



**COMMUNITIES OF
OCEAN ACTION**
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14



The Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves – Towards the Implementation of SDG14

Interim Report to UN-DESA



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INTRODUCTION

MANGROVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 - to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development - requires global action towards the protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems.

Mangrove forests are some of the most productive and biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. They deliver incredible ecosystem services that play a critical role in supporting human well-being through climate regulation, disaster risk reduction, food security, and poverty reduction. Mangrove ecosystems provide protection from the impacts of climate change, often for some of the world's most vulnerable people, by attenuating wave energy and storm surges, adapting to rising sea levels, and stabilizing shorelines from erosion. Mangrove ecosystems are also an incredible source of carbon sequestration and storage, giving them an important role in climate mitigation.

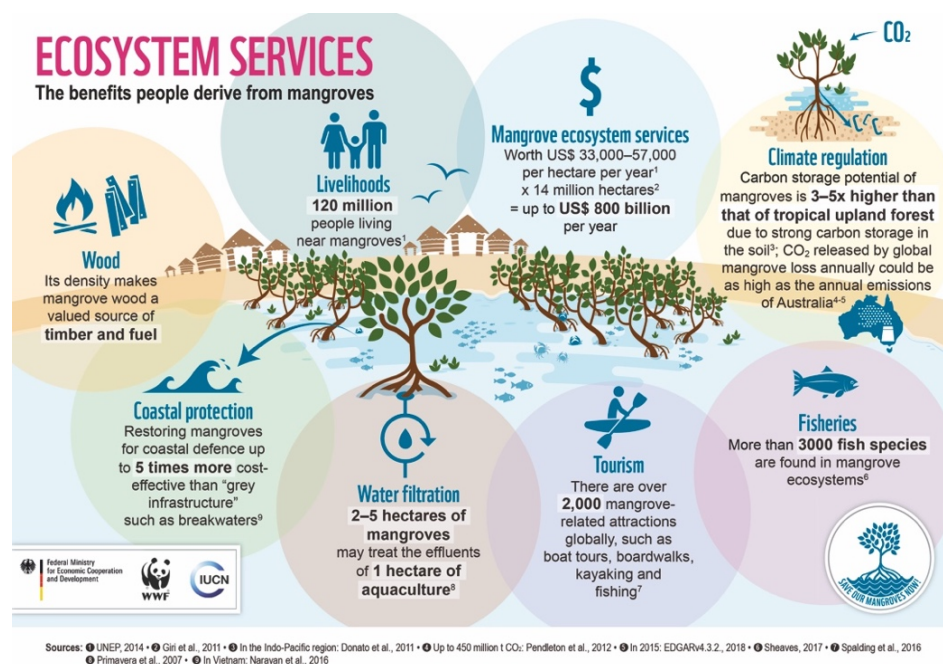
Over 100 million people live within 10 km of large mangrove ecosystems in 123 countries covering approximately 15.2 million hectares.¹ Developing countries with mangroves are estimated to benefit from the ecosystem services the forests provide to the tune of US\$ 33,000 - 57,000 per hectare per year.^{2,3} These ecosystem services include:

Food Security & Livelihoods: With an estimated 80% of global fish catches directly or indirectly dependent on mangroves⁴, these forests help ensure food security for local communities and contribute significantly to local livelihoods, providing employment for coastal populations.⁵

Adaptation & Disaster Risk

Reduction: Mangrove ecosystems are important natural defenses against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, including coastal erosion, extreme weather events, and sea level rise. Recent studies have shown that the natural infrastructure of mangrove belts only 100m in width reduce wave heights by up to 66%, protecting shorelines and reducing the vulnerability of local communities.

Climate Mitigation: Mangrove ecosystems have high carbon stocks, containing on average 1,023 metric tons of carbon per hectare.⁶ They store 3 to 4 times more carbon than tropical terrestrial forest; more that 80% of the carbon they capture



¹ UNEP (2014): The Importance of Mangroves to People: A Call to Action. Von Bochove, J., Sullivan, E., and Takamura, T. (Eds). United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge. 128 pp

² Salem, M. E., & Mercer, D. E. (2012). The economic value of mangroves: a meta-analysis. Sustainability, 4(3), 359- 383.

