

## Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS): A Participatory and Multi-Stakeholder Process



Technical Dialogue in kind cooperation with the  
Information Management Strategy (IMS)  
Multi-Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG) among Key  
Stakeholders and the ROGS Task Force on: “Ocean Accounts”  
14th March 2023, 15:00-17:15 EAT  
Dialogue Report

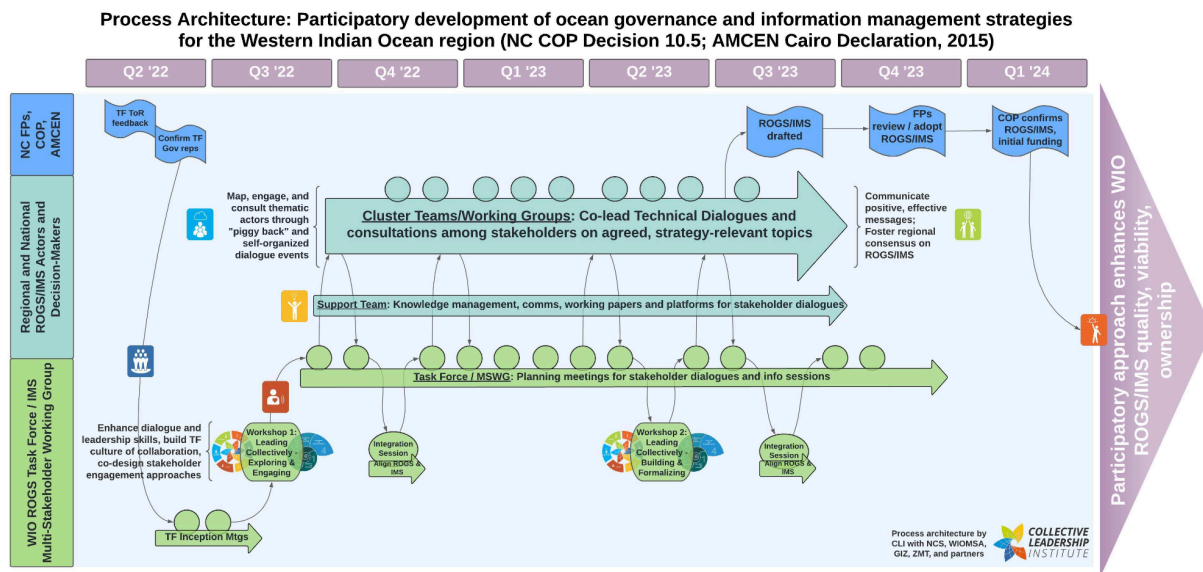
# I. Introduction

## Background

Inspired by, and contributing to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Cairo Declaration of 2015, Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention adopted a Decision at their 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) in November 2021 to develop a **Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS)** for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) through participatory processes. Contracting Parties are Comoros, French Territories, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Seychelles, Somalia, and Tanzania.

The **Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS)** is actively supporting the implementation of this Decision in partnership with the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* through the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (**WIOGI**), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (**WIOMSA**), and the Collective Leadership Institute (**CLI**), which together constitute the ROGS Support Team. Since May 2022, the ROGS Support Team has been working in tandem with a multi-actor ROGS Task Force including members from across the WIO region.

The ROGS Support Team is currently organizing the **co-development of ROGS content through a series of participatory Technical Dialogues (including this one) among ROGS Task Force members and other key stakeholders**, shown as part of this process architecture:



To inform this Technical Dialogue, a background paper on Ocean Accounts was distributed leading up to the session. Please see Annex.

## Dialogue Goals

### Concrete Goals

- Increase shared understanding regarding ocean accounts and their benefits

- Discuss and generate inputs for the ROGS regarding ocean accounts

### **Relational Goals**

- Build further trust for dialogue among key stakeholders and ROGS Task Force

### **Process Goals**

- Understand how this Technical Dialogue fits into the participatory ROGS development process and identify next steps

### **Facilitators**

- Hauke Kegler, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)
- Dominic Stucker, Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)
- Mai Elashmawy, CLI

### **Participants**

This Technical Dialogue was attended by 36 people from the ROGS Task Force, the IMS MSWG, and their respective Support Teams. Participants came from the public and private sectors and were based across at least seven WIO countries and beyond. Please see the Annex for a full list of participants.

