ONE OCEAN HUB

Introduction and Overview

UK Research and Innovation GCRF
What is the One Ocean Hub?

The One Ocean Hub is an independent programme for collaborative research for development.

The Hub is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). GCRF is a key component in delivering the UK AID strategy and puts UK-led research at the heart of efforts to tackle the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Hub is funded for an initial 5 years from 1st March 2019 to 1st March 2024.

Who is the One Ocean Hub?

The One Ocean Hub is a community of scholars from 22 leading international Universities and Research Centres from the UK, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. The Hub is led and hosted by the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK.

We are working together with 30+ Project Partners, including UN Agencies, regional intergovernmental organisations, national government departments, community representatives, NGOs, charities and media organisations.

We are united in a shared passion for the ocean and optimistic in our search for transformative approaches.
Rationale

Covering over 70% of the planet, the ocean connects communities, countries and cultures in time and space. The ocean itself is a web of interconnected systems and lifeforms on which we are wholly reliant.

The ocean recognises no geographical border, or governance boundary that we seek to manage it within. Its systems do not conform to the sectors of ocean use through which we exploit its resources.

Awareness and recognition of the urgent threats to ocean health are growing, and global responses are mobilising. Yet our responses are disconnected:

- disconnected **across sectors** of ocean use
- disconnected **across scales** of governance - from local to international level
- disconnected **from the communities, woman and youth** who are most reliant upon the ocean, and most disproportionately affected by our failure to protect it.

Integrated and inclusive governance is needed to mirror the connectivity of the ocean and to benefit from all the voices of those whose livelihoods are interwoven with a healthy ocean.

This is the mission of the One Ocean Hub: to **transform our approach to ocean governance and research**, in order to connect these disconnects by engaging and valuing the voices, knowledges and values of communities, women and youth.
Our Vision

Integrated ocean governance for equitable and inclusive sustainability.

What We Do

To connect the disconnects across sectors and scales, we start with our own research practices and approaches. Our five interconnected research programmes transcend traditional boundaries, from both a disciplinary and participatory perspective. The Hub seeks to weave together learning from the ocean and the peoples who rely upon it, with innovative natural and social sciences, law and art.

Our Objectives

- **Integrate** knowledge and connect norms (across sectors and from the local to the international level)
- **Enable** dialogue across sectors of ocean use, conservation & communities.
- **Empower** sustainable and fair partnerships

Focus Regions and Countries

The Hub addresses specific challenges of vulnerable coastal communities in South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, Fiji and Solomon Islands.

The Hub seeks to share knowledge across three different regions and produce new evidence and tools of global significance.
Research programmes

‘WP 0’ Ground-truthing and co-developing collaborative research: Understanding each country context through self-reflexive and iterative research, ensuring all research programmes meaningfully respond to the needs of vulnerable local communities.

Integrating ocean governance for equity and sustainability: Discovering the full potential of law & policy to foster a coherent, inclusive and transparent sustainable blue economy by considering the inter-dependencies of the environment & human rights to connect across sectors still operating in isolation: ocean/land/freshwater/waste management, trade, investment, innovation & intellectual property, development cooperation.

Emotionally connecting with the ocean through the arts: Exploring how cultural heritage and creative responses can bring together experts and stakeholders in ocean research and help surface multiple conceptions of the ocean; evolving challenges to, and possible futures for, ocean management; and the ocean’s multiple contributions to human wellbeing.

Connecting and climate-proofing fisheries for equity and sustainability: Investigating multiple, potentially conflicting, fishery sectors (eg artisanal, commercial, recreational, aquaculture) and, integrating the traditional knowledge of local communities, develop understanding of the role of fisheries in critical marine habitats and natural processes (marine food webs), the potential impact from plastics and climate change, and the ecosystem response to different socio-ecological and governance approaches.

Discovering hidden trade-offs in the deep sea: Exploring deep sea environments to advance understanding of the potential values of diverse marine resources (including for biomedical innovation) and existing and projected impacts of resource extraction on vulnerable or functionally important marine life. Research will consider potential deep sea mineral, biological and freshwater resources, in the context of environmental changes (including impacts of climate change), and with a view to preventing the blue economy from degrading the marine environment and its actual and potential benefits to human well-being.

Empowering sustainable and equitable “blue societies”: Revealing tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including invisible and marginalized knowledge, practices and economies, and social and environmental injustices, to inform and challenge, through participatory modelling methods different management scenarios and economic planning for specific sectors (fisheries, mining, tourism).
Sharing Knowledge and Connecting Dialogue

The One Ocean Hub is founded on partnerships, ongoing dialogue and exchange. Our engagement programmes seek to intensify engagement with communities and organisations on specific projects, and share knowledge at regional and global levels.

**Capacity Escalator Programme:** Responding to partner needs and supporting beneficiary initiatives through:

- **Regional Events:** Responding proposals from project partners, external developments, and stakeholders’ challenges on the basis of the latest Hub findings.

- **Immediate-response Projects:** Supporting capacity and institutional strengthening through small-scale/seed research or KE projects.

- **Global Placements:** Enabling Hub researchers to join partner organisations (and partner organisation staff to join Hub research partners) to carry out specific research of mutual interest, embed Hub learning and undertake targeted capacity-strengthening.

**Empatheatre:** Collaborative, documentary theatre to open up generative dialogue on complex issues and sources of conflicts about the ocean. Productions will draw on ethnographic research with academics, different communities, activists and different parts of government. They will synthesize multiple views on the ocean and its uses from across different sectors of society, as well as integrate research findings from across the disciplines of the Hub. Each performance will support the audience in emotionally engaging with the Hub’s research and will be followed by facilitated discussions among researchers, stakeholders and beneficiaries.

**Knowledge-Translation Platform:** Inspiring curiosity and promoting ocean literacy through action-orientated pathways and knowledge products for different audiences (decision-makers, activists, teachers, journalists). Based on the UN CC:Learn Platform, this online platform will include powerful narratives, digital storytelling, videos animations, games, and cartoons produced by or co-produced with vulnerable groups.

**One Ocean Explorers:** A multi-disciplinary programme for young explorers (<13 years) to connect with the ocean and build relationships and solidarity with their peers across regions in tackling common ocean challenges. Ocean Explorers will work with schools in each region to promote ocean literacy and awareness of local and global ocean issues in a creative, fun and multi-disciplinary way. It will inspire young leaders in creating their own solutions to sustainability challenges.
Adding Value to the Global Ocean Effort

The One Ocean Hub will carry out research that complements existing activities by other researchers and institutions: it will focus on gaps and facilitate connections across other projects and programmes.

The Hub will explore innovative ways in which the arts can support current ocean governance efforts.

The Hub can include data sets and research findings from other initiatives into its engagement and communications mechanisms (e.g. empatheatre and other artistic expressions, global knowledge-translation platform, policy briefs). It will thus support other researchers to connect their findings with other disciplines, and with stakeholders in different sectors or operating at different levels.

Supporting cross-regional research cooperation and information-sharing, will foster connections in dialogue, norms and help to integrate knowledge systems.

The Hub can support the development of new research initiatives in collaboration with other institutions through its embedded legacy strategy and its dedicated support for fund-raising, as well as through the application and development of innovative social change processes and methodologies in transdisciplinary research.

The Hub will develop tools and approaches that can be used by other researchers (including in other areas of research) to ensure that academic research is responsive to development needs and co-developed with communities, women and youth. It will share these tools through a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for responsible research and innovation for development.
Stay in Touch!

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