Inception Workshop Report for GEF-7 Project:

Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 Billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems

February 8th & 9th, 2022

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Event Summary

The GEF-funded "Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems" henceforth referred to as the 'Blue Nature Alliance' or 'Alliance' held its Project inception Workshop to validate the workplan and socialize the project with other GEF-funded projects and initiatives.

Dates: February 8th and 9th 2022, with two identical workshops held at differing times to accommodate participation across time zones.

Venue: Virtual event hosted on Microsoft Teams by Conservation International. To allow for participation of all interested individuals while travel and in-person meetings are restricted due to safety concerns associated with COVID-19, the workshop was held entirely online.

Participants:

February 8th, 2022 @ 9:00am ET	February 9th, 2022 @ 7:00pm ET
Madeline Beattie	Madeline Beattie
Laure Katz	Laure Katz
Free de Koning	Free de Koning
Elizabeth Mast	Scott Atkinson
Keith Roberts	Ryan Dolan
Elizabeth Mast	Ginny Farmer
Daniel Wagner	Mael Imirizaldu
Ryan Dolan	Whitney Yadao-Evans
Grace Reville	Shubash Lohani
Christopher Stone	Jessica Couture
Shubash Lohani	Sarah Tawaka
Marco Quesada	Kenneth Kassem
Jessica Couture	Haruna Suenaga
Ginny Farmer	Coello Segundo
Steffen Brandstrup Hansen	Paul van Nimwegen
Christian Severin	Samasoni Sauni
Romain Renoux	Hans Wendt
Leah Karrer	Jose Antonio
Clarissa Arida	Devi Swastika
Kevin He	Mitchell Kardan
Natalie Degger	

Nico Willemse
Pierra Vignes
Ana Maria Nunez
Catherin Dougnac
Indira Gamatis
Dana Baker
Helena Sims
David GIll
Veronique Nibourette
Muralidharan Chavakat Manghat
Mauricio Palacios
Fatou Sock
Patrick Debels
Mumtaz Hasan
Elke Talma
James Sauramba
Eduard Interweis

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the Blue Nature Alliance Project Inception Workshop were as follows:

- Serve as the official launch of the Blue Nature Alliance GEF-7 project, providing information on the project components and outcomes, as well as the partners involved with project execution.
- Present an overview of the project and proposed FY22 workplan with an opportunity for questions and discussion.
- Share an update on the progress of the larger Blue Nature Alliance initiative before and since the CEO Endorsement and official start of the Blue Nature Alliance GEF-7 project.
- Inform, consult, and engage key stakeholders.

Workshop Agenda

An abridged version of the workshop agenda is detailed below and the full agenda can be found in Appendix A: Workshop Agenda.

Inception Workshop Agenda		
TIme	**Session Description**	**Facilitator**
15 minutes	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Laure Katz & Free de Koning
20 minutes	Introduction to the Project	Laure Katz & Free de Koning
20 minutes	Overview of Project Components	Madeline Beattie
5 minutes	**Break**	**N/A**
10 minutes	Overview of Coordination & Synergies with the GEF Initiatives	Madeline Beattie
40 minutes	Regional Breakout Rooms	Alliance Staff
40 minutes	Topical Breakout Rooms	Alliance Staff
20 minutes	Open Discussion on Global Opportunities for Collaboration	Laure Katz
10 minutes	Workshop Closing & Next Steps	Laure Katz & Free de Koning

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The workshop began with opening remarks given by Laure Katz (Blue Nature Alliance), Free de Koning (CI-GEF Project Agency), and Christian Severin (GEF International Waters). The opening remarks included thanks and acknowledgement for all who participated in bringing the project together, as well as those attending the workshop to familiarize themselves with the project goals of the Blue Nature Alliance. All opening remarks reiterated the desire to identify synergies between projects and the intention to work collaboratively to increase impact across the full GEF portfolio.

Both the CI-GEF Agency and the GEF International Waters recognized the ambitious target of the project and applauded the diverse representation of regions and countries across the Alliance's developing portfolio. Interest was expressed for the Blue Nature Alliance to share its lessons learned with both the IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN networks, and for the Blue Nature Alliance to learn from the successes and challenges of past GEF-funded projects.

Introduction to the Blue Nature Alliance

To kick-off the workshop, an overview of the Blue Nature Alliance was provided by Laure Katz. This overview can be found summarized below and additional information on the Blue Nature Alliance GEF project can be found in the Project Document linked here: https://iwlearn.net/documents/33503.

Project Information

Project Title:	Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems
Project Objective:	To catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, to safeguard biodiversity, help build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.
Project Outcomes:	Outcome 1.1: Engagement frameworks (i.e., new or existing ocean conservation areas) that meet the Blue Nature Alliance criteria have been collaboratively developed and endorsed. Outcome 2.1: New or expanded ocean conservation areas legally recognized. Outcome 3.1: Previously established ocean conservation areas have upgraded protections and/or improved management, as evidenced by the legal ratification for upgraded protection level, and/or for measurably improved management, as measured by the achievement of a site-specific target for improved management effectiveness. Outcome 4.1: By 2025, collaborative scientific research that advances the field of large-scale and/or transboundary ocean conservation developed and implemented. Outcome 4.2: Knowledge management and learning for the fields of large-scale and transboundary ocean conservation has been strengthened and expanded. Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Blue Nature Alliance in place and used to facilitate adaptive management at both the portfolio and site level.

Country(ies):	Global	**GEF ID:**	10375
GEF Agency(ies):	Conservation International	**CI Contract ID:**	—
Executing Partner(s):	Blue Nature Alliance	**Duration in Months:**	60
GEF Focal Area(s):	International Waters (IW)	**Start Date:**	10/2021
ProDoc Submission:	06/2021	**End Date:**	04/2027
Estimated Date for Mid-term Evaluation:	03/2024	**Estimated Date for Terminal Evaluation:**	10/2026

The Blue Nature Alliance was developed in recognition of the important human and ecosystem services provided by the ocean. The ocean regulates the climate, produces the oxygen we breathe, provides food and economic opportunities for billions of people, and contains the most diverse ecosystems on our plant. And yet, anthropogenic pressures and threats to ocean health; including habitat loss, fishing pressures, and climate change continue to grow.

As the global community has identified place-based conservation as an effective approach to safeguarding biodiversity and enabling marine ecosystems to function, as well as supporting livelihoods and economic development, a target of effectively protecting 10% of the ocean by 2020 was adopted through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

set by the Convention of Biological Diversity, which has since been followed by an even more ambitious target of 30% protection by 2030.

The Blue Nature Alliance aims to build upon the momentum that has grown globally for MPAs and other forms of effective place-based ocean conservation, with a particular focus on the increasing establishment of large ocean conservation areas, or Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas (LSMPAs), as originally piloted in the Great Barrier Reef and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (now Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument).

Acknowledging the need to continue to build momentum in the field of large-scale ocean conservation, Conservation International (CI), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), the Minderoo Foundation, the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, and the Global Environment Facility joined together to form the Blue Nature Alliance and corresponding GEF project, with the objective to catalyze the effective conservation of at least 1.25 billion hectares of ocean in order to safeguard global ocean biodiversity, build resilience to climate change, promote human wellbeing, and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.

The Blue Nature Alliance project will contribute towards two of the three GEF International Waters objectives:

- Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities: The Blue Nature Alliance works with governments, NGOs, scientists, and communities to invest in conservation measures that sustain healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and support sustainable development in order to build local economies, livelihoods and food security.
- Improving Management in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: The Blue Nature Alliance has the scope and expertise to work across geographic boundaries and in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) to support biodiversity conservation. If opportunities emerge, the Alliance will seek to pilot ocean conservation models in the high seas.

By directly supporting the conservation of at least 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems (approximately 3.5% of the global ocean), this project will help deliver 35% of the Aichi target and SDG14 Target 5 of protecting 10% of the global ocean and build momentum towards the greater target of 30% of the global ocean under protection by 2030.

Overview of the Project Goal

With the ambitious target of catalyzing conservation actions across 1.25 billion hectares of ocean area by 2025, the Blue Nature Alliance is pursuing opportunities to support the creation, expansion, or improved management of large-scale areas that combine

coastal ecosystems and open ocean areas that are of vital importance to people and nature.

Within this target, the Blue Nature Alliance has set sub-goals for the area of new ocean protected (750 million hectares) and area of existing ocean conservation areas under upgraded protections and/or improved management (500 million hectares). Flexibility will be maintained between these sub-goals to allow the project to remain adaptive to changes in the field and challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

To reach these goals, the Blue Nature Alliance has set out to form partnerships and engage in sites around the world, with the following criteria set for evaluating any potential engagement:

- Significant: Large areas that include coastal ecosystems and/or open ocean that are of vital importance to people and nature.
- Political Will: Decision-making authorities and/or Indigenous communities have expressed a strong vision for ocean conservation; and these leaders are prepared to take action and partner to achieve this vision.
- Achievable: Partners working together with clearly articulated outcomes and a high likelihood of success.
- Catalytic: Ideas and opportunities that rapidly build momentum for durable protections, inspire innovative approaches, or push conservation to unprecedented new scales.
- Local Champions: Local champions are ready to work with partners to drive towards impactful ocean conservation outcomes through engagement with their community.
- Leverage: Presence of co-investment and/or match funding which may include government revenue, private sector donations, public funding, or other philanthropic giving.