## **II. Joint Session between the Regional Ocean Governance Task Force and the Information Management Strategy Multi-Stakeholder Working Group**

### **Introduction**

The first session of the meeting was a joint technical dialogue between the Regional Ocean Governance Task Force (ROGS TF) and Information Management Strategy Multi-Stakeholder Working Group (IMS MSWG). Professor Ken Findlay, Research Chair at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Centre for Sustainable Oceans, South Africa was invited to provide input on ocean accounting for the two groups. The discussion provided content for both the ROGS and IMS.

### **Opening Remarks**

Ocean accounts are essential to understanding the state of our oceans. By tracking key indicators such as water quality, fish stocks, and ecosystem health, ocean accounts provide a basis for making informed decisions about ocean management and conservation, as well as developing effective strategies for the same. The purpose of the Technical Dialogue was to explore the importance of ocean accounts and how they can be used to inform ocean governance decision making.

Mr. Theuri Mwangi, Nairobi Convention Secretariat(NCS) stated in his welcoming remarks that the Nairobi Convention is a regional mechanism working to bring together different stakeholders (governments, civil society, and communities) to help address long-standing challenges affecting coastal and marine ecosystems of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and emerging issues such as plastics and oil spills. He stated that the Convention is taking ecosystem-based management approaches necessitating the review of several Protocols and development of new instruments such as the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) to deliver on different agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Mwangi highlighted that the ROGS is being developed to provide a cross-sector holistic approach to coordinate different actors and stakeholders in the WIO when it comes to ocean governance.

He cited the blue economy as an emerging thematic area around ocean governance given that there is a push for sustainable use of ocean resources for different economic activities. This is captured in the ROGS as a priority theme and, in this regard, the Nairobi Convention is working towards a sustainable blue economy that includes marine biodiversity protection, knowledge management, and governance i.e. ensuring that economic growth has minimal impact on marine resources.

Regarding the Information Management Strategy (IMS) for the WIO, he stated that an integrated approach is needed to address different policy issues, a process that requires bringing different stakeholders together to a single vision and connecting marine users and knowledge management generators with policy makers to inform ocean governance and management. He reiterated that knowledge management is a decision of the governments of the WIO as per Nairobi Convention COP 10 for informed ocean governance decision making. He emphasized that IMS should be able to inform most initiatives on how to communicate in the region on what is needed, including the knowledge-to-science interface. He stated that ocean accounting is an important tool to help achieve this.

Mr. Hauke Kegler, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), as the technical partner for the IMS, also made his welcoming remarks stating the importance of the dialogue for both the ROGS and IMS. He stated that ocean accounting would provide a solid foundation to develop planning scenarios and ecosystem-based approaches to manage marine resources. He highlighted that ocean accounts require human and technical capacities to be set up within the WIO region.

### **Technical Input on Ocean Accounts**

Professor Ken Findlay then made his presentation on “The Importance of Ocean Accounts for Information Management and Ocean Governance.” Some key highlights from his presentation include:

- a) There is a need to account for ocean changes in ocean governance processes. This can be achieved through various types of ocean accounts, including ecosystem accounts,

environmental economic accounts, sector-specific satellite accounts, risk assessments, governance accounts, and social accounts.

- b) Regarding governance, he pointed out that relying solely on the GDP metric is inadequate because it assumes that resources are shared by everyone and does not consider external factors. Additionally, it faces difficulties in establishing consistent indicators and ensuring inclusiveness.
- c) The primary value of ocean accounting (OA) lies in its ability to track changes. OA allows us to record advantages, expenses, and wealth related to the ocean. Therefore, having just one ocean account would not be practical or beneficial for a country.

