



THE DAVID & LUCILE

Packard Foundation

Ocean Initiative Overview

Accelerating climate change, illegal and unsustainable fishing, and habitat loss are three primary and interconnected threats to ocean health. By degrading ocean ecosystems, these threats harm billions of people that rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, nutrition, and cultural heritage, disproportionately impacting Indigenous peoples and coastal communities. Weak governance and seafood supply chains that put profit ahead of people compound these threats, allowing human rights abuses and inequities to persist. Governments, supply chains, the conservation field, and philanthropy have too often excluded ocean-reliant communities from participating in decisions that impact their rights and the ocean resources they rely on.

The Packard Foundation has a long history of supporting ocean science and conservation. The next phase of the Packard Foundation's commitment to ocean, the 10-year (2023-2033) Ocean Initiative, aims to **protect and restore ocean ecosystems for people and nature, now and in the future.**

How the Ocean Initiative Will Address These Threats

The Ocean Initiative evolves our work in two main ways: 1) centering the needs and rights of ocean-reliant communities; and 2) working more deliberately across systems and local, national, and international scales for impact.

Amplifying the Leadership of Ocean-Reliant Communities

A growing body of evidence shows that when ocean-reliant communities have a seat at the table to craft solutions, and when policies and laws support their participation and leadership, we can achieve more lasting and significant impact.

The Ocean Initiative centers the communities who depend most on a healthy ocean and engages them in developing and implementing solutions that protect and restore marine biodiversity, achieve equitable and sustainable fisheries, and harness the power of the ocean to mitigate the effects of climate change. This includes directly supporting Indigenous peoples, fish workers, and other local communities to lead in designing and implementing solutions that impact them and their marine resources. It also involves protecting human, worker, and community rights; supporting policies and actions that uphold their rights and ways of life; and honoring their knowledge and deep experience in marine stewardship.



Working Across Systems and Geographic Scales

The Ocean Initiative is designed to address primary threats to ocean health by supporting change within three key systems at multiple geographic scales:

- **Civil Society:** We fund work that strengthens the engagement of ocean-reliant communities and civil society to build more inclusive and powerful ocean conservation movements and solutions.
- **Seafood Supply Chains:** We fund work that engages seafood supply chains to end illegal (IUU) fishing, overfishing, and human rights abuses while addressing inequities.
- **Governance:** We fund work to advance governance reforms that strengthen protections for ocean ecosystems and ocean-reliant communities.

At the national and local levels, we are focusing our efforts in **three countries – Chile, the U.S., and Indonesia**. We prioritized these countries based on several indicators including biological significance, human dependence on ocean ecosystems, and opportunities to affect positive changes. In these countries, we will pursue integrated work on small-scale fisheries, area-based co-management, and ocean-based climate solutions.

Three Integrated Portfolios

The Ocean Initiative's grantmaking is organized into three integrated portfolios of work.

Ocean Habitats and Communities

The Ocean Habitat and Communities Portfolio's goal is to **protect and restore ocean habitat through equitable approaches to conservation and stewardship, resulting in positive biodiversity and human wellbeing outcomes**. The portfolio focuses on:

- Supporting equitable area-based marine conservation and stewardship, led by Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other ocean-reliant communities.
- Protecting and restoring threatened marine bird species and associated ecosystems.

Both approaches provide significant value-add for marine biodiversity conservation and focus on human communities and species that bear disproportionate vulnerabilities to climate impacts and biodiversity loss.





Global Fisheries

The Global Fisheries Portfolio's goal is that **policies, practices, and incentives reinforce a more equitable, sustainable seafood sector where fishers and fish workers have secure livelihoods, decent work, and food security, and IUU fishing and human rights abuses are ended.** The portfolio focuses on:

- Strengthening the capacity and leadership of ocean-reliant communities to engage in management and decisions.
- Aligning incentives and increasing transparency and accountability of seafood supply chains.
- Supporting the uptake and implementation of international agreements that address fisheries and worker protection.

In addition to supporting local capacity for ocean-reliant communities, the Foundation will also support a human rights-based approach within seafood supply chains and international governance to push supply chains and governance bodies to reinforce (rather than undermine) community leadership and rights.



Ocean-Based Climate Solutions

The Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Portfolio's goal is that **governments adopt responsible ocean-based climate solutions to successfully limit climate change to well below 2°C by 2050.** The portfolio will focus on:

- Helping California demonstrate a model for responsible floating offshore wind that meets climate and ocean health objectives, and promoting that model with regional, national, and global partners.
- Supporting an ocean carbon dioxide removal code of conduct and governance (work on this element is deferred to 2025).

California has set ambitious near-term targets for development of offshore wind. The state's innovations can catalyze – and serve as a model for – responsible global floating offshore wind development in other places to benefit climate, people, and the environment.

The Impact We Expect to See

The ocean is capable of remarkable resilience and recovery when civil society, seafood supply chains, and governments prioritize the health of ocean ecosystems and the rights of ocean-reliant communities. The Ocean Initiative aims to deliver the following impacts:

- **Civil society leadership builds power for ocean solutions.** Ocean-reliant communities take a leadership role in designing and implementing fisheries management and marine conservation plans, and a diverse set of civil society organizations and their leaders have the capacity and resources to engage in ocean-based climate solution decision making. Workers and labor organizations inform corporate commitments and actions and hold the private sector accountable.
- **Seafood supply chains stop illegal fishing and human rights abuses and advocate for a more equitable and sustainable seafood sector.** Companies understand the interconnection between illegal fishing, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation and take concerted action to root out illegal fishing and human rights abuses in their supply chains. To level the playing field and encourage widespread change, industry leaders advocate for stronger policies and enforcement at all levels of governance.
- **Governance prioritizes human well-being and ecological benefits in decision making and resource allocation.** Local, national, and international governance frameworks emphasize strong protections for ocean ecosystems, decent work, and equitable access to resources and recognize the rights and leadership of ocean-reliant communities in ocean stewardship. Climate mitigation policies prioritize the most effective solutions that harness the power of the ocean to fight climate change, do not harm local and Indigenous communities, and provide net benefits to ocean health.

Between now and March 2025, we'll continue to renew grants for current grantees as scheduled. We will not be able to respond to inquiries or consider new projects until spring 2025, after the portfolio strategies are approved by the Board.