In recognition of the priorities under the GEF International Waters program, the Blue Nature Alliance gives special consideration to sites within transboundary large marine ecosystems (LMEs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). As the GEF Blue Nature Alliance project is a subset of the larger Blue Nature Alliance initiative, GEF funding will only be allocated to engagements that meet set GEF eligibility criteria.

As of the date of this workshop, the Blue Nature Alliance had received approval from its Steering Council to begin implementation at 16 site engagements: Tristan da Cunha (target reached in 2021), Fiji's Lau Seascape, Antarctica's Southern Ocean, Canada's Arctic & Atlantic, Chile's Portfolio of Offshore MPAs, Costa Rica's Cocos Island, Panama's Cordillera de Coiba, New Caledonia's Natural Park of the Coral Sea, Niue's National MPAs, Palau's National Marine Sanctuary, Seychelles's MPA Network, Western Indian Ocean, Canada's Great Bear Sea, OSPAR's NACES MPA, Mexico's Revillagigedo National Park, and Southern Gulf of Guinea (Gabon & Republic of Congo).

Additional information on these engagements can be found at
www.bluenaturealliance.org.

While a majority of Blue Nature Alliance funding is dedicated towards site investments and engagements, the project also supports work to 'Grow the Field' of ocean conservation through four areas of work:
- Science & Research
- Learning, Capacity Building, & Collaboration
- Global Policy
- Conservation Finance

Additional information on the targets for Science & Research and Learning, Capacity Building, & Collaboration can be found under Component 4 of the Blue Nature Alliance Results Framework.

The Blue Nature Alliance, further, strives to be a leader in equitable and rights-based ocean conservation, supporting durable ocean conservation areas that respect and recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities. The Blue Nature Alliance's Code of Conduct serves as the guiding document for this approach and can be found summarized in Appendix E: Blue Nature Alliance Code of Conduct Summary.

Results Framework & Project Components

An overview of the Results Framework for the Blue Nature Alliance was shared during the workshop, broken down by component and including targets for the full five-year project and FY22.

The Project Components are as follows:

Component 1: Scoping activities for new or existing ocean conservation areas.
- Indicator 1.1: Number of sites that meet Alliance criteria with collaboratively developed engagement frameworks.
  - Target 1.1: 20 sites that meet Alliance criteria have developed engagement frameworks.

Component 2: The creation of new ocean conservation areas and/or the expansion of existing areas through partnerships with governments, communities, and NGOs.
- Indicator 2.1: Total area (hectares) of new designated ocean conservation area that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance.
  - Target 2.1: 750 million hectares additional to the baseline.

Component 3: The upgraded protection and/or improved management of existing ocean conservation areas with the goal of legally upgrading the protection level and/or to measurably improve management as measured by the achievement of site-specific targets for management effectiveness.

- Indicator 3.1: Total area of existing ocean conservation areas with legally upgraded levels of protection and/or with improved management effectiveness that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance.
  - Target 3.1: 500 million hectares of ocean receive legally upgraded levels of protection and/or under improved management effectiveness additional to the baseline.

Component 4: Investment into the global enabling conditions necessary to reach the ambitious goal of protecting 30% of the world's ocean. This investment includes two outcomes – one pertaining to Science & Research and the other pertaining to Learning, Capacity Building, Collaboration, & Knowledge Management.
- Indicator 4.1: Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications and/or technical reports published on topics that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation.
  - Target 4.1: 5 research projects and 10 publications.
- Indicator 4.2: Number of individuals with enhanced knowledge, capacity, and tools to implement ocean conservation at scale and/or transboundary ocean governance.
  - Target 4.2: 1000, of whom at least 33% are women.

Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation of Alliance progress towards GEF targets to inform adaptive management.
- Indicator 5.1: Percent of required reports and evaluations completed.
  - Target 5.1: 100% of reports include information derived from implementation of Alliance monitoring and evaluation plan.

Additional information on these components as well as the corresponding FY22 targets can be found in Appendix B: Workshop Slides. The full Results Framework for the Blue Nature Alliance Project can be found in Appendix C: Blue Nature Alliance Results Framework.

Discussion & Breakout Rooms

Following a short break, workshop participants were split into breakout rooms based on region of focus (Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Pacific/Small Island States, and Europe/High Seas) and topical area of focus (Learning & Capacity Building, Conservation Finance, Science & Research, Area-Based Production & Protection Models, and Climate & Ocean Conservation).

Each breakout room was facilitated by a member of the Blue Nature Alliance staff with expertise in the selected region and/or topical area. Prior to the start of discussion, breakout room facilitators provided a brief overview of the Blue Nature Alliance's current work in the selected region/topical area. The remaining time was then dedicated to a discussion on the key priorities and needs for the selected region/topical area, with a

focus on locating synergies and opportunities for collaboration across GEF projects and initiatives.

Each breakout room lead posed the following questions:

- Within the region/topical area covered by this breakout room, what are the key areas in need of further support?
- Does an opportunity exist for collaboration between the Blue Nature Alliance and participants' work?
- Do participants have suggestions for how the Blue Nature Alliance can best maximize its impact in the selected region/topical area?
- Are participants aware of opportunities in this region/topical area that the Blue Nature Alliance should scope or explore further?

Over the course of these breakout rooms, the Blue Nature Alliance staff grew their understanding of the scope and variety of work taking place around the world, both by GEF-funded projects and through alternate strategies.

Key Themes Identified

Several key themes were identified across the breakout rooms which included:

- Participants identified regions with high numbers of GEF-funded projects, particularly those with a strong focus on MPAs and the objectives under International Waters. Initial discussions have identified strong opportunity for collaboration in regions including, but not limited to, the Caribbean, Western and Eastern Africa, the Southern Cone of Patagonia & Chile, the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and Southeast Asia.
- Participants acknowledged the increasing role of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in achieving conservation targets. Interest was expressed in further exploring how strategies including, but not limited to, fisheries management and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) can be utilized in concert with MPAs to increase impact.
- Participants recognized the need to further integrate climate change considerations into MPA planning and management including, but not limited to, utilizing mangroves, seagrasses, and blue carbon rich ecosystems to increase the range of protection strategies available. An opportunity to form communities of practice to build capacity in interested regions was identified.
- Participants voiced a desire for further conversation and learning on strategies to build the durability of MPAs and OECMs during periods of political transition.
- Participants recognized the need to build networks of practice at effective scales with a need for global, regional, national, and/or local networks of MPA practitioners based on the needs of individual sites.
- Participants identified conservation finance as an essential component for the development of durable marine conservation areas and acknowledged the

unique challenges to generate sustainable financing for large-scale MPAs, particularly blue-water MPAs.

- Participants shared an interest in exploring the significant opportunities within areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and provided perspective on how the Alliance may best explore these opportunities further, in compliment to the high seas engagements already included in the Alliance's pipeline.

Next Steps & Workshop Closure

Thank you to everyone who participated. We, at the Blue Nature Alliance, are excited to commence the implementation phase of this project. We recognize that it will not be possible to reach our ambitious global targets without support from the field of ocean conservation at-scale, and we look forward to collaborating with all interested projects and stakeholders over the coming years. We, further, recognize that we, like all conservation practitioners, have more learning to do over the lifetime of this project and will continue to request the input and guidance of this robust community of practice.

We look forward to continuing to these conversations. A survey requesting feedback on the workshop and further opportunities for synergies has been circulated to all participants. All additional inquires for further discussion can be shared with Madeline Beattie (Blue Nature Alliance GEF Project Manager, mbeattie@conservation.org) and Laure Katz (Blue Nature Alliance Technical Director, lkatz@conservation.org).

GEF-7 Project 10375

Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems Project Inception Workshop Agenda

Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Workshop Option #1: 9:00am – 12:00pm ET February 8th, 2022
Workshop Option #2: 7:00pm – 10:00pm ET February 9th, 2022

BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET
gef

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Introduction to Inception Workshop:

Project Objective: To catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, to safeguard biodiversity, help build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.

