



# THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS AND THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Contribution of Key Ocean Sectors  
to the delivery of the 2030 Targets

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) calls for transformative action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. As a framework for accelerating action and investments across five key ocean sectors, the Ocean Breakthroughs offer an opportunity to translate this ambition into concrete commitments, investments and practices.

Drawing on the Ocean Breakthroughs Dashboard launched in 2025, this interim report assesses progress in three key ocean sectors – Marine Conservation, Aquatic Food and Ocean Renewable Energy – and examines their contributions to the delivery of the GBF. It also identifies data gaps that currently prevent a comparable assessment of Coastal Tourism and Maritime Transport yet.

## Progress is visible, but remains uneven across sectors

The findings reveal encouraging momentum across all three sectors, but also a persistent gap between growing commitments and measurable biodiversity outcomes.

### Marine Conservation



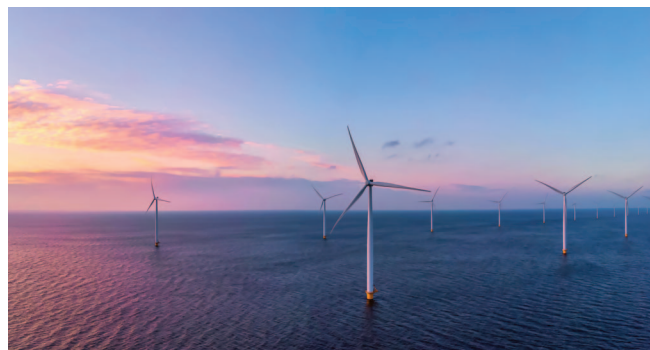
Marine protected areas now cover more than 10% of the ocean, conservation finance is increasing, and marine nature-based solutions are gaining recognition in national climate strategies. However, only 3.1% of the ocean is fully or highly protected, highlighting the gap between expanding protection and ensuring its effectiveness. Significant financing and monitoring challenges also persist.

### Aquatic Food



Demand for certified sustainable seafood is growing, international commitments to combat illegal fishing are strengthening, and recognition of small-scale fisheries access rights is improving. Yet only 62.4% of assessed marine fish stocks were within biologically sustainable levels in 2023, while aquatic food loss and waste remain high. Harmful subsidies and limited integration into national policies continue to hinder the transition towards sustainable aquatic food systems.

### Ocean Renewable Energy



Global offshore wind capacity reached 92 GW in 2025, reflecting growing momentum towards decarbonisation. Nevertheless, deployment and investment remain insufficient, particularly in developing countries. Limited information on biodiversity safeguards and community engagement also prevents a comprehensive assessment of the sustainability and inclusiveness of sectoral expansion.



Despite their different contributions to the GBF, the three sectors face common challenges. Across Marine Conservation, Aquatic Food and Ocean Renewable Energy, progress in commitments, investment and sectoral activities is not yet consistently matched by evidence of measurable biodiversity benefits. While Marine Conservation directly supports the protection and restoration of ecosystems, the contributions of Aquatic Food and Ocean Renewable Energy depend on the integration of biodiversity considerations into their planning, management and development. Across all three sectors, implementation gaps, insufficient or poorly tracked financing, and limited outcome-oriented monitoring continue to constrain progress and accountability.

## Implications for the Global Review

- ➡ As one of the initiatives registered on the Convention on Biological Diversity's online reporting tool, the Ocean Breakthroughs contribute to documenting collective efforts towards the implementation of the GBF.
- ➡ For the Global Review - the first assessment on progress made on the implementation of the GBF, these findings highlight the importance of assessing not only the commitments and investments made, but also their effectiveness in reducing pressures on biodiversity and improving ecosystem health.
- ➡ The Ocean Breakthroughs Dashboard provides an initial evidence base to inform this assessment, while revealing important gaps in the monitoring of ecological outcomes, financial flows and implementation. Addressing these gaps will be essential to strengthen accountability and better capture the contribution of the sectors to the GBF.

# INTRODUCTION

Adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2022, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050, with 23 targets to be achieved by 2030. Its effective implementation requires action beyond conservation policies, including changes in the way economic sectors use natural resources and impact ecosystems.

As the CBD encompasses all biodiversity, the ocean – Earth's largest biodiversity reservoir – is not addressed through a dedicated set of targets, but rather integrated across the framework as a cross-cutting issue. Marine and coastal biodiversity is relevant across many of its targets, notably those relating to spatial planning, restoration and conservation, sustainable use and pollution, nature's contributions to people, climate change, or finance. Yet this cross-cutting nature can make the ocean's specific challenges and contributions less visible. It therefore requires integrating marine biodiversity explicitly in the policies, investments and practices implemented to deliver the GBF.

