GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS

Consultation Draft

Why a Global Partnership for Oceans?

All countries rely on the living oceans' diverse ecosystems and products for food security, jobs, revenues, storm protection, nurseries, tourism and climate regulation. However, the long term health of the oceans, and the benefits they provide, are severely threatened by human impacts – overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction and the acidification and warming associated with higher carbon emissions. It is estimated that over the past 30 years, fisheries mismanagement alone has resulted in lost income and opportunity worth $2.2 trillion. Though many public and private organizations work to improve the management of the living oceans, the deterioration continues. There are many success stories and good solutions and opportunity and hope especially for developing nations. The need for catalytic financing, greater collaboration and knowledge sharing is at the heart of this Global Partnership.

What does it aim to do?

Although both developed and developing countries, international agencies, conservation organizations and numerous private sector groups have been investing hundreds of millions of dollars annually in discrete projects aimed at improving ocean management and protection, they have not yet coalesed on a common set of goals. The Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) aims to bring organizations together to better coordinate efforts around an agreed set of goals and objectives. It also aims to catalyze finance and share knowledge on progress, thus creating a powerful force for change.

More specifically, this globally coordinated effort would invest the necessary resources and support ocean governance in a number of priority countries and regions. Both by demonstration and by scaling up progress in these areas, the Partnership will promote healthier and more economically productive oceans. The Oceans partnership will also work to capitalize on common objectives between the public and private sector to make the conservation of the living oceans an investment with bankable and sustainable returns.

How will it work?

The Partnership will draw on the knowledge, expertise and financial support of all its partners to help rebuild the natural capital of the oceans in a number of priority regions around the world, by supporting analysis, coordinating investment, and promoting knowledge sharing, including:

1. ***Helping countries make better decisions about oceans***

The partnership will provide the technical and financial resources to help countries make improved decisions about their oceans and coastlines through:

- **Better analytics for ocean planning** : supporting countries to value their oceans' natural capital and the services that healthy ocean ecosystems provide (e.g. food, livelihoods); undertaking marine spatial planning; identifying key threatened species and habitats and developing plans for their revival; reviewing the ability of tourism and fisheries to generate sustainable income and create wealth in an ecologically sustainable and socially acceptable manner.

- **Managing risks to ocean health**: highlighting threats from land-based sources of pollution such as agricultural run-off or untreated sewage or plastic garbage; putting mitigation measures, and creating economic incentives to reduce these threats (e.g. pollution fees, marketable permits, etc.); assisting countries to effectively govern off-shore extractive industries and reduce the risks of pollution.

- **Managing the resource:** create incentives for long-term protection and sustainable management of critical coastal and ocean habitats; clarifying or creating rights-based fisheries, such as community quota, territorial use rights, vessel day schemes, and enforcement mechanisms; advising governments on policies which create the right incentives for sustainable fishing; clarifying and improving certification standards for wild fisheries and aquaculture.

- **Certification:** With the widespread concern that the proliferation of seafood certification standards is confusing buyers and creating burdens on producers, the Partnership will work with industry, governments and certifying bodies to develop well-defined and credible certification schemes, help define minimum standards and through its efforts to reform fisheries governance, make it more likely well-managed species will qualify for certification. This would help countries increase the net benefit from their fisheries by increasing their access to new markets for sustainably caught or grown seafood.

2. Investing in solutions

On the basis of a better understanding of the values and benefits from healthy oceans, and the development of policy and incentive frameworks needed to manage external threats, the partnership will finance public investments directly in the priority ocean regions to help support the reforms and transition.

These investments may include:

- Introduction of **rights-based fisheries management**, including, for example, enforcement , community quota, territorial use rights, vessel day schemes , and provision of grants and micro-finance where needed for communities to create jobs and enable the transition from unsustainable practices;

- Facilitate the development of well-defined and credible certification schemes, including robust standards, through its efforts to reform fisheries/aquaculture governance, make it more likely well-managed species will qualify for certification.

- Implementation of good practice pilots and training programs resulting in private sector investments in **certified aquaculture operations,** and partnering with the private sector, further investments in disease prevention in aquaculture;

- Investments in infrastructure, research and technology needed for **reduction of land-based pollution**, within a policy framework that provides economic incentives to encourage such reductions;

- Establishing and managing **marine protected areas** and key coastal habitat as an integral part of the coastal zone and ocean ecosystem ability to maintain desired fishery and tourism economic returns; demonstration of **coastal carbon sinks (i.e. 'blue carbon')** for private investment;

- **Assisting with ocean health risk mitigation** in extractive industries, agriculture fertilizer, and waste management sectors affecting the ocean's ability to provide better economic returns and more livelihoods from fishery and tourism.

On the basis of these investments, the partners would enable long-term private investment in more sustainable ocean uses.

3. Sharing knowledge and solutions globally

The Partnership will support global advocacy of lessons learned, and will widely disseminate knowledge on solutions. It will bring the latest oceans data and knowledge about solutions together under one online portal, while also fostering knowledge-sharing between nations. The Partnership will also prioritize monitoring and evaluation in priority regions, for example through tracking oceans health and fisheries performance.

What will the Global Partnership for Oceans achieve?

Working with a broad range of partners, the GPO will strive to achieve ambitious results in 10 years, including the following which will be refined over time and in consultation with partners:

- Designing and implementing sustainable management strategies for at least half of the world's fish stocks identified as depleted;
- Doubling the sustainable revenue derived from ocean ecosystem services;
- Reducing the economic loss in fisheries by 50% through the reduction of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, and better fisheries governance
- At least doubling the area of marine protected areas
- Well-defined and credible certification schemes for aquaculture and for wild catch fish;
- Increasing sustainable aquaculture to provide two-thirds of the world's fish; and,
- Tripling the length of coastline worldwide that is actively managed under some form of marine spatial planning/zoning.

Who are the Partners?

The Global Partnership for Oceans consist of a wide range of partners, including developing and developed countries, private sector partners, non-government organizations, international organizations, and foundations - organizations committed to reversing the deterioration of the living oceans.

An initial consultation has brought together 25 potential partners from island and coastal states, developing and developed countries, the private sector, UN agencies, NGOs, and Foundations, all whom have indicated their interest in participating in such a global partnership. As the GPO is an invitational platform, the number of participating partners will grow over time.

For more information, please visit www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org