Full Project Title: Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems
Countries: Global
Implementing Agency: Conservation International
Executing Agency: Blue Nature Alliance
Funding: $22,935,780 USD (with approximately $115,465,618 USD in co-financing)
Web-Links: www.bluenaturealliance.org & https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10375

The objectives of this Inception Workshop include:
1. Serve as the official launch of the project, providing information on the different components and outcomes as well as the partners involved.
2. Present an overview of the project and proposed project work plan/budget.
3. Share an update on the progress of the larger initiative before and since the official project start.
4. Inform, consult, and engage key stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Inception Workshop Documents:
1. Project Document
2. Blue Nature Alliance One-Pager
3. Blue Nature Alliance Code of Conduct Summary

Workshop Facilitators:
1. Laure Katz (Implementation Lead, Blue Nature Alliance) Free De Koning (Vice President of Project Development, CI-GEF Project Agency)
2. Madeline Beattie (GEF Project Manager, Blue Nature Alliance)
3. Free De Koning (Vice President of Project Development, CI-GEF Project Agency)

Breakout Room Facilitators:
1. Whitney Yadao-Evans (Safeguards Advisor, Blue Nature Alliance)
2. Ginny Farmer (Site Engagement Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
3. Mael Imirizaldu (Pacific & Francophone Engagement Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
4. Joaquin Labougle (Americas & Spanish Engagement Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
5. Keith Roberts & Jessie McGrath (Africa Engagement Leads, Blue Nature Alliance)
6. Ryan Dolan (High Seas & Europe Engagement Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
7. Scott Atkinson (Capacity Building & Learning Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
8. Daniel Wagner (Science Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)
9. Christopher Stone (Conservation Finance Lead, Blue Nature Alliance)

Workshop Option #1 Agenda
9:00am – 12:00pm ET February 8th, 2022

Time	Session Description	Facilitator
9:00-9:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Laure Katz & Free De Koning
9:15-9:35	Introduction to the Project • Justification of project objectives and expected results • Overview of Blue Nature Alliance, including geographic scope, co-financing, leadership/steering committee • Introduction to Blue Nature Alliance engagements in implementation • Introduction to Blue Nature Alliance Code of Conduct	Laure Katz
9:35-9:55	Overview of Project Components • Component 1: Site Scoping • Component 2: New Protection of Key Ocean Geographies • Component 3: Improved Protection of Key Ocean Geographies • Component 4: Global Enabling Conditions to Scale Up Ocean Conservation • Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation • Present Blue Nature Alliance M&E Plan	Madeline Beattie
9:55-10:00	**Break**	**N/A**
10:00-10:10	Overview of Coordination & Synergy with the GEF Initiatives • Share proposed approach and goals for coordination with other GEF projects and initiatives • Introduce Alliance engagements with potential for GEF partnerships • Overview of what is requested during breakout rooms.	Madeline Beattie
10:10-10:50	Regional Breakout Rooms • Transition to breakout rooms based on region (Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, Pacific/Small Island States, Asia, Europe, High Seas)	Blue Nature Alliance Delivery Team & Site Leads

10:50-11:30	Topical Breakout Rooms • Transition to breakout rooms based on topic of focus (Learning & Capacity Building, Conservation Finance, Science & Research, Area-Based Production & Protection Models, Climate & Ocean Conservation)	Blue Nature Alliance Delivery Team & Site Leads
11:30-11:50	Open Discussion on Global Opportunities for Collaboration • Share insight from breakout rooms and identify overarching opportunities and themes.	Laure Katz
11:50-12:00	Workshop Closing & Next Steps • Provide a summary of the material covered over the course of the workshop • Share link to provide workshop feedback and further suggestions for collaboration • Establish next steps following workshop	Laure Katz & Free De Koning

Workshop Option #2 Agenda
7:00pm – 10:00pm ET February 9th, 2022

Time	Session Description	Facilitator
7:00-7:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Laure Katz & Free De Koning
7:15-7:35	Introduction to the Project • Justification of project objectives and expected results • Overview of Blue Nature Alliance, including geographic scope, co-financing, leadership/steering committee • Introduction to Blue Nature Alliance engagements in implementation • Introduction to Blue Nature Alliance Code of Conduct	Laure Katz
7:35-7:55	Overview of Project Components • Component 1: Site Scoping • Component 2: New Protection of Key Ocean Geographies • Component 3: Improved Protection of Key Ocean Geographies • Component 4: Global Enabling Conditions to Scale Up Ocean Conservation • Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation • Present Blue Nature Alliance M&E Plan	Madeline Beattie
7:55-8:00	**Break**	**N/A**
8:00-8:10	Overview of Coordination & Synergy with the GEF Initiatives • Share proposed approach and goals for coordination with other GEF projects and initiatives • Introduce Alliance engagements with potential for GEF partnerships • Overview of what is requested during breakout rooms.	Madeline Beattie
8:10-8:50	Regional Breakout Rooms • Transition to breakout rooms based on region (Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, Pacific/Small Island States, Asia, Europe, High Seas)	Blue Nature Alliance Delivery Team & Site Leads

8:50-9:30	Topical Breakout Rooms • Transition to breakout rooms based on topic of focus (Learning & Capacity Building, Conservation Finance, Science & Research, Area-Based Production & Protection Models, Climate & Ocean Conservation)	Blue Nature Alliance Delivery Team & Site Leads
9:30-9:50	Open Discussion on Global Opportunities for Collaboration • Share insight from breakout rooms and identify overarching opportunities and themes.	Laure Katz
9:50-10:00	Workshop Closing & Next Steps • Provide a summary of the material covered over the course of the workshop • Share link to provide workshop feedback and further suggestions for collaboration • Establish next steps following workshop	Laure Katz & Free De Koning

Project Inception Workshop
Feb. 8th & 9th 2022

BLUE NATURE
ALLIANCE

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Session Description	Facilitator
15 min.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Laure Katz & Free De Koning
20 min.	Introduction to the Project	Laure Katz
20 min.	Overview of Project Components	Madeline Beattie
5 min.	**Break**	**N/A**
10 min.	Overview of Coordination & Synergy with the GEF Initiatives	Madeline Beattie
40 min.	Regional Breakout Rooms	Alliance Staff
40 min.	Topical Breakout Rooms	Alliance Staff
20 min.	Open Discussion on Global Opportunities for Collaboration	Laure Katz
10 min.	Workshop Closing & Next Steps	Laure Katz & Free De Koning

Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems

Project Objective: To catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, to safeguard biodiversity, help build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.

Implementing Agency: Conservation International

Executing Agency: Blue Nature Alliance

GEF Funding: $22,935,780 USD

Co-Financing: $115,465,618 USD

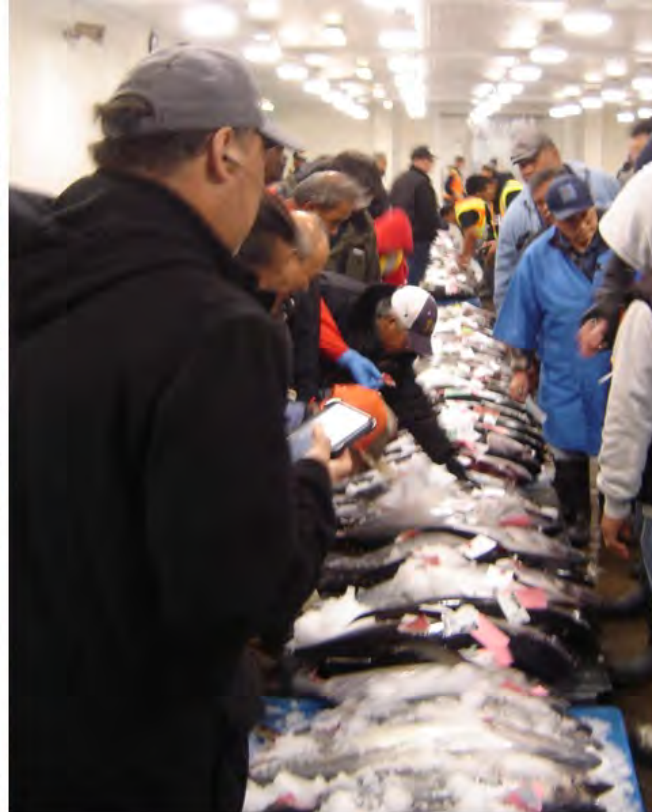**Timeframe:** October 2021 – April 2027

GEF Program: International Waters

FOOD + BIODIVERSITY

From fisheries to endangered species, ocean conservation improves the status and health of ocean life.

JOBS + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ocean-based economies, valued at nearly $700 billion per year, rely on clean and healthy ecosystems, reefs, beaches, and ocean.