The Ocean Breakthroughs provide a sector-based framework for accelerating these efforts. The [Ocean Breakthroughs](#) set five targets to reach by 2030 across marine conservation, aquatic food, ocean renewable energy, maritime transport, and coastal tourism to ensure transformative change at the scale of the entire system by 2050. The campaign aims to mobilise non-state actors alongside governments to accelerate action and investments. Each one is practical, achievable, and will help cut emissions, preserve ecosystems, and build a just and sustainable future. In doing so, they can help advance progress towards global goals, including those of the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the GBF.

Launched in 2025, the [Ocean Breakthroughs Dashboard](#) aims to monitor progress, highlight gaps, and identify where further action is needed across each sector. By supporting evidence-based decision-making and helping direct efforts where they can have the greatest impact, it seeks to strengthen accountability, bridging the gap between commitments and implementation, and accelerating measurable change towards 2030.

This year marks the first time CBD Parties will take stock of collective progress toward the implementation of the GBF through its official monitoring framework – the “Global Review”. In that context, this report aims to assess and inform on how the Ocean Breakthroughs contribute to the achievement of its 2030 targets, using the Dashboard as a key evidence base, covering the three sectors for which indicators are currently available, while identifying evidence gaps for coastal tourism and maritime transport.



# PROGRESS AND REMAINING NEEDS BY OCEAN BREAKTHROUGH

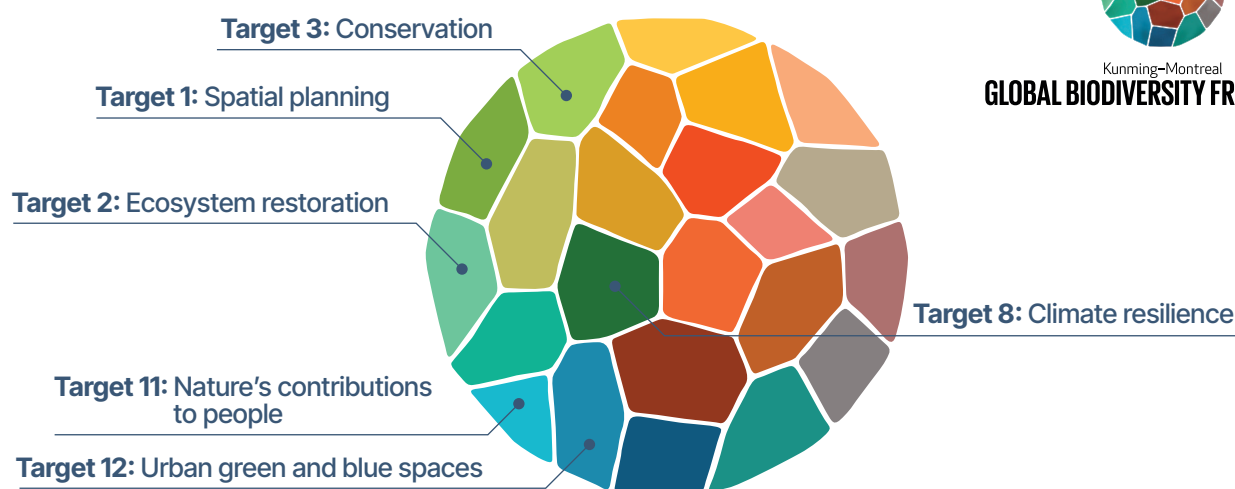
## MARINE CONSERVATION

### About the Breakthrough

Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems provide essential habitats, support fisheries, store carbon and can buffer coastlines against extreme events. The Marine Conservation Breakthrough aims to **mobilise at least USD 72 billion in investment by 2030 to secure the integrity of ocean ecosystems by protecting, restoring, and conserving at least 30% of the ocean for the benefit of people, climate, and nature**. Accordingly, it is arguably the Ocean Breakthrough most directly aligned with the GBF.

The achievement of the Breakthrough is supported by ecosystem-specific Breakthroughs for Mangroves, Coral reefs, Seagrass, Saltmarshes, Seaweed, and Kelp.

### GBF Targets Supported by the Marine Conservation Breakthrough



## What does the Dashboard tell us?

### ➔ Expanding marine protection remains a major challenge

Following commitments announced at the third UN Ocean Conference in 2025, **global marine protected areas (MPA) coverage has surpassed 10%** – still far from GBF Target 3, which calls for conserving 30% of land, waters, and seas by 2030. Moreover, coverage alone does not necessarily translate into effective conservation. The September 2025 MPA Guide assessment found that **only 3.1% of the ocean is fully or highly protected, the protection levels most consistently associated with strong ecological, economic and social benefits**. Existing datasets also provide limited information on effective management and results: **globally, only 1.3% of MPAs are reported as monitored for effectiveness**. For the Global Review, the central issue is therefore to assess whether those measures reduce pressures and deliver lasting biodiversity outcomes.

