Making Waves in the Regenerative & Sustainable Ocean Economy:

Transformative Ocean Investment Opportunities

BUILDERS VISION

orraa

Katapult Ocean

In collaboration with World Economic Forum

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There is an urgent need to demonstrate the compelling business and financial case for ocean-positive investments. That is why the World Economic Forum, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, Builders Vision and Katapult Ocean have collaborated to showcase the diversity, maturity, and bankability of investment opportunities within the regenerative and sustainable ocean economy.

These real-world examples are intended to inspire confidence among capital providers, demonstrating that they are viable and essential to drive long-term resilience and economic prosperity, particularly in emerging and developing economies.

The Ocean: an engine of environmental protection and economic prosperity

Healthy ocean ecosystems are productive assets that compound in value. Ocean degradation increases volatility to supply chains, and contributes to migration, food insecurity and insurance risk. Regenerative ocean investments hedge against climate, economic, and geopolitical risk. A healthy ocean is a stabilizing force in an uncertain world.

Traditionally, the Ocean has been considered a vast open-access extractive resource through industries like whaling, fishing, offshore oil drilling, and shipping; or a place in which to dump and hide pollutants and waste.

Today, however, and looking forward, we see the Ocean as a powerful prosperity engine.

The Ocean is the planet's largest carbon sink, having absorbed the vast majority (over 90%) of the heat from our emissions, and is a vital hub of biodiversity, being home to 80% of life on Earth. Its currents provide the plumbing for our weather and climate systems. And the Ocean supports a diverse and expanding array of future-facing economic sectors, including renewable energy, food, technology, and resilient natural infrastructure.

The ocean economy itself has demonstrated remarkable long-term growth and resilience, doubling in size over the past 30 years to reach a value of USD$2.6 trillion in 2020, and employing over 100 million people[1]. It has consistently outpaced the global industry average in real-term growth, and according to the OECD, if it were a country, it would be the fifth largest economy in the world[2]. As such, it presents significant investment opportunities across multiple sectors, representing a frontier for innovation, climate adaptation, and sustainable returns.

By spotlighting a selection of investment-ready projects and investment vehicles across multiple sectors, this report aims to catalyze a new wave of ocean finance into regenerative and sustainable activities.

The reality is that for all their potential, regenerative and sustainable ocean enterprises and projects remain underfunded. Less than 1% of Official Development Assistance is invested into sustainable ocean-related projects[3] and less than 1% of philanthropic capital is dedicated to supporting the regenerative blue economy[4]. Yet investments into industry sectors that pollute our seas or extract and destroy marine life run into the trillions. Redirecting these investments and shifting market-distorting perverse subsidies in this sector could yield massive gains very quickly. Research indicates that by 2030, an additional USD$1 trillion of finance could be invested into 'shovel-ready' regenerative projects including ocean-based renewable energy, clean shipping, food, and Nature-based Solutions that will help future-proof our planet[5]. As such, the transition to a regenerative and sustainable ocean economy offers a strategic long-term financial opportunity.

The Blue Economy and Finance Forum, which is being hosted by Monaco in June 2025 as a special meeting of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference, represents a unique opportunity to raise momentum and scale funding towards ocean-positive projects by demonstrating the business cases behind them.

To unlock the full potential of ocean-positive solutions, a more systemic, structured approach is needed – one that builds the foundational architecture for ocean finance: a cohesive ecosystem capable of surfacing new investable business models, attracting a broader range of capital, leveraging concessional capital and de-risking tools to accelerate commercial investment.

Investing in regenerative solutions that address critical risks such as resource overuse, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather will unlock long-term economic value and catalyze ocean-positive growth for decades to come. Capital providers who have not yet realized that a sustainable ocean economy is a foundation for global resilience and an essential pillar of a regenerative, inclusive, and future-ready economic system, could be "missing the boat". But opportunities abound and there is still time for them to climb onboard.

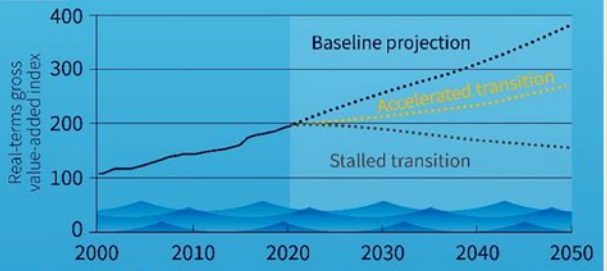
The opportunity is clear, the momentum is building, and now is the time to act.

1. OECD (2025), The Ocean Economy to 2050, OECD Publishing, Paris
2. Ibid
3. Ibid
4. Our Shared Seas: Funding Trends 2023
5. Hoegh-Guldberg & Northrop et al. 2023

Infographic Courtesy of : OECD

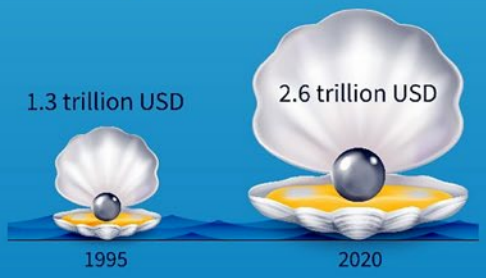
Growth

The ocean economy represented 3-4% of the global economy between 1995 and 2020.



By 2050, the ocean economy is projected to grow 4x (historical trend), 2.5x (energy transition scenario), or decline (stalled transition).

Value



The ocean economy doubled from 1.3 to 2.6 trillion USD between 1995 and 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 3%.

Economic activity

Marine and coastal tourism (USD 789 billion in 2019) and offshore oil and gas extraction (USD 988 billion in 2020), were the two largest sectors.

Employment

The ocean economy employed 151 million full-time equivalents jobs at its peak in 2006, declining to 134 in 2019 and 101 in 2020...

... with marine and coastal tourism being the largest employer providing 80 million full-time equivalents jobs in 2019.

Market

Eastern Asia and Southern and Central Asia were the top regional employers, contributing 29% and 21% of global ocean economy full-time equivalents jobs in 2019.

High-income countries led global ocean economy GVA, but their share dropped from 71% in 1995 to 52% in 2019.