PEOPLE + CULTURE

For millennia, ocean-linked cultures have been inspired and sustained by the life and power of the ocean.
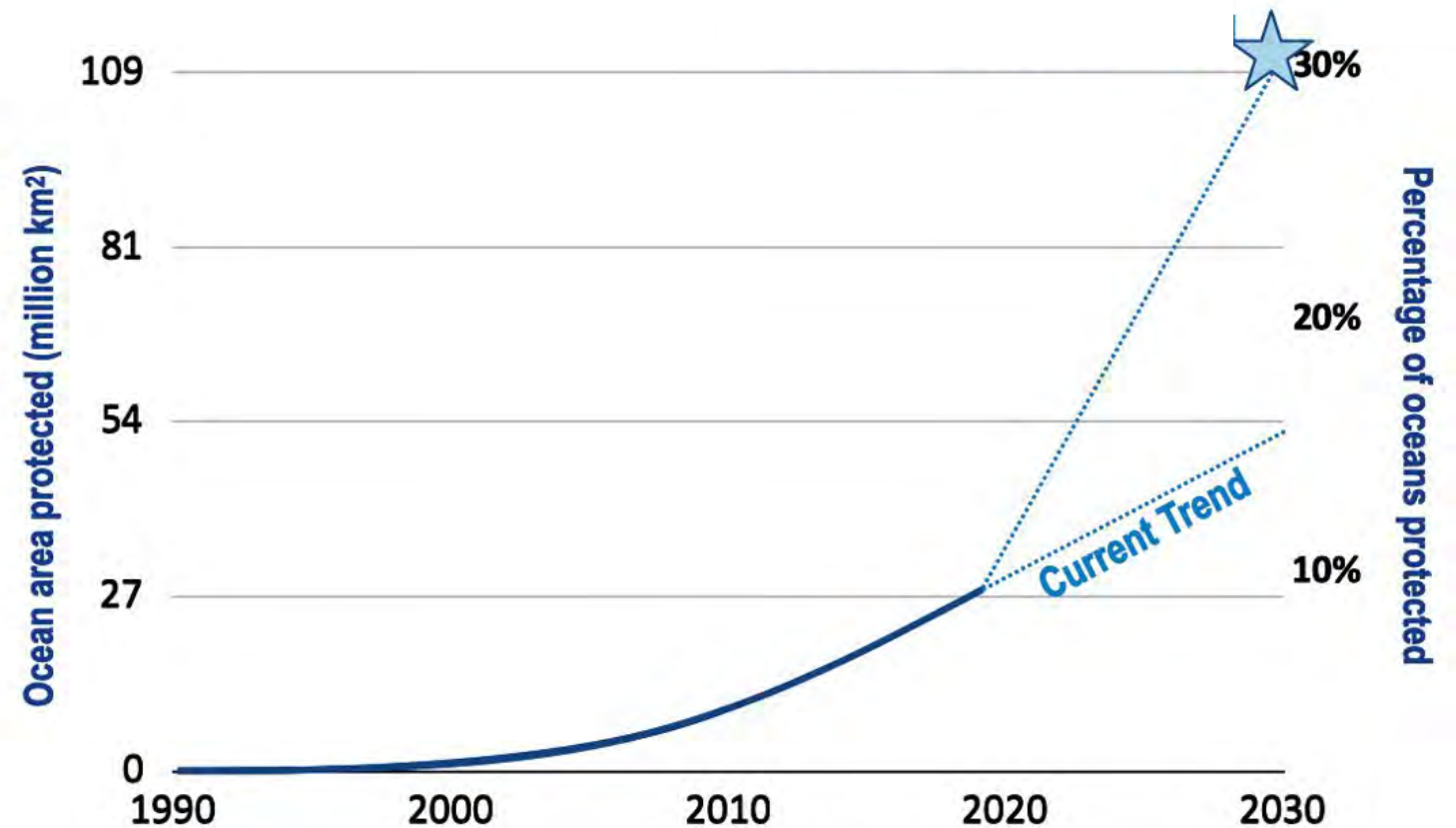
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

More than 200 million people depend on healthy coastal ecosystems to protect their communities from the impacts of climate change, including storm surges, flooding and erosion.

Science tells us we need to protect **30% of the global ocean** by 2030.

22

What would it take to effectively double protections in half the time?

Data Source: World Database on Protected Areas

18 MILLION KM²
by 2025

18 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS
OF OCEAN CONSERVATION

SITE-BASED INVESTMENT

We aim to catalyze the creation, expansion, or improved management of large areas that combine coastal ecosystems and open ocean areas that are of vital importance to people and nature.

10-14 MILLION KM^2 new ocean protected areas

6-14 MILLION KM^2 upgraded protections and/or improved management

GEF Target:
750 Million Ha
7.5 Million Km^2

GEF Target:
500 Million Ha
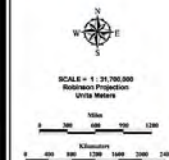5 Million Km^2

SELECTION CRITERIA

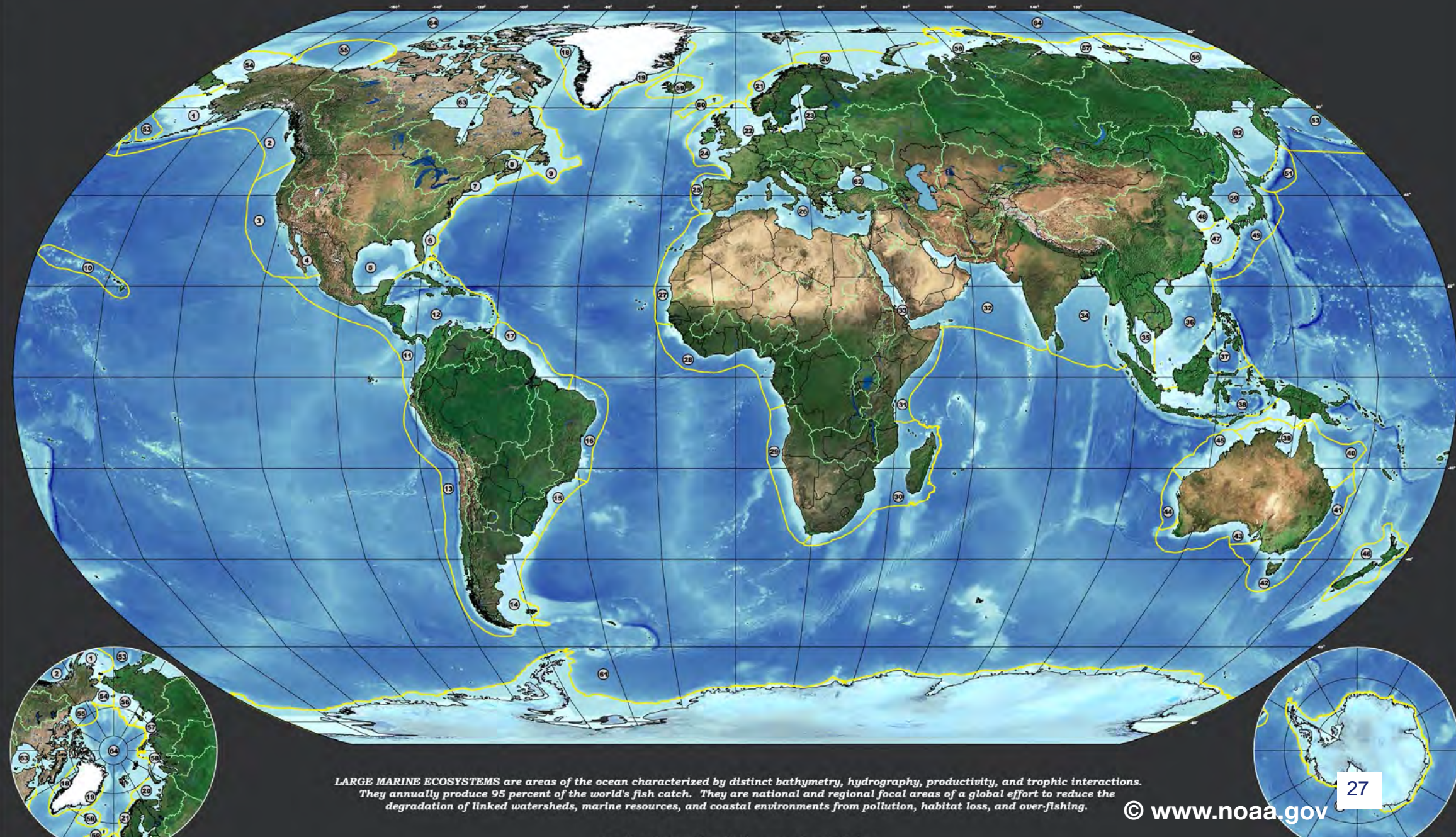|	
SIGNIFICANT	To people and nature; locally, regionally, and globally.
CATALYTIC	Project will generate new model, scale, or momentum for durable conservation.
POLITICAL WILL	National or community leaders have requested Alliance assistance to achieve their ocean conservation vision.
LOCAL ENGAGEMENT	Presence of local champions to drive community support.
ACHIEVABLE	Clear outcomes with a high likelihood of success.
LEVERAGE	Co-investment, match, and public funding opportunities.

Large Marine Ecosystems of the World
and Linked Watersheds

LME Numbers:

1. East Bering Sea
2. Gulf of Alaska
3. California Current
4. Gulf of California
5. Gulf of Mexico
6. Southeast U.S. Continental Shelf
7. Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf
8. Scotian Shelf
9. Newfoundland-Labrador Shelf
10. Insular Pacific-Hawaiian
11. Pacific Central-American Coastal
12. Caribbean Sea
13. Humboldt Current
14. Patagonian Shelf
15. South Brazil Shelf
16. East Brazil Shelf
17. North Brazil Shelf
18. West Greenland Shelf
19. East Greenland Shelf
20. Barents Sea
21. Norwegian Shelf
22. North Sea
23. Baltic Sea
24. Celtic-Biscay Shelf
25. Iberian Coastal
26. Mediterranean Sea
27. Canary Current
28. Guinea Current
29. Benguela Current
30. Agulhas Current
31. Somali Coastal Current
32. Arabian Sea
33. Red Sea
34. Bay of Bengal
35. Gulf of Thailand
36. South China Sea
37. Sulu-Celebes Sea
38. Indonesian Sea
39. North Australian Shelf
40. Northeast Australian Shelf - Great Barrier Reef
41. East-Central Australian Shelf
42. Southeast Australian Shelf
43. Southwest Australian Shelf
44. West-Central Australian Shelf
45. Northwest Australian Shelf
46. New Zealand Shelf
47. East China Sea
48. Yellow Sea
49. Kuroshio Current
50. Sea of Japan
51. Oyashio Current
52. Sea of Okhotsk
53. West Bering Sea
54. Chukchi Sea
55. Beaufort Sea
56. East Siberian Sea
57. Laptev Sea
58. Kara Sea
59. Iceland Shelf
60. Faroe Plateau
61. Antarctic
62. Black Sea
63. Hudson Bay
64. Arctic Ocean

— Large Marine Ecosystems
— Watershed Bounds
— Political Borders

DEPTH

Feet (ft)	Meters (m)
-36,080	-11,000
-32,800	-10,000
-29,520	-9,000
-26,240	-8,000
-22,960	-7,000
-19,680	-6,000
-16,400	-5,000
-13,120	-4,000
-9,840	-3,000
-6,560	-2,000
-3,280	-1,000
-1,640	-500
-246	-75
0	0

SCALE = 1 : 31,700,000
Robinson Projection
Units Meters

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS are areas of the ocean characterized by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity, and trophic interactions. They annually produce 95 percent of the world's fish catch. They are national and regional focal areas of a global effort to reduce the degradation of linked watersheds, marine resources, and coastal environments from pollution, habitat loss, and over-fishing.

