

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT REVIEW 2023: Building a sustainable and resilient ocean economy beyond 2030

*Pacific workshop on plastic pollution & material substitutes
Exploring material substitutes and finance as part of solutions
for SDG 14 and 12*

Fiji 17-19 October 2022



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

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Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch

GOODS	 A Marine fisheries
	 B Aquaculture and hatcheries*
	 C Seafood processing
	 D Sea minerals
	 E Ships, port equipment and parts thereof
	 F High-technology and other manufactures not elsewhere classified (NEC)
SERVICES	 G Marine and coastal tourism
	 H Trade in fisheries services
	 I Maritime transport and related services*
	 J Port services, related infrastructure services and logistical services
	 K Coastal and marine environmental services
 L Marine research and development and related services	
ENERGY	 M Ocean energy and renewable energy*

Source: UNCTAD.

* Production only.

** Excludes services specific to trade in fisheries that are not related to transport.

UNCTAD's Oceans Economy Classification was used for Ocean-based sector selection (version 2017- [new version 2020](#))

The classification is structured around three categories: **Goods**, **Services** and **Energy**.

The classification is reflected in Harmonized tariff System (HS) codes at 6-digit level and W120 and UN CPC

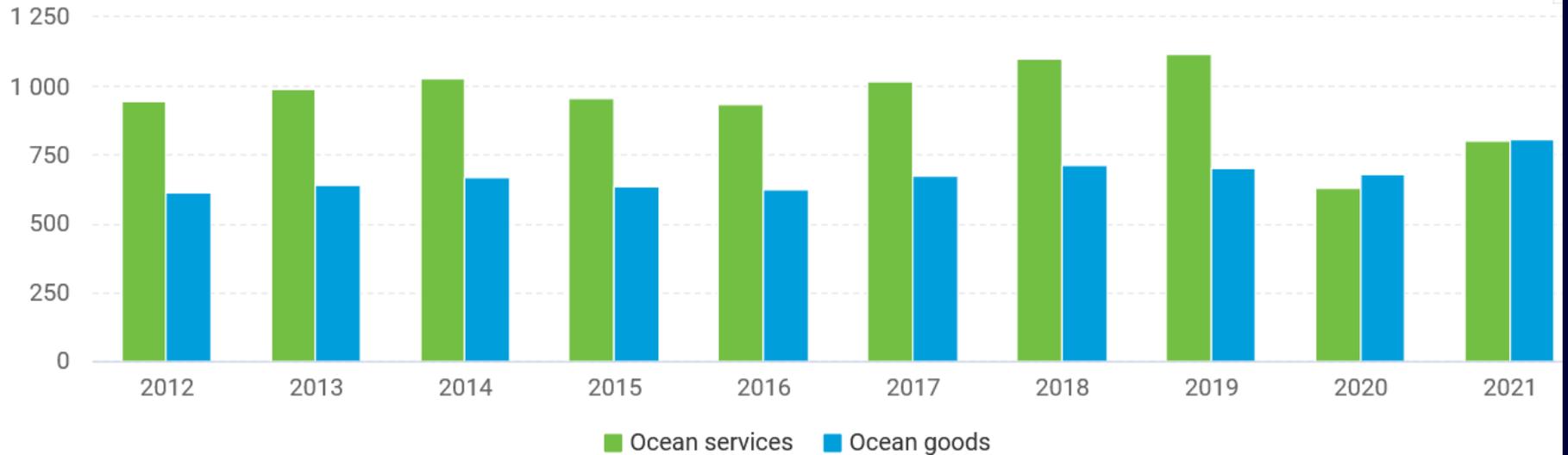
Each category is divided into chapters (A-M) and each chapter is further sub-divided into a three-digit level of detail.



