

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

Development co-operation for a sustainable ocean economy in 2022: A snapshot

This snapshot presents an overview of trends in official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy until 2022. Unless otherwise stated, figures reflect **ODA commitments, 2021-22 averages, and ODA from all official providers (i.e. DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)**. All figures are calculated as part of the OECD Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative, using data from the OECD/DAC Creditor reporting system. The detailed methodology and full data set are available at <https://oecd-main.shinyapps.io/ocean/>.

Shashwat Koirala, Shashwat.KOIRALA@oecd.org

Franka HUHNS, Franka.HUHN@oecd.org

JT03545287

Development co-operation for a sustainable ocean economy in 2022: A snapshot

Findings

- Official development assistance (ODA) for the *ocean economy* totalled USD 3.5 billion in 2022, a 45% increase compared to 2021. However, this represented only a small fraction of total ODA (1%).
- ODA for the *sustainable ocean economy* – i.e. ODA to enhance the sustainability of ocean economy sectors and/or conserve the ocean – increased to USD 2.4 billion in 2022, accounting for 69% of total ODA for the ocean economy.
- Asia was the main recipient of ODA for the ocean economy in 2021-22, followed by Africa and the Americas.
- DAC members' ODA for the ocean economy targeted multiple policy objectives, including gender equality (42%), climate change adaptation (45%), and climate change mitigation (26%).
- ODA for curbing plastic pollution increased by 39% in 2022, totalling USD 1.5 billion.

This snapshot presents an overview of trends in official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy until 2022. Unless otherwise stated, figures reflect **ODA commitments, 2021-22 averages, and ODA from all official providers (i.e. DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)**. All figures are calculated as part of the OECD Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative, using data from the OECD/DAC Creditor reporting system. The detailed methodology and full data set are available at <https://oecd-main.shinyapps.io/ocean/>.

Join the discussion: @OECDdev

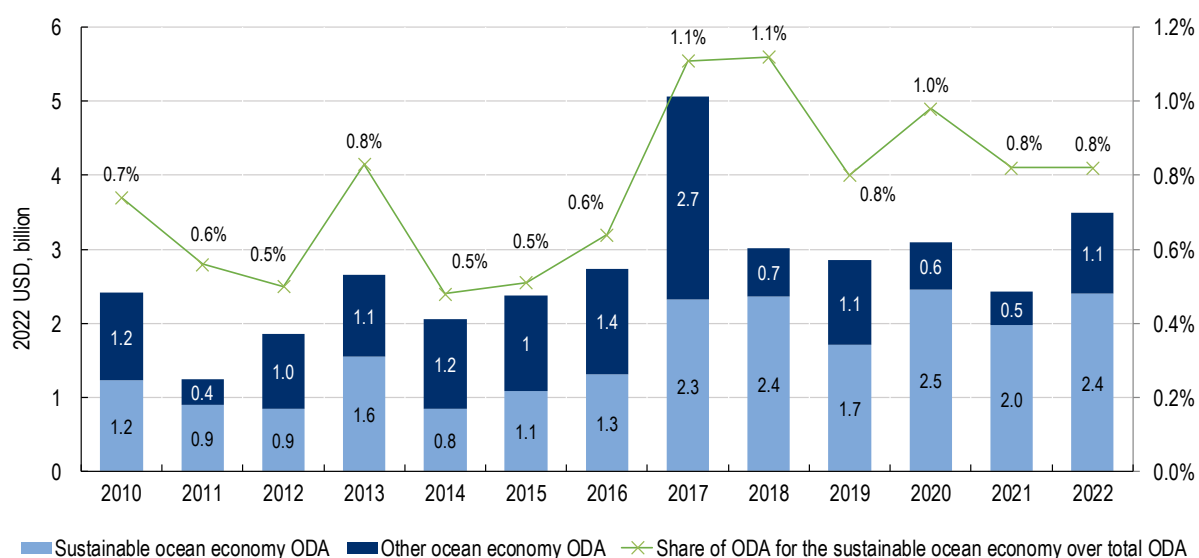
What are the trends in ODA in support of the ocean economy?