OECD (2025), The Ocean Economy to 2050, OECD Publishing, Paris

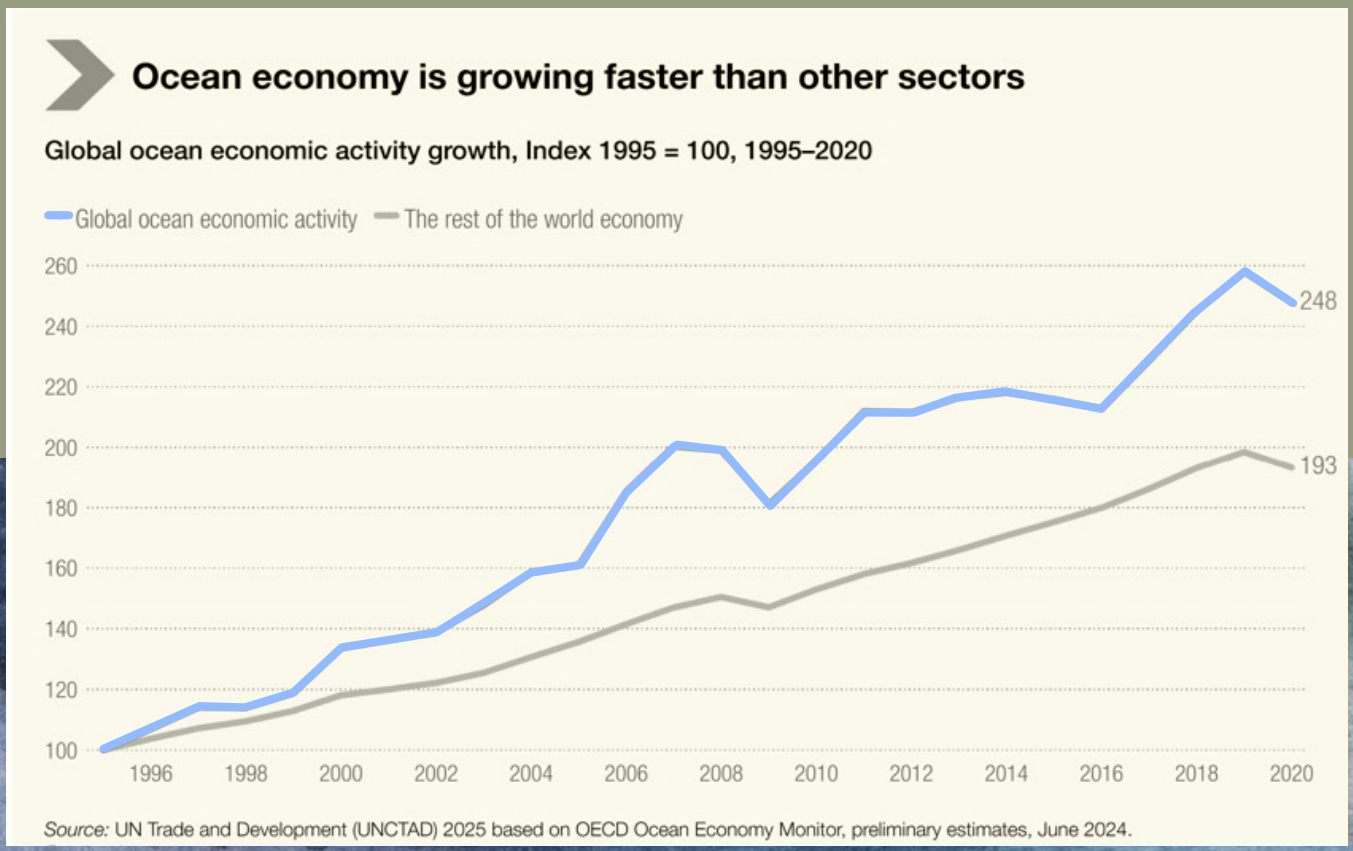
LINK

Despite covering 70% of the planet, and the growing economic importance of ocean industries, there is a huge investment gap in a regenerative and sustainable Ocean

The ocean economy contributed USD$2.6 trillion to the global economy in 2020 and is growing at an even faster rate today. The OECD estimates that it could double in size by 2050[6]. Yet despite its significant growth potential, investment in the Ocean remains remarkably small and not representative of its integral role in the global economy.

Pension funds, insurers and sovereign wealth funds oversee USD$100 trillion of investment[7], yet publicly disclosed "blue" mandates account for only USD$69 billion – less than 0.1% of the total[8]. Similarly, the impact-investing market stands at USD$1.57 trillion[9], yet ocean-related deals attract less than USD$16 billion.

For more Ocean Data Intelligence and System Investing go to open source knowledge sharing at Ocean Returns by Builders Vision & Katapult Ocean.



6. OECD (2025), The Ocean Economy to 2050, OECD Publishing, Paris
7. OECD – Institutional Investor Statistics
8. Phenix Capital – Impact Report (2025)
9. GIIN – Sizing the Impact Investing Market 2024

A suite of financial instruments and platforms exist to catalyze private investment into a regenerative and sustainable blue economy. But to truly scale and unlock investment, three enabling conditions must be met.

1. The pipeline of bankable ocean-based projects must be expanded

While developers often point to a lack of funding, one of the main obstacles to capital deployment is the limited availability of mature, scalable projects. The pipeline must grow – upstream and downstream. What we have found is that a small catalytic grant in the tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, or early seed funding, brings in more private capital of all types and it is critical that these funds begin to flow.

2. A Capital Market for the Ocean

A true ocean finance ecosystem needs a structured capital market that includes venture and private equity, as well as public equity, blue bonds, and insurance-linked instruments. Ocean finance must evolve from niche innovation to mainstream capital deployment. Financial intermediaries, MDBs, DFIs, insurers, and institutional investors all have critical roles to play in establishing robust financial vehicles and deal structures that align with ocean-positive outcomes.

3. Financial commitments need to translate into capital flows

A regenerating and sustainable ocean needs to have a seat at the table in finance and insurance decisions. Building the wave of investment starts with institutional investors and asset managers setting robust net zero commitments and driving financial system policy change by adopting corporate ESG standards and disclosures as well as taxonomies that define clear and common criteria for classifying ocean-linked projects and investments as sustainable. It also means accelerating the transition towards a healthy and sustainable ocean through lending, investment and insurance practices that mitigate ocean risk and build the resilience of climate vulnerable coastal communities. ORRAA and The Forum are working to enable this journey. The cumulative value of the Assets Under Management by current endorsers of #BackBlue amounts to USD$3.45 trillion. AXA, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered, BNP Paribas, Eurazeo, Mirova, WTW and Palladium are among the financial institutions to have joined. We are looking for others to join the #BackBlue Commitment. In 2018, there were only four funds in the market that were focused on ocean health and sustainability.

@Unsplash Image: Wolfgang Weiser

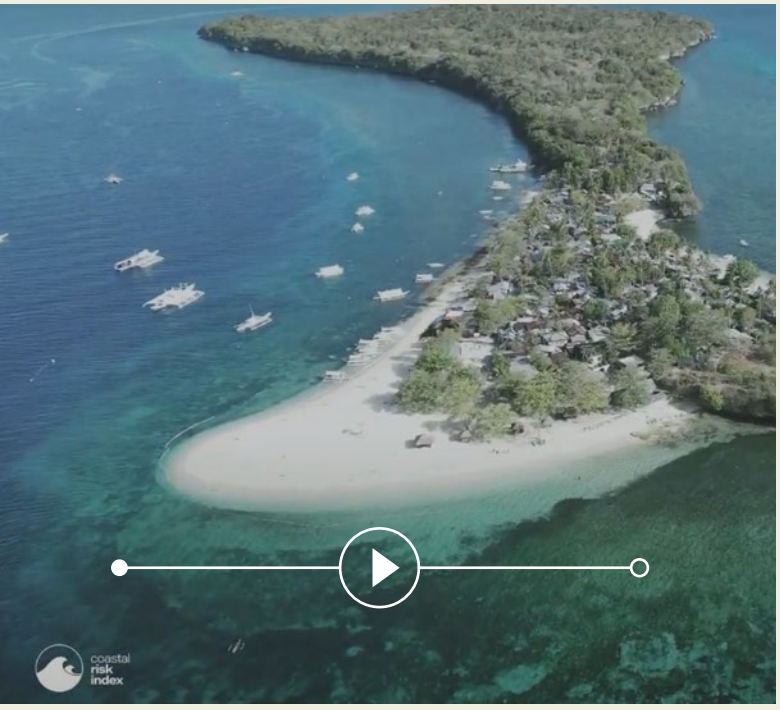
Two persistent challenges have prevented greater capital flow into a regenerative and sustainable blue economy

First, the perceived **lack of bankable, investable project pipelines** and a resulting reluctance by large capital providers to consider ocean-positive investment opportunities.

Second, a **lack of knowledge and clarity** around what constitutes the regenerative and sustainable ocean economy, and how it intersects with core financial risk and return considerations. This report directly addresses both.

We make the case that investing in the regenerative and sustainable blue economy, including through Nature-based Solutions like mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reef protection, offers among the most cost-effective infrastructure defenses available.

ORRAA's Coastal Risk Index (CRI) estimates that USD$363 billion worth of coastal assets would be at risk of flooding without the protective benefits of mangroves and coral reefs. The CRI has also calculated that 14.2 million more people would be flooded annually without these ecosystems providing the first line of defence against coastal flooding and storm surges[10]. This is the value of blue nature on our doorstep.



