

## Issue 8 Ocean Governance

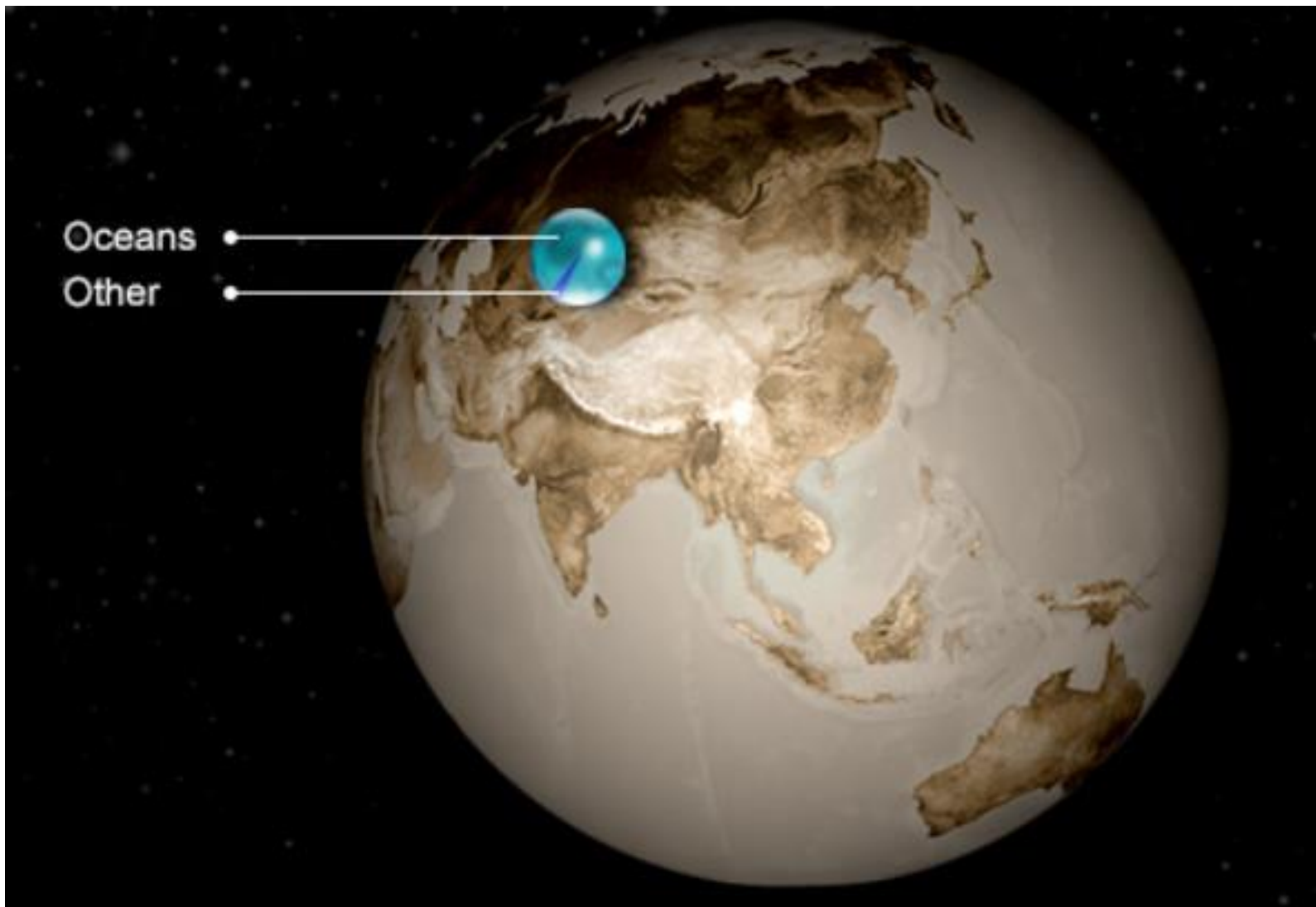
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System of  
Environmental  
Economic  
Accounting



The ocean doesn't need governance





The human – ocean interface really needs governance



Processes  
Boundaries  
Law  
Planning  
Rules  
Institutions  
Jurisdictions  
Spatial instruments  
Participation and lobbies  
Transitions....

Ocean accounts link into this nebulous malestrom

# 1. What is the issue?

- **Governance aspects need to be considered when building ocean accounts** – this will help improve implementation of ocean-related legislation and other environmental measures.
- Improving environmental outcomes is **not only dependent on legal frameworks** and the capacities of authorities and sector ministries, but also largely on external factors that provide an **‘enabling environment’**.
- Accountability mechanisms, such as **ensuring the rights to access information, public participation and access to an impartial justice system**, are essential to create an enabling environment.





# 1. What is the issue

- Compiling an ocean accounts **will require collaboration** among data providers, data users, policy makers and other stakeholders – making a strong case to strengthen the link amongst these.
- Linking to **on-going support to national bureaus of statistics** or sector level data collection can give better and more sustainable results than starting on a separate track.
- In the longer term one of the **benefits will be having more robust monitoring systems.**
- How can ocean accounts be **incorporated into decision making process** for public policy – responding to actual needs and existing capacities.

