Blue
Finance
2026

Delivered by OCF

Financing nature recovery — from capital markets to the coast.

Wednesday 11 November 2026

One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London

The inaugural Blue Finance in 2025 convened over 200 people from across finance, government, industry and ocean sustainability, and made the macro case for investing in the ocean. That case is now made. The question for 2026 is more practical, and more uncomfortable: the capital exists, so why isn't it reaching the coast?

Blue Finance 2026 follows the journey money has to make — from institutional capital markets to the coast itself, and to the people and businesses, large and small, whose decisions determine what actually happens in the water. It asks how the UK reshapes that pathway well enough to become a model others follow.

Blue Finance 2026 — the four tracks

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The day follows the journey capital has to make. Each track is a themed strand holding several sessions, and together they trace the routes money travels from where it sits to where the recovery happens — through investment, and through what businesses choose to buy.

A Scaling the market

Building credible, investable markets for marine nature

For the ocean to attract serious private capital, the mechanisms have to be trustworthy. This track examines how we build natural-capital markets — marine net gain, blue carbon and nutrient credits — with the integrity that investors, regulators and the public will actually trust. Without that credibility, the market never scales past pilots.

On the agenda

- What makes a marine credit investable — additionality, permanence, measurement
- Marine net gain: lessons from biodiversity net gain on land
- Integrity, standards and greenwashing risk
- Who regulates, who verifies, and what's still missing

B Blended finance and catalytic capital

Making public and philanthropic money work harder

Public funding is under pressure — so every pound of public or philanthropic money has to pull in far more private capital behind it. This track examines the structures that de-risk private investment: first-loss layers, guarantees, concessional capital and the blended vehicles that turn a small public stake into a large private one.

On the agenda

- First-loss, guarantees and concessional capital — what actually crowds money in
- Designing a blended vehicle: worked examples from the UK and beyond
- The role of development banks and public funders as catalysts
- Why so many blended structures stall — and how to get to close

C The last mile

Getting finance to communities, SMEs and the coast

This is the heart of Blue Finance 2026. Capital accumulates at the top; many of the people who deliver nature recovery — coastal communities, small businesses, project developers — work at a scale finance isn't built to serve. This track asks how money actually reaches the last mile, and what has to change so it can.

On the agenda

- Why the coast can't access capital — ticket sizes, risk, capacity
- Aggregation: bundling small projects into investable portfolios
- Community and CIC-led models that have unlocked funding
- What developers need from investors — and vice versa

D Pressure reduction and supply chains

Financing the stopping of damage

The most under-financed idea in ocean recovery is paying to stop the harm in the first place. This track follows a different route to the coast — not investment, but procurement. What a company chooses to buy, and on what terms, shapes practice on the water, often faster than a fund or a regulator can. The question is how finance works with that lever rather than around it.

On the agenda

- Supply chains as a lever — seafood and agriculture
- What makes a buyer willing to pay for better practice
- Financing prevention vs financing restoration — the economics
- Insurance, risk and resilience as pressure-reduction tools

Contact: David Tudor · david@coastms.co.uk

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Draft programme concept — an illustration of the shape of the day. Sessions and speakers to be confirmed.

🟥 Lecture Theatre (main) 🟩 Room A (60) 🟨 Room B (60)

09:00 **Registration, coffee & exhibition opens**
Marble Hall

09:45 **Welcome & scene-setting** · OCF
David Tudor — “the money exists; it isn't reaching the coast”

10:00 **Opening keynote**
Setting the UK challenge

10:25 **Plenary panel — Track A: Scaling the market**
Building credible, investable markets for marine nature

11:10 **Coffee & networking**
Exhibition

11:35 **Parallel sessions — round 1**

LECTURE THEATRE	ROOM A (60)	ROOM B (60)
Track B: Blended finance and catalytic capital Making public and philanthropic money work harder	**Track C: The last mile** Getting finance to communities, SMEs and the coast	**Workshop** Designing a blended vehicle

12:20 **Parallel sessions — round 2**

LECTURE THEATRE	ROOM A (60)	ROOM B (60)
Panel — what the money needs Investor and policy voices	**Roundtable** Marine credit integrity and standards	**Meet the projects** 6–8 developers pitch to the room

13:00 **Lunch & exhibition**
Council Room opens as the investor–developer lounge

14:00 **Afternoon fireside — the demand side**
What buyers will pay for, and why

14:30 **Parallel sessions — round 3**

LECTURE THEATRE	ROOM A (60)	ROOM B (60)
Track D: Pressure reduction and supply chains Financing the stopping of damage	**Workshop** Aggregation in practice	**Roundtable** What developers need from investors

15:20 **Coffee & networking**

15:45 **Closing plenary — what moves the money now**
Track chairs report back · a call to action

16:30 **Close of conference**

17:00 **Evening drinks reception**
Marble Hall or Council Room · until ~19:00

Ocean and Coastal Futures — convening the marine & coastal community

Contact: David Tudor · david@coastms.co.uk