### ➔ Investment in marine conservation is growing, but remains difficult to track

**Traceable financial flows from international public finance and philanthropic foundations supporting marine protection, conservation, and science exceeded a cumulative USD 8 billion in 2023**. While this signals progress towards the Marine Conservation Breakthrough's ambition to mobilise USD 72 billion by 2030, significant additional investment is needed. The figure needs to be considered in the broader context of GBF Target 19, which calls for mobilising at least USD 200 billion annually for biodiversity from all sources by 2030, including at least USD 30 billion per year through international finance. It is also important to note that this number captures only part of the overall financing landscape, as significant flows from domestic public budgets and private-sector sources remain difficult to trace or are not comprehensively disclosed or reported. **Improving the transparency, traceability, and reporting of financial flows will be essential to assess whether investment is increasing at the pace and scale required.**

### ➔ Fiscal and regulatory measures are gaining traction but are unevenly adopted

**In 2025, about 280 measures related to taxes, fees or charges on harm to the marine environment were implemented across 62 coastal countries**. While this number is growing, indicating growing interest in using fiscal and regulatory tools to protect marine ecosystems, it still only represents less than half (41%) of all coastal nations. These measures can discourage pollution and resource overuse, while generating revenue that can support marine conservation and restoration, making them relevant to GBF Target 18 on reforming harmful incentives and scaling up positive ones. Yet the number of measures adopted says little about their enforcement or actual effects on biodiversity. **Assessing their contribution to the GBF, especially in relation to Target 18, which calls for reducing harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year, and scaling up positive incentives for biodiversity, will require evidence that they change behaviour, reduce environmentally damaging activities and support biodiversity-positive outcomes.**

### ➔ Coastal and marine nature-based solutions are increasingly integrated, particularly for adaptation

**As of October 2025, most coastal and island Parties to the UNFCCC have recognised the role of ocean-based solutions in climate action, particularly adaptation**. Nearly two-thirds (64%) have incorporated marine nature-based solutions (NbS) into their adaptation measures. Their integration for mitigation purposes has also progressed, increasing from 23% in 2022 to 44% in 2025, suggesting that countries place greater emphasis on the role of marine and coastal ecosystems in reducing climate vulnerability and strengthening resilience than in delivering emissions reductions. Greater recognition of their potential to store and sequester carbon, alongside their wider biodiversity benefits, could help address this imbalance. **Strengthening the integration of ocean-based solutions for both adaptation and mitigation would strengthen delivery of GBF Target 8 on minimising the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and building resilience, while supporting the conservation and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.**

## ➔ Improving ocean data and knowledge remains essential

Valuable ocean observation and biodiversity data is available thanks to platforms such as the Ocean Data Portal, Coastal Carbon Atlas, Ocean Biodiversity Information System, Global Ocean Observing System, and HUB Ocean. **However, there is currently no centralised source tracking the total number or change over time in publicly accessible ocean-focused datasets.** This makes it difficult to assess progress in improving the technological capacity and knowledge needed to better protect, restore, and conserve such critical ecosystems. **Improving the accessibility, interoperability, and systematic monitoring of ocean data would support evidence-based decision-making and contribute to GBF Target 21, which calls for biodiversity knowledge to be available and accessible to guide action.**

For more details about the data in this section of the report, visit the [Marine Conservation Breakthrough Dashboard](#).

## Lessons learned

The Dashboard points to progress towards the Marine Conservation Breakthrough, but also highlights persistent gaps between ambition and implementation:

- ➔ Marine protection coverage has expanded;
- ➔ Finance is being mobilised, with fiscal measures gaining traction;
- ➔ Ocean-based solutions are increasingly recognised for their potential to address climate change and its impacts.

Nevertheless, limited protection effectiveness, incomplete financial reporting, uneven policy adoption, and gaps in data availability constrain the assessment of progress and the demonstration of tangible biodiversity outcomes.

## Next steps

Achieving the Breakthrough by 2030 will require a stronger focus on:

- ➔ Reducing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems;
- ➔ The effectiveness of conservation measures;
- ➔ Increased and more transparent financing;
- ➔ Wider adoption of policies that incentivise biodiversity-positive outcomes;
- ➔ Better integration of ocean-based solutions into climate and biodiversity strategies;
- ➔ Improved access to reliable ocean data.

