



OCEAN Standard Indicators Guidance

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Ocean Community
Empowerment
and Nature

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1. What are OCEAN Standard Indicators?

1.1. Purpose

The OCEAN Standard Indicators have been developed to provide a consistent and reliable framework for measuring the impact of projects funded by OCEAN. These indicators are designed to align with the programme's overarching objectives of:

- Improved management and protection of marine ecosystems
- Multi-dimensional poverty reduction in coastal communities
- Increased gender equality, disability and social inclusion

OCEAN Standard Indicators will support the programme to be transparent and accountable to its funders, the UK taxpayers. The indicators are therefore also aligned with the Defra International (DI) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Official Development Assistance (ODA) reporting¹, the UK International Climate Finance (ICF) Indicators² and the Blue Planet Fund (BPF)³ Key Performance Indicators.

OCEAN Standard Indicators aim to:

- Establish a shared framework for tracking progress toward programme-level goals.
- Track results relating to OCEAN's goals: i.e. Marine environment protection & restoration, poverty reduction, improved climate resilience and adaptation, strengthened capability & capacity, knowledge & evidence generation, and strengthened policy & planning.
- Demonstrate the combined contribution of all OCEAN projects towards OCEAN's intended impact – to place the ocean on a path to recovery, enabling local communities and nature to thrive.

All OCEAN projects will be asked to report results on their selected OCEAN Standard Indicators on an annual basis with their Annual Reports. The OCEAN Standard Indicators are to be reported separately from project-specific logframe indicators. While project logframes are tailored to reflect the unique activities, outputs, and outcomes of individual projects, the Standard Indicators provide a programme-level perspective. Together, they ensure that both project-specific outcomes and the broader impact of the grants programme are effectively captured and communicated. This gives projects the flexibility to design specific indicators for their own project-level monitoring needs, whilst supporting the programme to collate and report key results in a standardized way.

¹ [Defra's Official Development Assistance results estimates - GOV.UK](#)

² [UK International Climate Finance results - GOV.UK](#)

³ [Blue Planet Fund - GOV.UK](#)

1.2. Requirements

Applicants are required to:

- Select indicators and targets in the Excel template provided on Flexi-Grant to submit with their application.
- Select a minimum of 3 indicators (Community Grants) or 5 indicators (Partnership Grants).
- Ensure the selected indicators are feasible to measure within the budget and resources planned in the project. If it is not feasible to measure the minimum required number of indicators, justification should be provided in the application.

Grantees are required to:

- Report annual progress on OCEAN Standard Indicators with their Annual Report, in addition to reporting progress on the project-specific indicators in their logframes.
- Share end of project results on OCEAN Standard Indicators in their Final Report.
- Report disaggregated data wherever relevant (e.g. sex, age, location, disability status, or Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities status).

Table 1. Applicant and Grantee Standard Indicator Requirements

Pathway	Application Stage	Minimum Requirement	Reporting Requirement
Partnership Grants	Stage 1	5 Standard Indicators or more	Annual Reports and Final Report
Community Grants	Stage 2	3 Standard indicators or more	Annual Reports and Final Report

1.3. Overview of OCEAN Standard Indicators

Table 2. An overview of OCEAN Standard Indicators (SI)

OCEAN SI CATEGORY	OCEAN HEADLINE INDICATOR	OCEAN SUB-INDICATOR (IF APPLICABLE)
Marine environment protection and restoration	1. Area of land or sea protected, restored and/or sustainably managed	1a. Area under sustainable management practices
		1b. Area improved through restoration
	2. Amount of waste removed from and prevented from entering the marine environment	2a. Amount of waste removed from the marine environment
		2b. Amount of waste prevented from entering the marine environment
Multi-dimensional poverty reduction	3. Number of people with enhanced wellbeing and livelihoods	3a. Number of people with improved food security
		3b. Number of people with improved health
		3c. Number of people with sustainable livelihoods created or protected
		3d. Number of people with improved income
		3e. Number of people benefitting from new or improved sustainable waste management
		3f. Number of people with strengthened tenure or access rights
Climate	4. Number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change	NA
Capability & Capacity	5. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	5a. Number of people trained in marine environment conservation, restoration, monitoring, management or sustainable livelihoods practices. 5b. Number of people trained to improve awareness and understanding of the importance of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion.
	6. Number of people with improved access to and capacity to participate in co-management of coastal resources	NA
	7. Number of local or national organisations in eligible countries with enhanced capability and capacity.	NA
Knowledge & Evidence	8. Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	NA
Policy & Planning	9. Number of new and improved policies and frameworks adopted and implemented	9a. Number of policies, legal reforms, and/or strategic plans developed or formally contributed to by projects, that are adopted and implemented by organizations, institutions and government authorities.
		9b. Number of GEDSI-mainstreamed policies, legal reforms, and/or strategic plans developed or formally contributed to by projects, that are adopted and implemented by organizations, institutions and government authorities.

2. Indicator Selection & Reporting

2.1. Indicator Types

OCEAN has nine headline indicators, some of which have sub-indicators (see 1.3 Overview of Indicators). Sub-indicators are a sub-component of their associated headline indicator. This means the data can be aggregated across multiple sub-indicators to give a total for the Headline indicator.

Headline indicator targets and results should report the total across all of its sub-indicators. See an example below:

Ref	Indicator	Target Value	Unit
5	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	100	number of people
5a	Number of people trained in marine environment conservation, restoration, monitoring, management or sustainable livelihoods practices.	100	number of people
5b	Number of people trained to improve awareness and understanding of the importance of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion.	50	number of people

In this example, 100 people completed training in marine resource management, and 50 people completed GEDSI awareness training. The 50 people trained in GEDSI also did the marine resource management training. Therefore the total for the headline indicator “Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training” is 100, because you must not double count the people who did both trainings.