At a macro level, transitioning to a regenerative blue economy could mitigate over USD$5 trillion in economic losses globally[11], while simultaneously unlocking new economic opportunities and strengthening financial system resilience[12].

To showcase tangible and actionable opportunities for investors, this report is structured into two parts.

Part 1 Showcases several **blue finance vehicles and investment platforms** designed to aggregate capital and deploy it efficiently into high-impact ocean-positive solutions. These funds and financial instruments are primed to attract larger investors and capital providers and are essential to mobilize the billions needed for the transition to a regenerative ocean economy.

Together, these examples illustrate the breadth and depth of opportunity across the ocean finance spectrum – from early-stage, community-driven projects, to mature, large scale financial products.

Part 2 Highlights **projects, initiatives and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises** (SMEs) that have already demonstrated financial viability and delivered meaningful nature and economic outcomes. These initiatives highlight the diversity of the regenerative and sustainable blue economy and offer exciting opportunities for additional investment now. From regenerative aquaculture, ocean conservation and the circular economy, to renewable energy solutions, these examples underscore the opportunities that could unlock further innovation and growth by elevating ocean-positive business models.

10. Coastal Risk Index
11. The Forum – The Business Case for a Sustainable Blue Economy
12. Ibid

Part 1 - Blue Finance Vehicles and Investment Platforms

Since 2018 there has been a 10-fold increase in the number of ocean-focused funds

In 2018, there were only four funds in the market that were focused on ocean health and sustainability. Fast forward to 2025, and there are now more than 40 venture capital funds that have launched or are fundraising and have a focus on ocean sector issues. These funds vary from those that focus on a specific sector (e.g. ocean plastics) to others that cover a wide variety of ocean sectors or regions. Larger scale investable opportunities that are ready to deploy include:

Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) mobilizes capital through two complementary vehicles: the GFCR UN Fund, which deploys grants, technical assistance, and concessional finance; and the GFCR Equity Fund, which invests in scalable, revenue-generating enterprises using a blended finance approach to de-risk investments and attract private capital. A key implementation vehicle for the Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), the GFCR takes a locally driven, ecosystem-based approach to enhance the resilience of coral reef ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. To date, GFCR has supported over 150 reef-positive enterprises and finance mechanisms, created more than 30,000 jobs, improved resilience for over 20 million coastal community members, strengthened conservation and management efforts across more than 2 million hectares of coral reef ecosystems, and enabled sustainable financing measures covering over 10 million hectares of Marine Protected Areas.

LINK TO FUND

Outrigger Impact Outrigger Impact is an innovative blended finance fund that delivers focused and transformative investment capital to businesses and projects within the blue economy in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The fund aims to generate returns through originating, structuring, and providing finance via targeted project lending and equity investments into sustainable and impactful business models that create environmental, economic and social resilience and sustainability.

The Outrigger Fund is supported by a technical assistance facility that provides investment readiness and early-stage grant funding to island projects that have the potential over time to graduate to an investment from the fund. Outrigger targets some 36 SIDS across the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian and Atlantic Ocean. They differ in geography, population size, and economic status, yet they are recognized as a group as being particularly at risk from climate change despite being responsible for less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. SIDS steward over 30% of our Ocean through their Exclusive Economic Zones meaning their blue economies and marine assets are filled with potential.

LINK TO FUND

Katapult Ocean (KO) is one of the most active impact venture capital investors globally, focused on backing ocean and climate tech solutions from seed to Series A. Since 2019, KO has built a strong track record as a dedicated investor in ocean innovation, with a portfolio of over 77 companies across the world. A founding member of the 1000 Ocean Startups coalition, Katapult Ocean plays a key role in shaping the global blue economy ecosystem. Katapult Ocean announced the development of a dedicated Asia Fund and expect to launch in total two ocean-focused funds in 2026.

LINK TO FUND

SWEN Capital Partners' Blue Ocean Fund closed at €170 million (USD$185 million). This venture capital fund invests in innovative startups which support the regeneration of ocean biodiversity, focusing on solutions to overfishing, marine pollution and marine-based solutions to climate change. It is recognized as one of the largest funds dedicated to innovation in marine health. The SWEN Blue Ocean 2 fund is currently out raising capital targeting a size of €300 million (USD$326 million).

LINK TO FUND

Oceans 14 Capital Fund I closed at €201 million in March 2024. This impact fund is dedicated exclusively to the sustainable and regenerative blue economy, targeting sectors such as sustainable seafood, marine biodiversity, circular economy solutions, and ocean health technologies. Ocean 14 Capital Ltd plans to launch a Fund II at the end of 2025.

LINK TO FUND

Circulate Capital is the leading circular economy investment management firm in high-growth markets. Circulate partners with global brands and institutional investors to invest in solutions that catalyze systems change across the globe. Circulate's financing transforms circular plastic supply chains at scale, delivering competitive financial returns and positive impact. After launching its first fund with a focus on Southeast Asia in 2018, it then launched a Latin America Fund in 2023 and is currently raising funds for SE Asia Fund II.

LINK TO FUND

Aqua Spark , which launched in 2014, is the world's first fund focused exclusively on the sustainable aquaculture sector. Aqua Spark has an evergreen structure, so it will continue to allow new investors to come in, even though it has secured more than USD$300 million from more than 350 investors to date. Aqua Spark's mission is to move the aquaculture industry towards healthy, sustainable, affordable production with comparable or better financial returns.

LINK TO FUND

Regeneration.VC is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in early-stage consumer climate tech innovation. Regeneration.VC recently acquired Sky Ocean Ventures portfolio, one of the first ocean funds with a focus on ocean plastics and circular resources.

LINK TO FUND

Hatch Blue's Blue Revolution Fund Hatch Blue's Blue Revolution Fund is one of the leading aquaculture focused funds, having successfully closed in late 2024 at €92 million. The Nature Conservancy serves as a Conservation Manager in Blue Revolution Fund, helping to ensure the investment portfolio has a strong conservation and impact orientation. Hatch Blue is planning to launch follow-on investment platforms in 2026 and beyond.

LINK TO FUND

2050 Fund is an innovative, regenerative fund model combining best practice VC with next practice evergreen structure and an ecosystem and value-chain alignment approach to ocean investing. While 2050's investment thesis is broader than just oceans and is focused on a regenerative, low-carbon economy including food and health, the ocean sector is a key investment theme.

LINK TO FUND

ReOcean Fund is a VC fund focused on scaling innovative solutions for ocean health and sustainability, launched by Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and managed by Monaco Asset Management. The fund invests in early- and growth-stage companies (Series B and late seed/ Series A for promising early pipeline) addressing critical challenges such as plastic pollution, sustainable seafood, green shipping, ocean data, and restoration and protection of the ocean. The mission of the fund is to invest €100m in high impact, innovative companies that enable the transition to a regenerative blue economy.

LINK TO FUND

Financial tools providing new opportunities for investors to engage in impact-driven work in the ocean sector are being developed, including the following:

Nautilus, the Blue Guarantee Company is the first guarantee facility focused on the regenerative and sustainable blue economy which is designed to derisk investments by providing a 'promise to pay' to generate certainty for new entrants and encourage others to dive in. Guarantees play a transformational role for new entrants to learn about the sustainable blue economy as an asset class and build their confidence to invest without guarantees in the future. With an investment grade rating from global credit rating agencies, Nautilus will de-risk and mobilize sustainable blue investments, thereby empowering ocean-positive projects that protect marine ecosystems, enhance community resilience and drive socio-economic growth in vulnerable coastal regions. Offering an initial guarantee capacity of up to USD$250 million, Nautilus can provide hard or local currency guarantees for SMEs and infrastructure projects for up to 15 years.

