

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Ocean Resilience and Sustainable Blue Economy

About Oxford Policy Management

We work in partnership with leaders, providing analytical and practical policy expertise through our global network to support economic growth and reduce poverty and disadvantage in low- and middle-income societies. With over 40 years' experience and several hundred staff across a global network of offices, we work across the policy cycle to deliver projects that lead to real and lasting change.

Within our Climate, Energy, and Nature practice, [Ocean and Blue Economy](#) work is being expanded with a focus on research, policy analysis, and stakeholder engagement to support evidence-based policies that balance economic growth with marine conservation.

Our offer:

Technical Assistance: Policy Reform and Governance

We are a global leader in **public sector reform, policy development, and capacity building** for sustainable natural resource management. With expertise in governance, climate resilience, and community empowerment, we have **delivered over 1,500 projects** across **120 countries**, offering cross-sectoral capabilities in programme management, data analytics, communications, and training:

- We design high-impact biodiversity projects through our in-country experts and regional offices, with proven success in unlocking climate finance across diverse contexts.
- Our teams think and work politically, combining local expertise with rigorous Political Economy analysis to deliver reforms that create lasting impact and improve lives through sustainable policy change.
- We build institutional capacity through expert-led policy and regulatory reform, delivering tailored, sustainable, and inclusive solutions that empower public sector institutions to address complex challenges independently and create lasting social impact.
- Empowering communities to scale locally-led solutions and diversify livelihoods through our expert-led, context-specific approaches that drive sustainable, impactful conservation outcomes.
- Leveraging our deep expertise in integrated, cross-sector planning to deliver rigorous analysis, context-specific, evidence-based solutions that engage policymakers, businesses, and local communities, fostering sustainable and equitable outcomes.

- Extensive expertise in survey-based research and UNFCCC processes, delivering tailored, actionable solutions through our technical leadership and passion for empowering ocean-based climate action in vulnerable regions.
- Integrating gender and social inclusion into programme strategies by leveraging technical expertise and passion for delivering tailored, sustainable solutions that prioritise equity and local engagement.

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

We are a market leader in establishing and delivering **third-party quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems** for bilateral and multilateral agencies, including operational, process, and impact evaluations at the country, regional, and programmatic or portfolio levels. We have conducted over **200 large-scale project and programme evaluations and reviews** in **65 countries worldwide**. We can:

- Specialise in designing and implementing independent, evidence-based MEL systems, delivering context-specific insights that support the improvement of policies, programmes, and services, while aligning with global standards such as the Paris Declaration and OECD-DAC evaluation criteria.
- Apply MEL expertise to design adaptive monitoring systems that support delivery partners in evaluating performance, navigating complex situations, and ensuring effective, evidence-based decision-making, driving impactful and lasting outcomes.





We work across thematic areas of:

Marine Biodiversity & Livelihoods

We integrate ecosystem-based management with sustainable livelihoods to protect marine ecosystems and improve the socioeconomic wellbeing of coastal communities. We help governments design policies for marine biodiversity conservation, and habitat restoration, while providing incentives and opportunities for local stakeholders. Our work focuses on marine protected area management and governance of marine resources, aligning environmental conservation with socio-economic development goals.

- **Independent Evaluation of the Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature (OCEAN) Grants Programme:** Undertaking an evaluation of OCEAN Grants programme, which aims to restore ocean health and empower local communities to thrive (Defra, 2024-present).
- **Review of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Commonwealth Coastal and Island Countries for Ocean-Based Actions and Commitments:** Provided a macro-level overview of the integration of ocean-based actions in the intended NDCs, and/or new and revised NDCs submitted by Commonwealth member countries to the UNFCCC (Commonwealth Blue Charter, 2023).
- **MEL Systems for the Ocean Country Partnership Programme:** Assisted 10 countries across Africa, Asia, and Pacific Islands in designing a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor country-level impact of the programme (Defra, 2023).
- **Asia Pacific Regional Climate Resilience Platform:** Mapped biodiversity “hotspots” in South and Central Asia to deliver nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies that enhance climate resilience and biodiversity (FCDO, 2019-20).

Blue Economy

We help governments, NGOs, financial institutions, and industries develop and implement sustainable Blue Economy policies. Our expert network provides marine policy and planning expertise to guide key decision-makers.

- **Independent Evaluation of the Blue Planet Fund:** Provided MEL services to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to support

the delivery of the £500M Blue Planet Fund, promoting sustainable blue economies globally (Defra, 2024-present).

- **Green Growth Equity Fund Technical Cooperation Facility:** Developed a Blue Growth Strategy for India focused on coastal resource management, fisheries infrastructure, value chain improvements, and livelihood development (FCDO, 2020-24).
- **Harnessing natural resources for human development:** Provided policymakers with practical guidance on leveraging newly discovered natural resources to enhance human development outcomes in Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2014-15).

Sustainable Fisheries

We deliver strategic advice to governments, NGOs, and the private sector on sustainable fisheries management, focusing on responsible practices, ecosystem health, and long-term viability. Our expertise covers policy development, regulatory frameworks, and capacity building for small- and large-scale fisheries, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- **Action on Climate Today:** Integrated coastal habitat and biodiversity restoration into climate policies across 10 South Asian countries, while developing strategies to expand shrimp farming for water use efficiency in agriculture (FCDO, 2014-19).
- **Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth:** Facilitated economic transformation of rural households by strengthening sustainable fishery producer groups, introducing fish culture techniques, and enhancing access to credit (World Bank, 2017-22).
- **Capacity building for the successful implementation of the Mekong River Commission Core River Monitoring Network:** Strengthened the capacity of experts in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand by training them in fisheries and biodiversity monitoring to enhance water resource governance and improve collective basin management at both regional and national levels (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 2020-21).



