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**Note:** The Practical Guidance maps current regulations, business standards and best and emerging practices for a particular sector. Under the auspices of the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Business Action Platform, the guidance has been mainly developed by companies operating within the sector.

At the end of 2020, the SBTi (Science Based Targets Initiative) will issue a guidance for Oil & Gas company emissions reduction targets to be aligned with the level of transformation required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, this edition of the Practical Guidance for Oil and Gas Activities does not include any specific references to emission reduction targets within that industry.

The guidance is a dynamic working document. It will be reviewed on a regular basis to follow new legislation, best business practices, higher standards and market innovations. Input, feedback and comments from all stakeholders are welcome. If you would like to contribute, please contact: ocean@unglobalcompact.org
GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

1. THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PRINCIPLES

The UN Global Compact has, in consultation with more than 300 stakeholders worldwide, developed the Sustainable Ocean Principles. The purpose is to promote the well-being of the ocean for current and future generations, as well as to emphasize the shared responsibility of businesses to take necessary actions to secure a healthy and productive ocean.

The nine principles cover three areas: ocean health and productivity; governance and engagement; and data and transparency. Signatories confirm their endorsement of the principles, setting out a framework for responsible business practices across relevant sectors and geographies. The principles build upon and supplement the overarching Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, including the fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

The principles are relevant for companies with activities that may impact ocean health and companies that are part of an ocean productivity value chain. The principles are, therefore, also relevant for land-based industries, including the financial sector. The principles are directed at company boards and executive management. They are designed as a tool for moving beyond minimum standards and towards excellence in sustainability. They can be used as basis for due diligence assessments and serve as a reference point for interaction between companies on sustainable uses of the ocean.

Companies should understand and proactively manage the broader environmental and social consequences of their activities. Companies should ensure that material ocean-related risks and opportunities are integrated in corporate strategy, risk management and reporting. They should ascertain that the ensuing responsibilities are clearly defined within the organization. The company board should effectively guide, monitor and review company management in these efforts.

The principles do not include a new set of reporting measures, but rather encourage companies to use existing mechanisms to disclose their practices.

*DISCLAIMER: This guidance and the information contained therein are intended as a general guide to the issues addressed. They must not be considered a substitute for legal advice and questions regarding the legal interpretation and application of the information should be directed to appropriate legal counsel. Any actions taken or omissions or alterations made on the basis of this information are done at the user’s risk.

The guidance was issued in September 2020 and will be updated on a regular basis to ensure that relevant changes in expectations, standards and requirements are properly reflected.
2. THE GUIDANCE

WHAT?

This guidance document is complementary to the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles and is intended to broadly outline ways to operationalize these nine principles to specific industry sectors. The guidance aims at guiding signatories on how they can deliver on the principles in practical terms.

WHY?

The guidance aims at identifying shared challenges, common solutions, risks, opportunities, relevant partnerships and reporting frameworks needed to help operationalize the Principles.

WHO?

First and foremost, the audience is set of companies operating in the sector targeted by the guidance. The guidance may also be used by financial institutions and insurers as a due diligence tool and to inform their decisions. The guidance may also support policymakers and civil society organizations to better understand the challenges, opportunities, regulations and standards of the sector.

HOW?

The document starts with an introduction presenting the authors and contributors, defining the scope of the document and general considerations for the sector, in line with the preamble of the Sustainable Ocean Principles.

The Guidance is organized in three sections: following the Sustainable Ocean Principles

- OCEAN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY
- GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT
- DATA AND TRANSPARENCY

For each of these sections, the guidance describes the main challenges and opportunities of the sector.

The document also highlights relevant reporting frameworks and partnerships which will help companies in the implementation of the principles.

Under each principle, the document seeks to provide clear and practical tools on how to implement the principles in business operations. In order to inspire companies, the document also identifies good practices from companies or initiatives.
Sustainable Ocean Principles

The ocean is vital to the wellbeing and prosperity of humankind. To achieve the world community’s ambitions as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need to expand our use of the ocean to produce food, energy, raw materials and transportation. Carrying out these activities in a sustainable manner will contribute to reducing global warming and environmental degradation. Ensuring a healthy ocean provides significant opportunities for business and global economic growth.

As described in Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Life Below Water, there is an urgent need to protect and restore the health of the ocean, which is rapidly deteriorating due to increasing temperatures, acidification, depletion of natural resources and pollution from land and sea. Businesses have a shared responsibility, alongside Government and civil society, to take necessary actions to secure a healthy ocean.

