



COMMUNITIES OF OCEAN ACTION

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

Ocean Action Newsletter

June 2018 - Ocean Conference One Year Anniversary Issue

<https://oceanconference.un.org>

The UN Ocean Conference, held at UN Headquarters in June 2017, brought together more than 4000 participants from governments, the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academia, the scientific community and the private sector. The Conference resulted in a number of ambitious outcomes, including the



adoption of the "Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action" declaration, co-chairs' summaries of the seven partnership dialogues that were held during the Conference, and over 1400 voluntary commitments made in support of SDG 14 by various stakeholders.

As reported in previous issues of the Ocean Action Newsletter, many important developments related to SDG 14 have taken place since June last year, including: the appointment of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (<https://oceanconference.un.org/SpecialEnvoy>); the launch of nine new Communities of Ocean Action to follow-up on the voluntary commitments on SDG 14 (<https://oceanconference.un.org/coa>); the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly; and the decision of the General Assembly to convene an Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference).

World Oceans Day

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 63/111, has designated 8 June as the World Oceans Day to be celebrated around the world annually. The theme of this year's World Oceans Day is "Clean our Ocean!". At UN Headquarters in New York, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs is organizing a number of activities to commemorate the day, including a panel discussion on "Clean our

ocean: innovation and youth”, and the announcement of the winners of the annual World Oceans Day Oceanic Photo Competition (<http://www.un.org/depts/los/wod/index.htm>). In addition, as part of “Be the Change week” led by the Department of Public Information from 4-8 June 2018, there will be a clean-up of the East River organized together with the Lower East Side Ecology Center (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2018/05/join-us-2018-change-week-unhq/>).

A central UN Portal for World Oceans Day (<http://unworldoceansday.org>) is coordinated by UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and DOALOS. A voluntary commitment of the 2017 Ocean Conference, the portal acts as a hub for information on all World Oceans Day events that are taking place on 8 June. Through the portal users can follow major World Oceans Day initiatives and projects, learn more about our shared ocean, and make pledges to protect the ocean for future generations.

Highlights of recent activities undertaken by the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson



Over the course of spring 2018, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson has addressed several events to voice his support of SDG 14 through Ocean Action. On 27 and 28 March 2018, the Special Envoy attended the meeting of the UN-Oceans hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, where he strategized with

UN member institutions on ways to make progress on SDG14 targets and was interviewed about the recently-approved International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZIsp1aEsYc>]

The Special Envoy was a keynote speaker at the ninth edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative, held at the University of Edinburgh from 8 to 10 April. The Initiative is a think tank created by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco. It aims to lay the foundation for a new model of development for the Ocean and for a blue planet bringing together Ocean experts yearly in conjunction with the Monaco Ocean Week (8-14 April 2018). The focus of this year's meeting was on Sustainable Blue Economy and Marine Protected Areas. For media coverage please see: [<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/09/prince-albert-monaco-warns-irreversible-tragedies-facing-worlds/>]. In Monaco, the Special Envoy also participated in the first planning meeting of the Friends of Ocean Action, which was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2018 to continue the momentum of private sector, civil society, NGO and scientific support for the implementation of SDG 14.

On 17 and 18 April he addressed the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London, which subsequently adopted a Commonwealth Blue Charter [http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CommonwealthBlueCharter_1.pdf] to ensure sustainable development and protection of the Ocean. On 23 April he contributed to the 72nd meeting of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee, which adopted a landmark initial strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships, setting out a vision to reduce such emissions from international shipping by 50% by 2050, and to phase them out entirely in this century, a pathway of CO₂ emissions reduction that is consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. The Special Envoy also participated in the IMO High-Level Forum held on the occasion of the organization's 70th Anniversary.

The Special Envoy also served as a keynote speaker and expert panelist in several other events related to Sustainable Blue Economy over the course of the spring, including a conference in Singapore on 26 and 27 April on "Green Shipping. Blue Business: moving forward together", organized by the Government of Norway in cooperation with the Governments of Singapore, Germany and the Philippines. On 9 and 10 May, he attended the first-ever "Ocean Risk Summit: reducing risk from a changing Ocean", where participants from the business and finance sectors, governments and the scientific community discussed building resilience, managing and reducing risk, and new financial instruments to assist in these endeavors. [see photo @IISD Special Envoy for the Ocean speaking at the Ocean Risk Summit] On 16 May, just a week before the European Commission unveiled its legislative proposals on single-use plastics, the Special Envoy spoke in Brussels at the "Can the Blue Economy Can Save our Oceans?" event organized by the European Parliament, Sky Ocean Rescue and WWF on the role of the European Union in building sustainable development and addressing plastic pollution, [see photo @Sky The Special Envoy for the Ocean takes a pass on plastic + link: [http://www.wwf.eu/media/centre/events/can-the-blue-economy-save-our/](http://www.wwf.eu/media/centre/events/can-the-blue-economy-save-our-/)]. On 21 May, the Special Envoy participated in the high-level conference on Financing the Resilience of SIDS in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, which resulted in "the St. John's Call for Action" to

