



**MINISTRY
OF
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

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GHANA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (ICP-26) – "MARINE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION"

Within the West Africa sub region, Ghana is strengthening its marine conservation and ocean governance framework in line with its international obligations. Ghana is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Ghana's President is an active member of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and a Co-Chair of SDG 14. Ghana's commitment to global ocean governance is demonstrated through the following initiatives:

2. Establishment of Marine Protected Areas

Ghana has initiated processes to establish its first Marine Protected Area (MPA), covering approximately 0.03 per cent of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), located in the Greater Cape Three Points area—a globally significant geographic and biodiversity hotspot. This initiative represents an initial step towards Ghana's commitment to the global 30×30 target. The process received Cabinet approval in 2025, with formal declaration expected in 2026. Concurrently, Ghana is advancing efforts to expand marine protection to at least 5 per cent of its total EEZ of approximately 225,000 km² by 2030.

3. Sustainable Ocean Plan

As a member of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Ghana committed to developing a Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP) aligned with the Panel's Transformations Agenda to guide the sustainable development of its ocean space. Ghana completed its Sustainable Ocean Plan in 2025, and it was officially launched at COP30 in Brazil. The Plan outlines innovative approaches and identifies opportunities in emerging ocean-based industries, strengthens cross-sectoral ocean knowledge, and addresses ocean security and safety, particularly within the context of the Gulf of Guinea.

4. Blue Economy Strategy

In 2025, Ghana's Cabinet approved a comprehensive Blue Economy Strategy covering both marine and inland water resources. The Strategy is anchored on six pillars Blue Wealth, Blue Health, Blue Knowledge, Blue Equity, Blue Finance, and Blue Security and Safety—and

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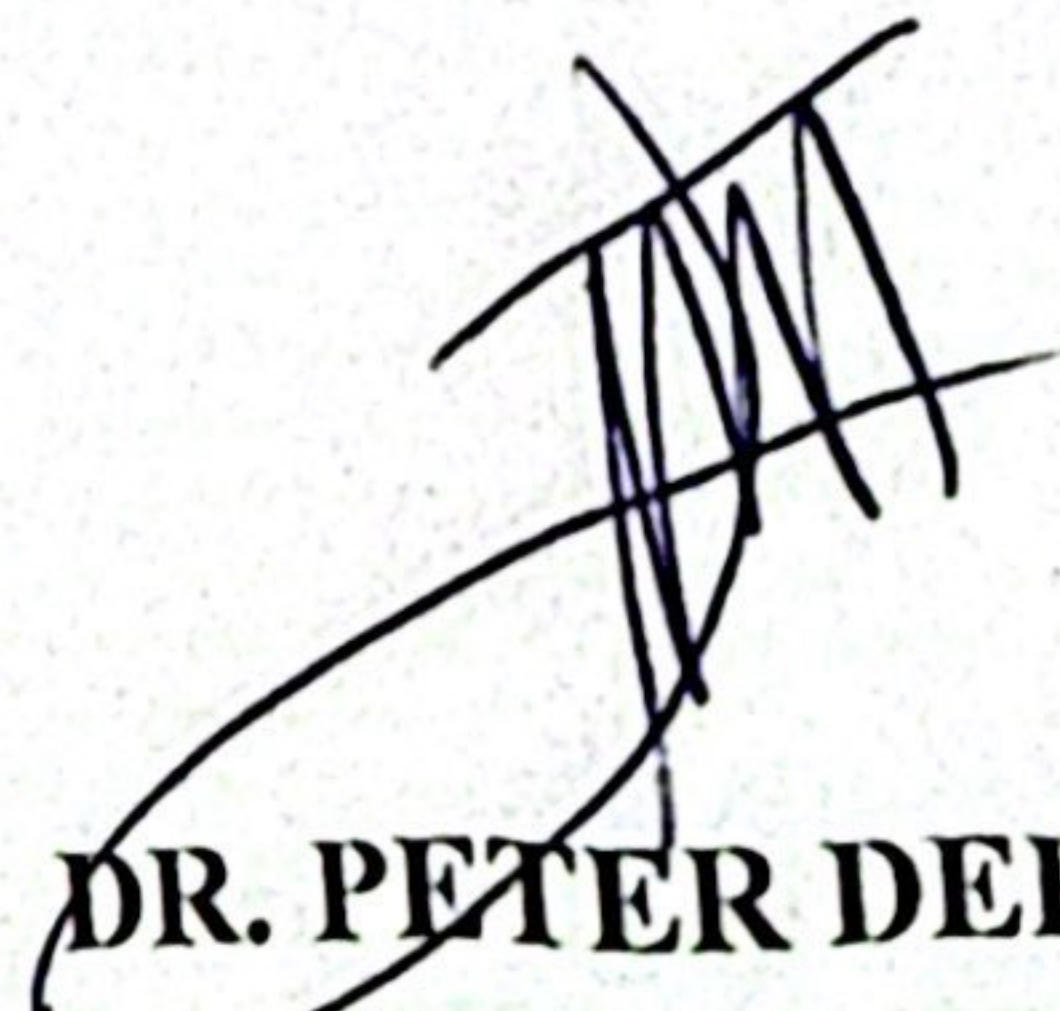
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implementation arrangements are currently being developed to operationalize a sustainable and inclusive blue economy.

5. Extension of the Inshore Exclusion Zone

Ghana enacted a new Fisheries Act (Act 1146) in 2025, extending the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) from 6 to 12 nautical miles. This measure excludes industrial fishing vessels from nearshore waters to safeguard critical habitats and protect the livelihoods of artisanal fishers. The extension is expected to eliminate destructive bottom trawling activities in shallow inshore waters and aligns with the contiguous zone provisions under UNCLOS.

6. Counting on your cooperation.



DR. PETER DERY (ESQ)
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT

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