These Sustainable Ocean Principles provide a framework for responsible business practices across sectors and geographies. They build upon and supplement the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We, as signatories of these principles, recognize the urgency and global importance of a healthy ocean, and will take action to promote the well-being of the ocean for current and future generations. As relevant to their business, we believe that companies should:

**OCEAN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY**

**Principle 1:** Assess the short- and long-term impact of their activities on ocean health and incorporate such impacts into their strategy and policies.

**Principle 2:** Consider sustainable business opportunities that promote or contribute to restoring, protecting or maintaining ocean health and productivity and livelihoods dependent on the ocean.

**Principle 3:** Take action to prevent pollution affecting the ocean, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their operations to prevent ocean warming and acidification, and work towards a circular economy.

**Principle 4:** Plan and manage their use of and impact on marine resources and space in a manner that ensures long-term sustainability and take precautionary measures where their activities may impact vulnerable marine and coastal areas and the communities that are dependent upon them.

**GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

**Principle 5:** Engage responsibly with relevant regulatory or enforcement bodies on ocean-related laws, regulations and other frameworks.

**Principle 6:** Follow and support the development of standards and best practices that are recognized in the relevant sector or market contributing to a healthy and productive ocean and secure livelihoods.

**Principle 7:** Respect human-, labour- and Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the company’s ocean related activities, including exercise appropriate due diligence in their supply-chain, consult and engage with relevant stakeholders and communities in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner, and address identified impacts.

**DATA AND TRANSPARENCY**

**Principle 8:** Where appropriate, share relevant scientific data to support research on and mapping of relevance to the ocean.

**Principle 9:** Be transparent about their ocean-related activities, impacts and dependencies in line with relevant reporting frameworks.
ENERGY: OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

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CONSULTATIVE GROUP:
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
IPIECA (International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association);
IOGP (International Organisation of Oil and Gas Producers); GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, advising the United Nations (UN) system on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection);
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SCOPE
All activities related to the exploration, production, processing, transport and commercialization of Oil and Gas (O&G) products, in the ocean.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SECTOR:
The ocean is vital to the wellbeing of humanity. Responsible business practices in ocean related activities are key to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), economic growth and prosperity for future generations.

- Climate change is the overarching threat to ocean health, in particular through ocean warming and acidification. The Paris Agreement states that it “...aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, by ... holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels” (Articles 2-1.a). This means that our societies need to reach net zero emissions during the second half of the century.

The use of fossil fuels in the economy is the single largest source of carbon dioxide emission and the oil & gas industry has an important role to play in the low-carbon transition. Leveraging its skills and resources, it can provide significant contributions to this transition.

- For the O&G and other hydrocarbon products (e.g chemicals) industry, it is good practice to carry out operations associated with their discovery, production and distribution, sustainably and in alignment with the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles.

- As described in the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles, this means that O&G companies should contribute to help manage ocean health, promote adequate governance and address the challenges and opportunities associated with data and transparency.

- Although companies may operate on a global scale, both onshore and offshore, a special focus in this guidance document is made on activities that are ocean-related, whether directly or indirectly.

- O&G operations are capital intensive and generally heavily regulated, both nationally and internationally. Because of the potential risks to human life and the environment associated with O&G operations, in countries where regulations may be incomplete or developing, O&G industry organizations have already produced guidelines or sets of best practices.

- As for other businesses, the O&G sector is often multi-level and complex, thus it is important to keep transparency of operations.

This guidance collates a set of examples as illustrations of what some companies have achieved in circumstances specific to the O&G sector.
OCEAN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE O&G SECTOR

O&G activities have the potential to have negative and positive impacts on ocean health, during exploration, construction (e.g. pipe laying, piling, trenching, etc.), production or decommissioning. The impact may come from the introduction of invasive species, planned emissions, noise, and discharges or as a result of an incident. It is, therefore, necessary, prior to any work commencing, to understand the baseline conditions, assess the potential impacts and risks, and apply the mitigation hierarchy in the implementation of appropriate management actions.

REPORTING REGIMES AND PARTNERSHIP OF RELEVANCE FOR PRINCIPLES 1 TO 4

There are currently a number of relevant compulsory requirements or voluntary partnerships, covering different aspects of potential impacts on the ocean. Examples include:

- **In the area of oil spill response:** IPIECA, International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds, Global Response network
- **In the area of Greenhouse Gases and general non-financial reporting:** Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC), Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFR), Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), International Organisation of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) reference documents
- **In the area of climate-related financial disclosures:** Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- **In the area of biodiversity:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP - WCMC), IPIECA, IOGP, Academia, depending on the region and environment
- **In the area of O&G:** maritime operations may be covered in some of the Regional Seas Conventions (e.g. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), etc.), but also in industry documents produced by classification societies, and other organizations
PRINCIPLE 1.

