



**OCEAN
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SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PRINCIPLES

The [Sustainable Ocean Principles](#) aim to promote the well-being of the ocean for current and future generations, and to emphasize the shared responsibility of businesses to take necessary actions to secure a healthy and productive ocean. Companies signing on to the Sustainable Ocean Principles commit to assess their impact on the ocean and integrate ocean sustainability into their overall strategy. The principles provide a framework for responsible business practices in the ocean. They build upon and supplement the [Ten Principles](#) of the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

What does it entail to sign the Sustainable Ocean Principles?

Endorsing the Sustainable Ocean Principles is an aspirational pledge. Companies of all sizes and levels of ocean stewardship maturity are welcome to sign on as long as they commit to continuous improvement.

A set of Practical Guidances has also been developed to complement and operationalize the Sustainable Ocean Principles for specific industry sectors. For each principle, the guidances provide a set of actions which can be implemented, exemplified by inspiration good practices. Each guidance includes an analysis of the sustainability challenges and opportunities of the sector. The guidances are dynamic working documents. They will be reviewed on a regular basis to follow new legislation, best business practices, higher standards and market innovations. Currently available Practical Guidances can be accessed [here](#). Additional sector-specific guidances are being developed.

What is required of companies interested in endorsing the Sustainable Ocean Principles?

Companies of all sizes, industry sectors, geographies and levels of ocean stewardship maturity are eligible and encouraged to endorse the principles. Endorsements are welcome from companies with limited experience with ocean related issues who want to use the initiative to spark their stewardship efforts. Companies are asked to make a commitment to continuous improvement to uphold the nine principles.

To endorse the principles, companies must already be signatories of the UN Global Compact or agree to become signatories within one year of endorsing the principles. More information on joining the UN Global Compact can be found [here](#).



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There is no financial commitment required to endorse the Sustainable Ocean Principles. However, participation in the UN Global Compact does require an annual contribution determined based on a company's revenue.

After endorsing the principles, companies must publicly report on their progress on an annual basis through the UN Global Compact [Communication on Progress \(CoP\)](#). Reporting on progress made to implement the Sustainable Ocean Principles can be done through the CoP in a few ways, including:

- A section within the company's broader UN Global Compact CoP
- A section within the company's broader annual sustainability report
- A standalone report

What are the benefits of endorsing the Sustainable Ocean Principles?

By endorsing the principles, companies can:

- Demonstrate their commitment to ocean sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals to investors, customers, employees, communities and other key stakeholders.
- Integrate ocean-related challenges into their strategy.
- Use the principles as a due diligence tool and to guide interactions with other companies.
- Contribute to the development and updating of sector-specific Practical Guidances.

A full list of signatories to the Sustainable Ocean Principles can be found [here](#).

How do companies endorse the Sustainable Ocean Principles?

Companies can endorse the principles by submitting a letter, using the template provided by the UN Global Compact, signed by their CEO, C-Suite representative, or equivalent.

Signed letters of endorsement can be sent to ocean@unglobalcompact.org.