

# Beyond the status quo: defining and enabling a sustainable deep-ocean blue economy

Virtual Workshop: 5 September 2023  
Hybrid Workshop: 18-22 October 2023

## Overview

This project aims to create a new status quo and accelerate stewardship of the deep ocean by guiding the emerging deep-ocean Blue Economy into one that is truly equitable and sustainable. The project was convened with leadership from the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory and the Nippon Foundation-University of Edinburgh Ocean Voices Programme, and participation from DOSI, as well as financial support from The National Geographic Society. This is the first time the Blue Economy is discussed solely through a deep-ocean lens, so it has the potential, through collaborative research, idea exchange, dissemination, and capacity development, to lead to scientifically informed, holistic decision-making and management, and ultimately a sustained healthy and resilient deep ocean. This approach encompasses science, policy, and communication, and will be achieved through three project objectives:

### **1. Advance science to define an equitable and sustainable deep-ocean Blue Economy**

This project convened the brightest minds in Blue-Economy and deep-ocean research to clearly and robustly define what a truly equitable and sustainable deep-ocean blue economy in a rapidly changing world is, as well as best practice guidelines for enablement. The first workshop on 5 September 2023 took place virtually. The second workshop from 18-22 October 2023 was hybrid, both online and in Bequia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The advancements from both workshops will be captured in an academic peer-reviewed paper.

### **0. Deliver science and recommendations to policy and beyond to assist with enabling a truly equitable and sustainable deep-ocean Blue Economy**

The scientific findings (natural and social) and governance recommendations produced will be translated and disseminated to decision-makers, policy-makers, financial institutions, government representatives, industry, civil society and other users. This is key for the uptake of robust science in the development and implementation of global stewardship measures. This will take the form of a communication toolkit that encompasses at least eight different media to reach a variety of stakeholder groups.

### **0. Enhance science and governance capacity in Developing States**

This project will not only contribute significant novel knowledge but will also develop science and governance capacity. The capability to engage in deep-ocean scientific research and governance currently resides in just a few nations globally. This project is scaling-up capacity by engaging three early-career fellows via the Ocean Voices Programme at Edinburgh University throughout the project. Furthermore, six of the participants are from developing countries.

## Participants

Twenty-one experts from 13 countries participated. Ten of these are active DOSI experts.

| Name                | Affiliation         | DOSI |
|---------------------|---------------------|------|
| Dr Diva Amon        | BOSL                | Yes  |
| Dr Erik Simon Lledo | NOCS                | No   |
| Hannah Lily         | Independent         | Yes  |
| Dr Kahlil Hassanali | IMA                 | No   |
| Dr Anna Metaxas     | Dalhousie           | Yes  |
| Klaas De Vos        | Independent/UNEP FI | No   |

|                              |                           |     |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| Dr Juliano Palacios Abrantes | UBC                       | No  |
| Sheena Talma                 | Nekton                    | No  |
| Vanessa Paloma Lopes         | Ocean Voices              | Yes |
| Dr Maila Guilhon             | IASS, Ocean Voices        | Yes |
| Dr Joachim Claudet           | CNRS                      | Yes |
| Dr Harriet Harden Davies     | University of Edinburgh   | Yes |
| Kristina Gjerde              | IUCN                      | Yes |
| Dr Lisa Levin                | SIO                       | Yes |
| Dr Aline Jaeckel             | Wollongong                | Yes |
| Dr Jean-Baptiste Jouffray    | SRC/Stanford              | No  |
| Dr Katy Croff Bell           | Ocean Discovery League    | No  |
| Dr Robert Blasiak            | SRC                       | No  |
| Dr Douglas McCauley          | BOSL                      | No  |
| Dr Michelle Voyer            | Wollongong                | No  |
| Dr Marjo Vierros             | Ocean Voices, Independent | No  |

## DOSI Actions

Two DOSI experts convened the workshop: Dr Diva Amon and Dr Harriet Harden Davies. During the workshops, ten DOSI experts actively participated in all discussions and will participate in the drafting and dissemination of outputs, including a scientific paper in 2024.





