

Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in numbers

Ghana

September 2026

The OCPP programme provided tailored support in Ghana to help manage the marine environment more sustainably. This included strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools, and creating educational resources for coastal communities.

Seeking long-term change to Ghana's marine environment

The overarching intended impact for OCPP was to deliver activities which supported partner countries to effectively manage human activities that place pressure on the marine environment and ensure that all of their citizens can benefit from its long-term sustainable use.

The OCPP identified the following areas in which the programme could deliver change in the way these issues were addressed in Ghana through the generation and use of scientific knowledge to better inform policymaking and action:

- **Marine knowledge and capacity:** providing expertise towards sustainable marine ecosystem science and better marine environment monitoring.
- **Policies and guidelines:** supporting the creation of evidence-informed policies, frameworks and plans for sustainable marine ecosystem management, governance and budgeting.
- **Education and awareness:** piloting models and approaches towards community engagement and raising awareness on marine-related topics.
- **Networks and partnerships:** supporting cross-learning and innovation through networks and partnerships.

The programme supported a number of stakeholders to achieve these objectives. These included:

- Government departments and agencies responsible for fisheries, marine environment, science and education, community development, planning and budgeting
- Science and higher education institutions focused on fragile marine ecosystems
- Civil society organisations involved in marine environment policy and advocacy
- Coastal communities with direct connections to marine and coastal ecosystems
- Private sector and local market actors
- International partners

OCPP in Ghana demonstrated consideration of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** in 2025 with the completion of a National GESI analysis and through delivery of their work in the following areas:

- Strengthening Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) implementation
- Sustainable seafood and fisheries compliance and enforcement
- Marine pollution short course

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). OCPP was delivered by three British government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

More information on OCPP can be found at:

[DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents](#)

The data shown covers OCPP activities between 2023–2026 only.

Key achievements in delivery

Outcome

The programme helped secure renewed Government commitment to gazette the proposed Cape Three Points Marine Protected Area (MPA), strengthened stakeholder support across communities and sectoral groups, facilitated the inter ministerial engagements required for formal approval, and supported the preparation and processing of the official gazette notification request.

Marine knowledge and capacity

The programme worked to strengthen the capacity and capability of Ghanaian stakeholders in marine science, management and governance. Of those surveyed, 95% of participants reported increased knowledge and capacity.



Policies and guidelines

In Ghana, the programme proposed or developed policy and regulatory recommendations. 92% of the products developed were reported to have included a consultation process.



CASE STUDY

The OCPP supported the 'Beyond MPA Designation in Ghana' project focused on foundational research to address key knowledge gaps related to MPA management, monitoring, and community engagement ahead of Ghana's first MPA designation. It produced several key outputs, including reviews of policy and legislation, stakeholder and gender analysis, assessments of awareness initiatives, recommendations for future educational tools, and a high-level roadmap framework to guide MPA implementation.

