



Terms of Reference

Blue Ribbon Panel

Objective

The objective of this panel is to provide guidance and recommendation for the strategic direction and design of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO).

Approach

The panel will be composed of internationally-recognized experts and thought-leaders, nominated by the GPO partners. Over the period from April to September 2013, the panel will meet three times and will produce a foundational document for the strategic guidance of the GPO. The conclusions of the Blue Ribbon Panel will be delivered in a report, to be released in late 2013. Having prepared and delivered the conclusions, the Panel may then be reconvened on a periodic basis in the future, as needed to address specific objectives and challenges that arise throughout the GPO implementation.

Responsibilities of the panel

Drawing from GPO Framework Document and existing knowledge and research, the Panel's tasks will focus on answering four core questions to provide clear and objective recommendations to the partners on the design of the GPO:

1. What are the foundational principles for prioritizing and selecting areas (priority geographic ocean areas and/or thematic areas) where the GPO should target resources in order to advance its objective and achieve the targeted outcomes?
2. Based on current evidence and experiences worldwide, in order to achieve the GPO's objective and targeted outcomes, what approaches are likely to work and where?
3. What are the key knowledge gaps that are a constraint to achieving the GPO's objectives and targeted outcomes?
4. How should the GPO measure progress?