

Recommendations of the Ocean20 Engagement Group 3rd Sherpa Meeting, 26-27 June 2025, Sun City, South Africa

Why does the ocean matter to the G20?

- South Africa's G20 Presidency places **solidarity, equity, and sustainability** at the heart of its agenda—prioritising disaster risk reduction, just energy transitions, inclusive growth, and responsible stewardship of critical resources. **Working actively with the ocean economy will be instrumental in achieving these priorities.**
- The ocean regulates global climate resilience, food security, trade, and innovation—yet remains underrepresented in global economic strategies. As G20 nations govern over 45% of the world's ocean, their leadership is essential to ensuring the ocean is harnessed **equitably, sustainably and inclusively**.
- **Ocean20 South Africa** builds on Brazil's Oceans20 communiqué of recommendations and themes, offering a unifying platform to integrate **science, policy, finance, innovation, and community voices** into a shared ocean vision. It positions the ocean as a critical global infrastructure that is foundational to climate resilience, economic opportunity, and global equity.

Specific Recommendations Related to the Priorities of the G20 South Africa

1. Mobilise Blue Finance and De-risk Investment

- Expand access to finance for inclusive, climate-smart ocean industries, including developing financial literacy resources to be inclusive of Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).
- Scale up blue bonds, blended finance tools, and investment frameworks to be accessible to women, youth, and communities.
- **Why it matters for the ocean:** Sustainable ocean economies require catalytic investment—yet ocean sectors, especially in developing countries, remain undercapitalised and high-risk.

2. Build a Next Generation Ocean Knowledge Partnership

- Invest in open digital platforms and AI-enabled tools to support better decision-making.
- Support innovation ecosystems such as Early Career Research networks, innovative and cost-effective sensor technology and development, and citizen-led science initiatives.
- **Why it matters for the ocean:** Effective ocean governance is impossible without data, but ocean observation remains patchy, expensive, and inequitably distributed.

3. Commit to a 100% well managed ocean

- Develop sustainable ocean plans covering entire EEZs and support Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in areas including and beyond formally recognised Marine Protected Areas (MPA).
- Advance implementation of the agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and strengthen ocean governance policies across all sectors, including shipping, mining, and food systems.
- **Why it matters for the ocean:** Ocean protection must be holistic, and integrated, and should include Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

One Ocean, Shared Responsibility

Ocean20 calls on G20 Sherpas to support the **Ocean20 Commitment for a Just and Sustainable Ocean Economy**—ensuring that the ocean is not a siloed theme but a cross-cutting enabler of global development, resilience, and prosperity.

This commitment reflects the belief that a **well-managed ocean** is foundational to a fairer, more sustainable global economy—**leaving no community, region, or nation behind.**