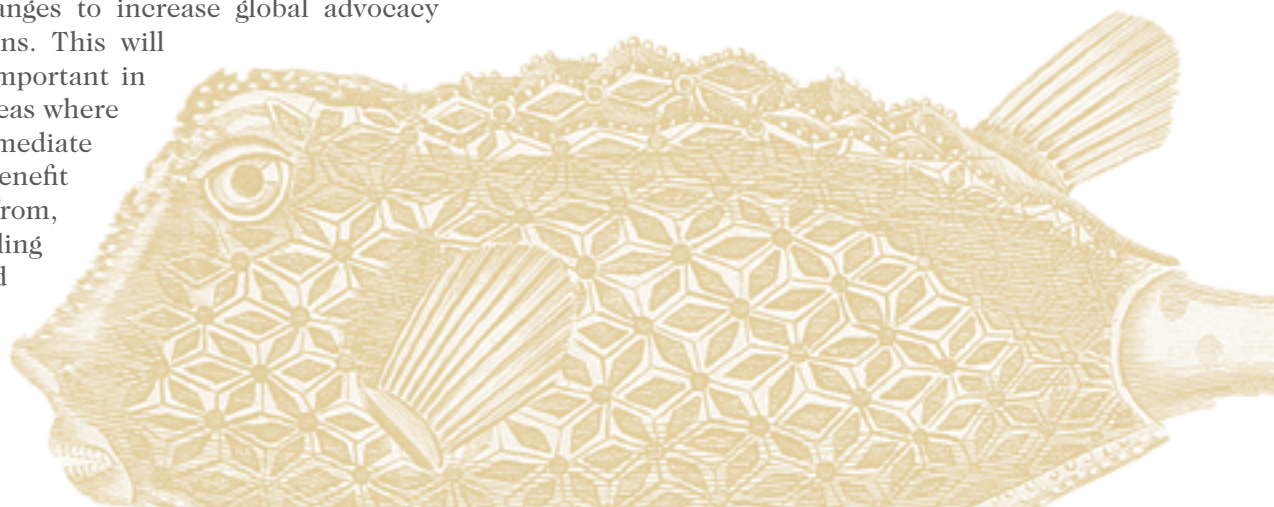
This could include:

### *Strategic Communications Plan and Implementation*

A Strategic Communications program is vital to the GPO's success and long-term viability. Since the Partnership's successful launch in early 2012, which resulted in global visibility for the GPO and its unique approach, a dedicated team has been working on a targeted and comprehensive communications program. This has three broad objectives: building awareness, understanding, and support for the GPO and its goals among a group of key stakeholders; increasing the number of engaged and committed partners while providing a platform for the GPO partner community; and engaging in and contributing to the global dialogue on ocean health.

In support of these objectives, the GPO has developed a number of tools and approaches to ensure timely and transparent delivery of GPO messages and communications products. These include:

- *GPO Communications Group.* This community of practice of communications practitioners from GPO partner organizations plays a key role in setting direction for the GPO communications program, advising on best practice communications approaches, proposing communications protocols for approving web content and logo use, doing partner outreach, and supporting





specific GPO activities through social media support, networking, media outreach, web links, etc.

- *Web and Social Media Tools.* The GPO website has developed into a central platform for partner engagement, global outreach on issues surrounding ocean health, and up-to-date information on developments within the GPO. The website continues to grow and improve with the support of dedicated online communications personnel creating regular new content and adding features aimed at strengthening GPO partner involvement in the online space. Since November 2012, the website has had over 50,000 page views from visitors in 184 countries. A GPO twitter account (@GPOceans) has been active since March 2013 and has more than 800 followers (as of November 2013). With an engaged core of partner accounts, GPO shared messages have had over 7 million impressions on Twitter. While the partnership increases its portfolio of actions and approaches, both web and social media tools are focused on example approaches that can be used with consideration for local contexts and success stories from GPO partners. As GPO evolves, these tools will complement the proposed GPO Knowledge Platform, providing updates on project progress with input from a global network of experts and practitioners. A GPO blog that features views from experts, leaders, and partners is in development.
- *Partner E-newsletter: GPO partners are kept up to date with developments about the partnership and key upcoming events through a twice monthly e-newsletter.* This tool has proved highly successful, reaching hundreds of partner readers per message. Over time, the newsletter will be used to facilitate even more focused partner-partner communication, possibly linking to the Knowledge Platform where partners will be able to communicate directly with an engaged audience of key stakeholders working on ocean health.
- *Media Outreach: Traditional media outreach continues to be a vital element of the GPO Communications program.* Through targeted media briefings, report launches, and media releases, the GPO has built a network of engaged journalists around the world who span wire

agencies, metropolitan newspapers, trade press, and scientific journals. In support of the GPO's media outreach efforts, the communications team has developed numerous tools—from talking points to media kits to FAQs. In October 2013, traditional and online media engagement was put to good effect with the launch of the Blue Ribbon Panel's report, which was featured in 76 online outlets with a readership of over 200 million impressions.