Marine Pollution

We combat marine pollution through innovative solutions and expert guidance. We partner with governments, NGOs, and businesses to assess ocean health and develop effective waste management and debris removal strategies.

- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy for the Pacific Ocean Litter Project:** Developed a GESI strategy that supports the Pacific Regional Action Plan to decrease marine litter within the coastal and ocean environments of Pacific Island countries by reducing the availability of single-use plastics (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, 2020).
- **Plastic Policy Simulator and Pilot Application in Indonesia:** Developed a decision support tool that enables policymakers to evaluate plastic pollution reduction policies and quantify their economic, financial, environmental, and social impacts (World Bank, 2020-22).
- **The Resilient Waters Programme:** Developed management plans in Southern African communities and ecosystems through improved management of transboundary natural resources including mangrove conservation and nature-based solutions (United States Agency for International Development, 2018-23).
- **Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate Programme:** Conducted Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) for the programme aimed at enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations in Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar to climate change, while safeguarding economic growth (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 2019-22).
- **Social Protection and Climate Change Feasibility Study and Design in Mozambique:** Implemented climate resilience system and policies for social protection in Mozambique to improve responses to climate shock (International Climate Finance, 2015-16).
- **Urban Living Lab on Sustainable and Smart Cities in India:** Provided guidance and resources for developing nature-based solutions in coastal areas vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and habitat degradation (Royal Danish Embassy, 2020-22).

Blue Finance

We create financial solutions that balance marine conservation with economic growth. We design innovative funding mechanisms to support ocean sustainability while enabling responsible Blue Economy development.

- **Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific:** Helped governments in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) build capabilities and assess and access mitigation and adaptation finance needs in line with national climate targets across oceans and coastal resilience, ecosystem adaptation and mitigation sectors (Green Climate Fund, 2011-17).
- **Disaster Risk Financing for Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP):** Improved financing flows for SRSP and helped improve financing of shock-responsive programmes in Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines (UNICEF, 2020-21).

Climate Resilience

We help governments and NGOs integrate climate change into policy and strategy development. We focus on nature-based solutions, including blue carbon initiatives and climate-resilient coastal management, to address socio-ecological challenges.



Our experts:



Dr. Sierra Ison
Senior Consultant

Sierra is our technical expert for the Blue Planet Fund programme focused on building capacity of partner countries on marine protection. Sierra brings 12 years of ocean science, conservation and management experience. Sierra leads and advises programmes of work focused on coastal and marine conservation, resource management, sustainable finance, sustainable coastal economies, sustainable fisheries development, and participatory approaches. Her experience in oceans includes data collection analysis, fieldwork with local and national governments, industry representatives, Indigenous communities, scientists, and NGOs. Her project experience includes developing adaptation pathways for turtle conservation, developing and leading programmes on sustainable financing mechanisms for Marine Protected Areas in Fiji, and developing management recommendations for sea cucumber fisheries in The Bahamas.



Dr. Chris Brooks
Principal Consultant

Chris Brooks is the Team Lead for Nature and Environment at OPM. He has a Doctorate in Conservation Biology with more than 18 years of experience in integrated natural resource management, protected area planning, and biodiversity conservation at regional and national levels. His work has mostly centred on the nexus between biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable economic development, where he has helped to support policy reforms, develop cross-sector plans for inclusive development and enhance economic equity for local communities from their surrounding natural resources. Chris is the Programme Director for the independent evaluation of Defra's OCEAN programme and was the team lead for the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean. He led the biodiversity climate component of USAID's Resilient Waters Programme, overseeing the development of four Protected Area Management Plans and helping to build coastal resilience in Mozambique through mangrove conservation.



Katherine Cooke
Principal Consultant

Katherine is a Principal Technical Policy and Sustainability Consultant with more than 17 years' experience, specialising in climate finance, the blue economy and international climate change policy mitigation with practical experience in SIDS. Katherine has high level experience in MEL, mixed methods and theory-based evaluation having led projects for key clients including governments development funds and the UN. She has a detailed understanding of the UNFCCC and international and ocean climate finance landscape and deep understanding of the drivers for a sustainable blue economy. In collaboration with the Commonwealth Blue Charter, Katherine launched a paper on Ocean Based Actions in Country NDCs for Global Stocktake (GST). She has worked closely with country governments on the use of earth observation and geospatial data for evidence-based project design, baselining and monitoring and evaluation of climate change and ocean-based projects.



Noemie de La Brosse
Senior Consultant

Noemie de La Brosse MA brings ten years of consulting experience as a strong technical and impact evaluation project manager leading on client engagement, technical coordination and data collection methods and analysis. Her technical focus is on climate resilience, urban sanitation, ocean plastics, circular economy, and participatory approaches. Her experience in climate mitigation and oceans includes data collection and analysis, fieldwork with local and national governments and informal workers, and high-level research and learning documentation. Noemie is currently managing the development of impact indicators and Theories of Change for eight countries for a UK Blue Planet Fund programme focused on building capacity of partner countries on marine protection and marine plastics. Noemie coordinated several scoping studies on reducing plastics pollution commissioned by Defra and the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance.



Our mission is to improve lives through sustainable policy change.



Find out more

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