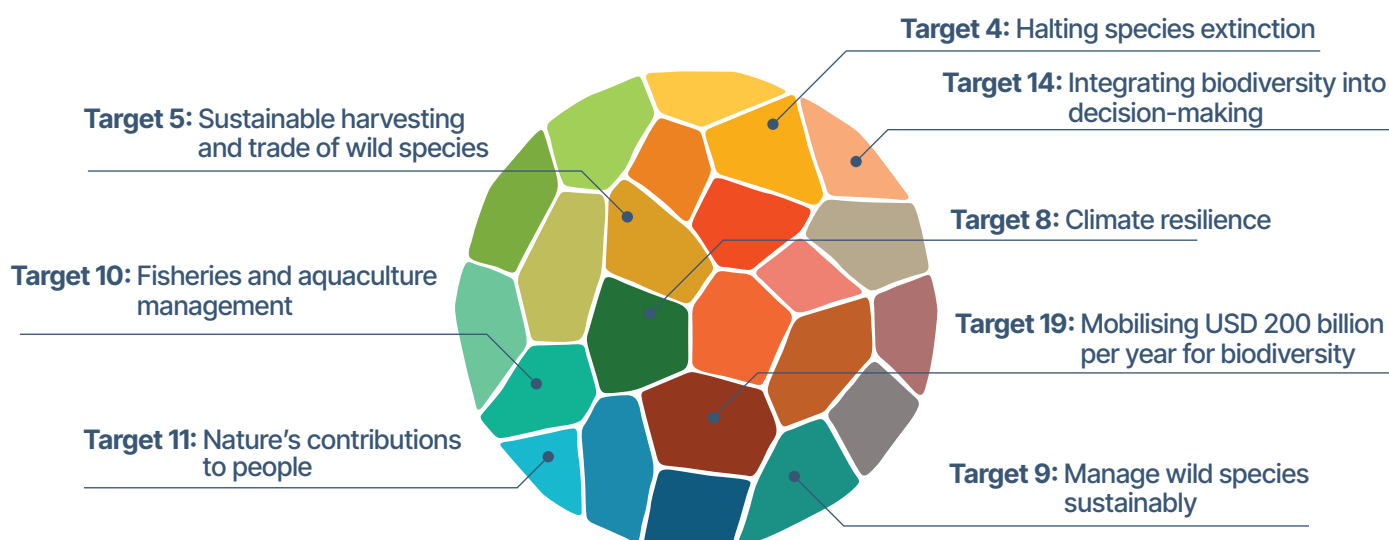


# AQUATIC FOOD

## About the Breakthrough

The Aquatic Food sector sits at the nexus of climate change, biodiversity, poverty reduction, equity and human rights, food and nutrition security. Indeed, aquatic animal foods accounted for around 15% of global animal protein supply in 2021 (FAO, SOFIA 2024), and demand is rising: by 2027, the global market for seafood is projected to reach \$199 billion. Yet, production is deeply dependent on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems. The sector therefore urgently needs to transition towards a biodiversity-positive and net-zero future, promoting the sustainable management of natural resources while adapting to a changing climate. **In that context, the Aquatic Food Breakthrough sets the target of at least USD 4 billion invested per year by 2030 to support resilient aquatic food systems that will contribute to healthy, regenerative ecosystems, and sustain food and nutrition security for three billion people.**

## GBF Targets Supported by the Aquatic Food Breakthrough



## What does the Dashboard tell us?

### ➡ Aquatic food loss and waste is still high, despite its potential to deliver substantial benefits

**An estimated 15–35% of aquatic food is lost or wasted each year, with the greatest losses occurring during the production and processing stages of the value chain**, resulting in economic losses and environmental pressures. These include reduced or unstable incomes for fishing-dependent communities, diminished nutritional availability, but also greenhouse gas emissions, freshwater depletion, and pollution. Reducing loss and waste could relieve pressures on resources and support GBF Target 7 on reducing pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and Target 10 on the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture. **However, the biodiversity effect will depend on where reductions occur and whether they translate into lower ecological impacts. More consistent monitoring along value chains would help identify interventions that deliver both food-security gains and measurable environmental benefits.**

### ➡ Progress towards sustainability in aquatic food remains uneven

**Demand for certified sustainable seafood is growing: the retail value of MSC-labelled products increased by 4.4% and sales volume by 8% in 2024-2025.** This suggests growing consumer demand for certified products and contributes to GBF Target 16 on sustainable consumption. However, growth in labelled sales is not a direct measure of improved fish-stock status or reduced impacts on marine ecosystems. Certification covers only part of the sustainability picture, and no comprehensive global indicator currently tracks the proportion of aquaculture production meeting sustainability criteria. Meanwhile, FAO's SOFIA 2026 reports that 62.4% of assessed marine fish stocks were within biologically sustainable levels in 2023, compared with 64.5% in 2021, highlighting persistent pressure on marine resources.

Taken together, these indicators point to a mixed picture: market incentives for sustainable seafood are strengthening, but progress in ensuring sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture remains difficult to assess and is not yet sufficient to reverse pressures on fish stocks.

**Advancing GBF Target 10 on enhancing biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry will require effective, science-based fisheries management, wider adoption of sustainable aquaculture practices, for which no comprehensive global monitoring data are currently available.** Better and more consistent global data will also be essential to assess progress.