KEY MESSAGE 1: Now we can measure trade flows of the Ocean Economy

Figure 1. Exports of ocean services are yet to recover back to pre-pandemic levels

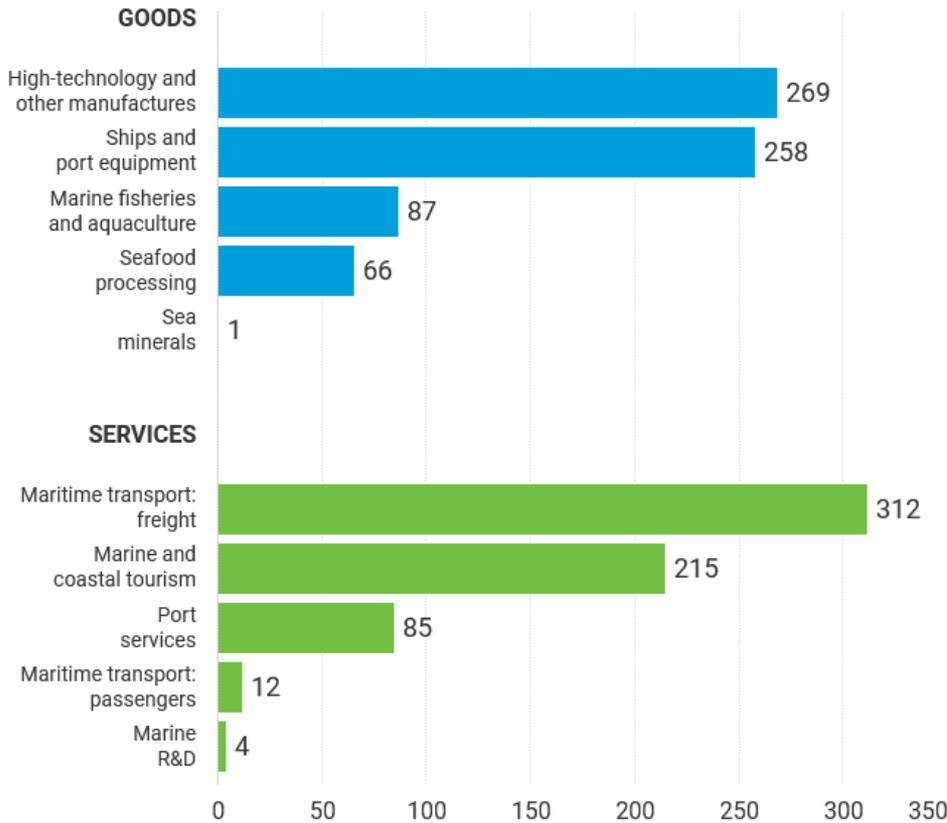
(Billions of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat ([UNCTAD, 2023a](#)).

Note: Refers to ocean economy goods and services as classified by [UNCTAD \(2021c\)](#) based on HS codes.

KEY MESSAGE 1: Sizing up the global ocean economy – the rise of ocean-based goods (billions USD)



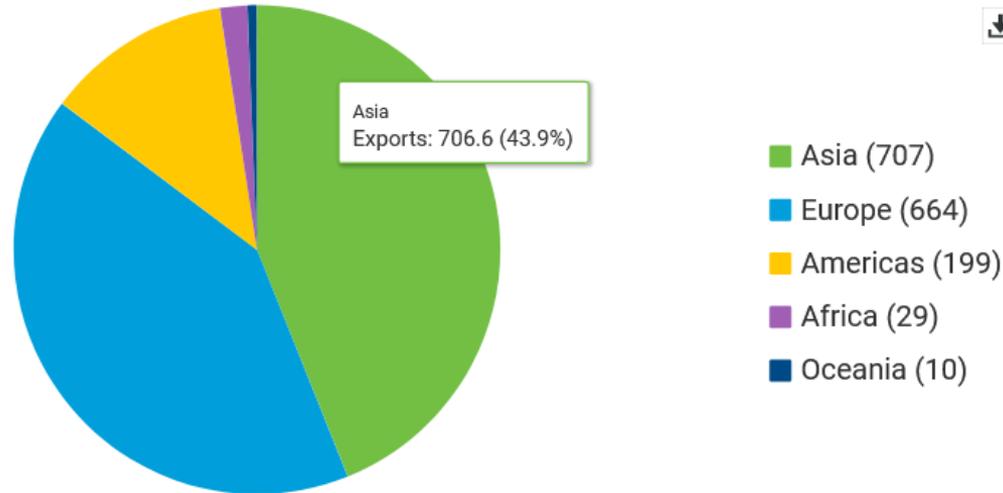
Source: UNCTAD estimates based on UNCTADstat (accessed in January 2023).

