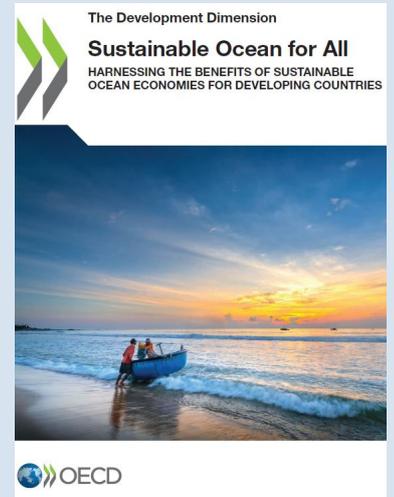


DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

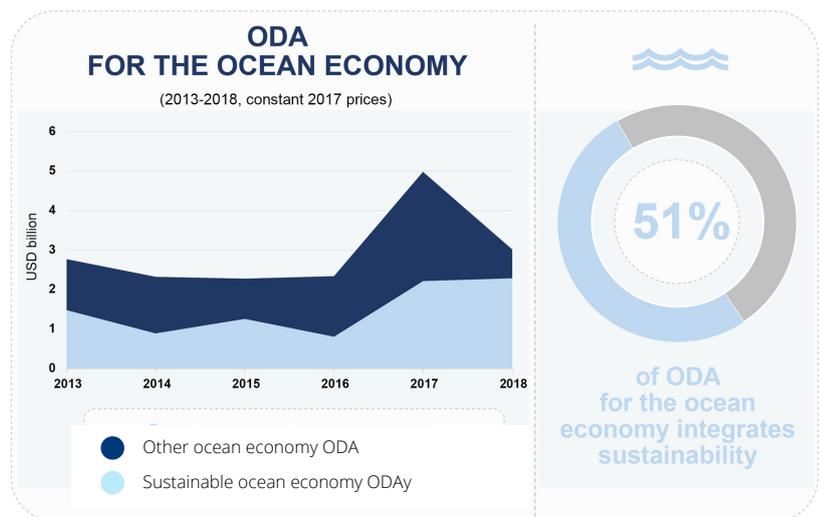
Global urgency and ambition for conserving and sustainably using the ocean are rising. If managed sustainably, the ocean has the capacity to regenerate, be more productive and support more equitable societies. However, not all countries are in a position to undertake the bold, forceful actions required to harness the benefits of sustainable ocean economies. Development co-operation has a significant role to play to facilitate developing countries' access to the science, evidence, innovations, and financial resources needed to transform both emerging and existing ocean-based sectors into catalysts for long-term, inclusive and sustainable development. The recently published OECD Report "[Sustainable Ocean for All](#)" provides evidence and policy advice on how to better channel development finance in support of the sustainable ocean economy.



HOW MUCH DEVELOPMENT FINANCE FOR THE OCEAN ECONOMY?

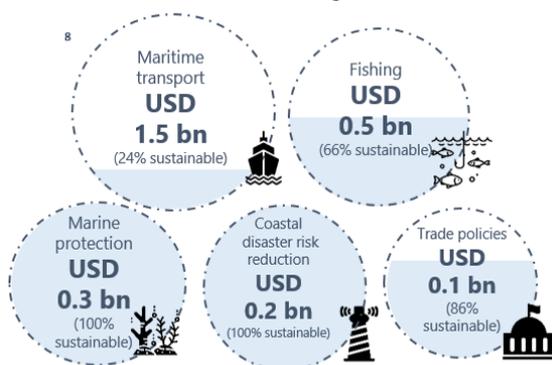
The engagement of the development community on ocean issues is growing, and many bilateral and multilateral initiatives have emerged in the past three years. Official Development Assistance for ocean-based industries and marine ecosystems is rising, recording significantly higher levels in 2017–18 than in previous years and outpacing the growth rate of global ODA throughout the 2013–18. However, ODA for the Ocean Economy still accounts for a fraction of global ODA (1.6%) and it only partially focuses on sustainability. ODA for the Sustainable Ocean Economy totalled USD 2.3 billion in 2018, and averaged USD 1.5 billion a year in 2013–18.

Figure 1. Evolution of ODA for the ocean economy between 2013 and 2018



Source: Sustainable Ocean for All: Harnessing the benefits of sustainable ocean economies for developing countries (OECD, 2020)

Figure 2. Ocean Economy ODA by sector 2013–18 average



Source: Sustainable Ocean for All: Harnessing the benefits of sustainable ocean economies for developing countries (OECD, 2020)

