



October 13, 2012

## **SESSION I: LEVERAGING THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

The oceans provide an essential endowment of goods and services to small coastal and island states that can expand substantially their economic productive zones. However, globally the health of the oceans is declining, thereby jeopardizing the wealth of goods and services they can provide.

Restoring the health of the world's oceans is a global challenge that can be solved by coordinated action to increase investment and cooperation around proven solutions to unlock the oceans' tremendous potential to increase economic growth and reduce poverty. For this reason, investing in the health of the oceans has emerged as a "new" frontier of opportunity for green growth – i.e. the Blue Economy.

### **IMPORTANCE OF OCEANS PARTICULARLY TO SMALL COASTAL AND ISLAND STATES**



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