### ➡ Ambition against illegal fishing is progressing, but implementation is critical

**By 2025, 85 countries had ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)**, the first legally binding, international treaty designed to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This is an important policy commitment with relevance to GBF Targets 5 and 10 on ensuring sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species, and on enhancing biodiversity and sustainability in aquaculture and fisheries. However, ratification is an enabling measure rather than an outcome indicator. **Its contribution to addressing marine biodiversity loss depends on effective port controls, enforcement, cooperation and evidence that IUU fishing pressures are actually reduced.** Future monitoring should therefore distinguish the number of Parties from the effectiveness of implementation.

### ➡ More rigorous tracking of harmful fisheries subsidies is essential to curbing them

**Global harmful fisheries subsidies were estimated at USD 22.2 billion in 2018, but no comparable global estimate is currently available for the period since then, making it difficult to establish whether this pressure is declining.** Such subsidies continue to incentivise overcapacity and overfishing, undermining efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine resources. Prohibiting such subsidies is particularly relevant to GBF Targets 10 and 18, which respectively call for enhancing biodiversity and sustainability in

agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry and for identifying and eliminating, phasing out, or reforming incentives harmful to biodiversity while scaling up positive incentives. **Improved transparency in subsidy reporting and more regular global assessments are essential to tracking progress and supporting evidence-based reform.** The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which entered into force in 2025, prohibits granting or maintaining certain subsidies, including linked to IUU fishing and overfished stocks. This is a significant regulatory step, but its impact will depend on implementation, coverage and subsequent reforms. More transparent subsidy reporting and updated global estimates are needed to measure changes in incentives rather than commitments alone.

### ➡ **National policies must integrate more aquatic food-related measures**

**As of 2024, only 30.4% of countries had integrated aquatic foods into their national food and nutrition policies, with no change reported since then. Additionally, the number of coastal and island countries that have included fisheries and aquaculture-related measures in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) at the UNFCCC increased from 58 to 80 between 2022 and 2025 –** meaning that nearly half of coastal nations are yet to include these key ocean sectors in their climate policies. This highlights a persistent gap in the integration of aquatic foods into national decision-making, despite its relevance to delivering on GBF Targets 8, 10 and 14 on integrating biodiversity into policies and planning across sectors. **Greater recognition of aquatic foods in national strategies could help promote sustainable aquatic food systems, support food security, and strengthen the links between biodiversity conservation and healthy diets.**

### ➡ **Recognition of small-scale fisheries access rights is increasing, but reporting gaps persist**

**The number of countries reporting high or very high levels of implementation of legal, regulatory, policy, and institutional measures to recognise and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries increased from 79 in 2022 to 94 in 2024.** This progress reflects growing attention to the rights and livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities and supports Target 10, alongside Target 14 on integrating biodiversity into decision-making and 22 on participation and access to decision-making. **Nevertheless, over 40% of countries provided no data in 2024, and reported legal or institutional measures do not necessarily translate into secure access or effective participation in practice. Improving reporting and monitoring will be essential to determine whether stronger legal and institutional frameworks are translating into more secure access rights and more equitable, sustainable fisheries.**

For more details about the data in this section of the report, visit the [Aquatic Food Breakthrough Dashboard](#).



## Lessons learned

Encouraging progress is being made towards more sustainable aquatic food systems: demand for certified sustainable seafood is growing, countries are committing to combat IUU fishing, and recognition of small-scale fisheries access rights is improving. But gaps between ambition and implementation persist:

- ➡ Aquatic food loss and waste remain high;
- ➡ Fish stocks are under continuous pressure;
- ➡ Harmful subsidies are untraceable;
- ➡ Integration of Aquatic foods in national policies remains limited.

These are significant challenges, along with gaps in data, reporting and monitoring, limiting the assessment of progress and the ability to correct course.

## Next steps

Achieving the Breakthrough by 2030 will require a stronger focus on:

- ➡ Science-based fisheries management;
- ➡ Wider adoption of sustainable practices;
- ➡ More effective enforcement against illegal fishing;
- ➡ Reform of harmful subsidies, and greater integration of aquatic foods into national food, climate and biodiversity strategies;
- ➡ Improving the availability and consistency of data.