In 2022, total official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy increased by 45% compared to 2021. However, it represented only 1% of total ODA in 2022.

Ocean-related ODA contributing to ocean protection or enhancing the sustainability of ocean-based sectors – i.e. ODA for the *sustainable* ocean economy – increased by 22% over the same period. It accounted for only 69% of total ocean economy ODA in 2022, a notable decline from 81% in 2021.

In 2021-22, three sectors (maritime transport, marine protection, and fisheries) accounted for roughly three-quarters of both ODA for the ocean economy and ODA for the sustainable ocean economy.

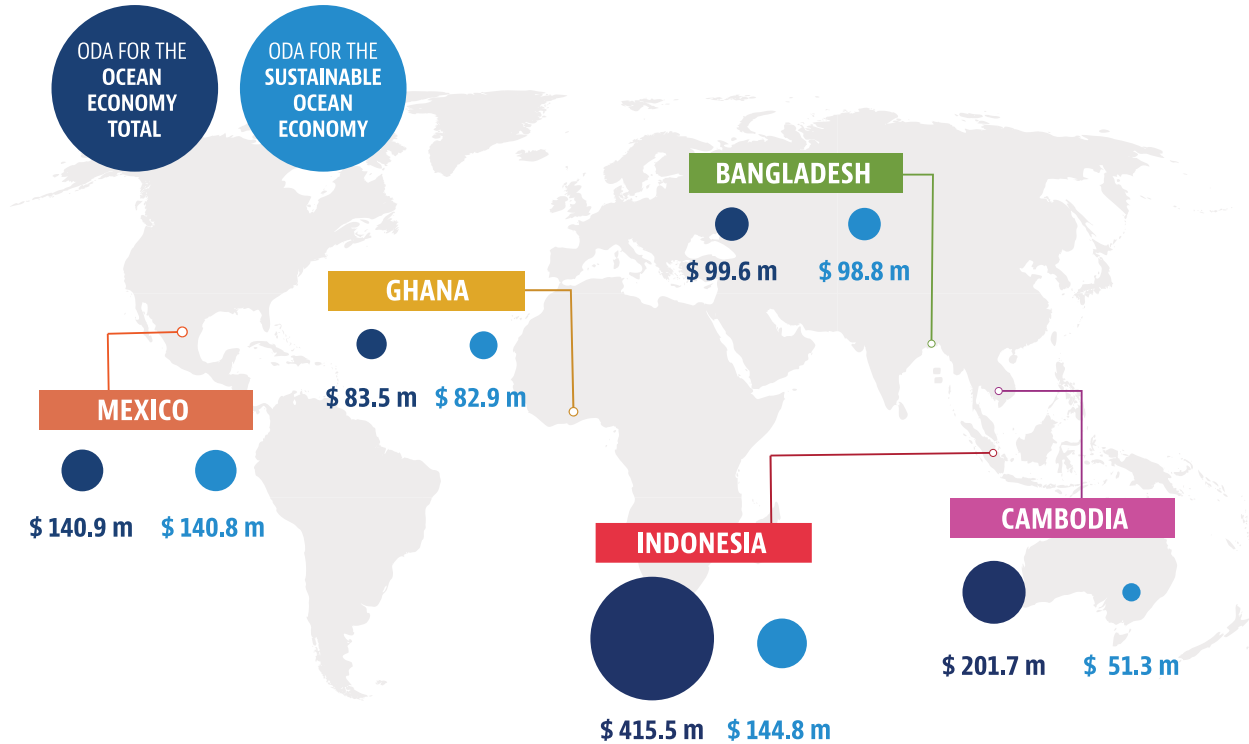
While official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy increased in 2022, a relatively smaller share of it supported sustainable activities compared to 2021.



Note: Figures are in 2022 constant prices and represent ODA from all official providers (i.e., DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)
Source: <https://oecdch.art/b7677a9362>

Who received ODA for the ocean economy?

In 2021-22, Indonesia received the most official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy.



