Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting: 12–15 November 2019

Background information, draft agenda, and logistical details

Background

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) brings together governments, international institutions, research organisations and other stakeholders, who have committed to support the sustainable development of the ocean through better organisation, inter-connection and standardisation of ocean-related data and statistics.

The 2019 GOAP Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting is Co-hosted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and supported by the World Bank Blue Economy Program. It will bring together 100+ technical experts (including scientists, economists, statisticians, policy specialists) and decision-makers from around the world, to share experiences and lessons learned about ocean accounting, and develop an international action plan for collaborative efforts to ensure that the values and benefits of oceans are recognized and accounted for, in all relevant policies and decision-making about social and economic development.

The Global Dialogue will contribute to the work of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and its subsequent report and recommendations to be launched next June 2020. It is also designed to bring together stakeholders involved or interested in the following initiatives:

- ESCAP’s 2018 Regional Expert Workshop on Ocean Accounts for which this event functions as a direct follow-up, providing a global forum for presentation and discussion of draft technical guidance on ocean accounting, and Ocean Accounts pilot projects from 10+ countries.
- The World Bank Blue Economy program and PROBLUE trust fund including discussion of planned program activities supporting integrated and sustainable economic development in healthy oceans.

Draft Agenda

Explanatory notes — The Global Dialogue features a combination of plenary and small-group working sessions tailored for a broad audience of anyone that produces, or uses, ocean-related information from environmental, social and/or economic domains. The structure of the Agenda is focused on achieving the following key objectives:

- Building a global community of practice that builds mutual support, awareness and coordination between the growing number of countries and institutions that are developing ocean accounting pilot projects. A “pilot project” is defined broadly to include formal national accounting by governments, ecosystem assessments at multiple scales, natural capital assessments, integrated ocean observation, and related ocean assessment activities from environmental, social and economic perspectives.
● Review and updating of the GOAP Zero Draft Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development, which includes: introduction to Ocean Accounts; illustrative structure and component tables for Ocean Accounts informed by international statistical standards; process guidance for compiling Ocean Accounts (a “Quick Start Guide”); process guidance for use and maintenance of Ocean Accounts; and a research agenda for ocean accounting.

● Formulation of a 2020–2021 workplan for the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership — a new global coordination and communication structure for diverse member institutions, who have a common interest to ensure that the values and benefits of oceans are recognized and accounted for in decision-making about social and economic development.

● Formulation of a draft intergovernmental strategies for accelerating development and use of Ocean Accounts — informed by recommendations developed by the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.

Draft Agenda

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<td>Day 1 – Tuesday 12 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–11:00</td>
<td>Plenary Welcome</td>
<td>— Welcome from the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership</td>
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<td>— Welcome from UNSW and ESCAP</td>
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<td>— <strong>Plenary panel discussion:</strong> what are Ocean Accounts and why are they important?</td>
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<td>11:30–13:30</td>
<td>Plenary Briefing</td>
<td>— Introduction to Ocean Accounts pilot projects</td>
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<td>— Introduction to the GOAP Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounts</td>
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<td>— Introduction to the high-level policy context for Ocean Accounts</td>
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<td>15:00–17:00</td>
<td>Concurrent Working</td>
<td>— <strong>Room A:</strong> Building Ocean Accounts: presentation and feedback session for country pilot projects, including ocean science and assessment activities</td>
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<td>Sessions</td>
<td>— <strong>Room B:</strong> Using Ocean Accounts: raising awareness and explaining the utility and use cases for Ocean Accounts</td>
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Day 2 — Wednesday 13 November

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00–11:00</td>
<td>Plenary Report Back and Reflection</td>
<td>— Report back from Rooms A and B and plenary discussion</td>
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<td>— <strong>Keynote presentation:</strong> connections between Ocean Accounts and ocean science</td>
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<td>— Introduction to Day 2 objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–13:30</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>— <strong>Room A:</strong> Building Ocean Accounts: presentation and feedback session for country pilot projects, including ocean science and assessment activities.</td>
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— Room B: **Using Ocean Accounts**: identification of policy use cases for Ocean Accounts and key policy questions for Ocean Accounts.