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SITE SCOPING AND SELECTION

1

SCOPING
(in-situ or remote)

The Alliance holds a series of conversations with stakeholders and potential partners to understand the shared vision for the site as well as potential risks, and how the Alliance might contribute to achieving the shared goal.

2

ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Alliance works with implementing partners and stakeholders to collaboratively develop engagement framework that details who is going to do what in order to achieve the shared goal.

3

ENDORSEMENTS

Site engagement is approved by Steering Council and endorsed by a relevant site authority or partners as appropriate.
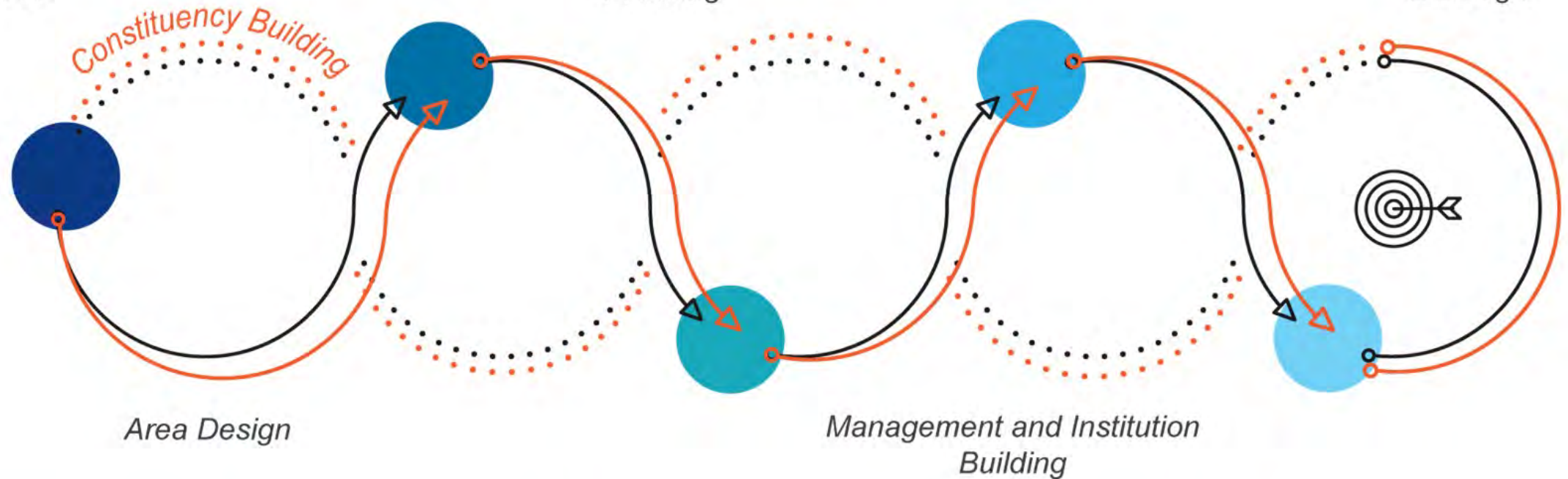
4

IMPLEMENTATION

As called for in the engagement framework, the Alliance invites grant proposals and deploys technical assistance where needed.

THE CONSERVATION JOURNEY

Value Ocean Resources

Constituency Building

Management Planning

Business Planning & Design

Area Design

Management and Institution Building

Committed

Legally Designated

Implemented

Actively Managed

Sustainably Financed

10

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GROWING THE FIELD

GLOBAL ENABLING CONDITIONS

We will cultivate global enabling conditions that are necessary to reach the ambitious goal of protecting 30 percent of the world's oceans. This will include new science, tools, capacity, innovations, and policy directly related to the field of large-scale ocean conservation

SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
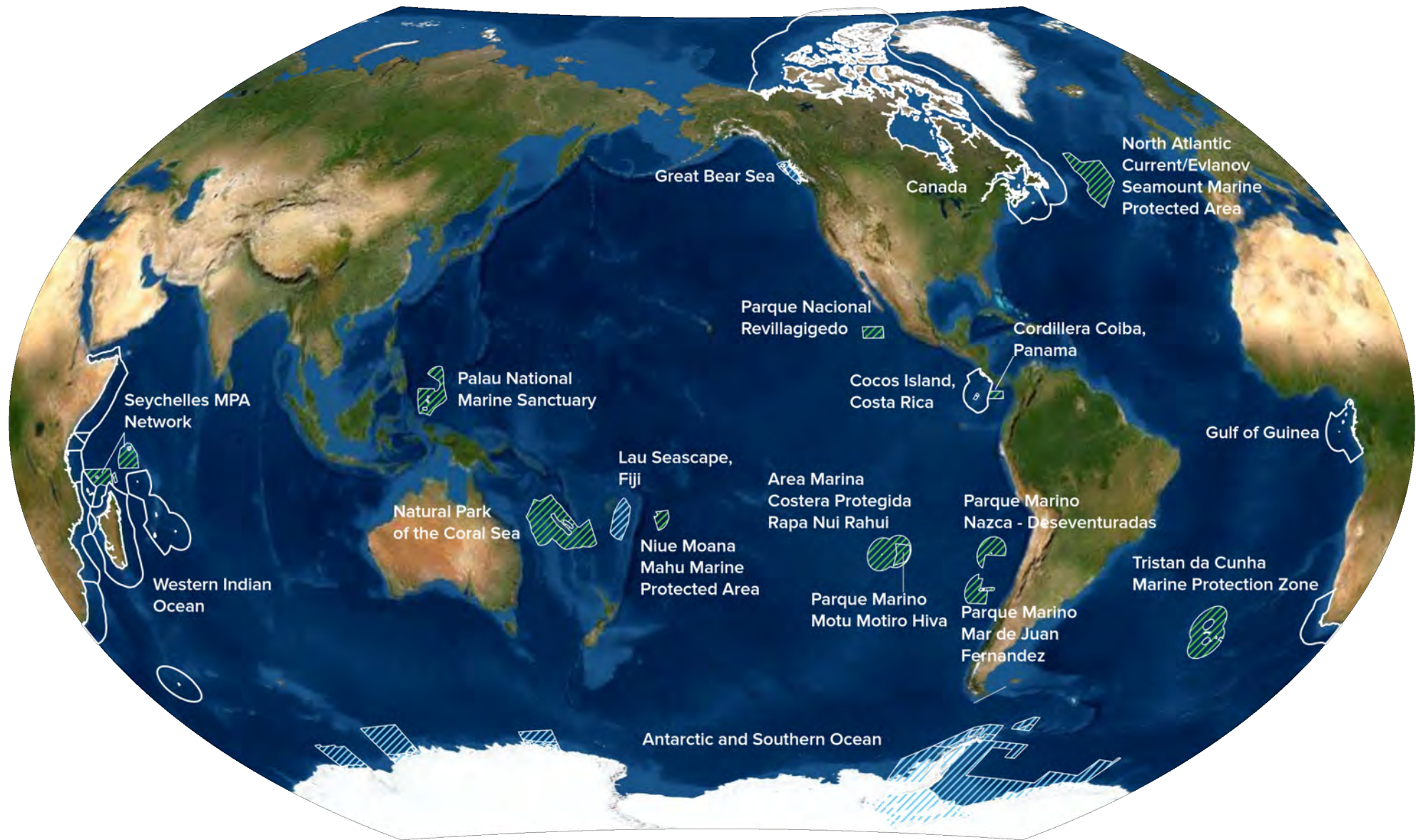
LEARNING & CAPACITY

GLOBAL POLICY

CONSERVATION FINANCE

Focus of GEF Project

North Atlantic Current/Evlanov Seamount Marine Protected Area

Great Bear Sea

Canada

Parque Nacional Revillagigedo

Cordillera Coiba, Panama

Palau National Marine Sanctuary

Cocos Island, Costa Rica

Seychelles MPA Network

Gulf of Guinea

Lau Seascape, Fiji

Area Marina Costera Protegida Rapa Nui Rahui

Parque Marino Nazca - Deseventuradas

Natural Park of the Coral Sea

Niue Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area

Parque Marino Motu Motiro Hiva

Parque Marino Mar de Juan Fernandez

Tristan da Cunha Marine Protection Zone

Western Indian Ocean

Antarctic and Southern Ocean

Key   New / Unknown Site   New   Improved

Overarching Social Principles

1. Recognize and respect the dignity and diversity of local people

2. Employ and elevate participatory decision-making and good governance

3. Promote equitable distribution of benefits and costs

4. Champion collaborative and effective management of the marine environment

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QUESTIONS

Component 1: Site Scoping

Outcome 1.1: Engagement frameworks for new or existing ocean conservation areas that meet the Blue Nature Alliance criteria have been collaboratively developed

Indicator 1.1: Number of sites that meet Alliance criteria with developed engagement frameworks.