### *Platform for Global Knowledge Aggregation and Sharing*

With the critical mass of GPO partners developing knowledge to support healthy oceans and looking for ways to further share this knowledge with an ever-widening community of interested practitioners and policy makers, the GPO Portal could become a clearinghouse or one-stop shop to obtain such knowledge.

While the portal itself would continue to adapt to meet the needs of the partnership, this could include:

- *Development and Implementation of a Global Knowledge Sharing Platform.* A publicly accessible Global Oceans Knowledge Platform is a key element of GPO implementation, outreach, and knowledge sharing. This web-based platform will complement the GPO website and enable resource and data sharing among partners and the engaged public. Key aspects of this could include the following: an up-to-date database of partner investments toward healthier oceans; scientific knowledge essential to achieving the GPO's targeted outcomes, such as a description of baseline information on ocean health and techniques for monitoring; lessons from good practice in fisheries, habitat conservation, and pollution prevention and reduction; links to educational material and online courses facilitating learning; and links to partner websites and resources. In time, the platform could support crowd sourcing of technical assistance and finance to support the scaling up of activities supported by GPO. This platform will not duplicate existing knowledge generation and sharing initiatives but will

build upon these efforts and link this information to practitioners, reformers, and investors. In addition, the GPO would support knowledge sharing for specific topics, such as an information forum on pollution reduction, as well as a Global Alert Platform for Plastic Waste and a Global Plastic Disclosure Project. Last, this platform would help link the GPO to efforts on natural capital accounting to help better measure the economic value of the goods and services provided by ocean ecosystems, to inform partnership efforts and investments (see [www.wavespartnership.org/waves](http://www.wavespartnership.org/waves)).

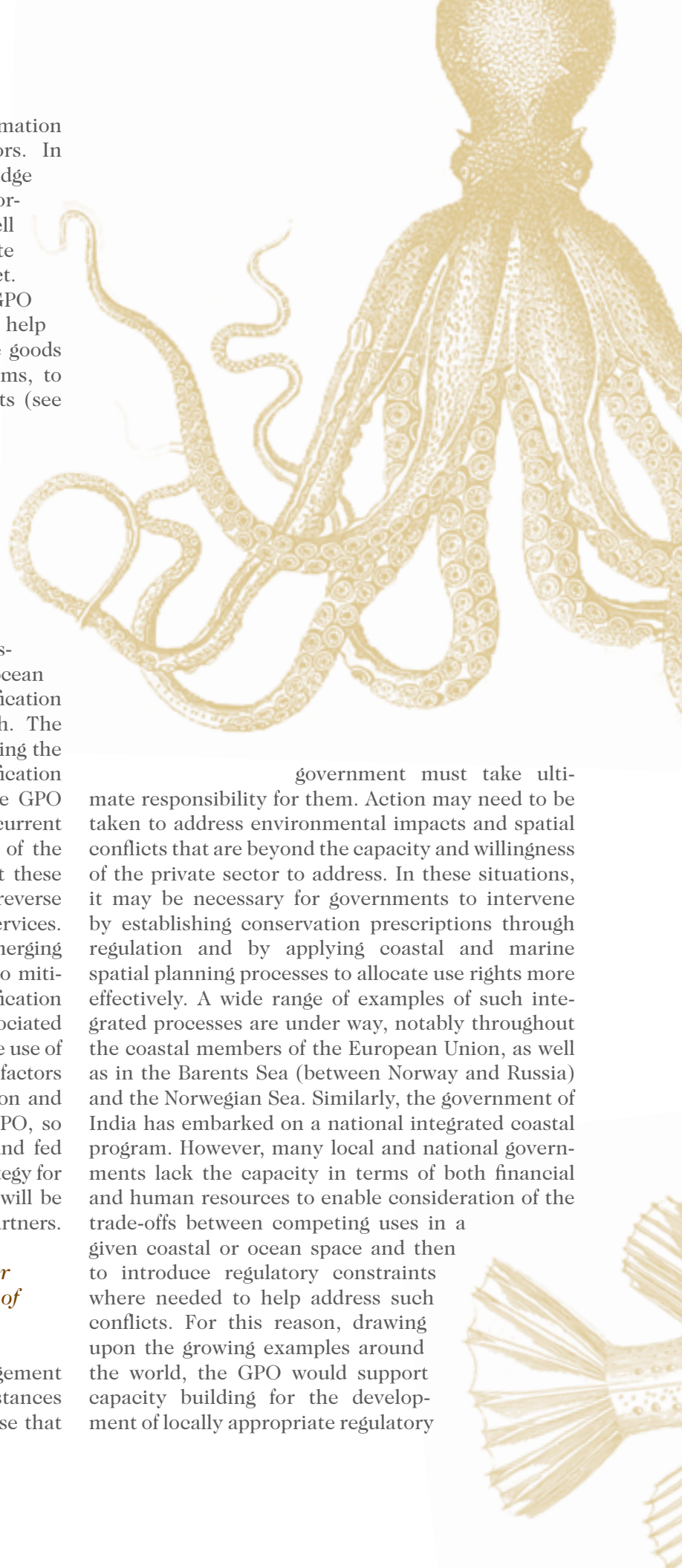
### *Interactions between Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts, to Inform GPO Implementation*

