• What are ocean accounts?
• Why are countries interested in ocean accounts?
• Introducing the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

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Global Ocean Accounts Partnership
What are ocean accounts?

• Collections of **physical, monetary and other information** related to the ocean: environmental, economic and social

• Organized into a common data **structure**

• Compatible with international **statistical standards** for national accounting

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E.g. GDP

National accounts

Macro-economic stats

Economic data
E.g. business surveys
Environmental, economic, and social data

- Climate data
- National census
- Fish stock assessments
- Shoreline maps
- Ecological assessments
- Tourism data
- Hydrographic data
- Biogeochemical data
- Ocean industry statistics
- Laws and policies
- Pollution data
Key questions answered by ocean accounts:

• What is the status of ocean wealth, including produced assets (e.g. ports) and non-produced assets (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, fish stocks)?

• How are different groups of people benefitting from the ocean, ocean economy? (income or welfare)

• What is the status of ocean-based economic production?
Why are countries interested in ocean accounts:

• Demand from national strategies for ocean-based development (blue economy).

• Monitoring of progress towards sustainable development and other international commitments, “beyond GDP” (SDG 15.9, 17.19)

• Making better use of ocean science in economic decision-making

• Build a common set of facts for different parts of government: environmental protection, infrastructure development, planning and finance, transport, fisheries, energy, etc.
Some countries outside of Africa developing ocean accounts:

- Europe: Netherlands, Portugal, UK, + EU.
- Asia-Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu, Vietnam
- Americas: Canada, Costa Rica, USA
- Key themes: integrated ocean management, environmental monitoring, economic development planning

Many more countries have ocean assessment activities that provide foundation for accounts
Example from Thailand:

• Integrated accounting for tourism economies and environmental status in the Andaman sea

• 2019 pilot project supported by UN–ESCAP

• 2020 decision to invest in national pilot
Challenges for ocean accounting:

- Overcoming fragmentation of data across many different institutions (within and beyond government)
- Improving ocean monitoring and assessment
- Staff time and capacity
- Divergent approaches in different countries

Given current status of ocean accounting, **partnerships are crucial** for building capacity, sharing best practices, and overcoming outstanding challenges.
The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership:

- Established in 2019 to **accelerate ocean accounting** enabling **measurement and management of progress towards sustainable ocean development**
- Open to governments, international institutions, research-based organizations, others. Current co-chairs: UN–ESCAP, Canada. Supported by World Bank Blue Economy Program
- **2019 Sydney Global Dialogue:** 18 governments
- Supporting the work of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: 14 countries
- Regional communities of practice, capacity support, clearing house, technical guidance.
The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

Measuring progress towards sustainable ocean development

Events

High Level Panel Blue Paper on Ocean Accounts

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System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Resources and projects

Ecosystem accounting for the ocean

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