Target 1.1: 20 sites that meet Alliance criteria have developed engagement frameworks.

FY22 Targets

1. Conduct advanced scoping to identify critical activities in at least 8 sites

2. Collaboratively develop engagement frameworks with implementing, leverage, and/or technical partners to advance in at least 8 sites.

3. Secure endorsement by the Blue Nature Alliance Steering Council for at least 5 engagement frameworks in FY22.

Component 2: New Protection of Key Ocean Geographies

Outcome 2.1: New or expanded ocean conservation areas legally recognized.

Indicator 2.1: Total area (hectares) of new designated ocean conservation area that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance.

Target 2.1: 750 million hectares additional to the baseline.

FY22 Targets

1. Advance key interventions for sites in implementation.

2. Enter into partnership agreements and initiated activities in at least 440 M hectares of prospective new ocean conservation areas.

3. Achieve targets in at least 110 M hectares of new ocean conservation area (inclusive of sites that reached target prior to project initiation).

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Component 3: Improved protection of Key Ocean Geographies

Outcome 3.1: Previously established ocean conservation areas have upgraded protections and/or improved management, as evidenced by the legal ratification for upgraded protection level, and/or for measurably improved management, as measured by the achievement of a site-specific target for improved management effectiveness.

Indicator 3.1: Total area of existing ocean conservation areas with legally upgraded levels of protection and/or with improved management effectiveness that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance.

Target 3.1: 500 million hectares of ocean receive legally upgraded levels of protection additional to the baseline and/or under improved management effectiveness additional to the baseline.

FY22 Targets

1. Advance key interventions for sites in implementation

2. Enter into partnership agreements with local governments, communities, and partners and initiate activities in at least 190 M hectares of existing ocean conservation areas in order to improve management or upgrade protection level.

3. Conduct baselines management effectiveness assessments for 100% of engagement sites both before and after receiving Alliance support as relevant.

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Component 4: Global Enabling Conditions to Scale Up Ocean Conservation

Outcome 4.1: Collaborative scientific research that advances the field of large-scale and/or transboundary ocean conservation executed and published. This outcome is funded with co-financing.

Indicator 4.1: Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications and/or technical reports published on topics that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation.

Target 4.1: 5 research projects and 10 publications.

FY22 Targets

1. Execute grants, contracts, or form partnerships for 3-5 research projects that contribute directly to the science needs outlined in the Blue Nature Alliance Science Framework.

2. Collaborate with at least 1 field research program that will explore marine ecosystems of an existing or proposed large-scale ocean conservation area.

3. Publish open-access articles containing research funded or conducted by the Blue Nature Alliance in at least 3 top-tier, peer-reviewed scientific journals.

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Component 4: Global Enabling Conditions to Scale Up Ocean Conservation

Outcome 4.2: Knowledge management and learning for the fields of large-scale and transboundary ocean conservation has been strengthened and expanded.

Indicator 4.2: Number of individuals with enhanced knowledge, capacity, and tools to implement ocean conservation at scale and/or transboundary ocean governance.

Target 4.1: 1000, of whom at least 33% are women.

FY22 Targets

1. Establish 2 regional partnerships with capacity building networks, regional providers, and/or initiatives to build capacity for large-scale ocean conservation.

2. Develop and disseminate 2 new tools, trainings, and/or innovations, including a Streamlined Capacity Assessment and Planning Tool based on the essential elements of large-scale ocean conservation.

3. Hold partner meetings and convenings with participation by at least 6 organizations/agencies.

4. Share 2 Experience Notes and 1 Results Note through IW:LEARN.

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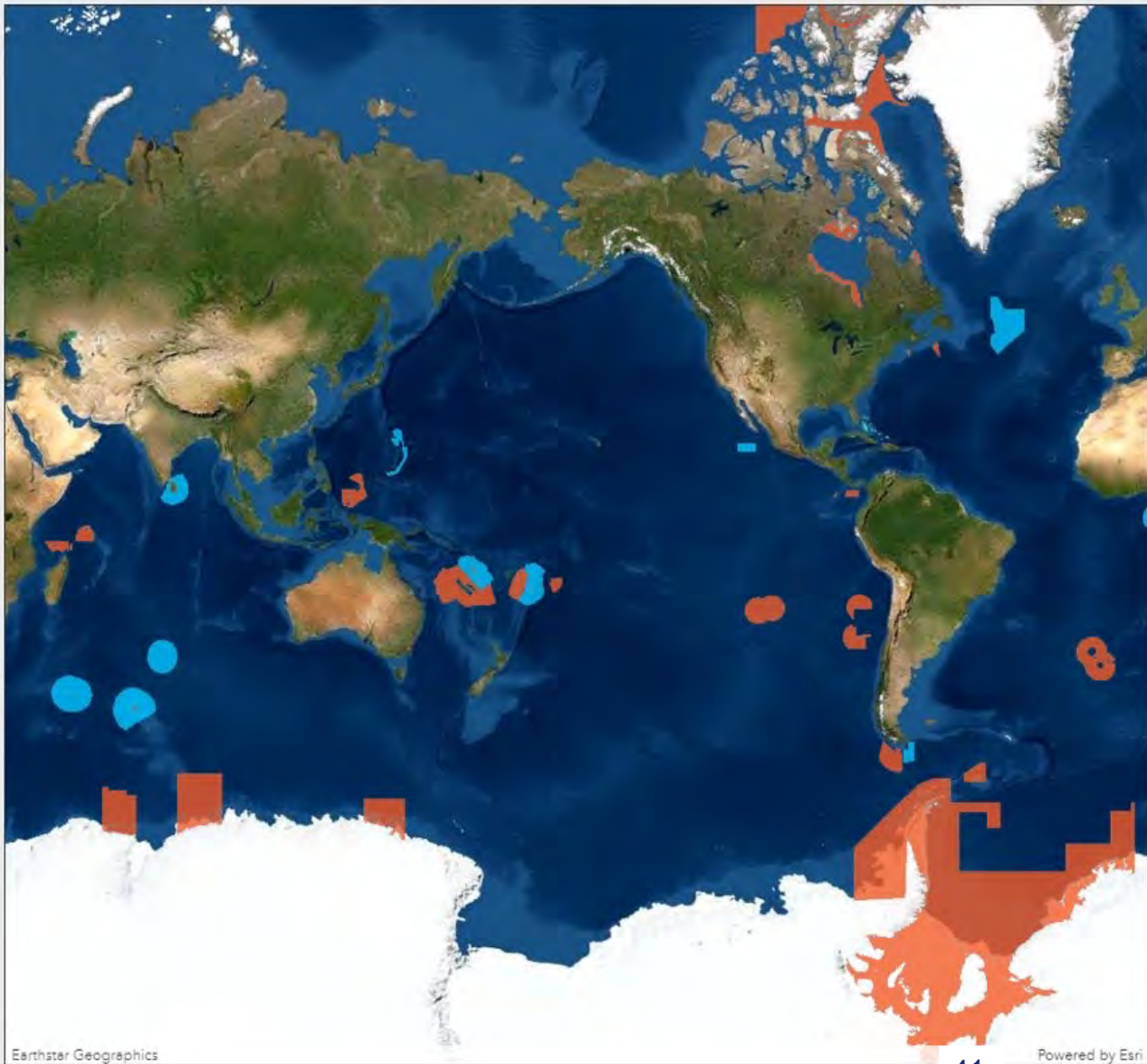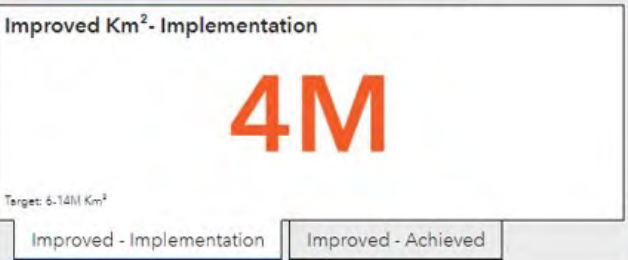# **Component 5**: Monitoring & Evaluation Plans Inform Adaptive Management

Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Blue Nature Alliance in place and used.

Indicator 5.1: Percent of required reports and evaluations completed.

Target 5.1: 100% of reports include information derived from implementation of Alliance monitoring and evaluation plan.

