

**ECONOMIST  
IMPACT**



The 11th annual

# **WORLD OCEAN Summit & Expo**

**“How to” sessions summary report**

March 11th-13th | Lisbon, Portugal

# Summary

The 11th annual World Ocean Summit launched the “How to” working group sessions this year.

The purpose of the sessions was to create a set of action points and practical takeaways for individuals and organisations committed to restoring ocean health. These sessions, for small, focused groups of subject-matter experts and a carefully picked audience were interactive, engaging and solution oriented. This report shares the key takeaways from the speakers and audience from each discussion.



# How to scale marine-ecosystem restoration

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This session identified how to achieve large-scale marine-ecosystem restoration for maximum long-term impact. Speakers and participants discussed how to engage the right cross-sector partners and collaborate to create an ecosystem approach. They highlighted common gaps, barriers and limitations, and identified ways to overcome them. The session established where support is needed in terms of investment, science and research, regulatory and policy frameworks, stakeholder engagement, clear methodology, and efficient data-collection and monitoring tools—and assessed how to secure this support.

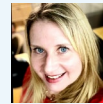
## Moderator:



**Richard Hill**  
Chief executive  
Ocean Generation



**Paul Dobbins**  
Senior director impact investing  
WWF



**Lisa Boulton**  
Ocean regeneration lead  
Purina, Europe



**Kestutis Sadauskas**  
Deputy director-general,  
director-general for maritime  
affairs and fisheries  
European Commission



**Ari Greenberg**  
Chief operating officer  
Seaforester

# The key takeaways from this session are:

## Community engagement:

Communication can help solve many challenges for MPAs and catalyse change.

By working hard at identifying the right community, the focus then becomes engaging, relatable communication to build awareness, buy-in and ultimately trust to enable other barriers to be solved.

A community engagement project example from Paraguay: bought a rainforest in Paraguay to establish carbon credits working with an indigenous community. Whilst we recognised the importance of creating stakeholder engagement it was difficult to identify who the key stakeholders actually were and who you actually needed to talk to.

## Investment:

One of the key challenges to attracting more capital into ecosystem restoration is de-risking the project since it can take 3-5 years to grow and achieve enough scale.

Try to establish a revolving credit facility to allow people access capital.

Create biodiversity credits rather than carbon credits.

Data from the ocean floor is key - you can't prove what you're restoring until you know what's there.

There is a big debate over subsidies vs. tax credits.

## Accounting methodologies:

Participation increases speed and non-inclusion stakeholders will delay or stop work.

We need to compare accounting methods in different spaces and work with local stakeholders to see what matters to them.

Accounting frameworks enable the project work to be brought into shared frameworks. Science Based Targets initiative and Science Based Targets networks as the lowest common denominator for a common shared framework.

There is a role for the private sector, but the public sector must allow that in their jurisdiction. Clearer laws and regulations should increase buy-in.

It is powerful to change the methodologies to incorporate broader benefits, so that it's not a binary winner and loser e.g. nature vs fisherfolk. We need a marine Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) example.

Transparent measurement is critical to creating and building trust and accountability with all stakeholders and particularly the local communities.

A lot of money is spent on mapping habitats, but we need to map all the work on accounting that has been done.

There is a need to connect science and data to global accounting frameworks and we need to look at it from a seascape perspective.



## Science and data:

Generating baseline data is key to give us a clear measure of environmental health now so we can map how it will develop in the future. It's the ultimate measure of restoration success and failure.

We need to be able to measure, analyse and predict what the future will look like as a means for describing how restoration should work & where it should happen.

We need to create models needed to begin planning which can be hugely expensive and funding can be a huge barrier.

What's really lacking is a synergistic understanding of impacts at scale.

In terms of key data and priorities:

- Assessment of pressures in a particular place and knowledge of what would jeopardise a restoration project
- Data that would help us prioritise sites/resources
- Identification of easy wins/low hanging fruits for restoration wins to gain early momentum and credibility
- Understanding which companies are at significant risk if restoration fails
- The value of natural capital that we're trying to restore
- Inventory of who is doing what & where
- Data-pooling in a way that's accessible so that we can learn from each other?

## Policy and legislation:

Stakeholder collaboration is the key to success.

Science, methodology, research, data are also all key requirements, but we don't have time to wait for perfection before we get going/invest. So how much is enough to be able to get going, to make sure it's not too late?

There needs to be a mindset change to move from small scale research sites to large scale restoration efforts.

Legislation and policy should be enabling, rather than prohibitive, supporting a reward system for private investment and community engagement. Blue carbon and tax

credits for projects can be examples of this, but we need the data and methodology to underpin them. Would like to end up with a situation where it's a win-win for everyone.

We need policy and legislation to support the reduction or removal of the external pressures or activities which caused the loss of marine ecosystems in the first place for example fishing practices and nutrient run-off pollution – this will require cross-ministry collaboration as well as multiple stakeholder groups.