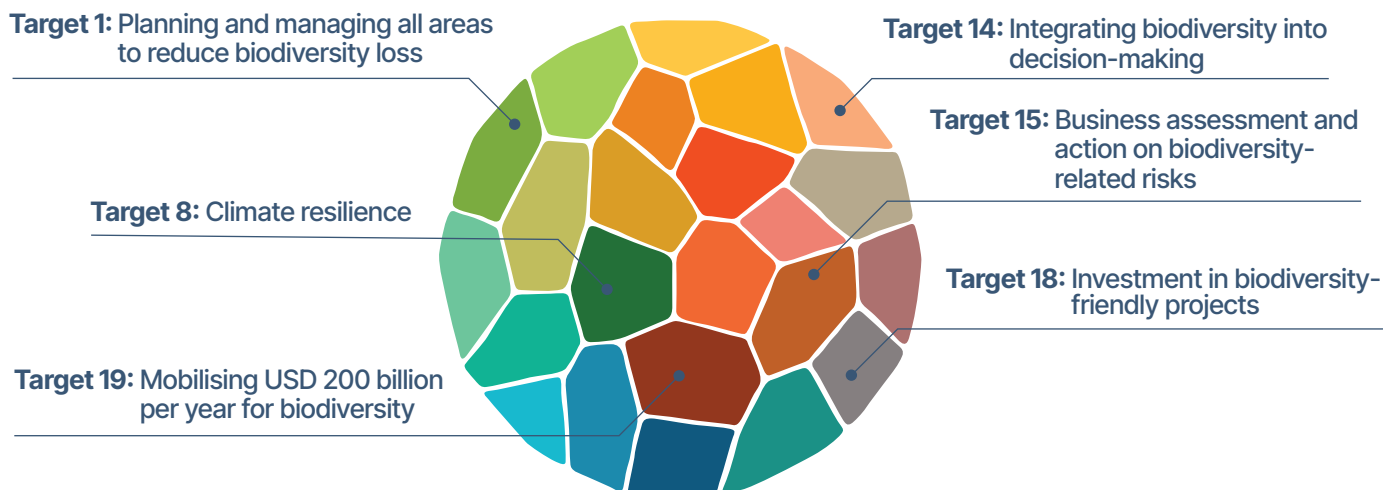
# OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY



## About the Breakthrough

The Ocean Renewable Energy Breakthrough sets the target of **installing at least 380 GW of offshore capacity while establishing targets and enabling measures for net-positive biodiversity outcomes and mobilising USD 10 billion in concessional finance for developing economies to reach that goal by 2030**, highlighting the strong potential of the sector to unite global action towards humanity's climate and biodiversity goals. **As the most mature of the ocean-based energy technologies, offshore wind energy is particularly well positioned to contribute to these efforts.** Realising this, however, will require sustained investment alongside measures to avoid, minimise, and address adverse impacts on marine biodiversity, ensuring that the expansion of ocean renewable energy delivers benefits for both climate and nature.

## GBF Targets Supported by the Ocean Renewable Energy Breakthrough



## What does the Dashboard tell us?

### ➔ Offshore wind capacity is growing, but deployment must accelerate

**Global offshore wind capacity reached nearly 80 GW in 2024 and 92 GW in 2025 according to GWEC's latest numbers.** As a low-carbon source of energy, offshore wind has significant potential to accelerate decarbonisation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to GBF Target 8 on minimising the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and building resilience. However, realising this potential will require **accelerated deployment, accompanied by robust biodiversity safeguards to ensure that the energy transition does not come at the expense of marine and coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.**

### ➔ Investment in the deployment of offshore wind remains insufficient

The Dashboard distinguishes **international concessional finance for offshore wind development in developing countries, estimated at USD 41 million in 2023, from the broader cumulative concessional and development finance flows it tracks, which exceeded USD 380 million by 2023.** While this growth signals increasing institutional capacity to channel finance towards offshore wind development in developing countries, it remains far below the Breakthrough's objective of mobilising USD 10 billion by 2030. However, existing datasets fail to capture key sources of concessional finance such as domestic concessional finance and low-cost project debt, which represent a substantial share of total funding and are especially vital for supporting offshore wind development in developing economies. **Such funding should only be linked to GBF Target 19, or to positive incentives under Target 18, where its biodiversity purpose and effects are established.** Tracking finance together with environmental requirements and project-level outcomes would provide a more meaningful assessment.

### ➔ Offshore renewable energy is gaining recognition in national climate commitments

**The share of coastal and island countries that are Parties to the UNFCCC and include offshore renewable energy in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) increased from 11% in 2022 to 19% in 2025.** This progress signals a growing recognition of the potential of offshore renewable energy as a key instrument to reduce GHG emissions, with potential relevance to GBF Target 8 by contributing to mitigation efforts and reducing climate change-induced impacts on the ocean, such as acidification. **With more than four-fifths of these countries yet to include offshore renewable energy in their NDCs, significant opportunities remain to strengthen the sector's contribution to climate action.** Yet inclusion in national climate strategies does not establish that projects are being deployed, nor that ecological safeguards are in place. Closer alignment between climate and biodiversity strategies, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), is needed to make the biodiversity implications of offshore energy expansion explicit and accountable.