Note: Figures are 2021-22 averages (2022 constant prices) and represent ODA from all official providers (i.e., DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)

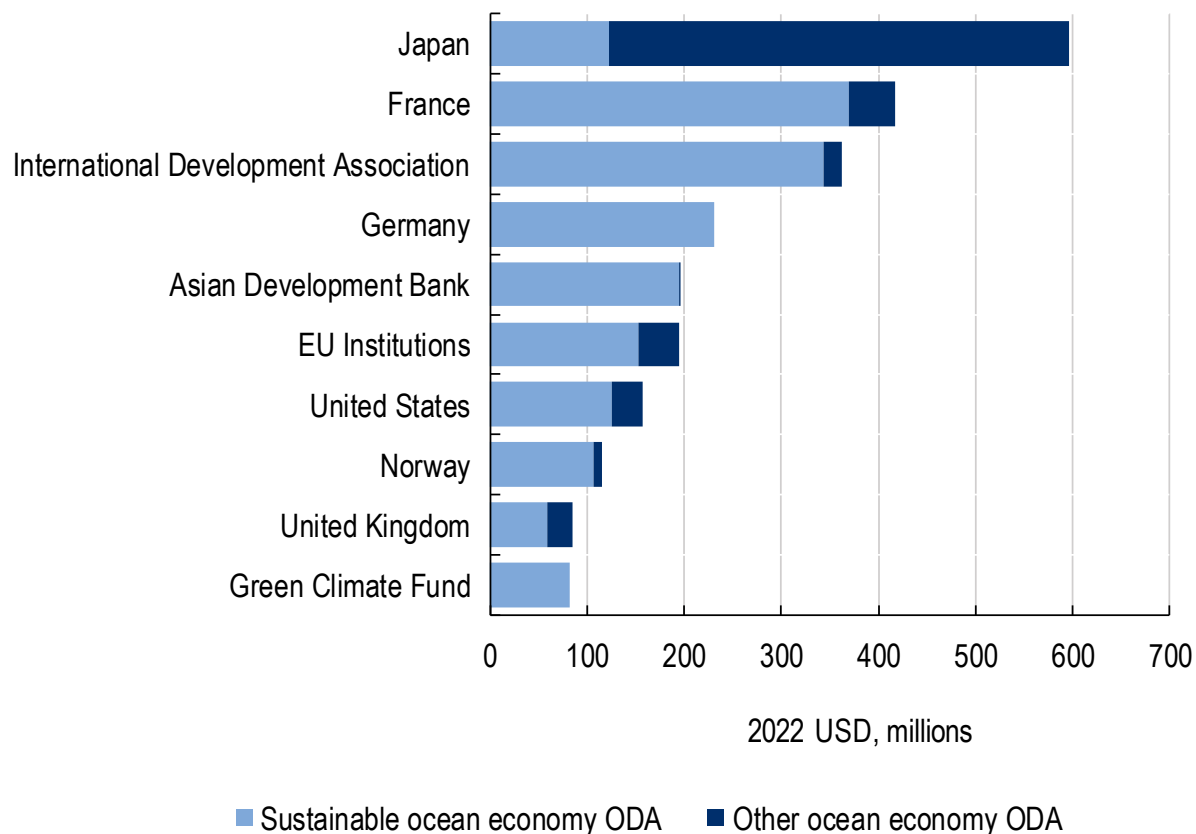
On average, in 2021-2022, Asia was the largest recipient of ODA for the ocean economy (USD 977 million annually), with Africa (USD 848 million annually) and the Americas (USD 401 million annually) rounding out the top three.

ODA for the ocean economy mainly targeted least developed countries (LDCs) (31%) and lower middle-income countries (LMICs) (30%). Upper middle-income countries (UMICs) accounted for 16% of ocean economy ODA, and 23% was unallocated by income group.

Ocean economy ODA to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) increased in 2021-22 to an annual average of USD 437 million, up from USD 350 million over 2019-20. The 2021-22 figure, nevertheless, accounted for only 6% of total ODA commitments to SIDS. Most of ocean economy ODA to SIDS (91%) contributed to protecting the ocean or developing the ocean economy sectors more sustainably.

