

Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in numbers

Sri Lanka

September 2026

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

Seeking long-term change to Sri Lanka's marine environment

The overarching intended impact for OCPP was to deliver activities which could support 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 are addressed in Sri Lanka 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.

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

- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Blue carbon habitat mapping
- Protected, endangered and threatened mobile species
- Sustainable seafoods – shrimp, mud crabs
- Stakeholder engagement
- Microplastic pollution
- Abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) pollution

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

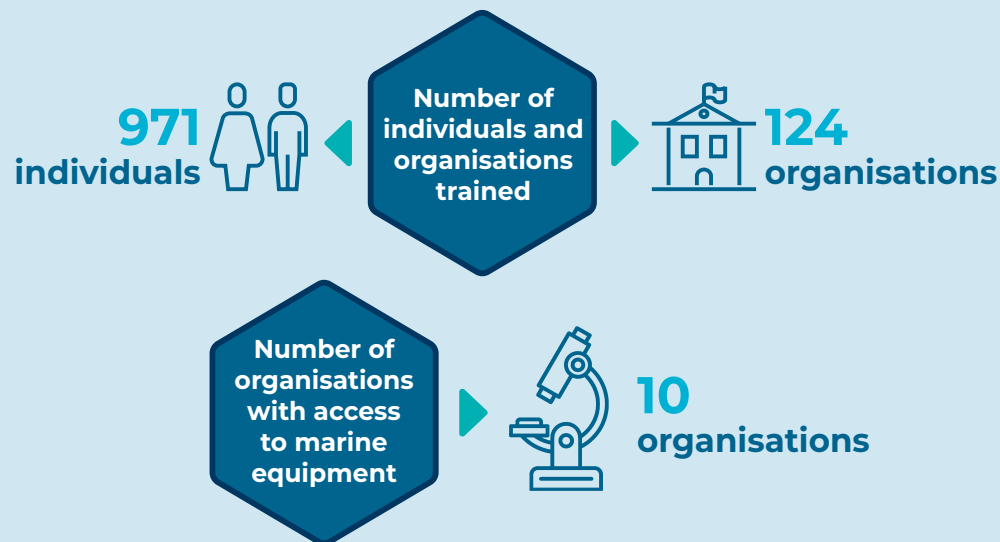
Outcome

Sri Lanka has made progressive steps in recent years to ban plastics. The Marine Litter Database, developed with CLiP and OCPP support, has contributed to building the evidence base for policymakers on the composition of marine pollution including plastics content. OCPP supported the gathering of beach survey data and resourced key institutions with laboratories and equipment to analyse marine litter. An extensive body of evidence demonstrating the scale plastics featured in marine pollution was also gathered.

OCPP further supported multi-media campaigns to raise public awareness of bans on plastics in Sri Lanka. It is important to note that while the OCPP contributed to this change, it cannot be fully attributed to the programme.

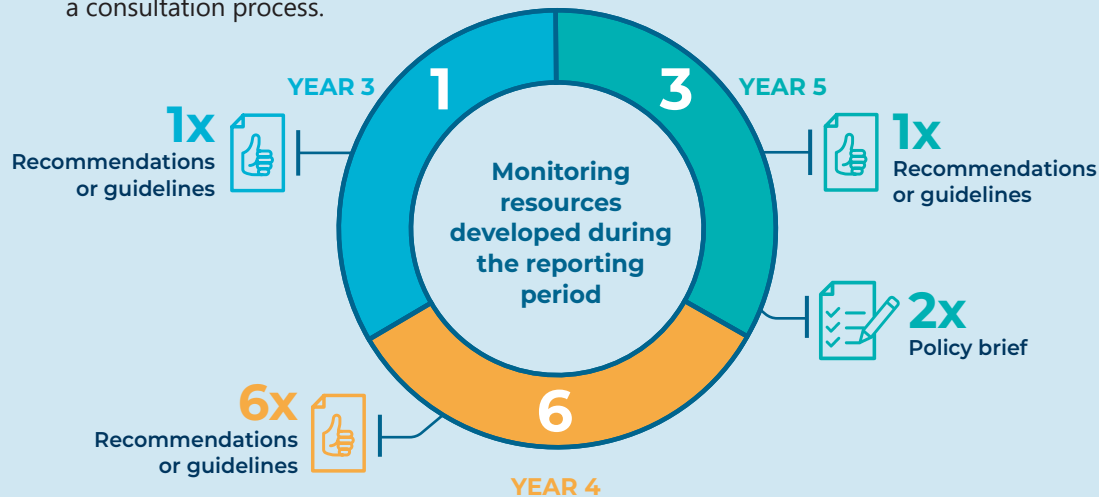
Marine knowledge and capacity

The programme worked to strengthen the capacity and capability of Sri Lankan stakeholders in marine science, management and governance. Of those surveyed, 87% of participants reported increased knowledge and capacity.