address the vulnerability of SIDS. [<http://www.sustainablesids.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINANCING-THE-RESILIENCE-OF-SIDS---THE-ST-JOHN'S-CALL-FOR-ACTION-ANTIGUA-AND-BARBUDA-21---22-MAY-2018-.pdf>]. From 23 to 25 May, the Special Envoy met with scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to interface with Ocean scientists on new research on reproduction of heat-resilient coral among other topics and the high importance of life in the Ocean's mesopelagic zone. [see photo @PThomson "Inspecting coral cores -trusting scientific consensus is key to meeting SDG14"].

In addition, the Special Envoy has filmed messages for several events that he was unable to attend personally, such as the WWF Annual Conference on the Coral Reef Initiative, the World Maritime University's Global Ocean Conference, the EF-UNDP-IMO Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Programme's Global Industry Alliance meeting, the inauguration of the new Geodetic Earth Observatory in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway, the Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Program Global Industry Alliance Meeting, and various events taking place around the world on 8 June, World Oceans Day.

As well as interviews for TV and radio broadcasts, the Special Envoy has also contributed to news articles including in The Maritime Executive [<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/u-n-ambassador-issues-urgent-call-for-action>] and the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change newsletter's June edition. [<http://www.cmcc.it/newsletters>] He also prepared newspaper and popular press articles including "Reversing the Ocean's accelerating decline" in *The Guardian* [<https://www.theguardian.com/the-gef-partner-zone/2018/may/16/reversing-the-s-accelerating-decline>], and an article on SDG 14 for the June edition of Impakter [<https://impakter.com>].

In all his speaking engagements, the Special Envoy has emphasized that the health of the Ocean is in deep trouble and that integrity of implementation of SDG 14 is essential for a healthy planet. He has continued to encourage the work of the nine Communities of Ocean Action established by DESA to drive forward the 1400 voluntary commitments from the 2017 UN Ocean Conference towards completion in time for the expected 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

You are invited to follow the Special Envoy's twitter account [<https://twitter.com/ThomsonFiji>] where he shares messages of his hopes for a healthy Ocean future. [see photo @PThomson Green heron fishing on a clean shore in Antigua and Barbuda]



Official launch of the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Business Action Platform

The United Nations Global Compact will launch the Sustainable Ocean Business Action Platform on 8 June during the World Oceans Day. For more information: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events/1624-official-launch-of-un-global-compact-sustainable-ocean-business-action-platform>

BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference organizational meeting

The organizational meeting of the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations convention on the law of the sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity areas beyond national jurisdiction of the intergovernmental conference (BBNJ) was held from 16 to 18 April 2018. The meeting adopted a number of decisions on organizational matters, such as the modalities for the Conference, including the rules of procedure, composition of the Credentials Committee, the Bureau, the organization of work, and the preparation of the zero draft of the instrument. For more information: <http://undocs.org/en/a/conf.232/2018/2>

High-level Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy

The government of Kenya has announced that it will host a High-level Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy in Nairobi, from 26 to 28 November 2018. The theme of the conference is *Blue Economy and the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development*, and it will focus on new technologies and innovation for oceans, seas, lakes and rivers as well as the challenges, potential opportunities, priorities and partnerships. For more: <http://www.mfa.go.ke/kenya-host-blue-economy-conference-nairobi/>

Other developments

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and UN Environment's Reef Unit recently kicked off a collaboration with the

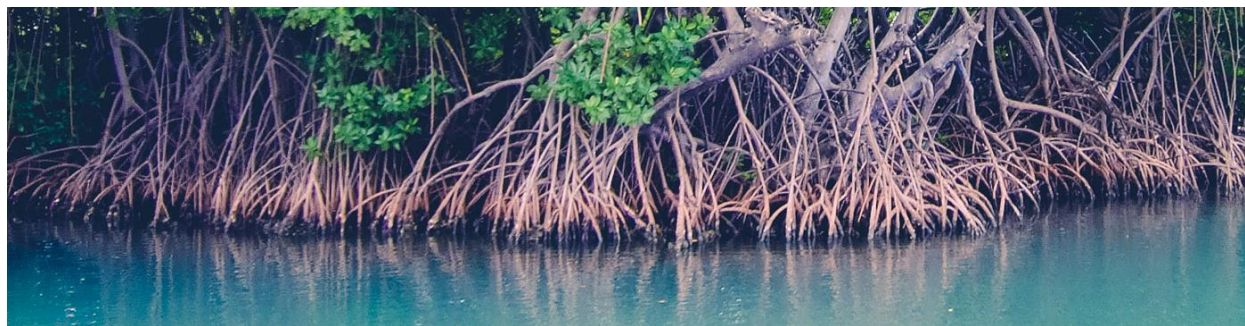
Government of Sri Lanka (Marine Environmental Prevention Authority of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment) under the South Asia Cooperative Programme (SACEP) looking at the links between coral reef health and land-based pollution. For a story featured under the most recent edition of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) newsletter; see <https://spark.adobe.com/page/jjyr7mUnVfauc/>.