Who provided ODA for the ocean economy?

Japan, France, and the International Development Association were the top three providers of official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy in 2021-22.



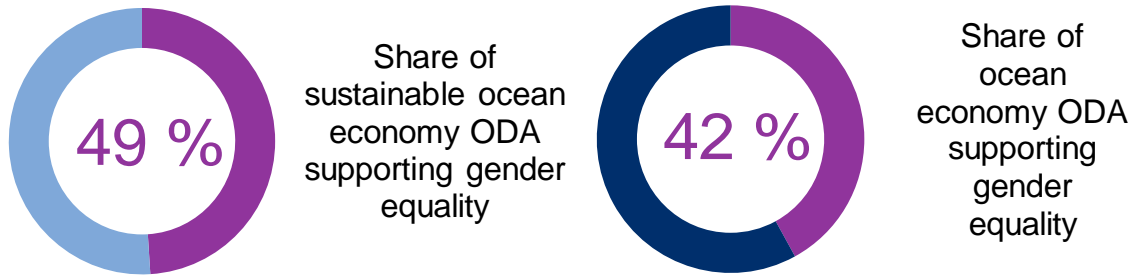
Note: Figures are 2021-22 averages (2022 constant prices) and represent ODA from all official providers (i.e., DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)

Philanthropic contributions targeting SDG 14 (Life Below Water) averaged USD 173 million per year in 2021-22, down from USD 209 million per year in 2019-20. The largest providers were the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (USD 33 million per year), the Bloomberg Family Foundation (USD 28 million per year), and the Bezos Earth Fund (USD 22 million per year).

In 2021-22, private finance mobilised for the ocean economy reached an annual average of USD 346 million, representing an increase of 18% from 2019-20.

How much does DAC members' ODA for the ocean economy overlap with other policy objectives?

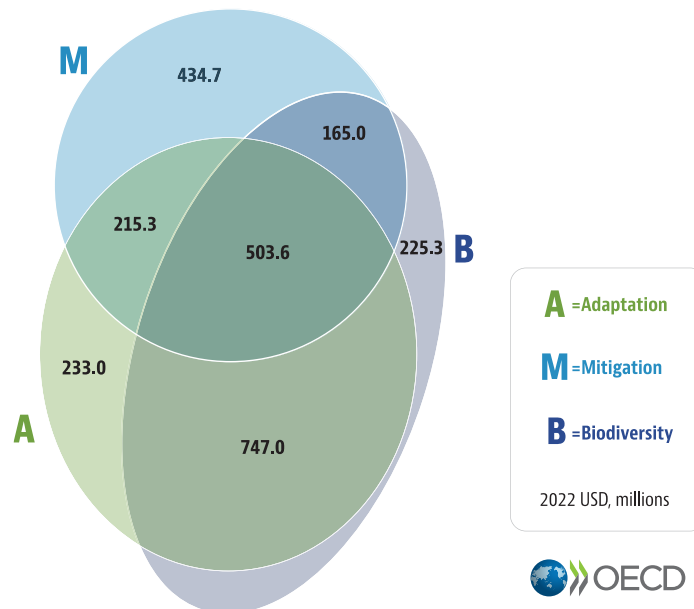
Almost half of DAC members' official development assistance (ODA) for the sustainable ocean economy supported gender equality.



Note: Figures are 2021-22 averages (2022 constant prices) and represent ODA from DAC members only

DAC members' ODA activities in support of both the ocean economy and gender equality averaged USD 894 million per year in 2021-22. Meanwhile, the amount of ODA to the sustainable ocean economy addressing gender equality averaged USD 701 million per year in 2021-22.

DAC members' official development assistance (ODA) for the ocean economy also supported climate and biodiversity objectives.