- Export value of ocean -based goods and services (2021): \$1.6 trillion (6 ± % global trade [\$28 trillion])
- The export of ocean -based goods (\$808 billion) overtook those of services (\$801 billion) in 2021 closely.
- 150 million direct jobs

KEY MESSAGE 2: Asia and Europe dominate the Ocean Trade Flows (About 80 per cent of total)



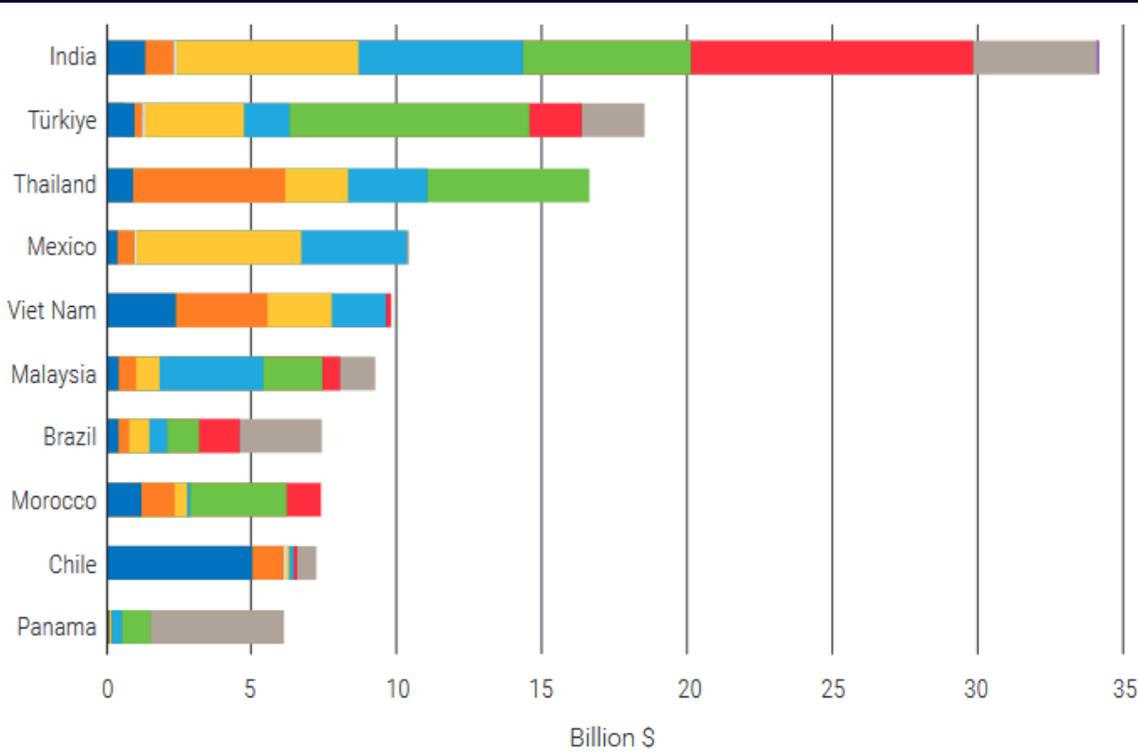
Figure 3. Ocean exports dominated by Asia and Europe with an 85 per cent market share, 2021
(Billions of US\$)



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat ([UNCTAD, 2023a](#)).

Note: Data refer to ocean economy goods and services as classified by [UNCTAD \(2021c\)](#) based on HS codes.

