



Towards a Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans and Seas: Healthy, Productive and Resilient Oceans and Seas- Prosperous and Resilient Peoples and Communities

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Global Ocean Forum

- **Mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments put the issues of oceans, coasts, and islands on the agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**
- **Since 2001, the GOF has brought together ocean leaders from 110 countries to advance the global ocean agenda, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, policy analyses, and building of consensus on unresolved issues**
- **Promotes cross-sectoral approaches to oceans and seas, good governance, sustainable development for coastal and island peoples around the world, and healthy marine ecosystems**
- **Very active in the Rio+20 process, inter alia, organizing the Oceans Day at Rio+20, co-leading the Oceans and Seas Cluster of the UN Major Groups**

Purpose of Presentation

- **Address two major points:**
 - 1. The centrality of oceans for sustainable development**
 - 2. Put forward some tangible suggestions for an oceans SDG goal and a set of accompanying targets**

Centrality of Oceans and Seas for Sustainable Development

1. **Oceans and seas are essential for planetary survival** ☑
Bottom-line— all of the world's population must care about the health of the oceans and seas and exercise ocean stewardship
2. **Oceans and seas are essential for national and global economic well-being**
 - The oceans and seas account for a large portion of global economic activity, estimated at \$3-6 trillion
 - Coastal economic activity is the lifeblood of over 150 coastal and island nations
 - Coastal tourism 6-7% of global employment and 5% of global GDP
 - Ocean benefits provided by oceans comprises over 60% of global GNP

Centrality of Oceans and Seas for Sustainable Development

3. Oceans and seas are essential for social well-being

- Over 40 percent, or 3.1 billion, of the world's population within 100 kilometers of the ocean or sea in about 150 coastal and island nations
- Regardless of whether a country is landlocked, or has a coastline, all nations are directly connected to the oceans and seas through rivers, lakes, and streams
- “blue-green economy” increases overall wealth of a nation while producing a higher GDP growth rate
- Sustainable ocean activities increase rates of employment and good sanitation while reducing poverty, malnutrition, and pollution
- Women comprise the majority of secondary activities workforce in marine fisheries and aquaculture; strengthens economic vitality of communities and enhances the status of women in developing countries
- Further support for emergency preparedness programs, disaster response planning, as well as early warning systems, observations, and coastal planning and management is needed to reduce the threat of climate change

Major Means for Achieving Sustainable Development of Oceans and Seas

- **Good governance (ecosystem-based, integrated approaches both for oceans and coasts under national jurisdiction and in ABNJ)**
- **Implementation of blue growth/blue economy approaches to help eradicate poverty, move toward a low carbon economy, create jobs**
- **Capacity building**

Possible Elements of a Sustainable Goal on Oceans

- **Rooted in global commitments made at the 1992, 2002, and 2012 world summits on sustainable development, and in the 1982 UN Convention on Law of the Sea**
- **Given the centrality of oceans in global and national sustainable development, an SDG on oceans must include actions at all levels**
- **Put forward one overarching SDG on Oceans and Seas, and 12 targets addressing global and national levels**

Goal on Oceans and Seas

Exercise stewardship of the oceans and seas, protect their vital role in sustaining life on Earth, and promote “blue growth” to achieve prosperous and resilient peoples and communities.

Targets

- **Global Targets**

Target 1. Achieve **healthy marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity**

Target 2: Safeguard the world's **fisheries**

Target 3: Reduce the incidence and impacts of **marine pollution**

Target 4: Address the issues on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of marine **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction** (64% of the oceans)

Target 5: Improve international **cooperation**, especially at the **regional level**

Target 6: Build the **capacity** of nations (marine management and on marine natural and social sciences)

Target 7: Develop the **public's** capacity to exercise **ocean stewardship**

Targets

- **National Targets**

Target 8: Promote “blue growth/blue economy” to help eradicate poverty, move toward a low-carbon economy, create jobs

Target 9: Improve ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts under national jurisdiction

Target 10: Address the special needs of least developed countries, African states, and SIDS in marine management and enhance the social and economic benefits derived from these resources

Target 11: Ensure that coastal and island communities have adequate resources for effective adaptation to the impacts of ocean warming and ocean acidification

Target 12: Address the problems of climate change-induced displacement of peoples

An aerial photograph of a massive ocean wave, likely a tsunami or a large storm surge, with a vibrant rainbow visible in the white foam of the breaking water. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Oceans are the point at which planet, people, and prosperity come together. And that is what sustainable development is about. It is about all of us as shareholders of Earth, incorporated, acknowledging and acting on our responsibility to the planet, to the people, and to its bloodstream, the oceans.

Elizabeth Thompson, Co-Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference, at Oceans Day at Rio+20