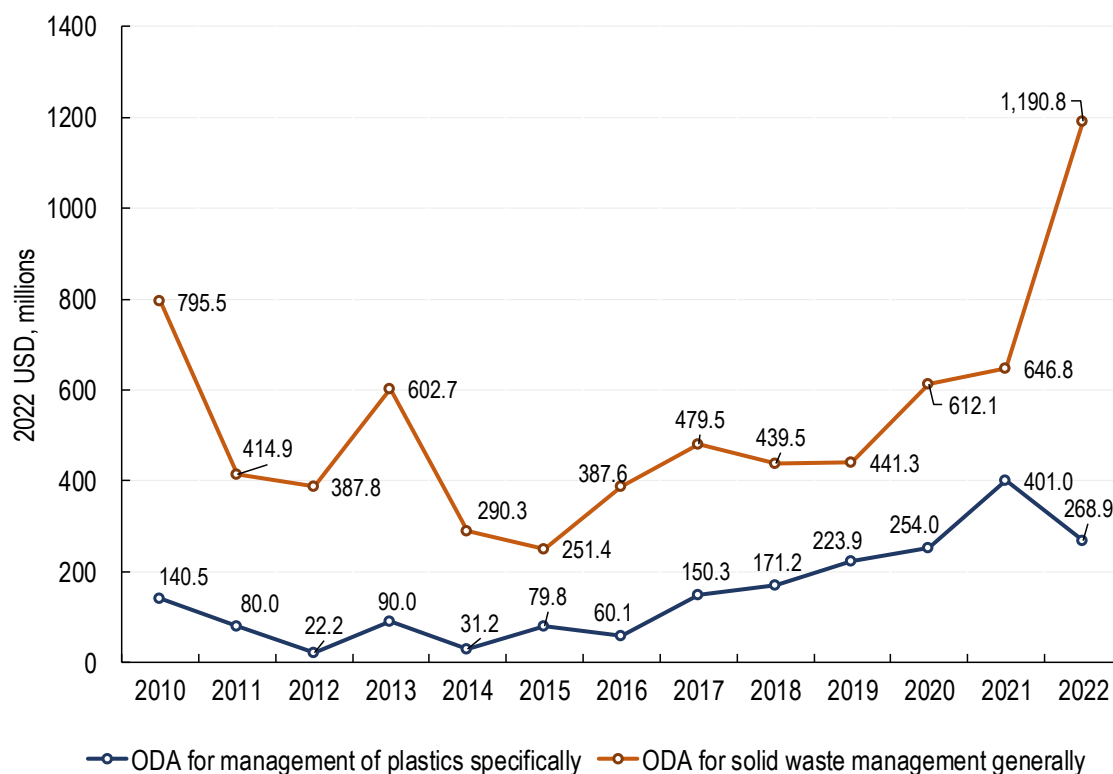


Note: Figures are 2021-22 averages (2022 constant prices) and represent ODA from DAC members only

In 2021-22, 45% of ODA for the ocean economy was climate adaptation-related while 26% was climate mitigation-related. Thirty-nine per cent of total ocean economy ODA targeted biodiversity objectives.

How much ODA support was provided to curb plastic pollution?

An increase in official development assistance (ODA) for solid waste management drove the surge in ODA for curbing plastic pollution.



Note: Figures are in 2022 constant prices and represent ODA from all official providers (i.e., DAC, non-DAC, and multilateral)

Source: <https://oecdch.art/3d4888b8db>

Continuing an upward trend, ODA in support of curbing plastic pollution increased (+39%) from USD 1.1 billion in 2021 to USD 1.5 billion in 2022. This was driven by an increase (+84%) in ODA for solid waste management generally.

In 2021-22, the largest providers of ODA to curb plastic pollution were Germany (annual average of USD 496 million), France (annual average of USD 274 million), and the EU (annual average of USD 177 million).

The allocation of ODA to reduce plastic pollution varied across regions. Asia received USD 497 million, on average annually, in 2021-22, followed by the Americas (USD 263 million per year), and Africa (USD 195 million per year). The top five individual recipients were India (USD 277 million per year), Costa Rica (USD 89 million per year), and Colombia (USD 70 million per year).