OCEAN Global Exchange Series

Session 2: From Community Engagement to Empowerment

30 September 2026

Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature

UK International Development

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



Image credit: Action for Ocean

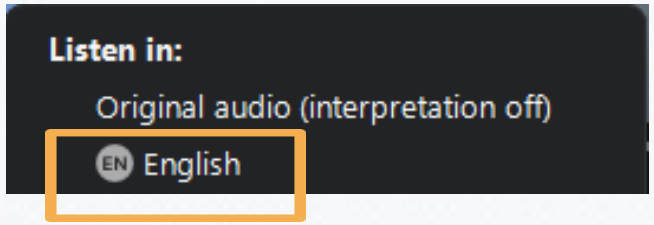
Languages

Live interpretation is available in:

- French
- Indonesian
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- English

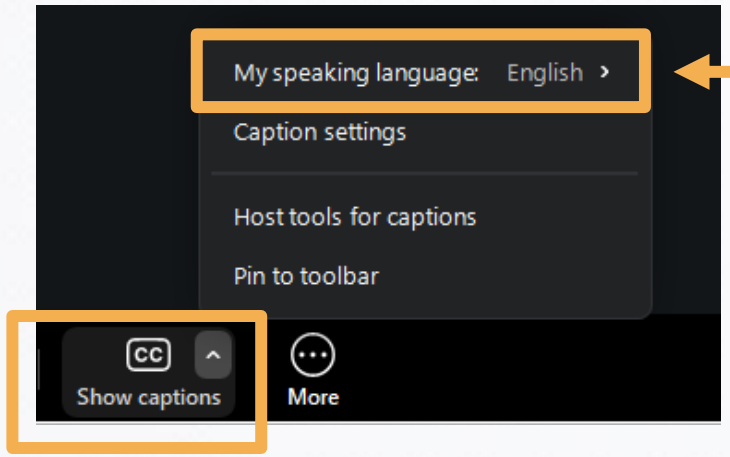


This will be multilingual session with one of our speakers presenting in Indonesian. If you are listening in English, make sure you select the English channel:



Captions

Closed captions (or subtitles) are available in multiple languages.



Click here to select your language

Session structure

Welcome & Introductions
Discussion Topic 1: Involving Communities
Audience Interaction and Q&A
Break – 10 mins
Discussion Topic 2: From Participation to Power
Audience Interaction and Q&A
Close

Watch later: A recording will be shared by email and available via the website after the session

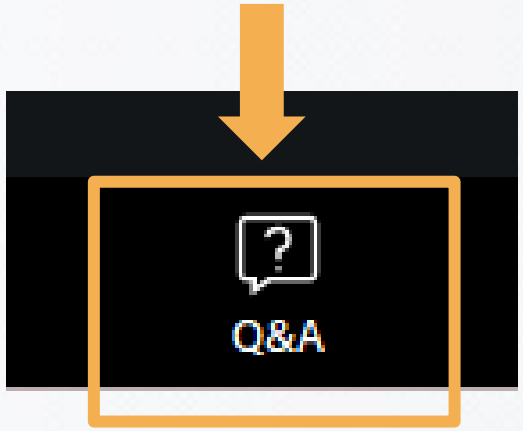


Image credit: Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

Questions and Audience Interaction

- Audience – we want to hear from you!
- Post your questions in the Q&A throughout the discussion, and we will answer these during ‘Audience Interaction and Q&A’ section
- Vote for the questions in Q&A you would like to see answered
- The Q&A section is also where you can post answers to questions we ask the audience during the session
- We will do our best do answer all your questions. If we are short on time, we may prioritise questions with more votes.

Ask your questions here!



Email our helpdesk any time at helpdesk@oceangrants.org.uk with any feedback or issues during the session. Our 'Report a concern' page on the OCEAN website sets out how to raise something more serious.

What is OCEAN?

- OCEAN is a global competitive grants initiative that aims to support the people most impacted by declining ocean health and climate change through funding local solutions to local problems.
- Funded by The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), through the UK's Blue Planet Fund (BPF).
- Expected to run until 31 March 2029.
- OCEAN aims to help bridge the gap by funding community-centred projects that aim to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and benefit the marine environment and its biodiversity.



Image credit: The Hunger Project

Funding pathways

Community Grants

- Grant Size: **Up to £250,000**
- Led by **small to medium sized organisations** legally registered in eligible coastal countries
- Projects focus on strengthening local capability & capacity of local communities and/or organisations.