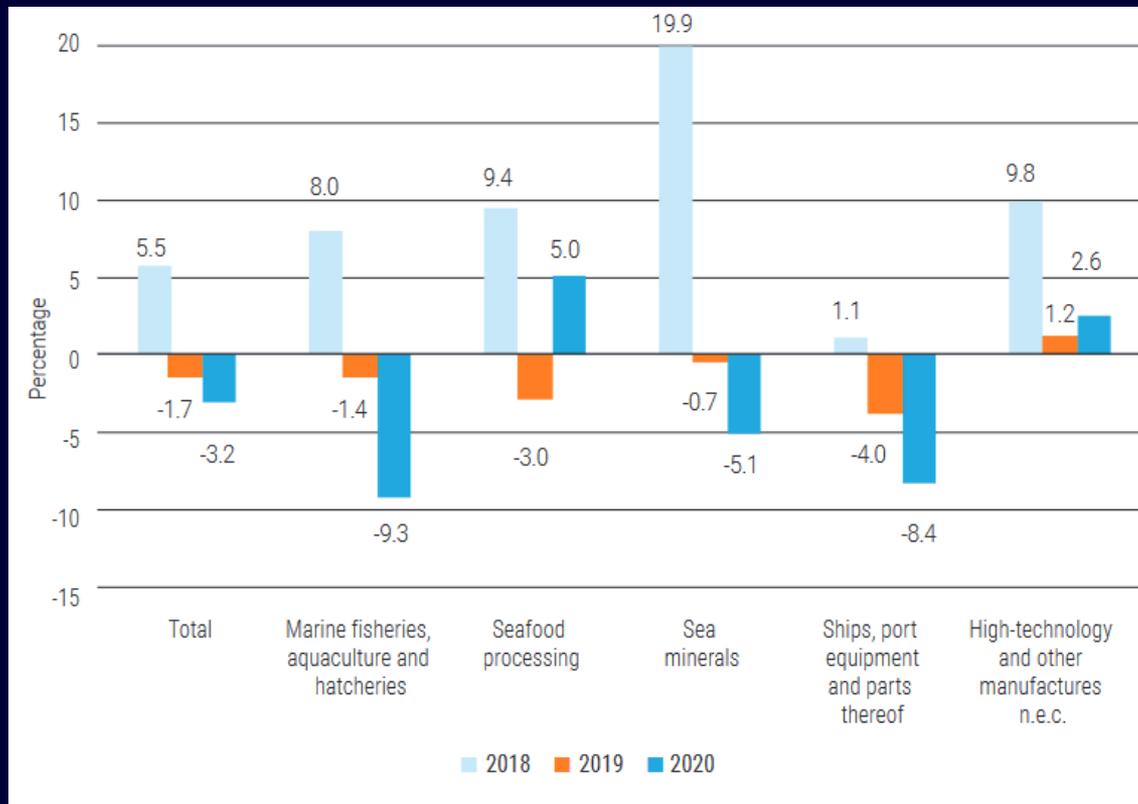
KEY MESSAGE 3: The Ocean economy provide significant opportunities for economic diversification



- Marine fisheries, aquaculture and hatcheries
- Seafood processing
- Sea minerals
- Ships, port equipment and parts thereof
- High-technology and other manufactures n.e.c.
- Marine and coastal tourism
- Maritime transport and related services: passengers
- Maritime transport and related services: freight
- Port services, related infrastructure services and logistical services
- Marine research and development and related services

Source: UNCTAD estimates based on UNCTADstat (accessed in January 2023).

KEY MESSAGE 4: The interconnectedness of global crises laid bare the extreme divergence of the ocean economy sectors



