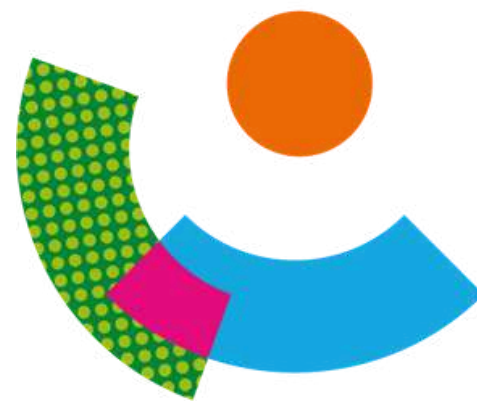




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Blue Finance 2025

Investing in Ocean Sustainability

10-11 September 2025 | The Royal Geographical Society, London

Event partners

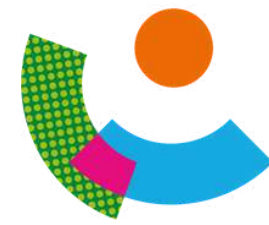




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About Blue Finance 2025

Ocean and Coastal Futures is introducing our inaugural Blue Finance event.

Momentum for investing in a sustainable ocean economy is growing, with public and private sector drivers requiring action to secure nature-positive outcomes. However, progress is held back by key challenges, including:

- How to develop a shared understanding between the finance sector and ocean sustainability practitioners to maximise investment impact
- How to scale ocean innovation and recovery to mobilise necessary finance
- How to measure the impact of investment on ocean sustainability outcomes
- How to amplify benefits of investment for local people and ensure they have a voice in decision-making, planning and implementation

Blue Finance 2025 will bring together government, ocean sustainability and finance specialists, academics and practitioners to explore how capital can be directed toward sustainable ocean initiatives. Through dialogue and collaboration between these communities, the conference aims to catalyse finance solutions that ensure returns on investment through protecting and restoring ocean health, and generating equitable outcomes for communities.

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At Blue Finance 2025

The line up of speakers and panellists includes:



Rebalance



Earth





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Programme

Day 1 - Wednesday 10th September 2025

10:00	Welcome	Ocean and Coastal Futures
10:20	Keynote	Mark Gough , CEO, Capitals Coalition
10:40	Session 1: Connecting finance and ocean sustainability How do we strengthen connections and collaboration between ocean sustainability practitioners, science and academia, industry, and investors to improve ocean health for environmental, social and economic prosperity? Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucy Holmes, Senior Director, Ocean Markets and Finance, WWF• Max Boucher / Laure Boissat, FAIRR Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eoin Murray, CIO, Rebalance Earth• Alice Teague, Deputy Director, Welsh Government• (Speaker tbc) UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association Session Chair: Dr Lucy Greenhill, Director - Blue Economy, HMC	
12:15	Lunch	

Please note that timings and programming are subject to change



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Day 1 - Wednesday 10th September 2025

13:15 **Panel discussion: What investors need and want**

Panel guests and moderator coming soon.

14:00 **Finance spotlight: How industry is investing in ocean sustainability**

Panel:

- Benj Sykes, UK Country Manager, Ørsted
- Ben Green, Marine Restoration and Enhancement Manager, National Grid
- Katrina Ross, Policy Director (Commercial & Governance), UK Chamber of Shipping

Moderator: Jennifer Godwin, CEO, Seabed User & Developer Group

14:45 Break

15:30 **Session 2: The scale imperative - mobilising capital for ocean recovery**

What will it take to turn ambition into action and demonstrate that large-scale investment in ocean recovery is both viable and vital?

Speakers:

- Daniel Wilde, Head of Oceans, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Dickon Howell, CEO, Howell Marine Consulting

Panel:

- George Birch, Founder, Oyster Heaven
- Sarah Brown, Fund Manager, Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF)
- Kirsty Schneeberger, Founder & CEO, Athena Blue
- Adrian Gahan, Ocean Lead, Campaign for Nature

Session Chair: Louise Heaps, Global Lead on Sustainable Blue Economy, WWF

17:00 Day 1 close

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Day 2 - Thursday 11th September 2025

9:00 **Welcome** **Ocean and Coastal Futures**

9:10 **Keynote** **Torsten Thiele**, Founder, Global Ocean Trust

Session 3: Measuring what matters - tracking impact

Innovative approaches and tools to demonstrate measurable outcomes, ensuring that investments are both sustainable and accountable.

Panel:

- 9:30
- Melis Ford, Nature Engagement Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance
 - François Mosnier, Head of Ocean Programme, Planet Tracker
 - Dr. Will Le Quesne, Principal Scientist, Cefas
 - Thomas Maddox, Global Director - Nature, CDP
 - Tom Brook, Ocean Conservation Specialist, WWF

Session Chair: Klaas de Vos, Founder, Ocean Fox Advisory

Finance spotlight: Public funds and ocean philanthropy in a world of blended finance

Panel:

- 11:00
- Morven Robertson, Funding Manager, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
 - Berry Mulligan, Seascapes Programme Manager, Endangered Landscape and Seascape Programme (ELSP)

Moderator: Peter Lee, Head of Philanthropy and Partnerships, WWT

11:45 Lunch

12:45 **Keynote** **Martin Koehring**, Ocean and Finance Specialist at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)

Please note that timings and programming are subject to change



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Day 2 - Thursday 11th September 2025

13:00 **Session 4: Coastal communities - inclusive and equitable investment**

What innovative funding strategies and collaborative investment models can empower UK coastal communities? Spotlighting successful case studies, policy frameworks, and practical tools to help local leaders secure the resources they need to thrive.