LINK TO FACILITY

Blue Finance Facility is a groundbreaking impact loan facility to regenerate marine biodiversity and implement bankable reef-positive enterprises within large marine protected areas (MPAs). These aim to enhance the protection of over two million hectares of high-biodiverse coral reefs and have a positive impact on the local blue economy, especially in coastal fishing communities. The initial phase is focusing on working in Indonesia, Philippines, and Tanzania to manage 'bankable' MPAs on behalf of governments and invest in a portfolio of businesses in community-based aquaculture, sustainable fishery, and ecotourism. The program also aims to replicate this model in new large-scale MPAs across these three countries, as well as in Belize, the Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Fiji, and Mozambique - ultimately targeting the sustainable management of up to nine million hectares of marine ecosystems.

LINK TO FACILITY

@Unsplash Image: Kristin Hoel

Blue bond structures are being developed to advance and scale investment in key ocean sectors. Current bond-based investable opportunities include:

The World's First Small-Scale Fisheries Impact Bond Rare launched the world's first small-scale fisheries (SSF) Impact Bond focused on Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. It will establish three Managed Access with Reserves (MA+Rs) areas as other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to support 30x30 goals. By establishing and sustainably managing these new MA+R sites, Rare will help strengthen coastal marine habitats including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses and help build capacity and formalization of micro and small businesses, bringing artisanal fisher microbusinesses into the formal economy and strengthening their capacity along the domestic value chain.

LINK TO BOND

The Blue Bond Accelerator aims to catalyze USD$70 billion of investment into the regenerative and sustainable blue economy by 2030, by building a high integrity blue bond market which will future-proof economies and societies by incorporating the Ocean onto balance sheets. It is activating research that indicates a USD$550 billion per annum investment opportunity across six defined regenerative and sustainable blue economy sectors by 2030. Over 60% of the investment potential is in the Asia-Pacific region, with 3% in SIDS. The Accelerator aims to realize this potential through its role as a market builder, a technical advisor and a convenor.

LINK TO BOND

Indonesia Coral Reef Bond proposal, initiated by the World Bank, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, GEF, BNP Paribas and IUCN, is a pioneering outcome-based financing instrument designed to mobilize private capital for the protection of over two million hectares and three marine protected areas in Indonesia. Tied to measurable improvements in coral reef, reef fish health and MPA management effectiveness measured by the IUCN Green List Standard, it aligns biodiversity goals with economic incentives. By leveraging nature-linked finance, the initiative seeks to boost sustainable livelihoods while supporting climate resilience and long-term ocean stewardship.

LINK TO BOND

Deep Blue Verified Impact Facility (Deep Blue) in development by ORRAA with support from Builders Initiative, is an outcome-based financing facility that mobilizes blended capital into ocean resilience projects. The goal is to drive measurable improvements in marine ecosystem health and biodiversity, while shifting market behavior towards performance-based investment and catalyzing systemic change in ocean finance. Target communities are marine-dependent populations across the Global South, including stakeholders in SIDS and coastal nations in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The facility will embed outcome-based financing into ORRAA's Sea Change Impact Financing Facility (SCIFF) instruments to ensure investments deliver tangible ecosystem and livelihood benefits.

Part 2: Investment-Ready Projects, Initiatives and SMEs

There are six critical sustainable and regenerative blue economy sectors with a median potential global investment of USD$550 billion per annum to 2030[13]:

1	**Ocean Conservation:** investment into projects to improve biodiversity and resilience in coastal communities, creating business opportunities through marine protected areas, ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services and blue carbon.
2	**Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture:** capital and technical resources for best practice aquaculture and wild-caught seafood businesses and supply chains, particularly in emerging markets and SIDS, that can be certified sustainable and access high-value markets globally.
3	**Circular Economy and Blue Technology:** businesses that leverage ocean assets or directly prevent ocean degradation by using innovative new techniques or technologies such as plastic upcycling and waste management.
4	**Ocean-based Renewable Energy:** wave, solar and tidal power where the investment provides innovation or uniquely leverages the Ocean without detriment to biodiversity.
5	**Sustainable Blue Infrastructure:** technologies and efficiencies, including green/blue solutions to freight and passenger shipping and green ports.
6	**Ridge to Reef:** investment into integrated solutions including agriculture, sustainable forestry and land use, recognizing the importance of watersheds and coastal management.

13. Minderoo Foundation and Partners

1. Ocean Conservation

Ocean conservation is fundamental to regenerating biodiversity, strengthening community resilience, and protecting critical coastal habitats[14]. Healthy marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, serve as natural infrastructure, buffering coastal communities from extreme weather, erosion, and rising seas. At the same time, they are biodiversity hotspots that support sustainable livelihoods, particularly in small-scale fisheries and tourism. By investing in the protection and restoration of these ecosystems, we not only preserve the Ocean's ability to sustain life and regulate climate but also build long-term social and economic resilience for vulnerable populations on the frontlines of climate change. As such, ocean conservation is a strategic investment in a safer, more equitable, and regenerative future.

Investments in this sector include projects that improve biodiversity and resilience in coastal communities, creating business opportunities through marine protected areas, ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services and blue carbon.

Blue Alliance Marine Protected Areas combine effective day-to-day co-management of large MPAs with the development of a sustainable blue economy within their boundaries, all based on solid science. These MPAs generate measurable benefits for marine biodiversity while fostering sustainable economic opportunities for local communities and helping to alleviate poverty. A key innovation of this model is its potential for financial self-sufficiency: profits from the associated social enterprises in the blue economy can be reinvested into the ongoing management of the MPAs. At the heart of every programme is a commitment to inclusive, participatory governance, ensuring that local communities play an active role in decision-making and stewardship. Ultimately, Blue Alliance aims to protect over nine million hectares by 2030, benefiting approximately 130,000 vulnerable people in coastal communities and unlocking domestic and international private investment capital.

LINK

Image: Blue Alliance Marine Protected Areas

14. Jacquemont, Blasiak et al. 2022

1. Ocean Conservation

West Africa Blue partners with communities and governments throughout West Africa to originate and develop high-integrity carbon projects, with a focus on blue carbon. Their projects seek to preserve, restore, and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems, financed by issuing high-quality carbon credits. They are working on some of the first large-scale blue carbon projects in Africa that have the potential to exemplify what it means to be community-centric and financially sustainable.

LINK

Image: West Africa Blue

Ocean Eye incentivizes conservation through biodiversity-linked micropayments. Ocean Eye is a unique platform that conserves marine biodiversity by collecting data and financial payments for wildlife sightings. The platform enables marine tourists such as scuba divers, cruise or resort clients to report animal sightings and make micro payments which incentivize locals to protect endangered or vulnerable species and ecosystems. By connecting the tourism industry further with conservation driven profits, Ocean Eye is building more sustainable and regenerative livelihood options, influencing good fishing practices.

LINK


Image: Ocean Eye

INVERSA Leathers manufactures the world's first regenerative leather. It helps solve an environmental crisis and encourages fashion to be more sustainable. Made from the invasive lionfish, which destroy coral reefs in the Caribbean and the Atlantic, INVERSA's materials help fashion revive and heal the planet. INVERSA partners with local fishers and divers to source its products. It develops robust economies in vulnerable and low-income communities by rewarding the removal of invasive species. The lionfish project underwrites fishers' risk with a 100 per cent catch-to-cash guarantee, financing the upfront re-tooling expenses for fishers to hunt and catch lionfish, offering premium incentives and prompt payment timelines.