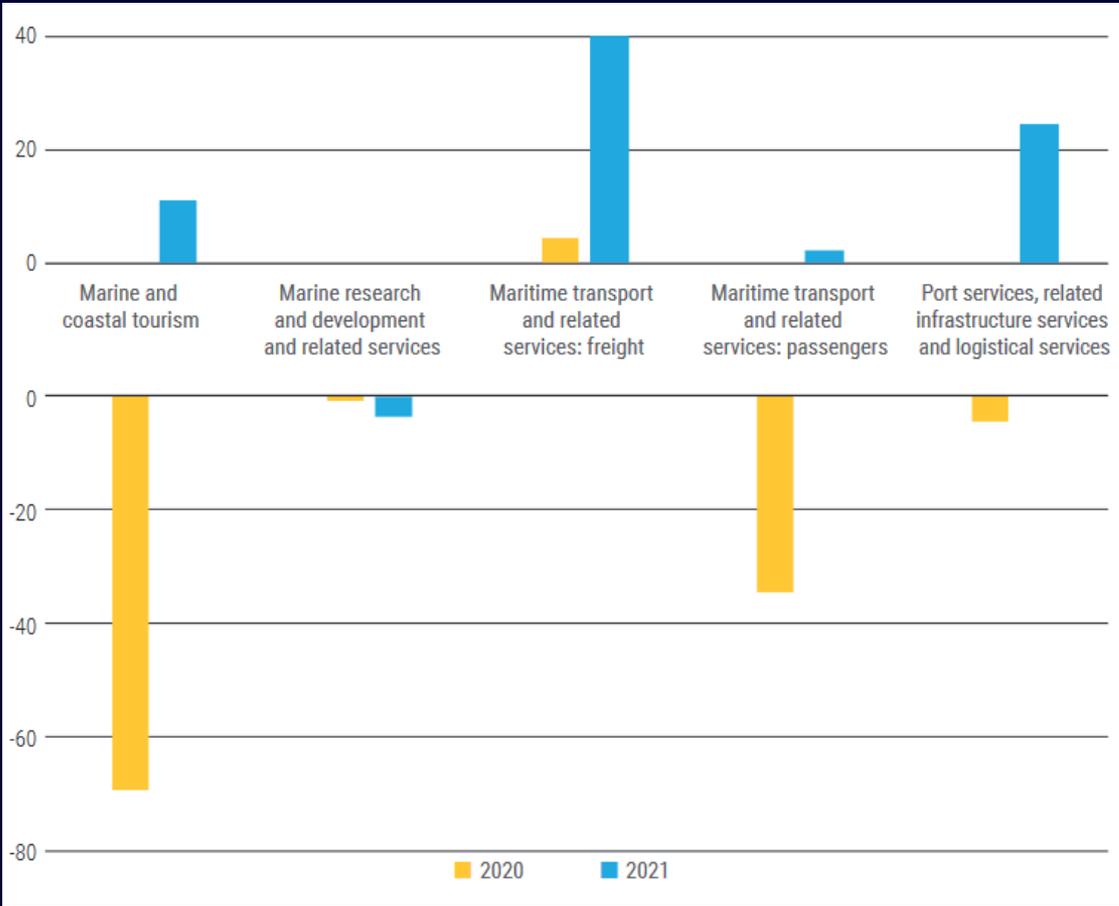
Growth rate of ocean -based goods (2018–2020)

1. Resilience vs vulnerability of ocean economy sectors
COVID-19 impacted ocean -based services much more negatively than ocean -based goods
2. Top performers during the peak of the pandemic in 2020: Seafood processing and Marine high -technology manufactures

Source: UNCTAD calculations based on UNCTADstat (accessed in January 2023).

Growth rate of total world exports in ocean services sectors (2020

-2021)