Partnership Grants

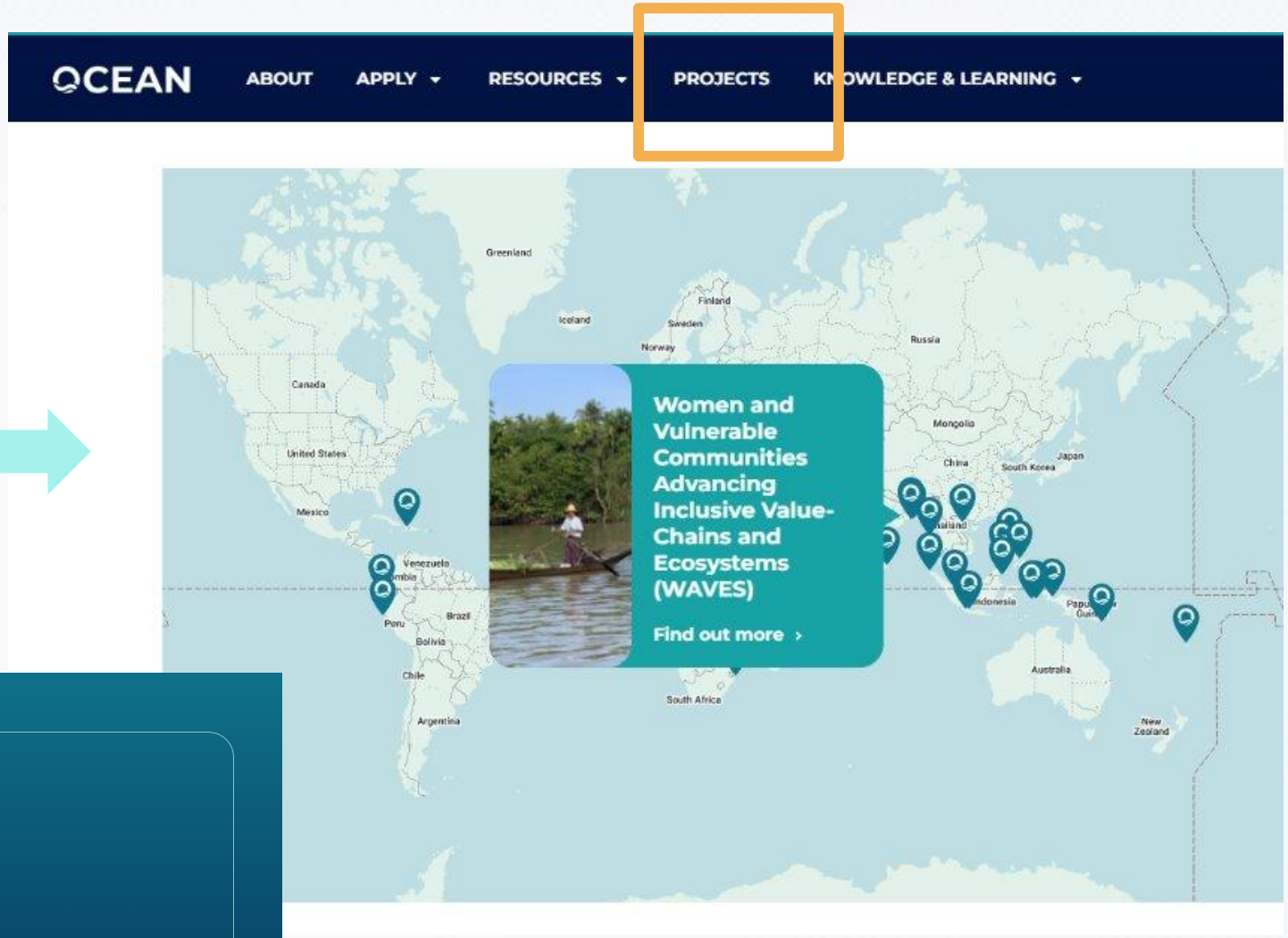
- Grant Size: **£500,000 - £3 million**
- Led by **medium to large sized organisations** with the capacity to deliver solutions at scale.
- Projects partnering with and working alongside local communities to deliver local solutions to local problems



Image credit: Action for Ocean

OCEAN Projects

Visit our website



Project Summary

GRANTEE
Action for Ocean

COUNTRY
Tanzania

PROJECT DATES
01 Nov 2024- 30 Sep 2026

CATEGORY
Community Grant, Critical marine habitats for coastal resilience, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures, Round 1 Grantee, Small-

TARGET

500
households
Households directly involved in octopus fishing to benefit from increased yield.