### ➔ No comprehensive dataset currently exists to track offshore wind projects with net-positive biodiversity targets

**No comprehensive dataset currently exists to track offshore wind projects with net-positive biodiversity targets,** leaving a major gap in understanding how the sector aligns with global biodiversity goals. Several leading energy companies – including Iberdrola, Ørsted, RWE and OX2 – have adopted voluntary biodiversity commitments, with some aiming to deliver on these commitments by 2030. While these initiatives signal growing momentum and help bridge the climate and biodiversity agendas, it remains unclear whether similar requirements are being embedded into project tenders, particularly in emerging markets. **Greater transparency and consistent reporting are essential to assess progress and support wider adoption of biodiversity-positive practices across the industry, helping to deliver on GBF Target 15, which calls on businesses to assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts and Target 22 on ensuring participation in decision-making.**

## ➔ More information on community engagement in offshore wind projects must be made available

**Tracking the proportion of offshore wind projects with formal community engagement processes has been identified as a critical indicator to ensure its inclusive deployment.** Despite growing recognition of its importance, poor stakeholder engagement continues to be a leading cause of project delays, cancellations, and cost overruns. Establishing robust and inclusive engagement processes helps identify and address social and environmental concerns early, ensuring projects deliver tangible community benefits and long-term acceptance. **Strengthening these practices is essential to align offshore wind expansion with just transition principles, advancing GBF Target 22 on ensuring participation in decision-making for all.**

For more information about the data in this section of the report, visit the [Ocean Renewable Energy Breakthrough Dashboard](#).

## Lessons learned

Encouraging progress is being made towards scaling up ocean renewable energy, particularly offshore wind as the most mature and promising technology:

- ➔ Global installed capacity continues to grow;
- ➔ Recognition of its contribution to global emissions reduction goals is increasing at the national level, helping to reduce climate change-induced pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems.

However, gaps between ambition and implementation persist:

- ➔ Significant investment gaps remain, particularly in developing countries;
- ➔ Biodiversity commitments are insufficiently documented;
- ➔ Community engagement and inclusive decision-making remain difficult to assess.

These are significant challenges, alongside gaps in data, reporting and monitoring, limiting the assessment of whether deployment is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

## Next steps

Achieving the Breakthrough by 2030 will require a stronger focus on:

- ➔ Accelerating deployment and mobilising investment, particularly in developing countries;
- ➔ Strengthening policy support and integrating biodiversity safeguards from the earliest stages of planning and development;
- ➔ Promoting transparent corporate biodiversity commitments and biodiversity-positive planning;
- ➔ Ensuring meaningful community engagement and inclusive decision-making processes;
- ➔ Improving the availability, consistency and transparency of data on biodiversity impacts, corporate commitments and community engagement.



# ADDRESSING DATA GAPS FOR COASTAL TOURISM AND MARITIME TRANSPORT

The Dashboard does not yet provide a comparable set of indicators for Coastal Tourism and Maritime Transport. This reflects the later development of the Breakthroughs and the challenges of obtaining consistent, publicly accessible data. Their absence is a limitation of this interim assessment, not evidence that these sectors have no role in contributing to the implementation of the GBF.

In coastal tourism, pressures on habitats, shorelines and resources, as well as the potential benefits of better planning and management, make it important to distinguish tourism investment or sustainability pledges from measurable improvements in ecosystem condition. The Coastal Tourism Breakthrough was launched in 2024, and the availability of standardised private-sector data remains a significant challenge.

In maritime transport, the Marine Biodiversity and Ocean Health Breakthrough, launched in 2024, provides a specific entry point for assessing pressures of maritime transport on marine ecosystems and should be approached within the wider shipping transition. Monitoring will need to capture the effects of operational and regulatory changes on biodiversity, alongside decarbonisation progress.

Indicators and data for these Breakthroughs are expected to be incorporated into the Dashboard from November 2026. The report will be updated to provide a comprehensive picture of progress, remaining gaps and contributions of the Ocean Breakthroughs to the Global Biodiversity Framework. Until then, this version draws no quantitative conclusions for either sector.

# CONCLUSION

The Ocean Breakthroughs demonstrate the potential of action in key ocean sectors to accelerate implementation of the GBF. This interim assessment reveals encouraging progress, reflecting growing political commitments, investment and recognition of the need to reconcile economic activities with climate and biodiversity objectives. However, a common challenge emerges across all three sectors: progress in commitments and activities is not yet consistently translating into demonstrable outcomes for biodiversity.

While the three sectors contribute to the GBF in different ways, their progress reveals important similarities and differences.