Policies and guidelines

In Sri Lanka, the programme proposed or developed policy and regulatory recommendations. 80% of the products developed were reported to have included a consultation process.



CASE STUDY

In 2023, a team of marine pollution experts from OCPP, [Southern African Foundation for Conservation of Coastal Birds \(SANCCOB\)](#) and [ITOPF](#) delivered a workshop entitled 'Working Towards Proactive Preparedness: Showcasing Science and Strengthening Collaboration in Marine Pollution Environmental Response'.

The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to showcase science, expertise and best practice from Sri Lanka and the UK, to enhance collaboration, communication and strengthen Sri Lanka's environmental response capabilities for marine pollution emergency response. Over 70 delegates from 28 different agencies attended each day.

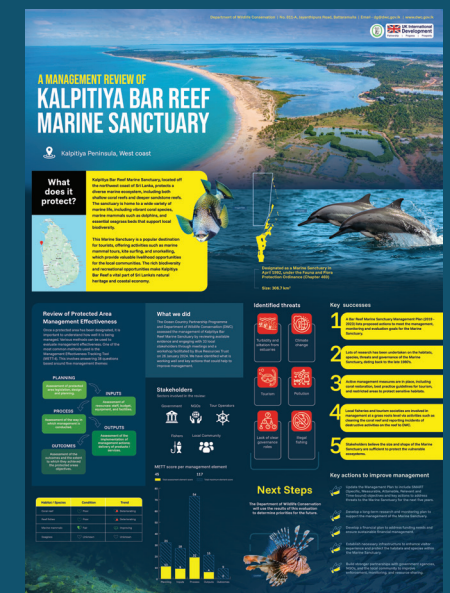
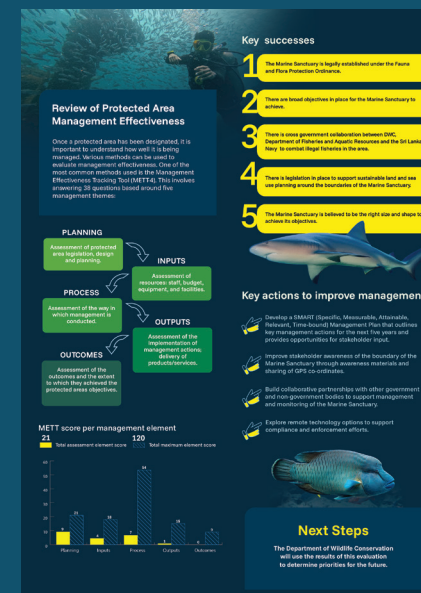
OCPP produced a report capturing the recommendations based on the key outcomes of this workshop and provides mechanisms for taking these recommendations forward.

CASE STUDY

OCPP further supported the Department of Wildlife Conservation in completing Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4) assessments for five of its Marine Protect Areas (MPAs) to understand the current managing effectiveness for each MPA. The five MPAs were:

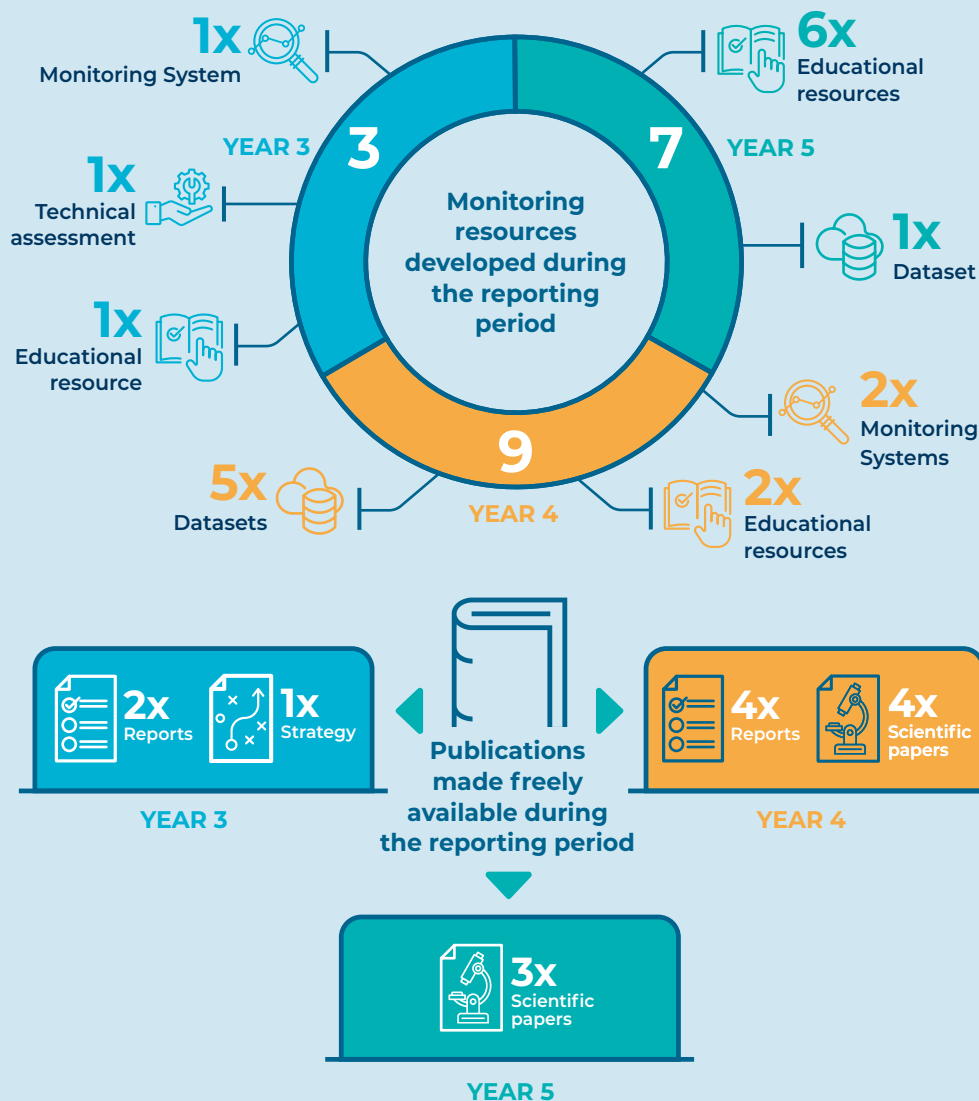
1. Adam's Bridge National Park
2. Great Basses and Little Basses Marine Sanctuary
3. Kapitiya Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary
4. Kayankerni Marine Sanctuary
5. Pigeon Island National Park

The METT assessment involved answering 38 questions based around five management themes. Summary posters and leaflets were then created detailing the results of these assessments.



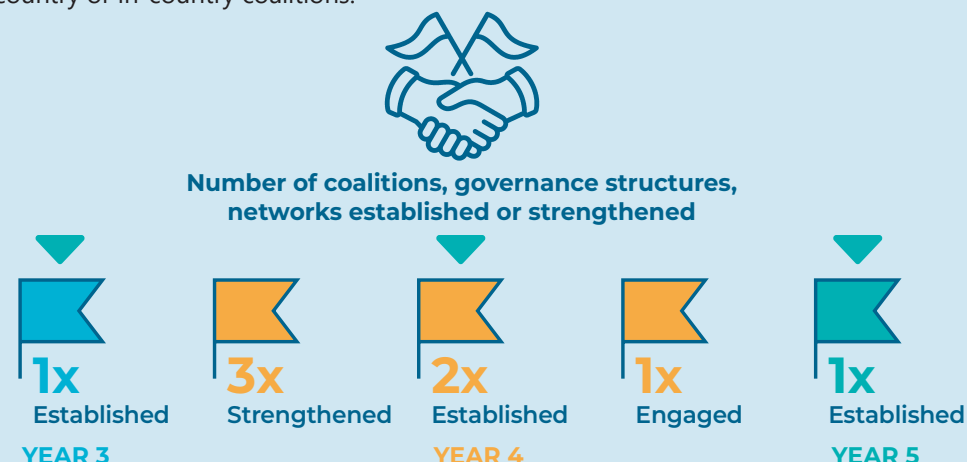
Education and awareness

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



Networks and partnerships

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



CASE STUDY

OCP supported the establishment of a Marine Pollution Emergency Response coalition. Working in partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka, OCP provided training and capacity building across different aspects of emergency response. Key areas of support included risk assessments, environmental impact assessments, oiled wildlife response and post-spill monitoring¹.

CASE STUDY

The National Oiled Wildlife Contingency Plan for Sri Lanka was developed by the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) with support from OCP in partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka. The plan is an important step towards developing Sri Lanka's oiled wildlife preparedness and response capability in accordance with international standards and protocols.

¹ For more information see: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/sri-lanka/>