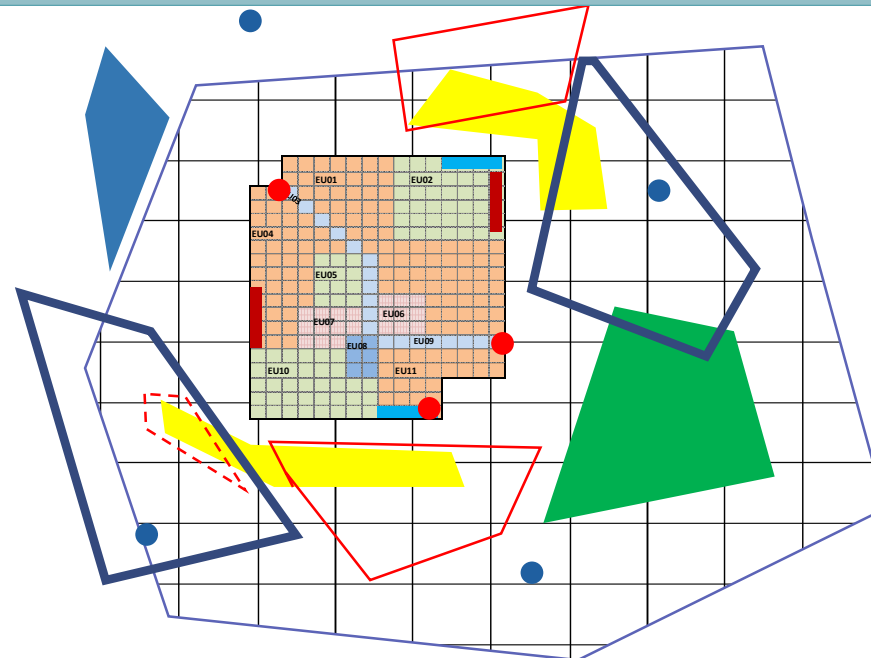
## PIF - 92 regional ocean targets

- Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
- Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape
- 2015 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Decisions on Oceans
- Millennium Development Goals 7.a and 7.b
- Sustainable Development Goal 14
- SAMOA Pathway
- Aichi Targets



## 2. Governance for OA – enabling environment

Participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law



Enabling environment for good governance

## 2. Governance for OA – regional

- Conservation and sustainable use of the ocean requires an **integrated and coherent ecosystem-based approach** that takes into consideration the interconnected nature of marine ecosystems and the cumulative impacts of human activities affecting them
- Given the **transboundary nature** of marine resources and threats to the marine environment **collaboration among neighboring countries** to compile comparable accounts would support the analysis of these issues.
- **Governance mechanisms at all levels** (global, national and sub-national) are needed to address complex challenges such as overfishing, pollution, ecosystem loss, etc.

## 2. Governance for OA – regional

- A **partnership to compile ocean accounts** at the regional/global level can be instrumental in developing a comprehensive global assessment.
- Regional oceans governance has mainly been taking place through:
  - Regional Seas programmes conventions and action plans; regional fishery bodies (RFBs); Large Marine Ecosystem (LME); political and economic communities and leader-driven initiatives.
- Some regional examples (to name a few):
  - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), SPC, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), etc.



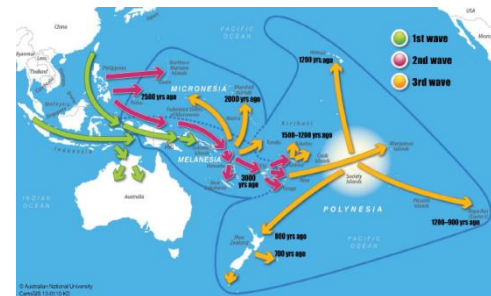
## 2. Governance for OA – national

- **Plans:** Related plans include national plan, fisheries plan, biodiversity plan, statistics development plan, climate change plan, SDG roadmap, coastal management and MPA plan, and green growth plan. Most countries have plans regarding some prospects of the ocean, but only Vanuatu and Malaysia have an overall national ocean policy.
- **Mechanisms:** National mechanisms exist for climate change, biodiversity, SDG, and protected area, but only in Thailand, Fiji, Samoa, China, and Vanuatu there is an intergovernmental mechanism about ocean governance existing in forms of National marine conference, fisheries management committee and coastal resource management committee.



## 2. Governance of OA - data

- **Data sources:** Data related to the ocean are collected separately in most countries. Fishery data are collected and maintained by fishery authority while mangrove data are kept with forestry authority.
- **Data providers** Overall, Fisheries authority, Forestry authority, Science institutes (such as SOA in China and LIPI in Indonesia), and NSO are the main data providers. For Pacific islands, regional organizations such as SPC, SPREP, WCPFC, USP are important data providers.
- **TEK** – building in culturally relevant information



### 3. Governance approaches that can benefit from ocean accounts

- **Evidence based decision making**
- **Influencing political economy**
- **Indicators to measure and track progress.** To support the 2030 architecture (SDGs, Paris Agreement, Sendai).
- Support instruments – EbA, MSP, MPA etc.
- **Policy generation and reform.**
- **Can new, better, more integrated data sway decision makers?** To formulate policies that can provide sustainable pathways for a healthy ocean. Need to fully understand the economic, environmental, and social impacts of each sector on local, national, regional and global levels.

# Recommendations

1. Governance mapping and readiness assessment
2. Stepwise approach - national entry points answering to country context (nuanced normative model)
3. Designated responsibility
4. Coordination and collaboration - committee.
5. Institutionalization - of process and budgetary support.
  - Voice – who does what and how, what is the process by which participation will happen
  - Participation – layered involvement.
  - Rules and norms - Standards and benchmarks



# Acknowledgements

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- Thank you:
  - UNESCAP.
  - <https://www.unescap.org/events/asia-and-pacific-regional-expert-workshop-ocean-accounts>
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