## Different sectors, shared challenges

➔ **Marine Conservation shows the most direct alignment with the GBF**, particularly through the expansion of marine protected areas, the mobilisation of finance for conservation and the growing integration of coastal and marine nature-based solutions into climate strategies. Yet, despite increasing protection coverage, the share of the ocean under effective protection remains limited. Incomplete financial reporting and insufficient monitoring of conservation effectiveness make it difficult to determine whether commitments are delivering lasting ecological benefits.

➔ **Aquatic Food illustrates the challenge of reconciling sustainable resource use with conservation and food security**. Growing demand for certified sustainable seafood, stronger commitments to combat illegal fishing and improved recognition of small-scale fisheries rights signal positive developments. However, continued pressure on fish stocks, high levels of food loss and waste, harmful subsidies and limited integration into national policies highlight the need to move beyond commitments towards more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.

➔ **Ocean Renewable Energy presents significant opportunities to advance climate mitigation while supporting biodiversity objectives**, but also illustrates the importance of ensuring that expansion does not create additional pressures on marine ecosystems. Offshore wind capacity is growing, alongside recognition of its contribution to global climate goals. Nevertheless, deployment and investment remain insufficient to meet the Breakthrough's ambitions, particularly in developing countries. Moreover, limited information on biodiversity safeguards and community engagement makes it difficult to assess whether expansion is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

Taken together, these findings highlight a fundamental distinction between the sectors. While Marine Conservation primarily seeks to protect and restore biodiversity directly, Aquatic Food and Ocean Renewable Energy must integrate biodiversity objectives into activities whose expansion or continued operation can generate pressures on the environment. Their contributions to the GBF are therefore not automatic, but depend on how activities are planned, financed, managed and monitored.

## From commitments to measurable outcomes

Beyond these differences, three cross-cutting lessons emerge:

### ➔ **Implementation remains the critical challenge.**

Across sectors, growing political commitments, regulatory measures and market signals are not necessarily matched by effective implementation. Expanding protected areas does not guarantee effective conservation; increasing demand for certified seafood does not necessarily indicate healthier fish stocks; and scaling up offshore wind does not automatically ensure biodiversity-positive outcomes. Greater attention must therefore be given to the effectiveness of policies and practices.

### ➔ **Financing must be scaled up and better aligned with biodiversity objectives.**

Investment gaps remain substantial across the sectors, while incomplete financial reporting limits the ability to assess concrete progress. Mobilising additional resources is essential, but so is ensuring that financial flows support measurable benefits for biodiversity, including through effective conservation, sustainable resource management and relevant safeguards.

### ➔ **Persistent data and monitoring gaps constrain accountability.**

Although the Dashboard provides valuable insights, many available indicators primarily capture commitments, activities or policy adoption rather than changes in ecosystem condition or reductions in pressures. Improving the availability, consistency and transparency of data, particularly on ecological outcomes, financing and implementation effectiveness, will be essential to assess the concrete contributions of these sectors to the GBF.

## Looking towards 2030

With four years remaining until 2030, the priority must shift from commitments to implementation. Across all three sectors, greater integration of ocean-based measures into national biodiversity and climate strategies and sectoral policies will be essential to align action to deliver on global climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals. The Global Review provides an important opportunity to recognise the contribution of the ocean to the GBF while identifying where further action is needed. Although this interim assessment covers only three of the five Ocean Breakthroughs, it already points to a clear conclusion: **the success of the Ocean Breakthroughs will ultimately depend not only on the scale of sectoral transformation, but on its capacity to deliver measurable benefits for the climate, nature and people.**

# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS IDENTIFIED ACROSS THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS

Taken together, the Ocean Breakthroughs are relevant to a range of targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Targets listed in this report are not exhaustive. Coastal Tourism and Maritime Transport are not included, as comparable Dashboard indicators are not yet available. Their absence does not indicate that these sectors have no role in implementing the GBF.



## Marine Conservation

T1, T2, T3, T8, T11, T12



## Aquatic Food

T4, T5, T8, T9, T10, T11, T14, T19



## Ocean Renewable Energy

T1, T8, T14, T15, T18, T19



- T1** Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss
- T2** Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems
- T3** Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas
- T4** Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts
- T5** Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species
- T6** Reduce the introduction of invasive alien species by 50% and minimise their impact
- T7** Reduce pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity
- T8** Minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience
- T9** Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people
- T10** Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry
- T11** Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people
- T12** Enhance green spaces and urban planning for human well-being and biodiversity
- T13** Increase the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, digital sequence information and traditional knowledge
- T14** Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level
- T15** Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts
- T16** Enable sustainable consumption choices to reduce waste and overconsumption
- T17** Strengthen biosafety and distribute the benefits of biotechnology
- T18** Reduce harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity
- T19** Mobilise \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance
- T20** Strengthen capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity
- T21** Ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action
- T22** Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all
- T23** Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action

Target titles are the official short titles from the Convention on Biological Diversity's GBF branding toolkit, in UK spelling.



In collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI)



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