Panel:

- Sonali Siriwardena, Partner and Global Head of ESG, Simmons & Simmons
- Annie Breaden, Director of Corporate Operations, Crown Estate Scotland
- Rebecca MacDonald-Lofts, Lead Officer, LGA Coastal SIG
- Kat Bruce, Founder, NatureMetrics

Session Chair: tbc

14:30 Break

15:00 **Spotlight on Finance: Innovation in financing**

Panel:

- Harry Wright, Founder & Director, Bright Tide / Ecotide
- Elizabeth Beall, Managing Director, Finance Earth

Moderator: James Merchant, Blue Economy Specialist, Marine Conservation Society

Panel discussion: What's next for ocean finance? Pathways to 2030 and beyond

A forward looking, solutions-focussed session with audience Q&A.

15:45 **Panel:**

Kaija Barisa, Senior Economist, Blue Marine Foundation
More panel guests coming soon.

Moderator: Will Oulton, Vice Chair, Marine Conservation Society

15:00 **Workshops:** held at the same time as the final sessions - details to follow.

16:30 Closing remarks - conference close 16:45

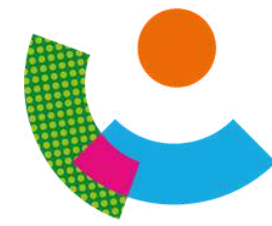
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Event themes

Theme 1: Connecting finance and ocean sustainability

This theme focusses on strengthening collaboration between ocean managers, businesses and investors to improve ocean health as an underpinning foundation for social and economic prosperity.

- How can we support alignment between private sector ambitions and international and UK targets and commitments for ocean protection?
- How can emerging frameworks such as Marine Net Gain, TNFD, and nature positive approaches be designed to ensure investment returns, reduce regulatory burden and improve nature outcomes?
- How do we channel investment from economic sectors that rely on coastal and ocean resources to the right place at the right scale?
- How can finance and ocean sustainability practitioners develop a shared language and understanding to strengthen collaboration?

Theme 2: The scale imperative: mobilising capital for ocean recovery

Building investor confidence is essential to mobilise capital at the scale needed to deliver ocean restoration and conservation outcomes. This includes de-risking investment through science-based approaches, transparent governance, and to move beyond pilot projects to delivery at scale. This session will explore what it takes to turn ambition into action and demonstrate that large-scale investment in ocean health is both viable and vital.

- How can we de-risk investment to improve confidence?
- What are the emerging opportunities for investment in nature restoration?
- What is needed to develop a bankable project pipeline at a scale sufficient to mobilise the level of investment needed?





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Theme 3: Measuring what matters - tracking impact

Robust metrics and transparent reporting are essential to assess the environmental, social, and economic impact of ocean-related investments. This includes moving beyond traditional economic indicators to include ecosystem health, community wellbeing, and climate resilience. We will spotlight innovative approaches and tools being used to demonstrate measurable outcomes, ensuring that investments are both sustainable and accountable.

- What do investors need to understand to provide assurance and track impact?
- What is the progress in defining metrics and monitoring frameworks to understand contribution to sustainability outcomes?
- How much data is enough and who is responsible for reporting? Can we achieve more through collaboration and data sharing?
- How can we make progress while ensuring a learning-based approach to address evidence gaps?

Theme 4: Unlocking funding pathways for resilient coastal communities

Our diverse coastlines provide unique challenges and opportunities for local communities who rely on the natural coastal and ocean resources for their livelihoods and wellbeing. This theme explores how we can amplify benefits for local people from investment and ensure they have a voice in investment decisions that impact the resources they rely on. From climate resilience and nature enhancement to economic regeneration, we'll spotlight successful case studies, policy frameworks, and practical tools for a thriving coastal future.

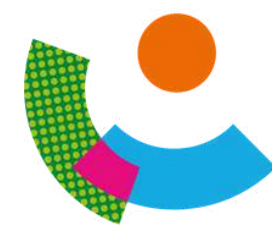
- What innovative funding strategies and collaborative investment models are there to empower coastal communities and ensure a thriving future underpinned by a healthy ocean?
- How can we ensure that coastal communities benefit from investment affecting their local area?
- How do we ensure inclusivity and equity for all in blue finance?
- How can we support communities in accessing sustainable finance for ocean related projects?



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Venue

The event will take place in the heart of South Kensington's arts and science district, in one of London's most charming and iconic venues – The Royal Geographic Society. The Grade II* listed building combines unique character with modern facilities to create a perfect backdrop for the event.

View the location [here](#).

Sponsorship

If you are interested in supporting this event, reach out to us at **conference@coastms.co.uk** and we can provide you with further information on the packages available.

Buy tickets

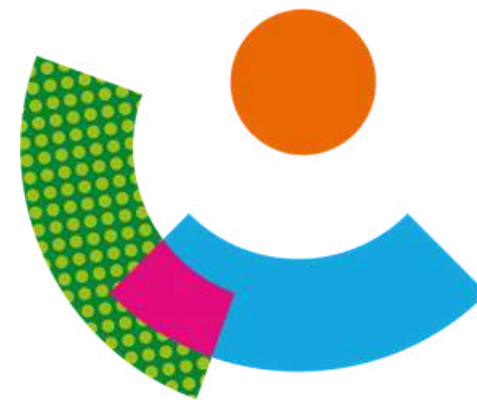
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About us

Ocean and Coastal Futures is on a mission to improve coastal and ocean management. We do this through convening, connecting and spreading knowledge. We are the home of OCF news, jobs and events, including the long-running Coastal Futures conference, which have been focal points for the UK ocean, coastal and water sectors for over three decades. Together with the Environment Agency, we have hosted the annual ReMeMaRe ocean restoration conference series since 2019, and we convene several online events focussed on ocean justice and sustainable ocean management.

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