FY22 Targets

1. Develop a Monitoring & Evaluation framework with clear indicators and a designated timeline for reporting.

2. Monitor and report on CI-GEF indicators.

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Blue Nature Alliance - M&E Dashboard (January 2022)

Progress towards 18M Km² - Implementation
9.66M
Area Under Implementation | Target Achieved

Number of Sites Under Implementation
12
Engagements | Scoping

Improved Km² - Implementation
4M
Target: 6-14M Km²
Improved - Implementation | Improved - Achieved

New Km² - Implementation
4.9M
Target: 10-14M Km²
New - Implementation | New - Achieved

Projected Beneficiaries in Sites under Implementation
2,330,922
Projected Beneficiaries | Beneficiares | Participants

Endangered Species
587
Species listed as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered per the IUCN Red List

Publications
6
Target: 10
Publications | Tools | Presentations | Experience Notes

Alliance Partners
56

Total Alliance Funds Committed
$19.2M
Funds Committed | Funds Raised

Funds Leveraged
$58.1M
Leveraged Funds Raised | Ratio

Earthstar Geographics

Powered by Esri

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Project Outcomes:

Outcome 1.1: Engagement frameworks (i.e. new or existing ocean conservation areas) that meet the Blue Nature Alliance criteria have been collaboratively developed and endorsed.

Outcome 2.1: New or expanded ocean conservation areas legally recognized.

Outcome 3.1: Previously established ocean conservation areas have upgraded protections and/or improved management, as evidenced by the legal ratification for upgraded protection level, and/or for measurably improved management, as measured by the achievement of a site-specific target for improved management effectiveness.

Outcome 4.1: By 2025, collaborative scientific research that advances the field of large-scale and/or transboundary ocean conservation developed and implemented.

Outcome 4.2: Knowledge management and learning for the fields of large-scale and transboundary ocean conservation has been strengthened and expanded.

Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Blue Nature Alliance in place and used to facilitate adaptive management at both the portfolio and site level.

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5 MINUTE BREAK

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BREAKOUT ROOMS

- The group will split into breakout rooms based on region of focus (40 minutes) & topical area (40 minutes), before returning for a full group discussion (20 minutes).
  - Facilitated and lead by a Blue Nature Alliance lead with expertise in the selected area.

- Breakout Room Goals:
  - Share an overview of the Blue Nature Alliance's work in the selected region/topical area.
  - Host a discussion on key priorities and needs for the selected region/topical area.
  - Locate opportunities for collaboration across GEF initiatives and projects.

- Breakout Room Guiding Questions:
  - Within the region/topical area covered by your breakout room, what are the key areas where you see a need for further work?
  - Do you see an opportunity for collaboration between the Blue Nature Alliance and your work?
  - Do you have any suggestions for how the Blue Nature Alliance can maximize its impact in the selected region/topical area?
  - Are there opportunities that the Alliance should scope or explore further?

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CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

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THANK YOU

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Annex C: Blue Nature Alliance Results Framework

Project Results Framework

Objective:	To catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, to help safeguard global ocean biodiversity, build resilience to climate change, promote human wellbeing, and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.
Indicator(s):	a. Ocean conservation areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use: 1,250,000,000 hectares (1.25 billion) b. Level of engagement in IW: Learn: 4 c. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment: 2,467,000 direct beneficiaries (2.467 million; ~ 50% women; ~ 50% men)

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 1: Site Scoping			
Outcome 1.1: Engagement frameworks (i.e., new or existing ocean conservation areas) that meet the Blue Nature Alliance criteria have been collaboratively developed and endorsed. **Indicator 1.1:** Number of sites that meet Alliance criteria with developed engagement frameworks.	The Alliance has had six engagement frameworks endorsed at the time of the ProDoc submission.	**Target 1.1:** 20 sites that meet Alliance criteria have developed engagement frameworks (although less is acceptable if spatial targets in Components 2 and 3 are on track).	**Output 1.1.1:** Desktop Assessment of potential site to evaluate Alliance criteria is conducted. **Indicator 1.1.1:** Number of sites where the Blue Nature Alliance completes desktop assessments. **Target 1.1.1:** 30 desktop assessments. **Output 1.1.2:** Advanced site scoping (either in situ or remote), including participatory and gender-sensitive stakeholder consultations and any necessary political, legal, ecological, and/or other assessments is completed. **Indicator 1.1.2:** Number of sites where the Blue Nature Alliance completes advanced scoping. **Target 1.1.2:** 25 sites. **Output 1.1.3:** Collaboratively with stakeholders, implementing partners, leverage partners and/or technical partners, a gender-sensitive engagement framework to advance each site is developed. **Indicator 1.1.3:** Number of site-based engagement frameworks developed**.** **Target 1.1.3:** 25 engagement frameworks.

			Output 1.1.4: Prior to investment, the site engagement framework is endorsed by the Blue Nature Alliance Steering Council. Indicator 1.1.4: Number of engagement sites endorsed for investment. Target 1.1.4: 20 engagement sites.
Component 2: New Protection of Key Ocean Geographies			
Outcome 2.1: New or expanded ocean conservation areas legally recognized. **Indicator 2.1:** Total area (hectares) of new designated ocean conservation area that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance.	Zero hectares of new ocean conservation areas have been legally recognized as result of Blue Nature Alliance investment at the time of ProDoc Submission. Five of the initiated engagements sites have active projects underway to catalyze new ocean conservation areas, but none have yet achieved legal recognition.	**Target 2.1:** 750 million hectares additional to the baseline.	**Output 2.1.1:** Financial and/or technical support is provided to implementing partners in order to achieve legal recognition of a new or expanded ocean conservation area. **Indicator 2.1.1a.:** Number of engagement sites that receive Blue Nature Alliance investment in order to achieve legal recognition of a new or expanded ocean conservation area. **Target 2.1.1a:** 10 engagement sites (although less is acceptable if the spatial target 2.1 is on track). **Indicator 2.1.1b:** Percent of engagement sites that achieve legal recognition of a new or expanded ocean conservation area. **Target 2.1.1b:** 75% of engagement sites. **Output 2.1.2:** For those engagement sites that achieve legal recognition, a baseline management effectiveness assessment is conducted. **Indicator 2.1.2:** Percentage of the engagement sites that achieve legal recognition that document a management effectiveness baseline. **Target 2.1.2:** 100% of engagement sites that achieve legal recognition document their management effectiveness baseline.

			Output 2.1.3: For a subset of the engagement sites that achieve legal recognition, additional financial and/or technical support is provided to implementing partners in order to develop long-term sustainable financing plans. **Indicator 2.1.3:** Percentage of the engagement sites that achieve legal recognition that have a plan for reaching long-term sustainable financing. **Target 2.1.3:** 50% of engagement sites that achieve legal recognition also have a plan for reaching long-term sustainable financing.
Component 3: Improved Protection of Key Ocean Geographies			
Outcome 3.1: Previously established ocean conservation areas have upgraded protections and/or improved management, as evidenced by the legal ratification for upgraded protection level, and/or for measurably improved management, as measured by the achievement of a site-specific target for improved management effectiveness. **Indicator 3.1:** Total area of existing ocean conservation areas with legally upgraded levels of protection and/or with improved management effectiveness that received financial and/or technical investment from the Blue Nature Alliance	Zero hectares of previously established ocean conservation areas have upgraded protections and/or measurably improved management as result of Blue Nature Alliance investment at the time of ProDoc Submission. Four of the initiated engagements sites have active projects underway to improve the management of existing ocean conservation areas, but none of these areas have yet achieved their targets.	**Target 3.1:** 500 million hectares of ocean receive legally upgraded levels of protection and/or under improved management effectiveness additional to the baseline.	**Output 3.1.1:** Financial and/or technical support is provided to implementing partners to achieve upgraded protection and/or improved management of ocean conservation areas **Indicator 3.1.1:** Number of engagement sites that receive Blue Nature Alliance investment with the aim of upgrading protections or improving management **Target 3.1.1:** 10 engagement sites (although less is acceptable if the spatial targets 2.1 and 3.1 are on track). **Output 3.1.2:** A management effectiveness assessment is conducted at each engagement site both before and after receiving Alliance support. **Indicator 3.1.2a:** Percentage engagement sites that conduct an assessment of management effectiveness before and after Blue Nature engagement. **Target 3.1.2a:** 100% of engagement sites.

			Indicator 3.1.2b: Percentage of engagement sites that achieve their target for management effectiveness improvement and/or proposed status upgrade. **Target 3.1.2b:** 75% of engagement sites. **Output 3.1.3:** Financial and/or technical support to develop a plan to achieve long-term sustainable financing is provided to on-the ground implementing partners **Indicator 3.1.3:** Percent of engagement sites with a plan for reaching long-term sustainable financing. **Target 3.1.3:** 75% of engagement sites.
Component 4: Global Enabling Conditions to Scale Up Ocean Conservation			
Outcome 4.1: Collaborative scientific research that advances the field of large-scale and/or transboundary ocean conservation developed and implemented. **Indicator 4.1:** Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications and/or technical reports published on topics that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation. *(Note: Outcome 4.1 funded with co-financing)*	Prior to ProDoc submission, a collaborative science and knowledge systems framework for large-scale ocean conservation has been developed incorporating GEF's Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) as well as other models. Two research projects have been initiated and zero peer-reviewed scientific publications and/or technical reports supported by the Blue Nature Alliance have been published on topics that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation.	**Target 4.1:** 5 research projects and 10 publications.	**Output 4.1.1:**, Research projects that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation that are completed with technical or financial support from Blue Nature Alliance. **Indicator 4.1.1:** Number of research projects that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation. **Target 4.1.1:** 5 research projects. **Output 4.1.2:** Peer-reviewed publications that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation that are completed with technical or financial support from the Blue Nature Alliance. **Indicator 4.1.2:** Number of peer-reviewed publications that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation. **Target 4.1.2:** 10 peer-reviewed publications.
Outcome 4.2: Knowledge management and learning for the fields of large-scale and transboundary ocean conservation has been strengthened and expanded.	Prior to ProDoc submission, the Blue Nature Alliance has reached 35 participants in learning activities (19 men; 16 women); produced 1 new tool,	**Target 4.2:** 1000, of whom at least 33% are women.	**Output 4.2.1:** Learning initiatives that advance the field of large-scale ocean conservation and/or transboundary ocean governance and that provide training and professional