Without a strong linkage between activities and global strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, there is great risk that funds invested will be wasted as the physical, chemical, and biological nature of the ocean changes when climate change and acidification overwhelm attempts to restore ocean health. The GPO recognizes the importance for incorporating the influence of climate change and ocean acidification into its forward planning. In this respect, the GPO will pursue an in-depth understanding of the current status of the ocean and facilitate monitoring of the changes that are occurring, and will then put these in the context of its attempts to stabilize and reverse the decline of ocean ecosystems, goods, and services. Equally, the GPO will monitor information emerging on the balance between international efforts to mitigate the drivers of ocean warming and acidification and the corresponding adaptation costs associated with maintaining and improving the sustainable use of ocean goods and services. Understanding the factors associated with this balance between mitigation and adaptation is critical to the success of the GPO, so that this information would be maintained and fed into development of all activities. A formal strategy for maintaining this linkage and communication will be developed, drawing upon the expertise of the partners.

### *Building the Capacity of Public Agencies for Integrated Approaches to the Management of Ocean Resources*

Even where secure access, use, and management rights exist in the oceans, there may be instances where public interests are so varied and diffuse that

government must take ultimate responsibility for them. Action may need to be taken to address environmental impacts and spatial conflicts that are beyond the capacity and willingness of the private sector to address. In these situations, it may be necessary for governments to intervene by establishing conservation prescriptions through regulation and by applying coastal and marine spatial planning processes to allocate use rights more effectively. A wide range of examples of such integrated processes are under way, notably throughout the coastal members of the European Union, as well as in the Barents Sea (between Norway and Russia) and the Norwegian Sea. Similarly, the government of India has embarked on a national integrated coastal program. However, many local and national governments lack the capacity in terms of both financial and human resources to enable consideration of the trade-offs between competing uses in a given coastal or ocean space and then to introduce regulatory constraints where needed to help address such conflicts. For this reason, drawing upon the growing examples around the world, the GPO would support capacity building for the development of locally appropriate regulatory



frameworks based on such spatial plans, to help local and national governments around the world to enable sustainable private investment in the oceans.

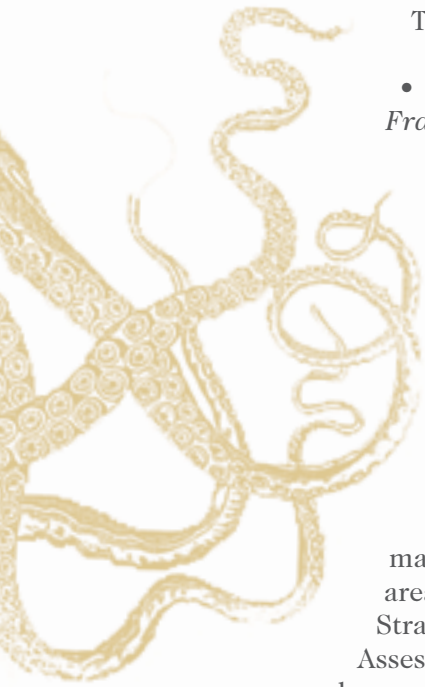
This could include:

- *Spatial Plans and Enabling Frameworks for Competing Uses.* Where secure access, use, and management rights are in place or have been introduced in coastal and ocean areas around the world, the GPO would finance technical assistance, consultations, and training to assist local and national governments to develop comprehensive and cost-effective spatial management plans for these areas (including, for example, Strategic Environmental Assessments in some cases). These

plans would set restrictions on access, use, and management rights in some cases in order to reduce externalities resulting from habitat change, or more commonly would organize public infrastructure and leases (such as port facilities, shipping lanes, etc.) to better consider their consequences for ocean health, all over a 10–20 year horizon. The plans are usually implemented by governments through a zoning map and/or a permit system, as the basis for individual public permit decisions.