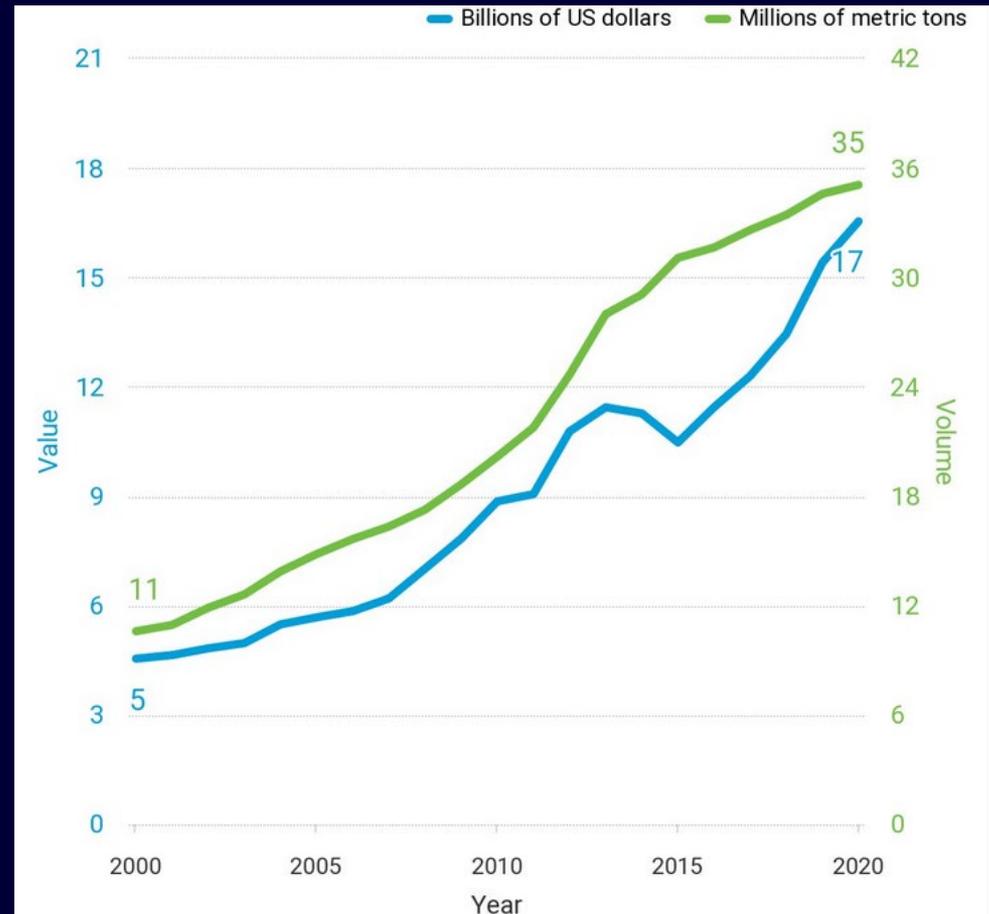
1. Maritime transport sector and related services: 4% (2020) – 40% (2021)

2. Port services, related infrastructure services and logistical services: slumped to -4% (2020) – 25% (2021)

KEY MESSAGE 5: Emerging ocean economy sectors - the next normal

1. Seaweed and by-products

- The seaweed farming boom (Low carbon, no fresh water use, no land and no fertilizers or antibiotics)
- A lot of innovation on food and non food uses
- Value and volume of farmed seaweed, 2010 -2020, billion of US dollars, millions of metric tons
- Trade in seaweed product was estimated at 1.2 billion in 2021