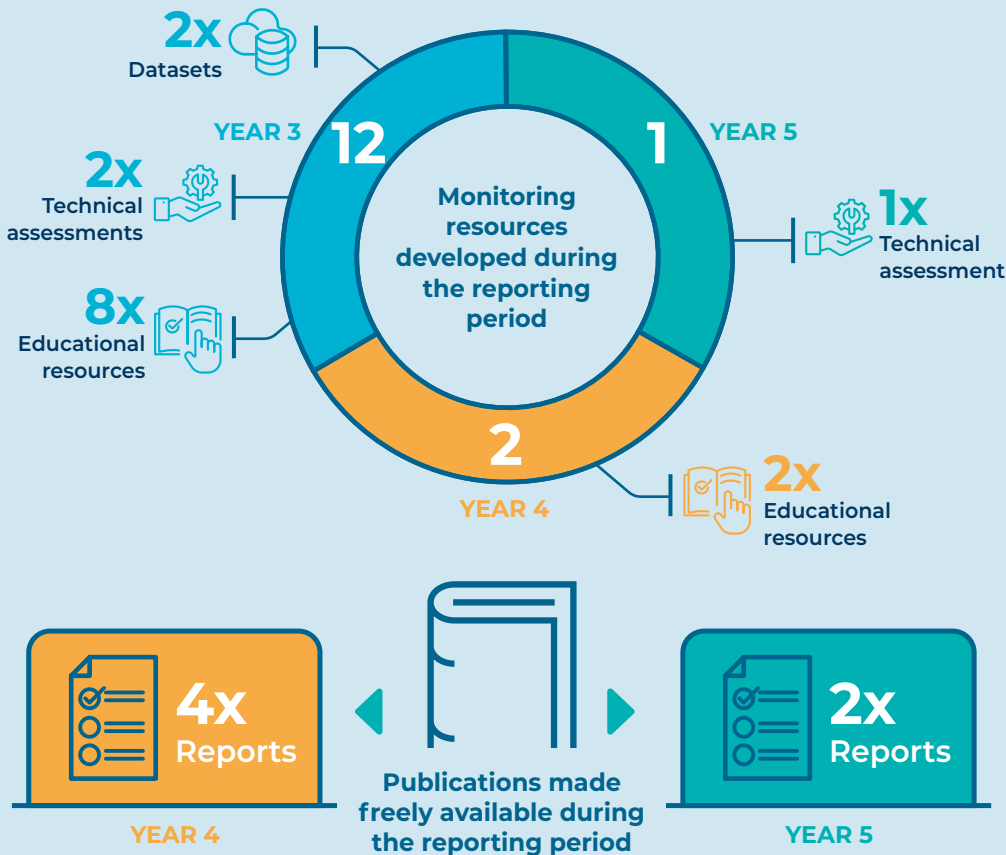
CASE STUDY

The OCPP developed a manual in collaboration between the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) to support the development of capacity in aquatic animal health in Ghana. The guidance manual for the management of aquatic animal health¹ was intended to act as a reference source for all MOFAD staff involved in managing and delivering services for the development of aquaculture in Ghana, including provision of advice and diagnostic services, surveillance and routine visits to farms.

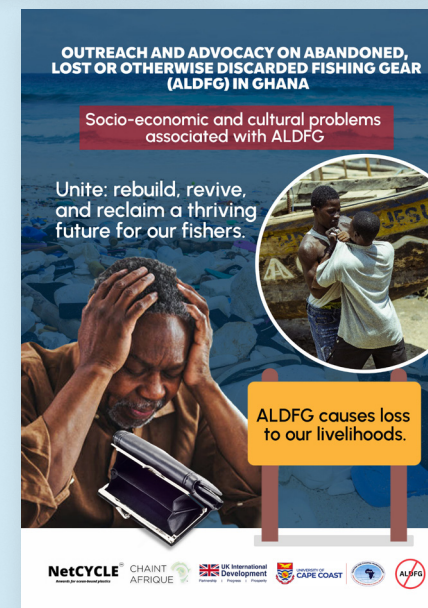
¹ Mewett, J, et al., 'Manual for the Management of Aquatic Animal Health in Ghana: a manual for responsible authorities of aquatic animal health', (September 2024)

Education and awareness

The OCPP took steps to enhance education, awareness and the exchange of scientific, technical knowledge and data in Ghana on a variety of topics concerning the marine environment.



The majority of products developed were educational resources ranging from the creation of educational packs such as those created for the Centre for Coastal Management. Posters, factsheets and videos were also created for the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fisheries Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority and Ghana Statistical Service.



Networks and Partnerships

The OCPP worked with the Ghanaian Government to develop and support active ocean-science related knowledge networks and partnerships – either as UK-partner country or in-country coalitions.



Number of public-private sector or business partnerships mobilised

3
Other

YEAR 3



Number of coalitions, governance structures, networks established, engaged or strengthened

1x
Established

YEAR 3

CASE STUDY

The OCPP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) in October 2023. The agreed areas of support included:

- The development of guidelines for the preparation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Ghana;
- Capacity building on MSP for LUSPA staff and other stakeholders;
- Completion of the piloted MSP and testing of the guidelines in two coastal districts in the Western Region.

CASE STUDY

The OCPP provided capacity building and training to the Fisheries Commission (FC) and the Landing Beach Enforcement Committee (LaBEC) in support of the Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana 2022-2026. This included educating fishers on relevant laws and regulations, training both fishers and observers and strengthening the capacity of FC personnel on fishing gear use. The work also helped LaBEC members improve their ability to respond to, and reduce, abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in their communities.

CASE STUDY

The OCPP assisted the [Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority \(LUSPA\)](#) in the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD) with the development of Marine Spatial Plans (MSP). This assistance was provided via the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) through research, advice, assistance and training to enable LUSPA to publish a Marine Spatial Development Framework for the entire Western Region of Ghana.