### *Monitoring and Evaluation of Progress*

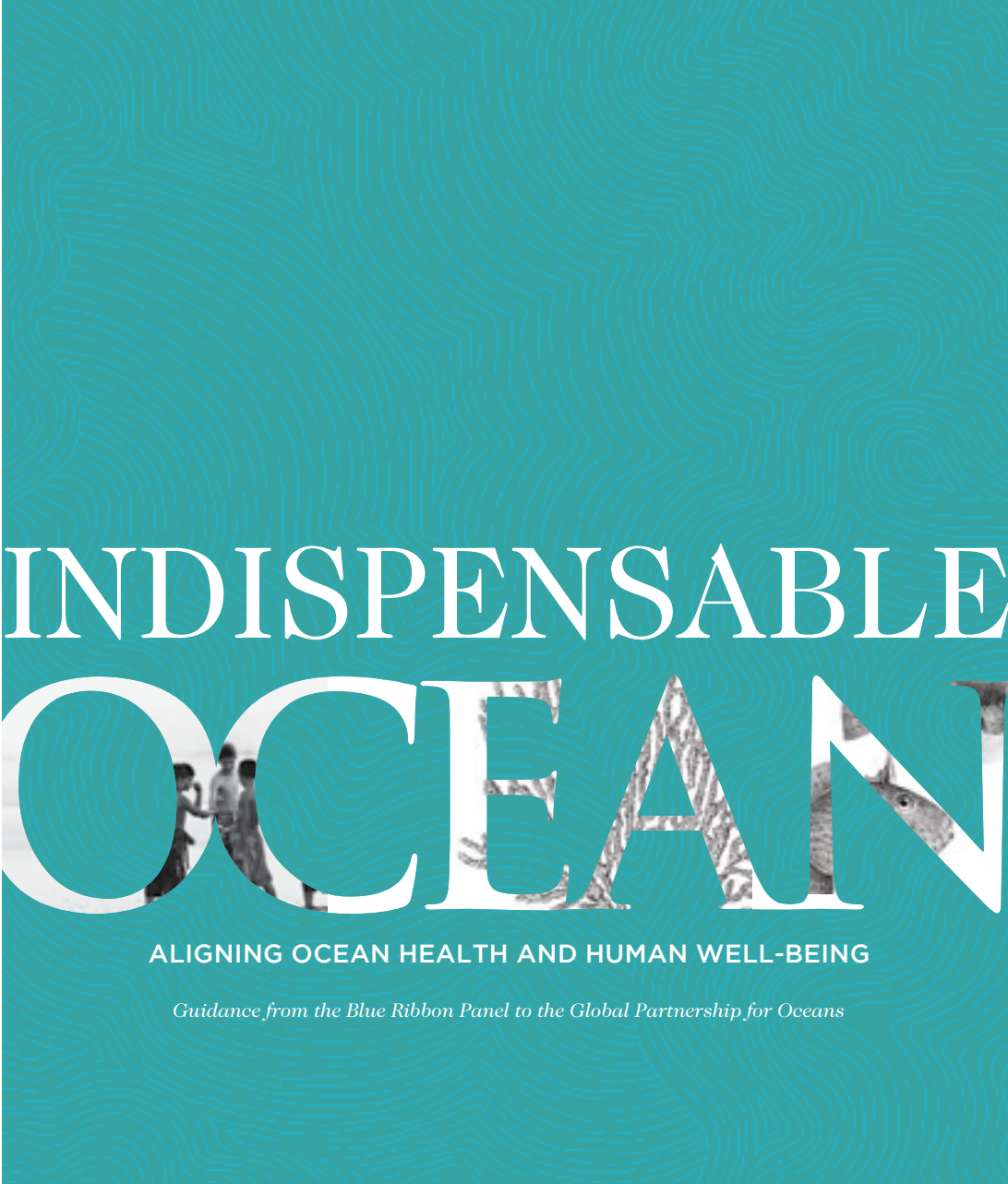
The GPO would invest heavily in monitoring and evaluation of progress, beginning with collection of the best available baseline data for each of the targeted outcomes and proceeding to track progress toward achieving these outcomes according to a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan. This monitoring and evaluation plan will be informed by guidance received in September 2013 from the Blue Ribbon Panel of global experts and thought leaders in ocean policy and economics, nominated by the GPO partners. For the terms of reference and composition of the panel, please see [www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org](http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org). The indicators in this plan would aim to allow for global tracking of the performance of ocean health where indicators and indices exist, for example via the application of the Fisheries Performance Indicators in the case of fisheries. Aquaculture Performance Indicators would also be developed to measure the success of aquaculture management. Additionally, robust indicators will be developed for habitat conservation and pollution reduction targets, as well as for global knowledge sharing. Key indicators and monitoring information will be linked to the Oceans Knowledge Platform (see component 4.2). Avoiding any duplication of efforts, the GPO would align its monitoring and evaluation efforts with the ongoing United Nations Regular Process, contributing as appropriate, as well as other monitoring efforts by its members. By combining such efforts, GPO partners will be able to ensure an evidence-based approach, evaluating the effectiveness of specific activities and thereby contributing to the global evidence base for sustainable use of the oceans. Last, to ensure monitoring of progress and adaptive learning, the GPO would also support careful monitoring of performance and evaluations of its activities, particularly to track consistency with the guiding principles.