3
Reef enclosures
New reef enclosures added in Masongoro, Kifinge and Kipakoni.

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Introducing our Grantee speakers



Badabon Sangho - Fariha Jesmin, Bangladesh
The project seeks to empower women fisherfolk groups and cooperatives to engage in habitat restoration, conserve regulated fishing and strengthen marine protection in the Sundarbans.



Reef Check Malaysia - Aiman Jawarin, Malaysia
Supporting the development of a Community Protocol by Indigenous peoples and local communities, which will protect community rights and the marine environment.



Coastal and Marine Resource Development (COMRED)
Andrew Wamukota, Kenya
Using a participatory approach the project will enhance the capacity of BMUs to support alternative livelihoods and protect fish habitats, with a focus on including marginalised ethnic groups.

Introducing our Grantee speakers



BINTARI- Mega Anggraeni, Indonesia
Improving and expanding village waste management systems on the Banda and Lease Islands of Central Maluku to reduce plastic pollution.



The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) - Andrea Vogl, Haiti
The Blue Hispaniola project links coastal communities in northern Haiti and the Dominican Republic through sustainable fisheries, alternative livelihoods and improved management of marine protected areas.



Project Zacchaeus- Shellemai Roa, The Philippines
The Eco Kolek project empowers informal waste collectors in Puerto Princesa City to advance the circular economy and divert plastic from the marine environment.

Who else will we be hearing from?

OCEAN Expert Committee

OCEAN's independent committee of marine conservation and international development experts.

- **Sam Okidi:** Poverty alleviation and community-based development
- **Asma Hadi:** Marine conservation and plastic pollution

Blue Planet Fund Regional Coordinators

Based in-country, and support the delivery of Blue Planet Fund programmes

- **Ramadian Bachtiar:** South and Southeast Asia

Topic 1: Involving Communities



Fariha Jesmin
Badabon Sangho, Bangladesh



Aiman Jawarin
Reef Check Malaysia, Malaysia



Andrew Wamukota
COMRED, Kenya



Sam Okidi
OCEAN Expert Committee

Topic 1: Involving Communities

How do you think it is possible to create opportunities for people to move from receiving information to contributing ideas?



Image credit: Project Zaccheus

Topic 1: Involving Communities

Which strategies do you recommend to empower people and to makes communities feel that their voice matters?



Image credit: Badabon Sangho

Audience interaction and Q&A

Ask your questions in the Q&A section, and upvote the ones you would like to hear answered



Image credit: Reef Check Malaysia

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Break

See you in 10 minutes!



Image credit: Sea Women of Melanesia

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Topic 2: From Participation to Power



Mega Anggraeni,
BINTARI, Indonesia



Andrea Vogl
PADF, Haiti



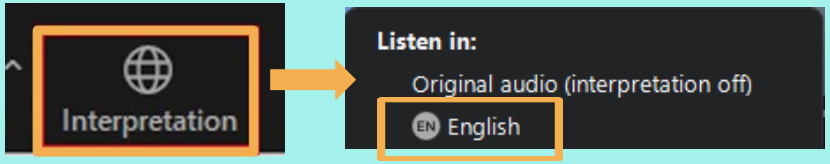
Shellemai Roa
Project Zacchaeus
The Philippines



Asma Hadi
OCEAN Expert
Committee



Ramadian Bachtiar
Blue Planet Fund
Regional Coordinator,
S & SE Asia



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Topic 2: From Participation to Power

How do you create genuine leadership opportunities for women and young people?



Image credit: PADF

Topic 2: From Participation to Power

What evidence would convince you that power has genuinely shifted towards communities?



Image credit: COMRED

Audience interaction and Q&A

Ask your questions in the Q&A section, and upvote the ones you would like to hear answered



Image credit: BINTARI

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Register for our next session!

Session 3 | Innovation for Impact

1 October 2026 13:00 – 16:00 BST / GMT+1

Using technology, data and innovative approaches to enhance conservation and community outcomes.

- **Mare Nostrum Foundation** — Jeffrey Leblanc, Ecuador
- **Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)** — Shafiq Islam, Bangladesh
- **Sea Women of Melanesia** — Abishag Maguapana, Papua New Guinea
- **Zoological Society of London** – Jeremy Huet, Mozambique
- **ALNER** — Bintang Ekananda, Indonesia



Image credit: Mare Nostrum Foundation

Register on our website!

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Thank you!

Contact us:

helpdesk@oceangrants.org.uk

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Image credit: Project Zaccheus

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oceangrants.org.uk