Indicator 4.2: Number of individuals with enhanced knowledge, capacity, and tools to implement ocean conservation at scale and/or transboundary ocean governance.	trainings, or innovations; convened 32 partners; and produced zero experience and zero results notes.		development for ocean conservation practitioners/stakeholders supported. **Indicator 4.2.1:** Number of participants disaggregated by sex in learning initiatives supported by Blue Nature Alliance. **Target 4.2.1:** 500, of whom at least 33% are women. **Output 4.2.2:** New tools, trainings, or innovative approaches for large-scale ocean conservation developed and disseminated, including via regional entities. **Indicator 4.2.2:** Number of new tools, trainings and innovations developed and disseminated. **Target 4.2.2:** 5 tools, trainings, or innovations. **Output 4.2.3:** Collaboration and coordination of NGOs, funders, and other implementors, working to advance MPAs, regional collaboration and ocean conservation at scale increased. **Indicator 4.2.3:** Number of organizations and agencies participating in partner convenings and meetings hosted by the Blue Nature Alliance. **Target 4.2.3:** At least 20 organizations/agencies. **Output 4.2.4:** Results of and lessons from Blue Nature Alliance investments shared at international conferences, with the IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN communities of practitioners and with regional entities. **Indicator 4.2.4.a:** Number of presentations given by Blue Nature Alliance partners on results and lessons learned. **Target 4.2.4a:** At least 100 presentations.

			Indicator 4.2.4b: Number of Experience Notes produced by the Alliance and shared with IW:LEARN. Target 4.2.4b: At least 10 Experience Notes. Indicator 4.2.4c: Number of Results Notes produced by the Alliance and shared with IW:LEARN. Target 4.2.4c: At least 10 Results Notes.
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation Plans To Inform Adaptive Management.			
Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation framework for the Blue Nature Alliance in place and used. **Indicator 5.1:** Percent of required reports and evaluations completed.	Prior to ProDoc submission, the Blue Nature Alliance monitoring and evaluation framework has been established and is being actively implemented to track progress toward Blue Nature Alliance outcomes and indicators at both the portfolio and site level.	**Target 5.1:** 100% of reports include information derived from implementation of Alliance monitoring and evaluation plan.	**Output 5.1.1: Alliance** monitoring and evaluation program implemented. **Indicator 5.1.1:** Alliance monitoring and evaluation plan at both the portfolio and site level implemented. **Target 5.1.1:** 1 Alliance-wide monitoring and evaluation plan is implemented. **Output 5.1.2:** Results from monitoring and evaluation program included in progress reports and evaluations. **Indicator 5.1.2:** Percentage of Alliance progress reports that include information from implementation of monitoring and evaluation plan. **Target 5.1.2:** 100% of progress reports include information from implementation of monitoring and evaluation plan.

BLUE NATURE ALLIANCE | A Global Partnership Catalyzing Momentum for Large-Scale Ocean Conservation

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Conserving the Ocean for Nature and People

The ocean covers more than two-thirds of the Earth and provides food and livelihoods to billions of people, produces most of the air we breathe, and absorbs nearly half of the world's carbon emissions. However, damaging fishing practices, pollution, and climate change are devastating global ocean health, and threatening ocean-connected communities, marine life, and our planet.

Science shows that halting and reversing this decline requires conserving large areas of the ocean. The Blue Nature Alliance, an ambitious global partnership, engages locally in new and existing ocean conservation areas. These efforts are designed to build momentum required to achieve the global target of conserving at least 30% of the ocean by 2030.

To help achieve that goal, the Blue Nature Alliance aims to catalyze 18 million square kilometers (7 million square miles) of large-scale marine conservation areas in collaboration with governments, NGOs, Indigenous peoples and local communities, ocean conservation experts, scientists, communities of practice, and financial strategists.

We believe that the only way to achieve the pace and scale of conservation needed is by joining and aligning with those that share our ambition.

Striving for Equity

Centered on Indigenous peoples and local communities' goals to protect nature and enhance social and ecological outcomes, equity underpins the Blue Nature Alliance's work. This approach ensures the legitimacy and durability of ocean conservation areas.

Collaboration, Technical Expertise, and Financial Resources

Working in partnerships at all levels – from local communities and Indigenous peoples to national leadership – together we create and implement bold, transformative plans at scale. The Blue Nature Alliance brings together the **technical expertise, financial support, global network, and lessons learned** to achieve clear, shared, and time-bound goals for establishing or expanding ocean conservation areas, improving management or strengthening level of protections in existing protected areas, and '*growing the field*' of large-scale ocean conservation.

Technical Assistance

Knowledge Generation + Sharing

Advocacy + Coalition Building

Management Planning

Capacity Building

Designing Long-Term Financing

Site Selection

Potential sites are evaluated by six criteria:

Significant
Large areas that include coastal ecosystems and/or open ocean that are vital to people and nature

Catalytic
Ideas and opportunities that build momentum for durable protections, inspire innovation, or push conservation to new scales

Political will
Decision-makers express strong vision for ocean conservation and are prepared to take action

Local engagement
Local champions ready to work with partners to drive outcomes through community engagement

Achievable
Partners working together around a set of clear outcomes with a high likelihood of success

Leverage
Co-investment and match funding, which may include government revenue, public funding, or other philanthropic support

How We Engage

1 Scoping
Stakeholder and potential partner discussions to understand the vision and whether the Blue Nature Alliance might contribute to the shared goal.

2 Engagement framework
In collaboration with partners, we develop an engagement framework articulating what is needed to achieve the shared goal.

3 Endorsement
The relevant local decision-makers and/or partners, and the Blue Nature Alliance endorse the engagement framework.

4 Implementation
The Alliance engages with partners, deploys technical assistance, and/or provides financial support.

Who We Are

The Blue Nature Alliance is a global partnership founded and led by Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob & Melani Walton Foundation. We believe the only way to achieve the pace and scale of conservation needed is by joining and aligning with those that share our ambition to protect our ocean.

Learn more at BlueNatureAlliance.org
Email at contact@bluenaturealliance.org

BLUE NATURE
ALLIANCE

CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY

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The Blue Nature Alliance is a global partnership catalyzing momentum for large-scale ocean conservation. We aim to advance the creation, expansion, or improved management of large ocean conservation areas that will include coastal ecosystems and open ocean areas that are of vital importance to people and nature. We recognize that each place in which we will work has special significance for local people and that the Blue Nature Alliance has a responsibility to promote solutions that generate benefits for both nature and the people.

The Blue Nature Alliance developed a Code of Conduct to guide and facilitate the integration of human dimensions into our activities. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to advance and promote collaborative and equitable conservation, enhance ecological outcomes, and ensure the durability of ocean conservation.

The Code of Conduct includes the following four overarching social principles and subprinciples as well as specific guidance for their implementation. In each place that we work, the Blue Nature Alliance will thoughtfully consider, take appropriate action and support implementing partners to apply these social principles to the specific social, economic, cultural, and governance context.

Blue Nature Alliance Social Principles

1. Recognize and respect the dignity and diversity of local people

1a. Identify, characterize and consider all rights holders and stakeholders

1b. Acknowledge and respect historical, formal and customary access rights and tenure

1c. Recognize, respect and protect Indigenous and human rights

1d. Recognize and affirm sovereignty, autonomy and self-determination

1e. Incorporate cultural institutions, practices and knowledge systems

1f. Consider and integrate the worldviews, perspectives and needs of diverse and marginalized groups, including different genders, ethnicities and Indigenous groups

2. Employ and elevate participatory decision-making and good governance

2a. Use and promote participatory decision-making processes and governance structures

2b. Support local leadership and capacity for engaging in decision-making and governance

2c. Communicate transparently all information, decisions and intentions

2d. Employ due process and confirm free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

2e. Implement social safeguards and accountability mechanisms

2f. Provide technical and financial support for the design and implementation of effective, equitable and robust governance policies, institutions and decision-making processes

3. Promote equitable distribution of benefits and costs

3a. Foster an approach to conservation that seeks to fairly distribute costs and benefits over time, across space and to different groups

3b. Identify, monitor and adaptively manage social impacts to minimize harms and maximize benefits

3c. Cultivate opportunities that foster local benefits and human well-being

4. Champion collaborative and effective management of the marine environment

4a. Advance and support the implementation of evidence-based, adaptive and effective conservation and management actions

4b. Promote collaborative and locally led planning and management

4c. Encourage and provide support for planning processes and management activities that are aligned with the local political, social and cultural context

4d. Encourage and support local participation, leadership and capacity for management

The Code of Conduct is designed to be applied at every phase of our engagement with a site, starting with our initial scoping, to project design, and into the implementation stage with partners. We consider it a living document and plan to update it as we reflect, learn, and grow, bringing in new perspectives and understanding.