He concluded by recommending further reading on ocean accounting in the [Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting](#) developed by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP).

## Summary of Plenary Discussion

Questions and answers, plus an open plenary discussion followed, including these highlights:

- *Mr. Alex Benkenstein (ROGS TF)* asked about the level of interest of adoption of ocean accounting nationally and regionally. Professor Findlay stated that it is a developing discipline. Some WIO countries including Mozambique, Kenya, and South Africa have shown significant interest.
- *Mr. Kamal Thabiti (IMS MSWG)* asked how to capture the informal sector in ocean accounts. Professor Findlay responded that it has been tried under the GOAP in the context of fisheries and marine protected areas (MPAs). The OAs looked at the data on ecosystems within and outside MPAs.
- *Mr. Hauke Kegler (ZMT)* asked about implementation of OA at the regional level. Professor Findlay responded that regional OA priorities could be chosen. A good starting point could be residual OAs, e.g water quality, plastics pollution.
- *Ms. Sybille Riedmiller (ROGS TF)* asked about how to do accurate coastal tourism accounts as data and information is spread across transport and service sectors. Professor Findlay responded that there are frameworks, such as the AISEC framework, that can be used to disaggregate terrestrial and marine data and information.
- *Mr. Hauke Reuter (ZMT)* commented that OAs would be a very useful tool to account for change by hindcasting and forecasting through modeling scenarios.

The ROGS Task Force and IMS MSWG then went into separate break out groups aimed at focusing on specific aspects of ocean accounts.

### III. ROGS Task Force Break Out Discussions

#### Technical Input and Discussion on Ocean Accounts: Integrating Knowledge for Governance

Mr. Kieran Kelleher, WIOMSA Advisor, made a presentation on “Using Ocean Accounting to Target and Monitor the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy.” He highlighted that ocean accounting at the regional level could be useful for providing a baseline for the WIO, suggesting measurable targets, informing decision-making, creating a bridge between science and practice, and assessing progress in the implementation of a sustainable blue economy. He suggested that a regional OA could underpin transboundary cooperation, e.g., on fisheries, biodiversity, ecological connectivity, pollution and oil spills, climate change, and coral reef conservation. Please see the Annex for Mr. Kelleher’s full slide set.

The ROGS TF then discussed if and how ocean accounts might be a useful tool for regional ocean governance and what it would mean for the ROGS. This resulted in widespread agreement regarding the utility of ocean accounts for ROG.

Based on this consensus, ROGS TF members divided into their respective Cluster Teams to discuss and document which ocean accounts are possible to compile at the WIO level and important for monitoring the ROGS. **Those sectors that were seen as possible to compile at regional level are grouped below according to their respective priority level as suggested by participants :**

##### High Priority

- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable fisheries
- Ports and trade
- Prevention, reduction and control of marine plastic pollution
- Conservation and rehabilitation of coral reef ecosystems
- Marine spatial planning

##### Mid-Priority

- Regional scientific cooperation
- Common positions in international oceans affairs

##### Low Priority

- Development of a circular blue economy
- Managing deepsea resources
- Prevention, reduction and control of nutrient/ chemical pollution
- Human capacity development

Suggestions for measurement indicators were collected for those sectors where they remain unclear.

### **Next Steps**

Based on the outcomes of this Technical Dialogue, an “Ocean Accounts Inventory” was initiated that offers an overview of existing national ocean accounts data sets that could be compiled at regional level.

This report will be posted to the Nairobi Convention Community of Practice to enable a period of public consultation. If you wish to participate, [please sign up for the Nairobi Convention Community of Practice here](#) and add your comments. Together with public comments, the content generated during this Technical Dialogue will be integrated into the ROGS and delivered in draft form to Nairobi Convention Focal Points leading up to the Nairobi Convention COP in early 2024.