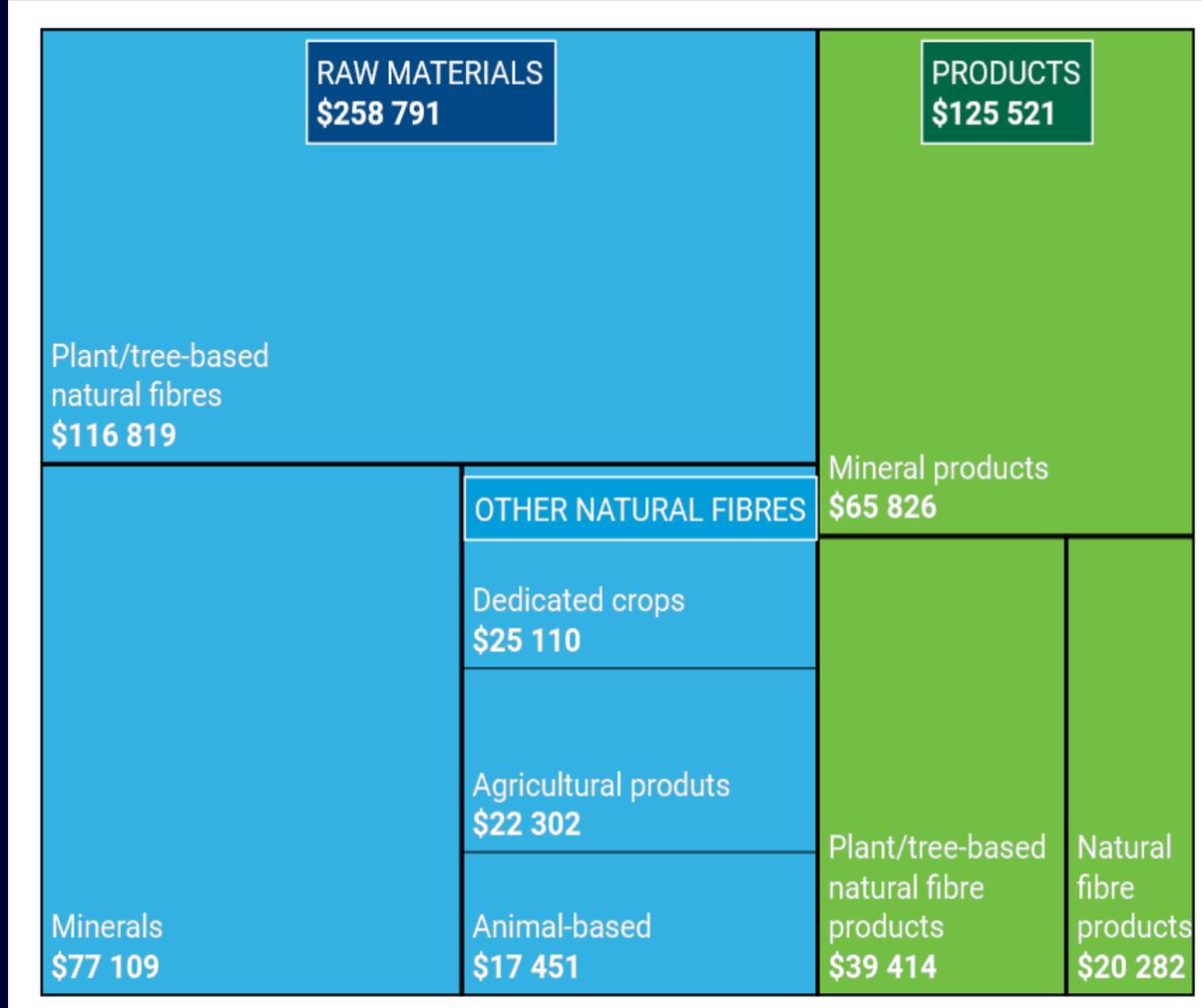


Source: Source: Prepared by UNCTAD secretariat based on FAO.

2. Non plastics

Substitutes

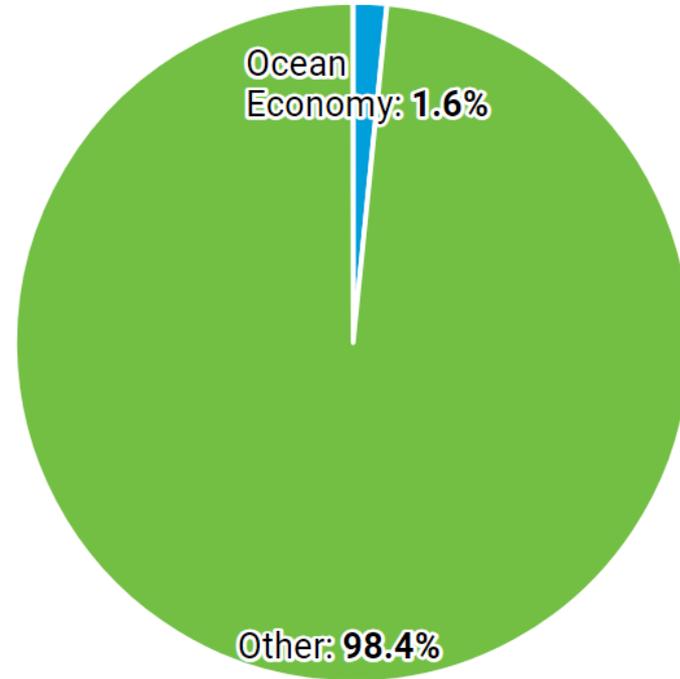
- Trade in Non plastic substitutes estimated at 388 billion (global plastic trade is 1.2 trillion)
- The role of non plastic substitutes is recognised in the zero draft text of the UN Plastic treaty