LINK

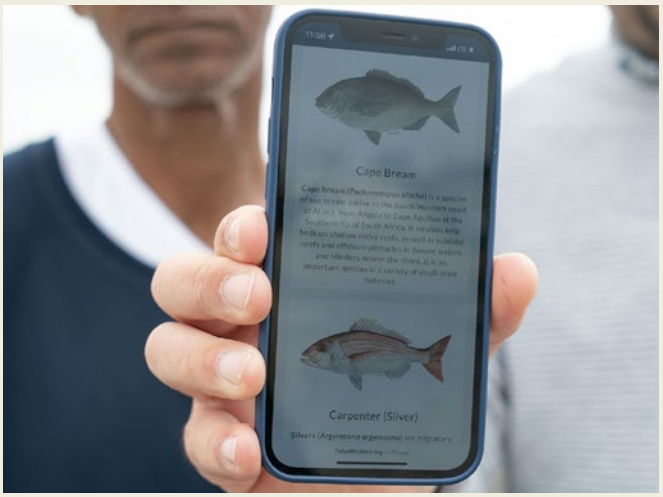

Image: INVERSA

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Ocean is a lifeline for billions. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)[15], the fisheries and aquaculture sector directly employs 62 million people, with the livelihoods of over 600 million – largely in coastal communities – depending on it. Critically, more than 80% of those engaged in this sector are part of small-scale fisheries, which are vital to food security, economic stability, and social cohesion across the Global South[16].

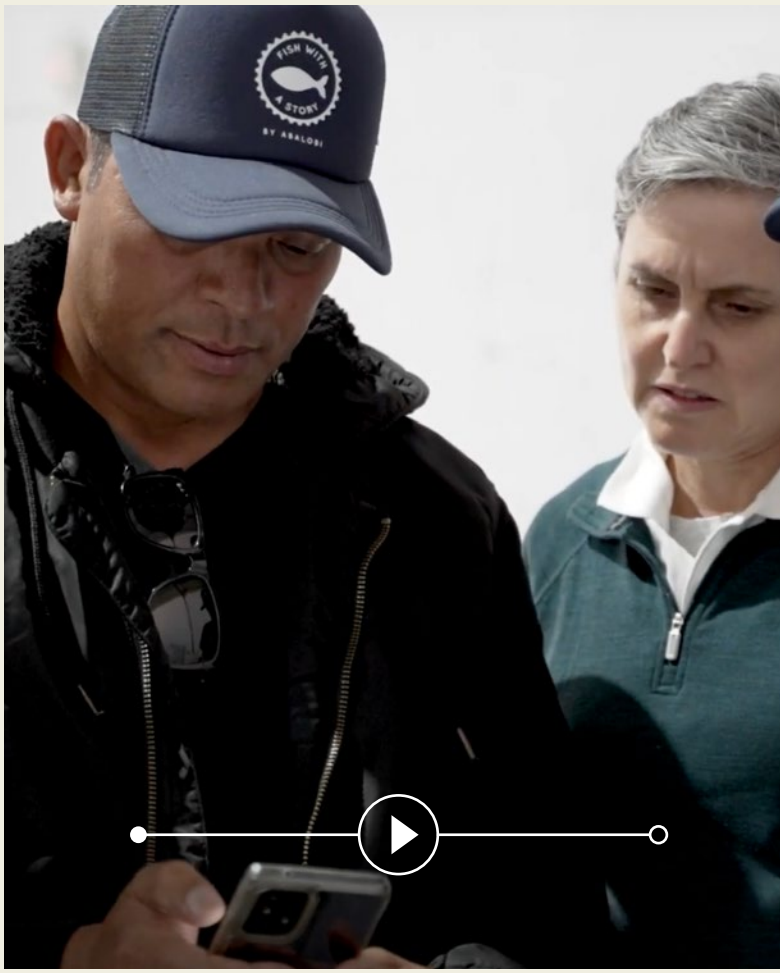
In 2021, aquatic foods supplied at least 20% of animal protein intake for 3.2 billion people, a proportion significantly higher in many low-income nations[17]. These numbers underscore the need to urgently protect and enhance the Ocean's regenerative capacity. Strategic investments into sustainable aquaculture, improved fisheries management, and the elimination of harmful subsidies offers a pathway to restore ocean productivity. This would unlock billions in economic value, particularly for developing countries, while at the same time strengthening food systems and safeguarding jobs for future generations. Conserving these ecosystems can help countries adapt and become more resilient to sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Investments into capital and technical resources for best practice aquaculture and wild-caught seafood businesses and supply chains – particularly in emerging markets and SIDS that can be certified sustainable and access high-value markets globally – are key to building food security and community resilience.



ABALOBI is a technology-driven company enhancing the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities in South Africa and beyond. By applying data and "Technology for Good", ABALOBI is developing thriving, equitable, resilient and sustainable fishing ecosystems that empower local fishers and promote responsible fishing practices. Through their "Fish With A Story" platform, they connect fisher groups and cooperatives with fair markets and linked financial services. Their approach stimulates co-management, implements fisheries improvement programmes, and uses innovative data, traceability and market technologies to position small-scale fishers for social, economic and ecological sustainability.

LINK



15. FAO - The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (2024)
16. Ibid
17. Ibid

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Coast 4C is revolutionizing sustainable seaweed supply. Its impact-driven solutions scale responsible seaweed production while investing in marine conservation to create prosperous, resilient coastal communities for a sustainable future. It helps farmers become a regenerative and economic and environmentally sustainable force for their community while they help buyers find great seaweed at a competitive price.

LINK


Image: Coast 4C

nextProtein is a Paris-based company pioneering the production of insect-based proteins and oils as a sustainable, healthy, and competitive alternative to traditional fish-based products, particularly the fishmeal used in aquaculture. Founded in 2015, nextProtein's mission is to limit overfishing and food waste by providing scalable, environmentally friendly solutions for the animal feed industry. For every ton of insect meal sold to fish farmers, three tons of forage fish are conserved, directly reducing the depletion of wild fish stocks.

LINK


Image: nextProtein

Blue Ocean Gear Lost or abandoned fishing equipment, also known as ghost gear, is a significant contributor to ocean plastic pollution and ecosystem decline. Blue Ocean Gear addresses this challenge with remotely configurable, low-cost Smart Buoys that enable real-time tracking and data-driven management of fishing gear. This technology supports sustainable fishing methods by allowing users to track and monitor data from their gear anytime and anywhere. By 2030, Blue Ocean Gear aims to establish the world's largest Smart Buoy network, offering blue finance stakeholders scalable impact opportunities to prevent thousands of tons of gear loss and emissions, while advancing traceability and resilience in marine value chains.

LINK


Image: Blue Ocean Gear

3. Circular Economy and Blue Technology

The convergence of blue technology and the circular economy principles of reducing waste, reusing and recycling is redefining how ocean industries address plastic pollution and marine degradation. By embedding circularity into ocean-based value chains, businesses are moving beyond traditional waste management to design-out pollution at source, extend material lifecycles, and regenerate marine ecosystems.

Innovative blue technologies, ranging from advanced plastic upcycling to real-time waste interception, are enabling the shift from linear extraction to closed-loop systems. These solutions not only reduce the flow of plastics into marine environments, but also unlock new economic value from recovered materials. As this field matures, the focus is shifting from pilot projects to systemic adoption, with multi-stakeholder partnerships driving the deployment of scalable, high-impact solutions.

Arena Recycling is a Tanzanian cleantech company pioneering the transformation of plastic waste into high-quality, affordable building materials for sustainable construction in emerging markets. By addressing the dual challenges of marine pollution and the shortage of resilient infrastructure, Arena Recycling demonstrates how circular economy solutions can drive both environmental and social impact.

LINK

Image: Arena Recycling

Sway is producing seaweed-based, home compostable replacements for single-use plastic packaging. The B2B2C company is developing bioplastic materials for global brands and packaging manufacturers. Their Thermoplastic Seaweed (TPSea) resin is the first of its kind, and is fully compatible with the most scaled plastic manufacturing process on earth.

LINK

Image: Sway

Bureo is a US-Chilean company transforming end-of-life fishing nets into high-quality, fully traceable recycled materials. Through its signature NetPlus material, it helps protect marine ecosystems, supports the livelihoods of coastal populations and drives industry-wide adoption of circular economy solutions. It has collected over 15 million pounds of discarded fishing nets across eight countries and partnered with leading global brands such as Patagonia, TREK, Quicksilver, Dakine, Burton and more to scale its impact.