Mr. Dominic Stucker highlighted upcoming events in the participatory ROGS development process. Learn more about the ROGS Task Force and participatory strategy development process [on the Nairobi Convention website](#).

### **Closing**

Dr. Timothy Andrew, NCS, thanked participants for attending the webinar and stated that ocean accounting is a very useful tool for the region and would serve the ROGS well.

### **IV. Participant Assessment**

Participants assessed the utility of the Technical Dialogue as a 4.7 out of 5.0, the organization as a 4.6, and average goal achievement as a 4.1. For more detailed results, please see the Annex.

## ANNEX 1

### Background Paper: What are Ocean Accounts?

Ocean accounts (OA) are integrated records of regularly compiled and comparable data concerning ocean environment assets and activities (e.g., extent/condition of mangroves), economic activity (e.g., sale of fish) and social conditions (e.g., coastal employment, cultural heritage).

National accounts influence public policy — All countries maintain systems of national accounts, which inform and justify decision-making about economic policy and development. The accounts are generally maintained by National Statistical Offices or Finance Ministries. They are based on the international standard System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA) and are used to regularly produce and report the headline indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Ocean accounts organise ocean data in a common framework, integrated with existing national accounts — Ocean accounts are simply integrated records of economic activity (e.g. sale of fish), social conditions (e.g. coastal employment and poverty), and environmental conditions (e.g. extent / condition of mangroves) that are compiled on a regular basis (e.g. annually) and are compatible with international statistical standards. They are based in particular on the SNA, and System for Environmental Economic Accounting 2012 which is now used by at least 80 countries to account for policy-relevant environment–economy relationships

Ocean accounts integrate four key components:

1. Macro-economic accounts, providing economic measures such as GDP.
2. Environmental-economic accounts that report on: (a) the state of ocean assets, or stocks (such as fish or coral reefs) and (b) flows. Flows include goods and services taken from or flowing to the oceans. Physical flows include fish production or pollution
3. Ecosystem accounts which present the oceans in a spatial framework or report on the extent, condition, biodiversity, provision of services, and value of ecosystems.
4. Structured data on ocean beneficiaries, on technology, on governance, and on ocean management.

The ocean accounts framework provides a standard accounting structure to integrate social, economic and environmental information in alignment using international statistical standards. Applying the framework produces integrated indicators against which changes can be assessed and measured. These indicators also inform decision-making and support the prioritisation of areas requiring further attention by highlighting data deficiencies, ocean governance gaps and under-explored research areas.

The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) Africa Community of Practice (ACoP) is a regional collaboration platform bringing together governments, international organisations and research institutions who are interested in learning about and developing ocean accounts in



Africa. The ACoP is led by the [Cape Peninsula University of Technology \(CPUT\)](#). The ACoP objectives are to:

- Build interest in, and understanding of, ocean accounting in Africa.
- Support countries in Africa with the development and implementation of ocean accounts.
- Assist countries in Africa to mainstream ocean accounting into ocean governance tools, economic accounts and national development planning.
- Provide a communication and collaboration platform for regional GOAP members and local partners to engage in mutual capacity building and share knowledge on ocean accounting.
- Showcase how ocean accounts can support evidence-based decision-making and policy development to underpin the sustainable development of the ocean.
- Showcase how information on the ocean and ocean resource-use can be utilised to produce statistics and indicators to aid sustainable development decision making.
- Promote learning, science diplomacy and the creation of new knowledge to advance the development and uptake of ocean accounting in Africa.
- Contact persons are: [Prof. Ken Findlay](#), CPUT, South Africa; [Dr. Tai Loureiro](#), GOAP Africa CoP & Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Oceans, CPUT, South Africa

### Links for further reading

[Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting and First Annual Meeting of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership](#), Sydney, Australia, 12-15 November 2019.