As part of its Sustainable Development Goals Policy Briefs on environmental issues, UN Environment has published an SDG Policy Brief “Oceans: Marine Pollution” which focuses on the drivers, impacts and responses to marine litter. It links to the current datasets on marine pollution, and gives reference to recent UN Environment publications on marine plastics and litter. It demonstrates links to reliable evidence and real-world examples of ingenuities that address these challenges. The Brief is available on the [Environment live platform](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22331/SDG%20Brief%2001%20MarPollution.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=yf) and UN Environment knowledge repository: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22331/SDG Brief 001 MarPollution.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=yf](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22331/SDG%20Brief%2001%20MarPollution.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=yf)

UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme’s Newsletter reviewing activities from January to April 2018 is available at: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/uW077iQcaYkuM/>

Updates from the Communities of Ocean Action (COAs)

Mangroves



[Workshop: Western Indian Ocean & Asia mangrove best practices workshop - 4-6 April 2018 in Diani Beach, Kenya](#)

Under the umbrella of the Save Our Mangroves Now! (SOMN!) initiative, IUCN and WWF Germany co-organized a scoping workshop on best practices in mangrove conservation and advancing regional mangrove voluntary commitments. The workshop brought together participants from government ministries and agencies as well as scientific experts and project implementation officers from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and, to foster cross-regional learning, additional experts from Asia participated as well.

<https://www.iucn.org/news/marine-and-polar/201804/western-indian-ocean-and-asia-regional-experts-identify-gaps-mangrove-conservation-best-practices-scoping-workshop>

Workshop: Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction workshop - 5-8 March 2018 in Suva, Fiji

At a workshop co-hosted by IUCN, the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and Mangroves for the Future (MFF), participants discussed opportunities for moving beyond pilot initiatives and implementing mangrove conservation and restoration at larger scales. The governments of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, exchanged knowledge and experiences with IUCN and MFF, including country experiences from India and Pakistan. Opening remarks were presented by Mr. Peter Thomson, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, in which he emphasized the role of the COA on Mangroves in implementing global mangrove voluntary commitments to scale. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJTcjUK5KWI&feature=youtu.be>).
<https://www.iucn.org/es/node/29853>

Web story: Mangroves and REDD+: A new component of Mangroves for the Future

Mangroves for the Future has initiated a new component, supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, aimed at including mangrove forests more consistently into national Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) strategies and processes.

<https://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/news-and-media/news/global/2017/mangroves-and-redd-a-new-component-of-mff>

Web story: IUCN and MFF stand with Pakistan Navy in massive mangrove restoration campaign

The Pakistan Navy, in collaboration with Mangroves for the Future, launched the Mangroves Plantation Campaign for 2018 in Shah Bandar, a town in Sindh Province's Sujawal District.

<https://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/news-and-media/news/pakistan/2018/iucn-and-mff-stand-with-pakistan-navy-in-massive-mangrove-restoration-campaign/>

Video: Returning Mangroves to Tanjung Panjang

This video touches on how a team of local experts and NGOs in Indonesia are using ROAM, a tool developed by IUCN, to help communities and local governments restore forest cover to Tanjung Panjang.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuWlJc21_kY

Web Story: Mangrove Sediments

As part of an ongoing series on mangrove science between the IUCN Forests Programme and the IUCN Marine Programme, an explanation on the importance of mangrove sediments and abiotic factors for successful mangrove conservation and restoration efforts.

<https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/201804/ground-rules-successful-restoration-mangrove-sediments>

Upcoming: Mangrove side event to be held at 6th Annual Assembly of the Global Environment Facility on June 26, 2018

Coordinated by the Global Mangrove Alliance, a side event focused on the importance of investment in mangrove ecosystems will be held at the 6th Annual Assembly of the Global Environment Facility in Da Nang, Vietnam. Proceedings of the side event will be moderated by Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director of the Asia Regional Office of IUCN and Sherpa for the Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves.

Ocean Acidification



Ocean acidification – what to measure and what to report?