BUSINESSES SHOULD ASSESS THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM IMPACT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES ON OCEAN HEALTH AND INCORPORATE SUCH IMPACTS INTO THEIR STRATEGY AND POLICIES.

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Prior to commencing operations, carry out an environmental baseline study determining the characterization of the area. This study can be informed by secondary data, primary data from surveys and/or stakeholders consultation.
- Conduct impact assessments aligned with relevant science to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development.
- Based on the potential adverse impacts identified, as appropriate, develop environmental management plans and implement measures, according to the mitigation hierarchy (Avoid, Minimize, Restore, and Offset).
- Choices during design and project development should take into account the decommissioning of the asset.
- Assess and monitor general environmental performance aligned with the relevant science, suggest improvement measures, and, as appropriate, set performance targets.
- Incorporation of potential impacts into strategies and policies is enhanced when the company has public objectives related to environmental performance (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency or provision of low carbon electricity).

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Clear environmental ambition statements or policy from the CEO.
- Development or adoption of recognized processes to assess potential impacts of operations, in accordance with applicable regulations and internal requirements.
- Implementation of the Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) Guidance on the application of the mitigation hierarchy (Avoid, Reduce/Minimize, Restore, Offset) to manage impacts of O&G.
PRINCIPLE 2.

CONSIDER SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT PROMOTE OR CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING, PROTECTING OR MAINTAINING OCEAN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY AND LIVELIHOODS DEPENDENT ON THE OCEAN.

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Mobilize resources and cooperate with academia, consultants, NGOs and governments in plans and activities associated to the ocean
- Analyze options to use existing internal expertise in areas which matter for the health and productivity of the ocean
- Assess how operations and activity can contribute to restoring marine biodiversity or fisheries
- Determine how operations and future projects will impact the local community (e.g. human rights, labour and Indigenous Peoples)

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Financing of joint industry projects to build industry wide solutions (e.g. Sound and Marine life JIP, IOGP and E-DNA JIP)
- Construction of offshore wind farms, for example, to provide decarbonized energy to offshore installations
- Analysis of nature-based solutions to enhance CO2 capture and storage, shoreline protection, erosion control, and provide additional ecosystem services
- Work with local communities for improved sustainable management practices (e.g. fisheries)
- Review biodiversity impacts, aligned with the relevant science, during the decommissioning process of existing installations
PRINCIPLE 3.

TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT POLLUTION AFFECTING THE OCEAN, REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THEIR OPERATIONS TO PREVENT OCEAN WARMING AND ACIDIFICATION, AND WORK TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Assess the potential for reinjection of oil field associated production water or gas, to reduce releases of components into the environment
- Assess chemicals used during drilling and production and consider environmental risk management in the selection process. Where relevant, substitute environmentally hazardous chemicals
- Target decreasing emissions from operations with an ambition to achieve long term net zero emissions from operations, in line with the latest science
- Promote low sulphur marine fuels and analyze risks associated with other fuels
- Minimize noise pollution

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Regular (yearly) emergency exercises, involving personnel and equipment
- Regular reviews of contingency plans following emergency exercises and in consideration of newly emergent technologies/methodologies
- Industrial process analysis, incorporation of environmental risks in technical choices during project development
- Adoption of industry or international best practices in areas where such regulatory standards are absent (e.g. hydrocarbon concentration in discharged water)
- Development and application of strict ballast water management
- GHG emissions monitoring programs, to minimize energy demand, increase energy efficiency, reduce flaring and venting, detect fugitive emissions according to industry standards and where relevant electrify processes
- Cooperation between governmental, non-governmental and/or industrial players to address GHG challenges
- Commercialization and use of LNG as marine fuel
- Actively manage plastic waste and reduce the use of plastic by applying the mitigation hierarchy
- Participation with global and local initiatives that contribute to plastic clean-up or reduction in plastic waste
- Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC)

At the end of 2020, the SBTi (Science Based Targets Initiative) will issue a guidance for Oil & Gas company emissions reduction targets to be aligned with the level of transformation required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, this edition of the Practical Guidance for Oil and Gas Activities does not include any specific references to emission reduction targets within that industry.
**PRINCIPLE 4.**