[High Level Ocean Panel – Ocean accounts.](#)

GOAP ACoP Position paper: [Ocean Accounting in Africa.](#)

Policy brief on opportunities for ocean accounting in Africa: [Ocean Accounts – A Sea Change Approach in Ocean Decision Making](#)

Websites: [The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership](#); [West Indian Ocean Governance Exchange Network](#); [Africa Natural Capital Accounting Community of Practice.](#)

Introductory webinar: [African NCA Community of Practice Webinar: Ocean Accounting – Novel approaches to Ocean Governance](#)

## ANNEX 2

### Participants in Ocean Accounts Technical Dialogue

	Name	Organisation	Country	IMS/ ROGS
<b>IMS Multi-Stakeholder Working Group Members</b>				
1	Masumbuko Semba	The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)	Tanzania	IMS

2	Nassor Abdalla Nassor	Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries (MBEF)	Zanzibar	IMS
3	Julien Barde, PhD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)	France	IMS
4	Ranaivosoa Rija Mamitiana Olivier	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)	Madagascar	IMS
5	Sofia Chambe	Geomatic Studies Mozambique	Mozambique	IMS
6	Siajali Pamba	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	IMS
7	Naly Rakotoarivony	Blue Ventures	Madagascar	IMS
8	Ednah Onkundi	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)	Kenya	IMS
9	Doreen Simiyu	SWIOTUNA	Kenya	IMS
10	Kamal Thabiti	Researcher	Comoros	IMS
<b>ROGS Task Force Members</b>				
11	José Ariscado	Ministério do Mar, Águas Interiores e Pescas (MIMAIP)	Mozambique	ROGS
12	Sibongile Mavimbela	Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Botswana	ROGS
13	Mohamad Ali Muse	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Djibouti	ROGS
14	Sibylle Riedmiller	Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd. (CHICOP)	Zanzibar	ROGS
15	Alex Benkenstein	South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)	South Africa	ROGS
16	Andre Ciseau	Ports Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA)	Kenya	ROGS
17	Effuah Kwaw	Ocean Hub Africa	South Africa	ROGS

18	Julius Francis	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	ROGS
<b>Ocean Accounts Stakeholders</b>				
19	Ken Findlay	Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)	South Africa	Speaker
20	Thierry Bassett	Marine Biotechnology Products	Mauritius	Guest
21	Aurelia Care	Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS)	Kenya	Guest

<b>IMS and ROGS Support Team Members</b>				
22	Theuri Mwangi	NCS	Kenya	IMS
23	Abel Kiprono	NCS	Kenya	IMS
24	Hauke Kegler	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)	Germany	IMS
25	Hauke Reuter	ZMT	Germany	IMS
26	Agnes Mukami	NCS	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
27	Melisa Mureithi	NCS	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
28	Caleb Braham	German Development Cooperation (GIZ)	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
29	Carol Mutiso	GIZ	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
30	Shylene Njeri	GIZ	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
31	Yvonne Waweru	GIZ	Kenya	IMS & ROGS
32	Mai ElAshmawy	Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)	Egypt	IMS & ROGS

33	Timothy Andrews	NCS	Kenya	ROGS
34	Bonface Mutisya	NCS	Kenya	ROGS
35	Kieran Kelleher	WIOMSA	Ireland	ROGS
36	Dominic Stucker	Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)	Spain	ROGS

## ANNEX 3

“Ocean Accounts: Integrating Knowledge for Governance” input slides by Mr. Kieran Kelleher

**Participatory Development of the WIO  
Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS)**

**OCEAN ACCCOUNTS:  
INTEGRATING KNOWLEDGE FOR GOVERNANCE**

**for discussion by IMS and ROGS Task Force**

**Kieran Kelleher, Nairobi Convention ROGS Task Force Support Team**

**14 March 2023**

## Contents

1. The Regional Ocean Governance (ROGS) stakeholder participatory process
2. A role for OA in the ROGS?
3. Regional governance priorities identified by the Task Force
4. What is needed for inclusion of OA in the ROGS?