— **High-Level Policy Dialogue**: identification of intergovernmental collaboration options for Ocean Accounts, informed by recommendations emerging from the High-Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy. (closed meeting)

### 15:00–17:00

— Room A: **Building Ocean Accounts**: presentation and feedback session for country pilot projects, including ocean science and assessment activities.

— Room B: **Using Ocean Accounts**: identification of policy use cases for Ocean Accounts and key policy questions for Ocean Accounts.

— **High-Level Policy Dialogue**: identification of intergovernmental collaboration options for Ocean Accounts, informed by recommendations emerging from the High-Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy. (closed meeting)

### Day 3 — Thursday 14 November

#### 9:00–11:00

- Plenary Report Back and Reflection
  — Report back from Rooms A and B and plenary discussion
  — **Keynote presentation**: the contribution of Ocean Accounts to developing a sustainable ocean economy
  — Introduction to Day 3 objectives

#### 11:30–13:30

- Concurrent Sessions
  — Room A: **Building Ocean Accounts**: review and refinement of zero draft Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting, including presentations on specialist scientific and technical issues.
  — Room B: **Using Ocean Accounts**: review and refinement of zero draft Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting, including presentations on specialist policy and governance issues.

#### 15:00–17:00

— Room A: **Building Ocean Accounts**: review and refinement of zero draft Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting, including presentations on specialist scientific and technical issues.

— Room B: **Using Ocean Accounts**: review and refinement of zero draft Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting, including presentations on specialist policy and governance issues.

### Day 4 — Friday 15 November
9:00–10:30  Plenary Report Back and Reflection
- Report back from Rooms A and B and plenary discussion
- **Keynote presentation:** global objectives for Ocean Accounting
- Introduction to Day 4 objectives

11:00–13:00  Concurrent Action Planning
- Room A: **Building and Using Ocean Accounts:** planning of actions and contributions for 2020
- **Administrative meeting** for current Members of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership *(closed meeting)*

14:00–15:30  Plenary Closing
- Statements from GOAP Co-Chairs
- Plenary announcement of actions from Rooms A and B.
- Invitation to 2020 Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting

**Logistical details**

- **Venue:** John Niland Scientia Building, University of New South Wales, Sydney, High Street, Kensington, New South Wales, 2052, Australia:
  - **Plenary:** Leighton Hall
  - **Room A:** Leighton Hall
  - **Room B:** The Galleries (12, 14, 15 November) and Hong Kong Alumni Room (13 November)
  - **Closed meetings:** Leighton Hall Mezzanine Level

- **Amenities:** Coffee and Tea will be provided in the plenary room in the morning and afternoon.

- **Lunch:** During the 13:30 – 15:00 lunch break we suggest eating at either “Coffee on Campus”, located immediately southwest of the venue, or at the Pavilions Food Court, 5 minutes northeast of the venue. See **Map A** for directions.

- **Dinner:** Following adjournment each day, should participants seek to continue interaction over food and drink, we suggest meeting at the “The Spot”, a collection of restaurants and bars located a short walk from campus in downtown Randwick. See **Map B** for directions.

- **UNSW Kensington Campus Map:** If you would like more information about the UNSW campus, including terminal points for public and private transportation, as well as other campus-based amenities, we direct participants to the following website:  
  https://student.unsw.edu.au/maps

- **Private Transportation:** Taxi services and Uber are available throughout Sydney.

- **Public Transportation:** Public transportation can be planned on the following website:  
  https://transportnsw.info. Travel requires the use of contactless RFID debit or credit cards (fees might apply for international cards) or a pre-charged Opal card, which can be purchased across from the venue at the UNSW Post office or any Australia Post office.
Map A: Directions from the conference venue (G19: John Nilan Scientia) to the lunch eateries, which includes Coffee on Campus (A) and the Pavilions Food Court (B).

Map B: Directions from the conference venue and UNSW campus to downtown Randwick, “The Spot” (A), where a variety of restaurants and bars are located. Distance is roughly 1 km and walking time is approximately 15 minutes.