**PLAN AND MANAGE THEIR USE OF AND IMPACT ON MARINE RESOURCES AND SPACE IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WHERE THEIR ACTIVITIES MAY IMPACT VULNERABLE MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE DEPENDENT UPON THEM.**

**PROPOSED GUIDANCE**

- Assess environmental aspects over the life cycle of projects (e.g. development, operation, decommissioning) and in particular their potential to impact sensitive environments
- Implement specific precautionary measures when vulnerable habitats are identified
- Identify and address potential impact, particularly, social impact (including their cultural dimensions) on fisheries and marine resources
- Promote and contribute to the development and implementation of marine spatial strategies to encourage concerted management of the rights of the different users

**EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS**

- Development of environmental risk assessments, oil spill preparedness analyses and plans. Build and implement associated social and environmental mitigation plans
- Adaptation of timing of specific operations to minimize risks to vulnerable species or populations
- Social studies to develop good understanding of potential impacts on communities (e.g. fishing practices and locations, Indigenous Peoples) and associated management plans
- Transparency in development of the environmental and social impact assessment process aligned with the relevant science, including stakeholder engagement
GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR / RELEVANCE OF PRINCIPLES 5 TO 7

In areas where O&G businesses operate, general standards may be established by authorities, but it should be noted that in countries where the O&G industry is an emerging industry or where offshore operations take place outside territorial limits, these may not exist. In such circumstances, individual companies or industry organizations should promote and implement recognized industry practices to ensure safe and environmentally sound performance.

O&G projects may have a footprint with the potential to impact local land-based or fishing communities. As they mobilize contractors and subcontractors, appropriate care should be taken to ensure that relevant requirements related to human rights, labour, Indigenous Peoples, safety or environmental performance are included in contracts and adequately implemented.

Although O&G developments may bring economic benefit and opportunities to the community, they can also generate population influx from outside communities or from other countries, with detrimental consequences to local populations and biodiversity.

VOLUNTARY REPORTING REGIMES AND PARTNERSHIP OF RELEVANCE FOR PRINCIPLES 5 TO 7

Numerous standards and partnerships exist, but few of them are specific to ocean-related O&G activities. Rather, they address general aspects associated with major projects involving numerous stakeholders and contractors. Examples are:

- OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
- Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights Reporting Framework
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR)
- IFC performance Standards and HSE Guidelines
PRINCIPLE 5.

ENGAGE RESPONSIBLY WITH RELEVANT REGULATORY OR ENFORCEMENT BODIES ON OCEAN-RELATED LAWS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS.

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Support the development of position papers on key aspects within ocean health
- Maintain consistency whether the business is interacting directly or through a professional organization with the regulatory authority
- Contribute, when possible, to international discussions and engage with regulators to ensure specific risks or challenges are addressed
- Promote a shared understanding of challenges and the development of recognized scientific data, through joint industry and public sector research

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Charter for responsible advocacy issued by individual companies that address human rights, labour and Indigenous Peoples
- Regular review of alignment between company policy and positioning of industry organizations
- Regular review of compliance with national or regional regulations and legislation and global conventions (where appropriate)
- UN Global Compact Guide on Responsible policy engagement
- Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition
PRINCIPLE 6.

FOLLOW AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES THAT ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE RELEVANT SECTOR OR MARKET CONTRIBUTING TO A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE OCEAN AND SECURE LIVELIHOODS

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Promote O&G good practices aligned with the relevant science to ensure safety of operations and minimize impacts on the environment and local population, including from contractors
- Work, where relevant, with the competent authorities to promote adoption of good safety, social and environmental practices by all involved
- Share best practices in international conferences and publications. As relevant, participate in joint industry projects or groups
- Encourage adoption of good industry or internal practice, to the extent possible, in joint venture operations

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

Several O&G industry working groups exist in relation to operational excellence or development of guidelines and best practices. Companies can contribute by sending personnel to participate, funding projects or providing in-kind support:

- Technical working groups and development of best practice documents of IPIECA and IOGP
- Joint Industry projects (JIPs)
- Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFR)
- IFC Exchange Forums
- SPE (Society of Petroleum Engineers)
PRINCIPLE 7.

