



Centre for Sustainable Oceans

Will be hosting a

A VIRTUAL THREE HOUR WORKSHOP UNPACKING OCEAN ACCOUNTING

**“OCEAN ECONOMIES, BLUE ECONOMIES AND OCEAN ACCOUNTING
FRAMEWORKS FOR OCEAN GOVERNANCE”**

**FRIDAY 16TH APRIL
09H00 - 12H00**

South Africa Standard Time / Central African Time / UTC+2:00

AIMED AT PARTICIPANTS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE



SECOND GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON OCEAN ACCOUNTING - VIRTUAL MEETING - 20 APRIL 2021

Contact: Ken Findlay, CPUT Research Chair: Oceans economy, Centre for Sustainable Oceans, CPUT

For registration see below.

BACKGROUND

Human populations obtain numerous goods and service benefits from the ocean space, including both market and non-market benefits. The interactions of humans and oceans are changing in a number of ways. Firstly, oceans resource–uses are rapidly changing as nations turn to their ocean space (their Exclusive Economic Zones) to foster economic growth and ensure food, energy and other ocean resource-use security in expanding ocean or blue economies. Secondly, oceans are changing anthropogenic pressures and impacts increase as a consequence of such expansions; pressures of inter-sectoral competition for limited accessible ocean space and the impacts of production and consumption activities including unsustainable extraction, habitat degradation and change, pollution invasive translocations and the myriad of pressures associated with climate change. Thirdly ocean sciences, research and monitoring are changing as 4IR technologies allow for and facilitate increased data generation across numerous disciplines. These changes span the economic, social and environmental domains.

Ocean economies (and their associated sectors) have in the past been typically valued as varying-by-nation ocean contribution to Gross Domestic product (GDP). While such metrics and their use in macroeconomic, strategic and investment planning are critical within a nation’s use of its oceans, they provide little information on the ocean wealth (and associated ocean produced capital and natural (or non-produced) capital and the sustainable use thereof) or the income distribution by demographic sector (and associated ocean resource-use access, benefit or inclusivity) that underpin alternative models that incorporate all three aspects of economic production, inclusivity and sustainability (or a Sustainable and Inclusive Ocean Economies (SIOE)).

An alternate “blue economy” term has been used in a number of meanings including a) as used by the Small Island Development States in the lead up to the Rio+20 UNSD conference as a parallel to a green economy concept to include pillars of sustainability and inclusivity and therefore as a description of a SIOE), b) as used by Pauli¹ to describe circular economies and sustainability in business models (that are not limited to the ocean realm), or c) as used in more limited cases as interchangeably with ocean economy in somewhat greenwashing approaches by politicians and policy-makers to describe the expansions of ocean economies.

Oceans economies are measured valued as ocean-sectoral economic contribution to GDP using the System of National Accounts or Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts. How then do we measure or value blue economy models of economic production, inclusivity and sustainability? These are best valued by ocean accounts frameworks and processes, that go far beyond the economic value of the ocean contribution to GDP alone, to include ocean wealth, economic production utilising produced and non-produced (natural) capital resources, impacts of such resource-uses on the ocean environment (and associated risk and governance), and the distribution of ocean benefits (ocean income) and access in a more holistic model of ocean contribution to societal well-being than GDP contribution alone.

Oceans accounting is an approach of integrating records of economic activities, social conditions, and environmental characteristics relating to ocean, ocean resource-uses and the marine and maritime domains on a regular basis using international statistical standards. Such accounting standards facilitate and allow for comparability across spatial and temporal domains, thus considerably boosting the power of integrated data. A framework of oceans accounts or an ocean accounting framework (O-

¹ Pauli, G. 2010. The Blue Economy: 10 years – 100 innovations – 100 million jobs. Paradigm Publications.

A-F) is a complex framework of systems including economic, social and environmental components that allow stocks within systems and flows between stocks and systems (as segues) to be identified. Given ocean change, ocean resource-use change and changes in ocean measurement and monitoring (across domains), oceans accounting is obtaining significant traction across the world. An initial formation meeting of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership was held by ESCAP in Bangkok in 2018, followed by a First International Dialogue on Ocean Accounting held by the GOAP in Sydney in November 2019. A planned Second International Dialogue in 2020 was compromised by the Covid19 pandemic, but is planned as a virtual meeting in April 2021. A recent blue paper commissioned by the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economies identifies the roles that National Accounts can play in ocean governance, whilst the 14 Panel Member Nations have committed to ocean accounting practices by 2023. The United Nations Statistical Division is looking towards the development of a System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) – Oceans Accounts Framework based on current developments within the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership.

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is currently in the process of developing a Technical Document describing an overarching oceans accounting framework (O-A-F) that includes both accepted and novel accounting systems to integrate data and information in a consistent and standardised manner. Ocean Accounts draw on the internationally accepted System of National Accounts (and Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts (OESA)) to account for economic production, the System for Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) - Central Framework to account for natural capital flows from the environment to economic sectors and impact flows from economic sectors to the environment, and SEEA (Experimental) Ecosystem Accounts (recently revised to the SEEA – Ecosystem Accounts (SSEA – EA) or Marine Ecosystem Accounts (MEA)) to account for ecosystem types, extents, conditions and associated services and assets from which natural (ecosystem and abiotic services) capital flows, or which may be influenced by impact flows. Economic production is informed through OESAs, along with taxes and subsidies of ocean economic sectors. Ocean wealth balance sheets are informed by produced and non-produced capital accounts within the OESA and MEA, while natural capital flows and impact flows and the associated sustainability of natural capital are informed by the MEA and the SEEA-CF accounts. Novel accounting systems required within the O-A-F include:

- a) the use of accepted Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) to inform the distribution of ocean income;
- b) risk accounts to inform of risks of natural and anthropogenic impacts to ecosystems, and the permeation of risk to associated natural capital assets, the supply and use of such natural capital assets in economic sectors and the resulting employment therefrom,
- c) ocean governance accounts to inform the available or required instruments to manage risk of impacts and the bridging of ocean health and ocean wealth to maximise ocean contribution to societal well-being; and
- d) summary accounts which identify and consolidate information from across the O-A-F to inform required indicators, and ocean wealth and its contribution to inclusive and sustainable societal well-being (as outlined in the UN Agenda 2030 SDGs, for example).

TOPICS

Topics to be included in this workshop include:-

- What is an ocean economy? Are there differences between an oceans and a blue economy? If so, how do they differ?

- How do we integrate the sustainability of ocean wealth and inclusivity of ocean benefits within ocean resource uses and economies?
- What is an account?
- What are National Accounts?
- What are Oceans Accounts and how do they align with National Accounts?
- How do we use ocean accounts to integrate data from across the environmental, social and economic domains in consistent, standardised and comparable manners?
- How do we go from data to information to statistics to indicators?
- Ocean Sciences are changing. How can we use Big Data in the ocean science-to-policy interface?
- How can Ocean Accounts and associated indicators be used in ocean decision support?
- Ocean Accounts for Africa?

The workshop is targeted towards Attendance of the Global Oceans Accounting partnership 2nd International Dialogue on Ocean Accounts but is open to all interested participants.

To register for this workshop please email Ken Findlay on findlayK@cput.ac.za including the following -

Email Header: Registration CPUT workshop on oceans accounts – 16 April and your name

Your affiliation

Your interest in ocean accounting.

Virtual meeting details will be forwarded to registered participants in due course.

Thank You

Ken Findlay