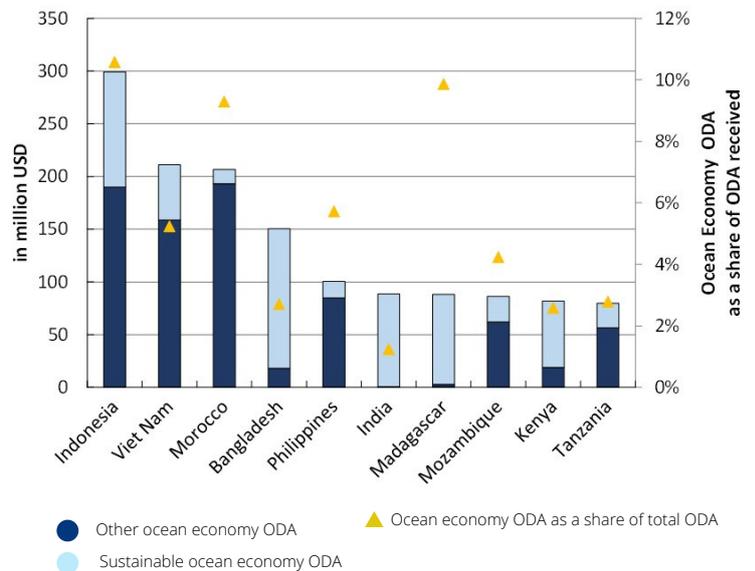
WHICH SECTORS ARE THE MOST TARGETED?

Not only are ODA flows for the sustainable ocean economy small, they could also be employed more effectively. Currently, they are highly concentrated in three sectors – maritime transport, fisheries and marine protection – suggesting that more could be done to support the range of existing and new ocean-based sectors and thus foster greater economic diversification and resilience. Furthermore, increases in ODA for the ocean economy have mainly supported the expansion of ocean-based industries – largely maritime transport – without increasing the sustainability of these sectors.

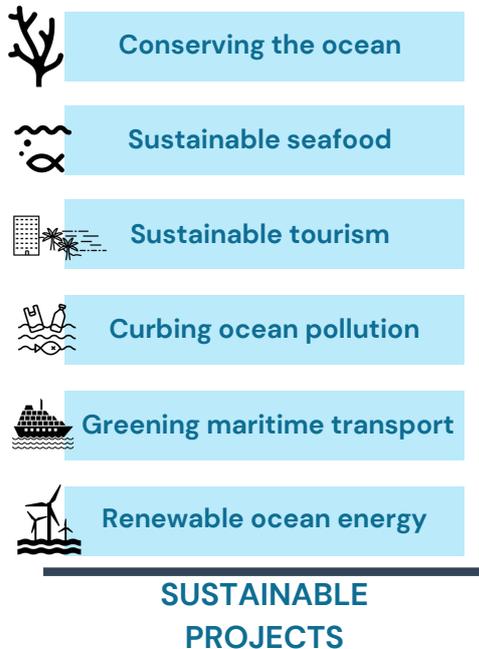
WHERE IS ODA FOR THE OCEAN ECONOMY GOING?

In 2013–18, the top 20 recipients together accounted for 75% of ocean economy ODA and received, on average, allocations that were almost 10 times bigger than were received by the next 45 recipients combined. Only 4% of ocean economy ODA went to the bottom 50 recipients combined. Across country groups, over the 2013–18 period, lower middle-income countries received the largest share of ocean economy ODA (54%). Least developed countries received 31% and upper middle-income countries 15%. Despite their reliance on ocean resources, small island developing states receive only a small share of ODA towards the sustainable ocean economy (5.5% in 2013–18).

Figure 3. Top recipients
2013–18 average



Source: Sustainable Ocean for All: Harnessing the benefits of sustainable ocean economies for developing countries (OECD, 2020)



EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS EXIST

To help unpack the multidimensionality of sustainability across ocean economy sectors and offer insights into replicable practices, the report identifies 6 areas of the sustainable ocean economy and analyses the range and nature of ODA projects conducted to enhance sustainability in each of these areas. They are: ocean conservation, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable tourism, curbing ocean pollution, greening ports and maritime transport, and renewable ocean energy. Examples across these six areas include: the employment of new technologies to enhance sea surveillance and security; increasing the value of fish products through certifications of sustainability; measures for fostering sustainable tourism; and support to reduce the environmental impacts and GHG emissions from ships and port infrastructure.

▶▶▶ TO ENHANCE THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMIES, THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CAN:

- **Track ODA** for the sustainable ocean economy and its impacts based on common definitions and clear principles.
- **Support** developing countries to develop a coherent policy approach for the sustainable ocean economy, where the complexity of inter-sectoral interactions is understood, environmental, social and economic values are integrated, and adequate resources are mobilised across sectors.
- **Prioritise support** to create decent local jobs, protect livelihoods, conserve nature and promote community-based approaches for the management of ocean resources.
- **Explore new development co-operation schemes**, including to: (i) help assess risks and rewards from emerging ocean-based industries, (ii) provide an international cost-sharing mechanism for the protection of the ocean as a global public good, and (iii) support developing countries' voice and representation in international negotiations on ocean use.
- **Promote international policy coherence** for a global sustainable ocean economy by supporting independent studies and policy dialogue on how the sustainability of ocean economies in developing countries is affected by richer countries' policies beyond development co-operation, such as policies on fisheries, tourism, investment and finance.