RESPECT HUMAN-, LABOUR- AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS IN THE COMPANY’S OCEAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING EXERCISE APPROPRIATE DUE-DILIGENCE IN THEIR SUPPLY-CHAIN, CONSULT AND ENGAGE WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES IN A TIMELY, TRANSPARENT AND INCLUSIVE MANNER, AND ADDRESS IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Work with competent organizations, consultants or societal professionals and communities in identifying salient human rights and labour rights risks, and addressing potential human rights and labour rights impacts.
- Develop worker voice-based audits of selected contractors followed by an action plan of the contractor, if necessary.
- Work with authorities and, where relevant, intergovernmental organizations, to target alignment on expected performance and ensure that areas of key risks are addressed.
- Undertake efforts to enhance the positive social and labour effects of operations to achieve decent work for all.
- Build the capacity of partners and suppliers in their efforts to ensure decent working conditions in their operations, giving special consideration to the needs of SMEs.
- Communicate the importance of respecting human rights and labour rights in supply chains, engaging executive leadership, workers, suppliers, union and civil society through continuous dialogue.
- Ensure workers are paid fairly.
- Recognize the right to freedom of association and trade unions for all workers across the supply chain.
- Require major business partners along their supply chain to have anti-discrimination policies on political or other opinion; other status including health, the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, disabilities, religion or membership of a union.

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Perform continual human rights due diligence in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Establishment of relevant grievance mechanisms for employees, contract workers and local communities, in line with International Labour Organisation conventions and protocols.
- Engage a dialogue with local stakeholders, relying on relevant IFC Performance Standard.
- Conducting Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA).
DATA AND TRANSPARENCY

CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR / RELEVANCE OF PRINCIPLES 8 AND 9

In preparation, and during the life of the operations, various studies may be carried out by the O&G operators, such as environmental baseline studies, environmental impact assessments and environmental monitoring.

Significant amounts of scientific data may be generated as a result of such studies. These data contribute to the foundation for sustainable operational decisions as well as ocean knowledge and awareness in general.

Sharing all information openly is not always possible, as generating data is a timely and costly process. In some cases, it is immediately relevant to the operations, but in other cases, it may be of interest for other business activities. For example, meteorological data can be gathered on an oil field but may be of use later on if a wind farm is to be developed nearby in the future.

In other cases, agreements with authorities may prevent the disclosure of some data, for example because of confidentiality and/or its potential economic value (data gathered on fisheries, for example).

When possible, however, sharing scientific data on the ocean is a good way of ensuring challenges and trends are better understood, benefiting all parties.

In a similar way, transparency can help to gain public acceptance and understanding. Adequate reporting of performance is relevant for authorities and for the public to document that company performance is sustainable.

VOLUNTARY REPORTING REGIMES AND PARTNERSHIPS OF RELEVANCE FOR PRINCIPLES 8 AND 9

A set of initiatives and frameworks are used by some O&G companies:

- Proteus Partnership
- IPIECA support of UNEP- WCMC
- Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI)
- IUCN
- CDP - Carbon Disclosure Project

Other reporting regimes and standards include:

- UN Global Compact Communication on Progress
- Global Reporting Initiative
- Country specific environmental databases
PRINCIPLE 8.
WHERE APPROPRIATE SHARE RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON AND MAPPING OF RELEVANCE TO THE OCEAN.

PROPOSED GUIDANCE

- Make relevant environmental data available to stakeholders and the scientific community
- Assess option to collect data as a part of regular activities in the ocean when possible, for example observations of marine mammals or temperatures

Note that the data discussed here is non-commercially sensitive and non-confidential data. Results from seismic acquisitions or metocean campaigns, for example, are not expected to be shared

EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS

- Sharing data from environmental baseline, monitoring studies and environmental impact assessments with the public
- Incorporation of data into public or private online databases, in cooperation with organizations such as UNEP-WCMC and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), or country specific environmental databases
- Collaboration with research institutions to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science, kicking off in 2021
- Participation in joint industry programs and scientific research programs developed with universities (e.g. around the Atlantic Ocean as per i-Atlantic), designed to encourage and facilitate data sharing
**PRINCIPLE 9.**

**BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT THEIR OCEAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES, IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES IN LINE WITH RELEVANT REPORTING FRAMEWORKS**

**PROPOSED GUIDANCE**

- Provide consolidated data on emissions and discharges relevant to the ocean in public reports. Level of detail may, however, be subject to confidentiality agreements.

- Ensure lessons learnt following an incident are shared, each time this is possible, with the industry at large, and where relevant incorporated into operating practices.

**EXAMPLES OF COMPANY ACTIONS OR PROGRAMS AS RELEVANT TO THEIR BUSINESS**

- Third party auditors can help assess the reliability of the reporting tools, the accuracy of the environmental performance reporting and its materiality.

- Include "ocean aspects" as relevant in company’s yearly or regular reporting to the public, for example, in yearly sustainability report or environmental report.