**Commonwealth Blue Charter Ocean Action Reporting Form**

**Overview**

The Commonwealth Secretariat is collecting information from Commonwealth Member countries on their ocean progress to date. This information will be used in our Blue Charter reporting, including inter alia, to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The information is to be submitted via an online portal – <https://survey-bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org>. This document provides a quick overview of the questions to facilitate, if needed, the compilation of answers prior to *online submission*.

**Data use and resources**

*The submission of this information is voluntary*. Your information will be used by the Commonwealth Secretariat to populate an internal database and will be summarised in external reports. All data will be handled according to the Secretariat’s data privacy policy.

**Register**

To ensure authorised online submissions, each country is kindly requested to [register here](https://survey-bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org/register). Once your registration has been approved, please use the online form. Although the form will remain continuously open year-round, *the deadline for submitting information to be reported to the next CHOGM is 31 July 2024*. Note that you can return to the site as often as you like, to update information and fill in gaps.

1. General Information
	1. Please provide the following details for your country.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Profile | Details |
| Name of Country |  |
| Contact person: full name with title (e.g. Dr, Ms, Mr) |  |
| Contact person: email address (more than one may be entered) |  |
| Name of Ministry responsible for ocean affairs |  |
| Name of Minister responsible for ocean affairs (add multiple names if relevant) |  |

1. Rapid Assessment

**2.1 Indicate your country’s ocean actions that support the Commonwealth Blue Charter**

1. Since its adoption has the Commonwealth Blue Charter (and its Action Groups) been helpful to your country in progressing ocean-related policies or laws?
* Select one: [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Partially [ ] not applicable
* Please provide details/links if relevant
1. Since CHOGM 2022, has your country’s capacity to tackle ocean issues (consistent with the Commonwealth Blue Charter) increased or decreased or remained about the same?
* Select one: [ ] Increased [ ] Decreased [ ] About the same [ ] Not applicable
* Please provide details/link(s) if relevant
1. Since CHOGM 2022, has your country engaged in any of the following activities of the Commonwealth Blue Charter and its Action Groups? (Tick all that apply.)

[ ]  Meetings (in-person and virtual)

[ ]  Webinars

[ ]  Trainings (in-person and virtual)

[ ]  Background documents and other informational reports

[ ]  Case study summaries

[ ]  Other (specify below)

* + Please provide details/link(s) if relevant

**2.2 How has being part of the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group(s) allowed you to better interact with external partners?**

* Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Not applicable
* Please provide details, and note if your experience with different Action Groups has been different.

**2.3 What ocean-related topic areas have been a priority for your country since the last CHOGM in June 2022?**

*(Tick all that apply.)*

[ ]  Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (marine plastic pollution)

[ ]  Coral Reef Protection and Restoration

[ ]  Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods

[ ]  Marine Protected Areas

[ ]  Ocean Acidification

[ ]  Ocean and Climate Change

[ ]  Ocean Observation

[ ]  Sustainable Aquaculture

[ ]  Sustainable Blue Economy

[ ]  Sustainable Coastal Fisheries

**2.4 Are there any other ocean-related topic areas that have been a priority over the past 3 years?**

***Please list topics***

1. Action status

**3 Blue Charter Action Group themes**

1. **Aquaculture**: Does your country have policy/legislation for environmentally sustainable aquaculture?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning
* Please provide details/link if relevant
1. **Blue economy**: Does your country have policy/legislation to enable a sustainable blue economy (Landlocked states: please answer for economies supported by your lakes)?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
2. **Climate change**: Does your country’s climate change policy/legislation take into account the ocean?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning [ ]  Not applicable
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
3. **Coastal fisheries**: Does your country perform regular stock assessments for more than half of its coastal (nearshore) fisheries? (Landlocked states: please answer for your lake fisheries.)
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  In planning
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
4. **Coral reefs**: Does your country have policy/legislation to protect coral reefs?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning [ ]  Not applicable
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
5. **Mangroves**: Does your country have a policy/legislation to protect mangroves?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning [ ]  Not applicable
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
6. **Marine protected areas**: Has your country conserved at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, per internationally agreed targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Sustainable Development Goal 14?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No
		+ Please provide details of year/target year/legislation link
7. **Ocean acidification**: Does your country have policy/legislation to address ocean acidification?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Partially [ ]  In planning [ ]  Not applicable
		+ Please provide details/link if relevant
8. **Ocean observation**: Has your country an ocean observation programme that informs sustainable management of ocean activities and/or helps protect biodiversity?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  In planning
		+ Please provide details/link(s) if relevant
9. **Plastic pollution**: Has your country policy/legislation to address single-use plastic?
	* + Select one: [ ]  Yes [ ]  No
		+ Please provide details on the action, i.e short description or link to relevant materials/ year of action
10. Are there any Action Groups of which you are not currently a member, but may have a possible interest in joining in the future? *(Tick all that apply.)*

[ ]  Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (marine plastic pollution)

[ ]  Coral Reef Protection and Restoration

[ ]  Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods

[ ]  Marine Protected Areas

[ ]  Ocean Acidification

[ ]  Ocean and Climate Change

[ ]  Ocean Observation

[ ]  Sustainable Aquaculture

[ ]  Sustainable Blue Economy

[ ]  Sustainable Coastal Fisheries.

1. Details

4 Projects

* 1. Please list specific projects in your country that may be relevant to the Blue Charter Action Groups.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project area (relevant Action Group Theme) | Status of project | Status of financing | Brief project description | Total (planned) budget of project. If in planning, please provide an estimated range.  | Currency |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Comments

5 Additional Information

**5.1 Any other comments, ocean-related policies, plans, or issues you would like to draw our attention to?**

**5.2 If you have documents to support your answers to any of the previous questions and would like to upload them, please upload them to the portal or send to** **bluecharter@commonwealth.int** **with subject line: Ocean Action Reporting Form – *Country Name*.**

1. Consent

6 Do you give permission for the Commonwealth Secretariat to use your above responses in our ocean-related reporting?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

Comments

[ ]  By ticking this box, you confirm that the person submitting the response to the Secretariat is authorised to submit the response on behalf of the government or have obtained all necessary permissions to submit the response;