LINK

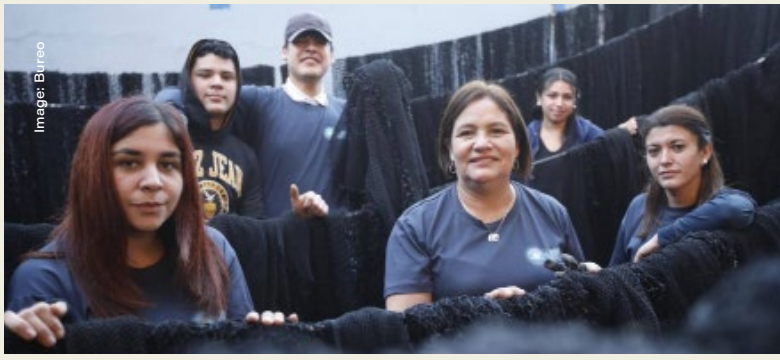


Image: Bureo

3. Circular Economy and Blue Technology

Matter is the leader in domestic, commercial and industrial microplastic filtration. Matter's core technology is based on its patented 'self-cleaning' filter solution which uses a unique regenerative process to efficiently separate micropollutants from wastewater, whilst also eliminating the need for replacement disposable filters. Matter's technology delivers high efficiency (capture rate), whilst minimising energy consumption and maintenance activity.

LINK

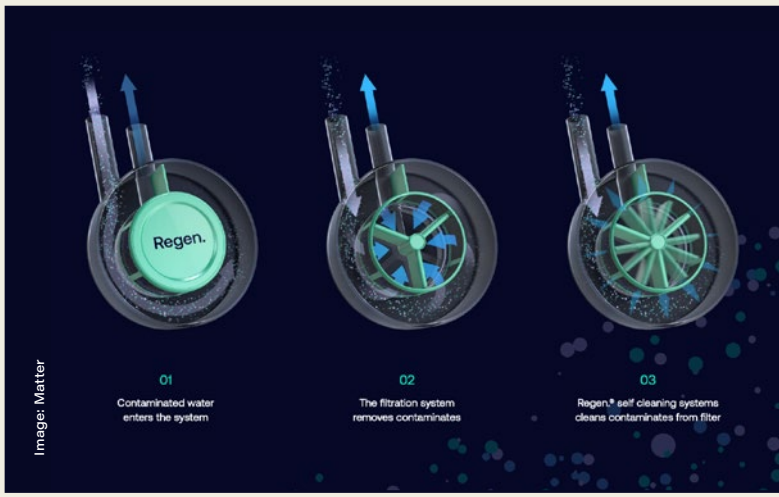


Image: Matter

Umami Bioworks is a Singapore-headquartered biotechnology company pioneering the production of sustainable, cultivated seafood using advanced technologies such as stem cell biology, machine learning, and automation. Founded in 2020 by Mihir Pershad, the company aims to address critical challenges in the global seafood industry, including overfishing, climate change, and food safety concerns.

LINK


Image: Umami Bioworks

Carbon Ridge provides modular onboard carbon capture for removing CO2, NOx, SOx from ships' flue gases, enabling utilization of the captured and liquefied carbon dioxide. Carbon Ridge's technology is backed by PhDs in carbon capture and storage and is fully-automated, requiring little intervention from onboard crews during operation, while it is also easily retrofittable within the maritime environment.

LINK


Image: Carbon Ridge

4. Ocean-based Renewable Energy

The global energy transition is increasingly shaped by the rapid expansion of large-scale ocean renewable energy solutions. Offshore wind, wave, tidal, and floating solar technologies are emerging as critical pillars in the decarbonization of power systems, offering both scale and reliability to meet growing electricity demand. Offshore wind has demonstrated remarkable growth potential. While it currently accounts for approximately 0.6% of global power generation and 7.5% of total wind energy, projections indicate a transformative trajectory. According to the International Energy Agency's net zero scenario, offshore wind capacity is expected to increase five-fold from 75 GW today to 380 GW by 2030 and reach 2,000 GW by 2050 – representing a thirty-fold increase – and positioning wind (onshore and offshore) to supply over one-third of global electricity needs by mid-century[18].

The scale-up of these technologies presents both significant opportunities and complex challenges. Investment models are evolving to accommodate the capital intensity and long project timelines typical of offshore infrastructure, while innovative financial instruments, such as green bonds, blended finance, and public-private partnerships, are increasingly deployed to de-risk projects and attract institutional capital. At the same time, technological innovation is driving down costs and enabling deployment in deeper waters and more challenging environments, particularly through floating wind and solar platforms.

SolarDuck Coastal regions with limited land and grid capacity face mounting energy demands and decarbonization challenges. SolarDuck addresses this gap with modular, wave-resistant offshore solar platforms, enabling scalable clean energy generation in marine environments. Their technology unlocks investable opportunities to displace fossil fuels and deliver resilient power to climate-vulnerable coastal and delta regions, as well as the delivery of continuous power to remote offshore assets. By 2035, SolarDuck is targeting gigawatt scale deployments, offering measurable emissions reductions and advancing the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient energy systems where traditional renewables are constrained. With headquarters in the Netherlands, it also operates in Norway and Japan.

LINK


Image: Jet Connectivity

Jet Connectivity provides a customizable network with improved cost, data speed and throughput when compared to existing SatCom providers. JET networks are self-powered, can be maintained remotely, and have a far lower carbon footprint than existing technologies. The system also features on-buoy sensors for data collection and real-time sharing for sea state, weather, and video data.

LINK


Image: SolarDuck

18. The Forum – Nature Positive: Role of the Offshore Wind Sector

4. Ocean-based Renewable Energy

Ørsted's Borssele I & II is located in the Dutch North Sea and demonstrates a pioneering approach to integrating biodiversity action with renewable energy generation. In partnership with the Rich North Sea initiative and Wageningen Marine Research, Ørsted has advanced the re-introduction of flat oysters and the study of marine species behaviour within offshore wind farm environments. This collaborative project exemplifies the multi-stakeholder approach to developing nature-inclusive solutions that support both a regenerative ocean economy and the energy transition, informing future artificial reef designs and offshore wind planning.

LINK

Image: Ørsted's Borssele I & II

Mocean designs and delivers wave energy converters to provide ocean equipment and the grid with clean, carbon-free, renewable energy. Based in Scotland, Mocean has developed a robust, attenuator-style wave energy converter able to generate power from multidirectional waves for various applications.

LINK

Image: Mocean

Triton Anchor has patented a new, helical pile anchor and installation tool which significantly reduces the cost of the anchor system, the installation time required of the anchor system, and the impact to the marine environment, creating a business which can meet the projected increase in demand for offshore anchors over the next 10 years.

LINK

Image: Triton Anchor

4. Ocean-based Renewable Energy

Mingyang Smart Energy System

Part of China's broader energy transition programme, Mingyu No. 1 launched in 2023 as the world's first integrated offshore wind power and aquaculture intelligent system. Located off the coast of Yangjiang in Guangdong Province, the project exemplifies a forward-looking model to advance a regenerative ocean economy by combining renewable energy generation with sustainable fish farming, setting a precedent for multifunctional use of offshore spaces. By co-locating offshore wind turbines with fish farming operations, Mingyu No.1 maximizes spatial efficiency and reduces the ecological footprint of marine development. It reflects a holistic approach to advancing a regenerative ocean economy: supporting the country's decarbonization strategy and boosting food security while promoting long-term economic and resilience.

LINK

Image: Mingyang Smart Energy

The MySE 16.0-242 offshore hybrid drive wind turbine. Photo Credit: MingYang Smart Energy

5. Sustainable Blue Infrastructure

Port infrastructure and maritime services are the backbone of global trade, facilitating the movement of more than 80% of goods worldwide by volume[19]. As international supply chains expand and decarbonization imperatives intensify, the sector faces mounting pressure to transition toward sustainable blue infrastructure and integrate nature-positive solutions across freight, passenger shipping, and port operations.