## ROGS development process with stakeholder Task Force

1. ToRs approved Nairobi Conv. Focal Points, reviewed by RECs (Feb. 2022)
2. Regional Task Force (countries, RECs, civil society) (Apr and Jun 2022)
  - preliminary identification of regional priorities
3. ROGS development process and framework or ‘skeleton’ (Aug – Sept 2022)
  - A. Strategy Document (to present to the NC COP in early 2023)
    - ❑ policies, principles, links to SDGs
    - ❑ State of the WIO baseline
    - ❑ Sector and thematic priority actions – Technical Dialogues
  - B. Implementation Mechanisms
    - ❑ Institutional arrangements
    - ❑ Financing & resourcing
    - ❑ Monitoring, review and adjustment

*Ocean Accounts in the WIO Regional Ocean  
Governance Strategy - for discussion*

3

## How can OA ‘fit’ in the ROGS ?

- ❑ Ocean governance is a key rationale for OAs
  - OA can contribute to a baseline for the State of the WIO
  - OA can suggest measurable targets for a sustainable WIO
  - OA can inform decision-making and bridge between sciences
  - OAs can help assess progress towards a sustainable blue economy in the WIO
  - OAs can Monitor & Evaluate progress in WIO regional ocean governance
- ❑ A regional OA can underpin transboundary cooperation, e.g., on
  - fisheries, biodiversity, ecological connectivity
  - pollution & oil spill
  - climate change, coral reef conservation

*Ocean Accounts in the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy - for discussion*

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## ROGS priorities and Technical Dialogues by ‘Cluster’

### Blue Economy & Maritime Security Cluster

- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable fisheries
- Managing offshore energy (incl. oil/ gas platforms)
- Effective maritime security and enforcement
- Ports and trade
- Development of a circular blue economy
- Managing deepsea resources

### Environment and Natural Resources Cluster

- Adaptation to and Mitigation of Climate Change
- Prevention, reduction and control of marine plastic pollution
- Prevention, reduction and control of nutrient and chemical pollution
- Conservation and rehabilitation of coral reef ecosystems
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Alignment of institutions on a ‘regional’ ABNJ

### Science and Knowledge Cluster

- Scientific advice in support of the priorities of the other two clusters
- Science to governance (institutional arrangements)
- Regional scientific cooperation
- Raised public awareness
- Human capacity development
- Transfer of technology
- Common positions in international oceans affairs

#### Regional priorities identified by Stakeholder Task Force

*Ocean Accounts in the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy - for discussion*

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## Key questions

1. Is (are) OAs a useful tool for governance ?
2. What is the role of OA in the ROGS ?
3. Can OAs be built at regional level (ROA)?
4. If yes (or yes with caveats), what are the priority sectors/ themes and what is the basis for selection ?
5. Is there a realistic pathway for ROA development ?

*Ocean Accounts & the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy - for discussion*

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## What is needed for inclusion of OA in the ROGS?

- Ideally – a consensus on priority focal areas at regional level
  - based on practical considerations: e.g., data availability, current targets, human resources and capacity, regional cooperation
  - economic value, loss of environmental value, most employment
- A synthesis of the state of OA in the WIO – available information, major gaps, ability to compile at regional scale
  - baseline information
- An indicative roadmap for OA development
  - priorities, leadership, resources
  - its application at the WIO regional scale



## ANNEX 4

Participants assessment of dialogue goals were collected and the results are as follows:

1. Assessment of achieving the goal of "Increasing shared understanding regarding ocean accounts"	4.1 / 5
2. Assessment of achieving the goal of "Discussing and generating inputs for the ROGS regarding ocean accounts"	4.0 / 5
3. Assessment of achieving the goal of "Building further trust for dialogue among key stakeholders and ROGS Task Force"	4.1 / 5
4. Assessment of achieving the goal of "Understanding how this Technical Dialogue fits into the participatory ROGS development process and identify next steps"	4.0 / 5
5. Assessment of the overall usefulness of this Technical Dialogue	4.7 / 5
6. Assessment of the overall organization of this Technical Dialogue	4.6 / 5