The least funded sustainable development goal

Only 1.6% of total Official Development Assistance was directed to the ocean economy from 2013 to 2018



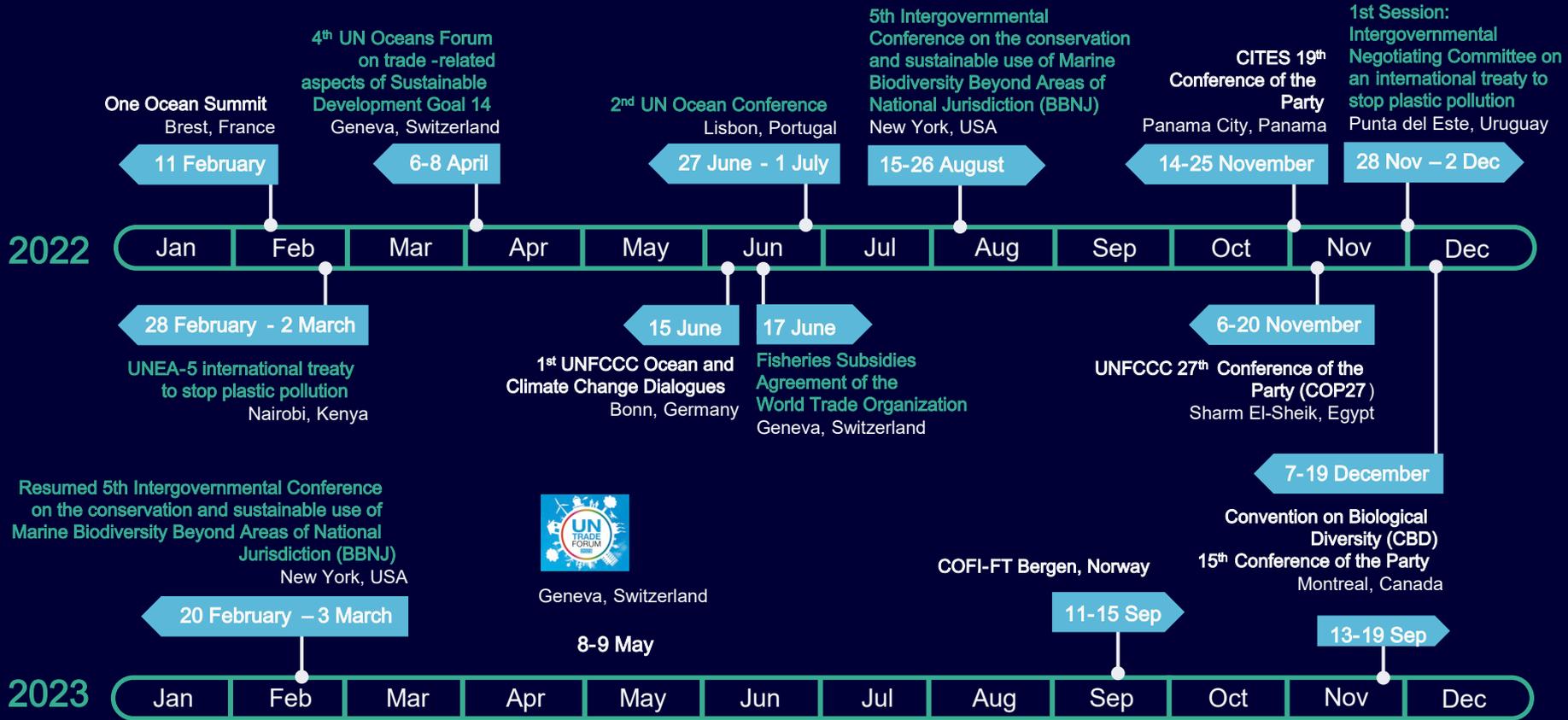
Source: UNCTAD calculations.

KEY MESSAGE 6:

SDG 14 is the least funded of all SDGs

Only \$2.9 billion was allocated to support the ocean economy in 2018

The ocean 'super year': A timeline



INC 3: Nairobi Kenya

Source: UNCTAD secretariat based on United Nations System websites and reports.



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