Recent years have seen a surge in the adoption of green and blue innovations, from shore power and port electrification to alternative fuels such as methanol, hydrogen, and ammonia. Leading ports are deploying digitalization, automation, and AI-driven logistics to optimize efficiency, reduce emissions, and enhance resilience. The integration of on-site renewables such as solar, wind, and battery storage further supports the electrification of port equipment and vehicles, while circular economy initiatives are minimizing waste and resource consumption.

These advancements are not only environmental imperatives but also economic opportunities. The World Economic Forum estimates that nature-positive actions in the port sector could unlock over USD$54 billion in annual business opportunities by 2030[20].

Port of Antwerp-Bruges is one of Europe's largest seaports and represents a leading approach to balancing economic growth with nature-positive action. Since 2001, through its "Port of Antwerp more natural" project, the port authority has partnered with Belgium's largest nature conservation organization, Natuurpunt, to protect and enhance biodiversity around the port area. The partnership has resulted in the establishment of habitat areas for the natterjack toad, the construction of fish spawning zones, the creation of nesting sites for sand martins, and the creation of numerous species protection programs. These initiatives are designed to strengthen the ecological infrastructure of the port area, supporting a wide range of species and contributing to regional biodiversity.

LINK

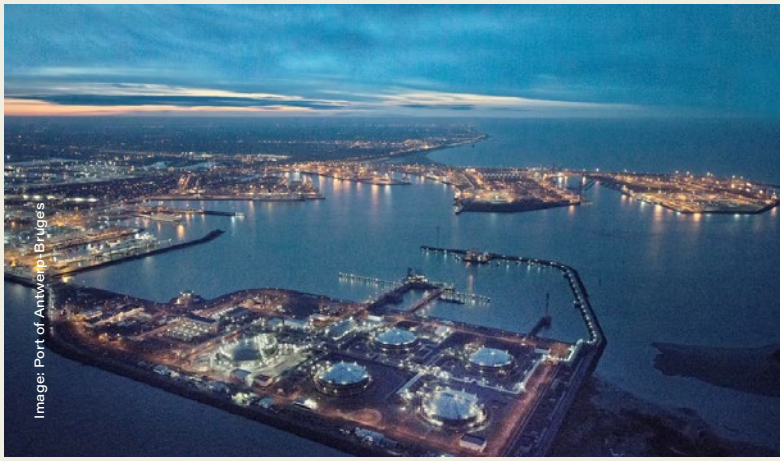


Image: Port of Antwerp-Bruges

The Port of Singapore is one of the world's busiest and most advanced maritime hubs, exemplifying a forward-looking approach to accelerating the decarbonization of shipping. Through a combination of financial incentives (the port offers a 30% reduction in port dues for ships utilizing zero or low-carbon fuels), robust safety protocols for bunkering protocols (with several landmark bunkering trials, including with methanol for the Laura Maersk, Stena Prosperous, and Eco Maestro and with dual-fuel ammonia trials with the Fortescue Green Pioneer), and multistakeholder collaboration with research organizations on environmental and metocean modeling, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) is driving the adoption of zero- and low-carbon fuels and setting new standards for safe maritime operations.

LINK

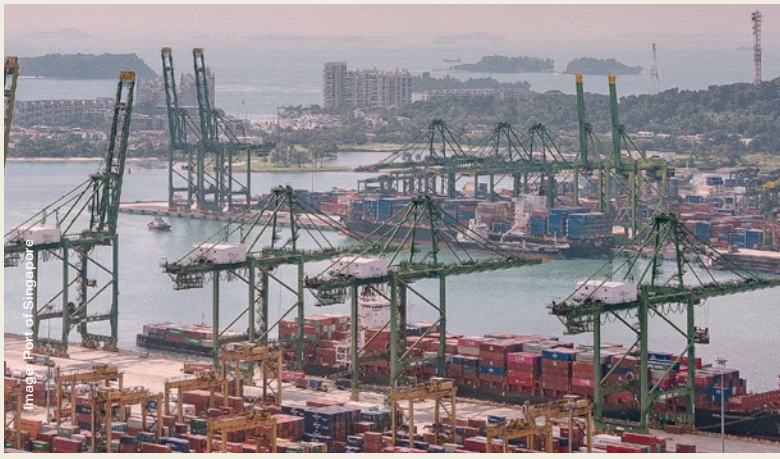


Image: Port of Singapore

19. OECD – The Ocean Economy to 2050
20. The Forum – Nature Positive: Role of the Port Sector

5. Sustainable Blue Infrastructure

Blue Action delivers sustainable infrastructure by developing scalable nature-based and industrial solutions for climate resilience in vulnerable coastal areas. Through its Blue Action Lab in Grand Bahama, it implements projects like coral reef and mangrove restoration, sustainable aquaculture, and ocean alkalinity enhancement. Its Conservation Cove initiative serves as a living lab for ecosystem restoration, while the Blue Action Accelerator (in collaboration with Founders Factory) supports best-in-class climate and blue technologies by providing funding and deployment opportunities through 18 government and port partners around the world. By combining science, local engagement, and strategic investment, Blue Action advances innovative, resilient infrastructure for people and planet.

LINK


Image: Blue Action

The Port of San Diego has demonstrated strong environmental leadership through its Blue Economy Incubator, launched in 2016 to attract innovators addressing challenges like coastal resilience and sustainable ocean ventures. By supporting regenerative aquaculture and blue technology ventures, the Port fosters eco-focused innovation. A key example is its 2019 partnership with ECOncrete, backing a two-year pilot of bio-enhancing coastal infrastructure that promotes marine life habitat value while protecting shorelines. With USD$200,000 in funding and comprehensive support—from permits to public engagement—the Port is actively advancing ocean focused, nature-positive marine solutions.

LINK


Image: Port of San Diego

6. Ridge to Reef

Many of the adverse activities in the ocean originate on land – from nutrient pollution as a result of agricultural run-off, to wastewater and waste mismanagement. Through the ridge to reef approach, activities in the landscapes adjacent to marine areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services stemming from activities like tourism and agriculture. Strengthened community and cross-sectoral involvement of relevant municipal, local and national government departments is key. Investment into integrated solutions including regenerative agriculture, sustainable forestry and land use, along with a recognition of the importance of watersheds and coastal management, is crucial to building a regenerative and sustainable system.

AMOR — Mozambique faces significant ocean pollution challenges due to failing waste management systems and the accumulation of plastic redistributed by the Indian Ocean's gyre. AMOR is setting-up innovative mechanisms to incentivise waste collection, monitor waste flows through the innovative KOLEKT app, and engage with the private sector and other stakeholders to financially contribute through the purchase of blue coins and verified tonnes of OBP credits, in an effort to remove 1,000 tons of waste from six coastal municipalities.

LINK


Image: AMOR

Ocean Rainforest — Coastal ecosystems are increasingly threatened by climate change and nutrient pollution, yet the full potential of ocean-based solutions remains largely untapped. Ocean Rainforest's scalable seaweed cultivation in the Atlantic and Pacific delivers measurable carbon sequestration, nutrient uptake, and biodiversity gains. By producing biostimulants and sustainable feedstocks, the company offers investable pathways to decarbonize food systems and reduce reliance on synthetic inputs. Over the next decade, Ocean Rainforest aims to expand regenerative seaweed farming, providing blue economy investors with transparent impact metrics and supporting the transition to resilient, low-carbon marine value chains.

LINK


Image: Ocean Rainforest

Carbonwave runs a multifaceted business model whose primary objectives are to collect onshore Sargassum seaweed and, through their cascading biorefinery model, clean and process the Sargassum into valuable, naturally-derived products for the agricultural, cosmetic, and bioleather industries.