GOA-ON and SDG

#OceanAction16542

The aim of SDG 14 is to “*conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources*”, and it encompasses 10 targets. The Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network ([GOA-ON](#)) is particularly involved in supporting countries to achieve [Target 14.3](#), which aims to “*minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through scientific cooperation at all levels*”. GOA-ON made a voluntary commitment ([#OceanAction16542](#)) to expand the spatial and temporal coverage of ocean acidification observations around the world. To achieve this, GOA-ON participates in and organizes international meetings and world-wide capacity building workshops, which consist of practical technical training and lectures. In some cases, GOA-ON has been able to provide the necessary sensing equipment (‘GOA-ON in a box’) to scientists around the globe, supported by regional hubs of the network, e.g. the Latin American Ocean Acidification Network ([LAOCA](#)) and [WESTPAC](#) ([#OceanAction15274](#)). GOA-ON currently has 475 members from 75 countries, and is constantly growing. GOA-ON members were encouraged to explore the features of a new [Ocean Acidification Information Exchange](#) platform recently launched with the support of the US Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification and [NOAA](#) and operated by the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems to enable discussions and facilitate communication within the OA community.

Members of the GOA-ON Executive Council, including experts from [IOCCP/GOOS](#), the [OA-ICC of the IAEA](#), [IOC-UNESCO](#), [NOAA](#), and international scientists, held their 5th Annual Meeting at the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN) in Sopot, Poland from 28 to 30 May to review the methodology for Indicator 14.3.1 (“*average marine acidity*”).

measured at an agreed suite of representative sampling stations” - IOC-UNESCO custodian agency). This methodology provides detailed guidance to scientists and countries in terms of what variables to measure and how, following best practices guidelines established by the ocean acidification community. It also provides recommendation on how to report the collected information in a manner that ensures it is transparent, traceable and can be utilized in a global comparison of pH measurements. Through this process, GOA-ON directly contributes to the achievement of SDG Target 14.3. The collective expertise of GOA-ON in science and policy ensures the development of a guiding vision for the collection and sharing of ocean chemistry data, which in the future will extend to biological data.

Ocean acidification recently gained further recognition through its adoption as a Global Climate Indicator in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Statement of the State of the Global Climate, which is submitted to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Global Climate Indicators are a suite of seven parameters that describe the changing climate, without reducing climate change to temperature. The Indicators include key information for the most relevant domains of climate change, such as the atmospheric composition, energy, ocean, water and the cryosphere. The inclusion of ocean acidification in this list sends a strong signal of recognition and underlines the importance of SDG Target 14.3.

Sustainable Blue Economy



On 29 March 2018, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Prince of Wales’ International Sustainability Unit (ISU) and the World Resources Institute convened the very first webinar of the Community of Ocean Action on sustainable blue economy since its launch in November last year. Many COA members participated actively and exchanged information about various initiatives relating to sustainable blue economy that had been launched after the Ocean Conference, including the announcement by the government of Kenya to hold a Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy in Nairobi in November 2018, and the unveiling of the 14 Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles by the ISU, the European Commission, WWF and the European Investment Bank at the World Ocean Summit in March 2018.

Updates from voluntary commitments

Peace Boat celebrates World Ocean Day



On 26 June, Peace Boat, an International NGO working to promote a culture of peace and sustainability around the world, will start the second edition of its Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme in Stockholm, Sweden. This programme was announced at the Ocean Conference in June 2017 as a voluntary commitment towards the implementation of SDG14. The first edition took place from September - October 2017 and was an Endorsed Event of the COP23 Presidency.

To be held in collaboration with small island developing States (SIDS), the programme will bring youth leaders from States on the front line of climate change and marine degradation to travel onboard Peace Boat's ship, engaging in capacity building and bringing their message to citizens and government representatives through the voyage. The young leaders, all active in their own communities on issues related to SDG 14, as well as 13, will connect with civil society organizations and government agencies in ports visited. Their voyage will start in Sweden, in recognition of Sweden's leadership in the Ocean Conference and they will visit Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Canada and the United States. Their voyage will end as Peace Boat docks in New York during the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, where the youth ambassadors will report on their efforts to both the United Nations community and the broader public.

Peace Boat is an international NGO with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations and is associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). Since 1983, Peace Boat has been conducting advocacy and education programmes for peace and sustainability on board a chartered passenger ship. In the year 2016, Peace Boat has been sailing with the Global Goals Logo painted on the side of the ship's hull. Peace Boat's EcoShip Project to build an eco-friendly cruise ship to sail around the world was the first voluntary commitment from civil society to SDG 14 during the Ocean Conference. With zero Nox and sulphur emissions and 40% reduction in CO₂, the EcoShip seeks to address ocean

acidification and the ship has closed water and closed waste systems to combat marine pollution. Now in the construction phase, the EcoShip will be the flagship for the SDGs.

For more information about Peace Boat, visit www.peaceboat.org

Link to the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador program report:

<https://issuu.com/peaceboat/docs/magazineyouthambassadors-web>

Peace Boat EcoShip project: www.ecoship-pb.com