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## **Marine Conservation Finance: Solutions for Ocean Communities**

### **Abstract:**

The global conservation funding gap is estimated at \$7 trillion USD and growing. For management of marine environments, funding is inadequate in terms of the size, duration, and diversity of revenue. Through critical policy analysis and semi-structured interviews, at the global scale and with Great Barrier Reef case studies, this research crosses disciplines and sectors to set the foundation of the “new and emerging field” of marine conservation finance. Case studies include 1) effective marine offsets for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, 2) a Great Barrier Reef sustainable agricultural loan fund that achieves water quality outcomes and private profits, and 3) a global assessment of opportunities and challenges to develop marine impact investments – models that generate net positive marine outcomes alongside financial returns. Results indicate that innovative finance mechanisms can be employed for marine conservation, but specialized capacity and transition capital need to be developed. Strategic consideration of finance – at the beginning of a conservation planning process and with the engagement of stakeholders – is a critical catalyst to achieving marine conservation outcomes.