APPENDIX III. GUIDANCE FROM THE  
BLUE RIBBON PANEL TO THE GPO

[http://bit.do/indispensable\\_ocean](http://bit.do/indispensable_ocean)



## REFERENCES

- Agnew, D.J., J. Pearce, T. Peatman, T. Pitcher and P. Ganapathiraju. 2008. *The Global Extent of Illegal Fishing*. London: Marine Resources and Fisheries Consultants Ltd.
- Blue Ribbon Panel. 2013. *Indispensable Ocean: Aligning Ocean Health and Human Well-Being*. Guidance from the Blue Ribbon Panel to the Global Partnership for Oceans. Washington, D.C. Global Partnership for Oceans.
- Cicin-Sain, B., and R. Knecht. 2000. *The Future of U.S. Ocean Policy: Choices for the New Century*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- European Science Foundation. 2010. *Marine Biotechnology: A New Strategy and Vision for Europe*. Strasbourg, France.
- FAO (U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization). 2010. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome: FAO.
- . 2012. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome: FAO.
- . 2013. Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, Rome, May 20–24.
- Faulkner, D.J. 2001. “Marine Natural Products.” *Natural Product Reports* 18: 1–49.
- GEF (Global Environment Facility). 2012. <http://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/395>.
- Goodplanet.info. 2009. <http://www.goodplanet.info/eng/Pollution/Oceans/Sea-pollution>.
- GPO Habitat Community of Practice. 2013. *An Agenda for Action: Conserving and Enhancing Marine and Coastal Habitat (Draft for Discussion)*. Guidance from the GPO Habitat Community of Practice to the Global Partnership for Oceans. Washington, D.C. GlobalPartnership for Oceans.
- IDDDRI (Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales). 2012. *Ocean Acidification—What Can We Do?* Policy Brief No. 17/12.
- Interpol. 2013. “Interpol Launches Project Scale to Combat Fisheries Crime.” <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2013/PR024>.
- KEIP (Kolkata Environmental Improvement Project). 2012. <http://www.keip.in/bl3/wetlands.php>.
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis*. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Nellemann, C., E. Corcoran, C. M. Duarte, L. Valdés, C. De Young, L. Fonseca, and G. Grimsditch, eds. 2009. *Blue Carbon. A Rapid Response Assessment*. UNEP, GRID-Arendal, [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no).
- North, D. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Oceana, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme, and European Project on Ocean Acidification and Mediterranean Sea Acidification in a Changing Climate. 2011. *Hot, Sour and Breathless—Ocean Under Stress*. Washington, DC: Oceana.
- Ocean Recovery Alliance, 2012. [www.oceanrecov.org](http://www.oceanrecov.org).
- UNCSD (U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development) (Rio+20). 2012. *The Future We Want*. New York: United Nations.
- UNEP (U.N. Environment Programme). 2006. *Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing: A Synthesis Report Based on the Findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- . 2010. *Building the Foundations for Sustainable Nutrient Management: A Publication of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- . 2012. *Global Environmental Outlook 5: Summary for Policy Makers*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. 2004. *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*. Final Report. Washington, D.C.
- World Bank and FAO (U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization). 2009. *The Sunken Billions. The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- WCED (World Commission on Environment and Development). 1987. *Our Common Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.





[www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org](http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org)