LINK


Image: Carbonwave

6. Ridge to Reef

Coral Vita — Headquartered in the United States with operations in The Bahamas, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the Dutch Caribbean, Coral Vita is advancing ecosystem-scale reef restoration through for-profit land-based coral aquaculture. By leveraging assisted evolution and microfragmentation techniques, Coral Vita accelerates the growth of genetically diverse, climate-resilient corals, reducing maturation timelines from decades to months. Their commercial, impact-driven model and tech solutions enable private and public sector investment in large-scale reef restoration. Coral Vita's vision is to establish a global network of high-capacity coral farms in every reef nation, catalysing a Restoration Economy by supporting the regeneration of reefs that underpin USD$2.7 trillion in annual economic value, sustain one billion people, and harbour 25% of marine biodiversity[21].

LINK

Image: Coral Vita


Image: Coral Cookie in Water

21. Coral Vita

Image: Silver Bank, Photo by © Cristina Mittermeier

Unlocking investment at scale can only be achieved by delivering a greater pipeline of investible ocean-based projects, a capital market for the ocean and the conversion of commitments into capital flow.

The regenerative and sustainable ocean economy offers a truly dynamic investment landscape, with a vast spectrum of opportunities spanning early-stage innovations to investing billions in large coastal infrastructure. Unlocking investment at scale can only be achieved by delivering a greater pipeline of investible ocean-based projects, a capital market for the ocean and the conversion of commitments into capital flow.

Every investor, whether deploying catalytic grants, seeking venture returns or driving large-scale infrastructure financing, has a clear path to impact and returns – whether they be financial, social or environmental, or all three.

For investors looking to begin engaging in sustainable blue economy investing, there are partners who can provide invaluable assistance. These partners play a critical role as "systems enablers" because they have the unique perspective of being able to scan the ocean impact investment landscape and see market trends, investment themes, and where funds are flowing or most needed. A few helpful ecosystem enablers include:

The Octopus Platform will enable regenerative and sustainable blue economy transaction matchmaking between investors and projects. It will provide technical assistance in a "high-tech, high-touch" approach, connecting investors to data, opportunities and partners. It is powered by Salesforce's agentic AI tool, Agentforce, that learns and adapts and is being co-designed by ORRAA and investment firm 2050. The Platform will match regenerative and sustainable blue economy projects and SMEs with potential investors and help align the metrics and KPIs needed to encourage investment.

LINK

Ocean Returns is being launched by Katapult Oceans, the world's most active early-stage ocean impact fund, and Builders Vision, the largest private investor in the blue economy impact space. The site provides open source access to "The Ocean Gap: The case for investing in the Ocean economy", "The Ocean System: Explore the interrelation between healthy markets, thriving communities and flourishing ecosystems", and "Ocean Finance Data Deep Dive: Current Capital Data and Finance Flows".

LINK

1000 Ocean Startups (1000OS) is the global ocean innovation and impact investing ecosystem. With over 56 members—including venture studios, accelerators, VCs and family offices—1000OS connects capital to solutions tackling challenges from marine pollution to sustainable blue food. Hosted by the World Economic Forum, the coalition has to date supported 550+ startups, valued a combined minimum estimated valuation of USD$12 billion, and the members hold at least USD$2.5 billion in assets under management. The goal: support 1000 ocean impact startups by 2030—because one solution won't save the ocean, but 1000 might.

LINK

The scale and diversity of investable solutions to support the Ocean, its communities and the wider world is unmatched: from Nature-based Solutions that restore marine ecosystems to cutting-edge blue technologies that drive climate resilience and sustainable growth.

The ocean economy is not a distant and niche market; it is a rapidly growing, high-impact sector where financial returns align with tangible nature-positive outcomes with the potential to drive vital global change.

The Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) is the only multi-sector collaboration connecting the finance and insurance sectors, governments, multilateral organisations, civil society, and local partners, to pioneer finance and insurance products that incentivise investment into coastal and ocean resilience, and through Nature-based Solutions.

The mission, by 2030, is to activate at least USD$500 million of investment to build the resilience of 250 million climate vulnerable coastal people in the Global South.

ORRAA is delivering system-wide change by growing an investable product pipeline and generating the transformative investment instruments, vehicles and policies that contribute to a regenerative and sustainable blue economy.

These solutions enable coastal communities and the Ocean to adapt and thrive, creating greater economic, social and cultural resilience.

Contact: secretariat@oceanriskalliance.org

BUILDERS VISION

Builders Vision is a team of investors and philanthropists accelerating tomorrow's most promising solutions across food and agriculture, energy and oceans. By deploying capital from grantmaking to market-rate investments, we aim to maximize financial returns and lasting impact. We are diversified and risk-aware, ensuring our investments balance both financial growth and long-term sustainability.

Builders Vision uses three main approaches to generate positive, long-lasting impact in the ocean ecosystem: deploying capital, supporting our partners "beyond the check", and advocating for change.

Builders Vision's impact investment platform for Oceans includes 65 unique investments across a landscape of first-time funds focused on oceans health and sustainability, direct investments in start-ups, and support for the growing landscape of ocean-focused incubator and accelerator programs around the world. To date, Builders Vision has invested more than USD$250 million in the ocean sector, leveraging more than USD$2.5 billion in additional investments from ecosystem partners.

Builders Vision's oceans work also includes a philanthropic strategy for oceans that sits alongside its impact investment strategy. This strategy supports activities that protect and restore ocean ecosystems for the benefit of the public and foster the development of solutions to critical threats to ocean health and sustainability, including by creating the enabling conditions for markets to develop. Builders Vision's philanthropic program for the Ocean has provided grants totalling more than USD$200 million to more than 200 partners since 2019.

Contact: communications@buildersvision.com

Katapult Ocean

Katapult Ocean is the world's most active ocean impact venture fund manager. Based in Oslo, Norway, we invest globally in ocean impact ventures addressing new solutions for more sustainable transportations, clean energy, circular resources, and the urgent need for food and clean water. Through our world-class accelerator and strategic investments, we help scale cutting-edge solutions that drive real impact.

Since 2018, we have backed 76 companies across more than 25 countries. In 2024, we expanded our reach by investing in and accelerating 12 high-impact ocean startups and making follow-on investments in seven of our portfolio companies. We also launched Katapult Ocean Africa in Cape Town in addition to Katapult Ocean Asia which strengthen our presence in Singapore and the broader Asian region to support the next wave of ocean innovation.

We remain committed to building a thriving ocean-impact ecosystem. Our annual Katapult Ocean Investor Day attracted over 450 global investors, while Katapult Future Fest once again brought together top impact investors, innovators, and thought leaders. Additionally, we co-chaired the 1000 Ocean Startups coalition, partnered with OceanHub Africa in a NORAD-funded project to support the New Blue Economy in Africa, and participated in key events such as BlueInvest Day, Monaco Ocean Week, and the One Ocean Conference in Bergen—further cementing our role as a catalyst for the blue economy.

We believe in a world where a thriving ocean is in harmony with economic development. As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to back visionary founders, scale transformative solutions, and accelerate the shift toward a regenerative ocean economy.

In collaboration with

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

The World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda is part of the Centre for Nature and Climate, building partnerships across business, government, academia, and civil society. Our work focuses on ensuring a resilient ocean that supports economic growth, ensures prosperity and resilience, and promotes social and environmental sustainability.

To accelerate the transition to a regenerative ocean economy, the Ocean Action Agenda focuses on four key areas: driving this economic shift through nature-positive business strategies, fostering a cohesive and well-funded ocean innovation ecosystem, securing the conservation and restoration of marine natural capital, and scaling sustainable ocean finance.

By aligning efforts across these priorities, the agenda mobilizes diverse communities around global ocean policy goals—encouraging leaders to adopt responsible practices, harmonize policies, and elevate the ocean's central role in achieving global sustainability.

Contact: ocean@TheForumorum.org

BUILDERS VISION

orraa

Katapult Ocean

In collaboration with
World Economic Forum