If you identify a high risk of double counting when reporting headline indicators for your project, select only the sub-indicator for which you expect your project to have most impact.

2.2. How to Select Indicators

We encourage applicants and grantees to select as many OCEAN Standard Indicators as possible within the scope and resources available in their project. The selection will not be assessed by the Expert Committee, but may be considered by the Programme Board in final award decisions.

Select Standard Indicators which your proposed project will report against on an annual basis if funded (a minimum of 3 for Community Grants, or 5 for Partnership Grants). We encourage applicants to select more than the minimum requirement where possible. Select as many indicators as is relevant and feasible to the context and scope of your project.

1. Download the Template from Flexi-Grant: <https://ocean.flexigrant.com/>
2. Enter your project details in the “Select Indicators” tab.

Project Details	
Project Title	"Roots and Reefs: Restoring Mangroves and Coral Ecosystems for Resilient Coastal Communities"
Application Reference	OCG2\1001
Project Country 1	Tanzania
Project Country 2 (if applicable)	Kenya
Project Country 3 (if applicable)	
Project Country 4 (if applicable)	
Project Country 5 (if applicable)	
Project Start Date	12/1/2025
Project End Date	3/31/2029

3. In the “Select Indicators” tab, enter Yes next to your chosen indicators:

Ref	Indicator	Category	Unit	Selected (Yes/No)
1	Area of land or sea protected, restored, and/or sustainably managed	Marine Environment	ha	Yes
1a	Area under sustainable management practices	Marine Environment	ha	
1b	Area improved through restoration	Marine Environment	ha	Yes
1c	Area newly designated as protected areas or other effective conservation measures (OECMs)	Marine Environment	ha	
2	Amount of waste removed from and prevented from entering the marine environment	Marine Environment	ton	Yes
2a	Amount of waste removed from the marine environment	Marine Environment	ton	Yes
2b	Amount of waste prevented from entering the marine environment	Marine Environment	ton	
3	Number of people with enhanced wellbeing and livelihoods	Poverty Reduction	number of people	Yes
3a	Number of people with improved food security	Poverty Reduction	number of people	
3b	Number of people with improved health	Poverty Reduction	number of people	
3c	Number of people with Sustainable Livelihoods created or protected	Poverty Reduction	number of people	Yes
3d	Number of people with improved income	Poverty Reduction	number of people	Yes
3e	Number of people benefitting from sustainable waste management	Poverty Reduction	number of people	
3f	Number of people with strengthened tenure or access rights	Poverty Reduction	number of people	
4	Number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change	Climate	number of people	Yes
5	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Capability & Capacity	number of people	Yes

The indicators and targets you select should **reflect your project's direct contribution**, indirect contributions should not be measured here.

4. In the “Targets – ALL COUNTRIES” tab, indicate the end of project targets. This should be the combined total for all countries that you are working in if you are implementing in more than one country. Disaggregate targets where known for each of your selected indicators. For example, your project aims to protect and restore 150 hectares (ha) of habitat. In this case, you can disaggregate by ‘Ecosystem’. Of the total 150ha area, 50ha is coral reef, and 100ha is mangrove so should be disaggregated like so:

Ref	Indicator	Target Value	Unit	Target Date	Country	Ecosystem disaggregation	
						Coral reef	Mangrove
1	Area of land or sea protected, restored, and/or sustainably managed	150	ha	31/03/2029	MULTI	50	100
1a	Area under sustainable management practices		ha				
1b	Area improved through restoration	50	ha	31/03/2029	MULTI	50	
1c	Area newly designated as protected areas or other effective conservation measures (OECMs)	100	ha	31/03/2029	MULTI		100

5. If working in more than one country, enter the targets for each specific country in the “Targets – Project Country 1”, “Targets – Project Country 2”, etc tabs.

Ref	Indicator	Target Value	Unit	Target Date	Country	Ecosystem disaggregation	
						Coral reef	Mangrove
1	Area of land or sea protected, restored, and/or sustainably managed	75	ha	31/03/2029	Kenya	25	50
1a	Area under sustainable management practices		ha				
1b	Area improved through restoration	25	ha	31/03/2029	Kenya	25	
1c	Area newly designated as protected areas or other effective conservation measures (OECMs)	50	ha	31/03/2029	Kenya		50

6. Once complete, upload the filled template to the Flexi-grant application portal to submit with your application.

2.3. How to Report Indicators

Grantees will be provided with a template to report annual progress on their chosen Standard Indicators. This is to be submitted every 31st April with the project Annual Report and after the project ends with the Final Report.

Direct contributions only

Only report data that is directly attributable to your project i.e. only include people that have directly been supported through your project, and only include specific land or sea area that your project has directly worked to protect.

Avoid double-counting

Ensure you do not double count beneficiaries or land-area when aggregating data for Headline indicators.

Provide evidence/ means of verification

Identify the sources of evidence that back up the reporting data you submit. This, along with supplementary information shared with your report will ensure that Standard Indicator data can be verified.

2.4. Support & Resources

There are additional instructions provided in the templates. Consult the reference sheets in the templates for more information about disaggregation. If you require any further support with the selection or reporting of Standard Indicators, we are available to answer questions through our helpdesk: helpdesk@oceangrants.org.uk