³ Barbier, E. B., Hacker, S. D., Kennedy, C., Koch, E. W., Stier, A. C., & Silliman, B. R. (2011). The value of estuarine and coastal ecosystem services. Ecological monographs, 81(2), 169-193.

⁴ Ellison AM. (2008). Managing mangroves with benthic biodiversity in mind: moving beyond roving banditry. J Sea Res 59: 2–15.

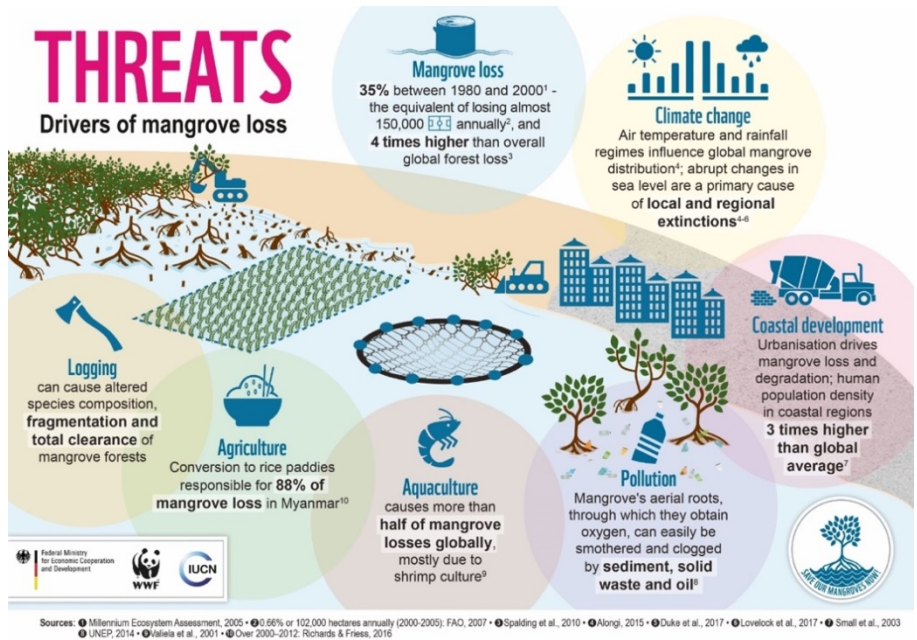
⁵ Pidgeon, Emily (2010). Sequestration of Carbon Along Our Coasts: Important Sinks and Sources. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/pavilion/cancun-presentations/2010-12-1-Pidgeon-en.pdf>.

⁶ Donato, D. C., Kauffman, J. B., Murdiyarso, D., Kurnianto, S., Stidham, M., & Kanninen, M. (2011). Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. Nature Geoscience, 4(5), 293-29

stored in the soils beneath them, making them vulnerable to land use changes.

Biodiversity: At the interface between coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, mangrove ecosystems comprise a wide array of unique habitats and thus support diverse terrestrial, estuarine, and marine species.

However, in the past century, 67% of global mangroves have been lost due to drivers including coastal development, aquaculture, agriculture, and climate change. Restoring and conserving these vital ecosystems is key to sustaining both coastal communities and biodiversity. Because investing in mangroves has such wide-ranging benefits, their protection is a key pathway to not only meeting the outcomes of SDG14 but other development and climate goals.



THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION FOR MANGROVES

In 2017, following the registration of more than 1,400 voluntary commitments (VCs) related to SDG14 at the UN Ocean Conference, the UN identified that these VCs together address nine thematic areas. For purposes of follow-up and implementation of these commitments leading up to the next UN Ocean Conference in 2020, nine corresponding Communities of Ocean Action were created:

1. **Mangroves**
2. Coral reefs
3. Ocean acidification
4. Marine and coastal ecosystems management
5. Sustainable fisheries
6. Marine pollution
7. Sustainable blue economy
8. Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology
9. Implementation of international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Each community is coordinated by designated focal points who work together with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in carrying out the activities. The focal points for the Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves are Ms. Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

IUCN and Ramsar's role as co-focal points for the Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves is to:

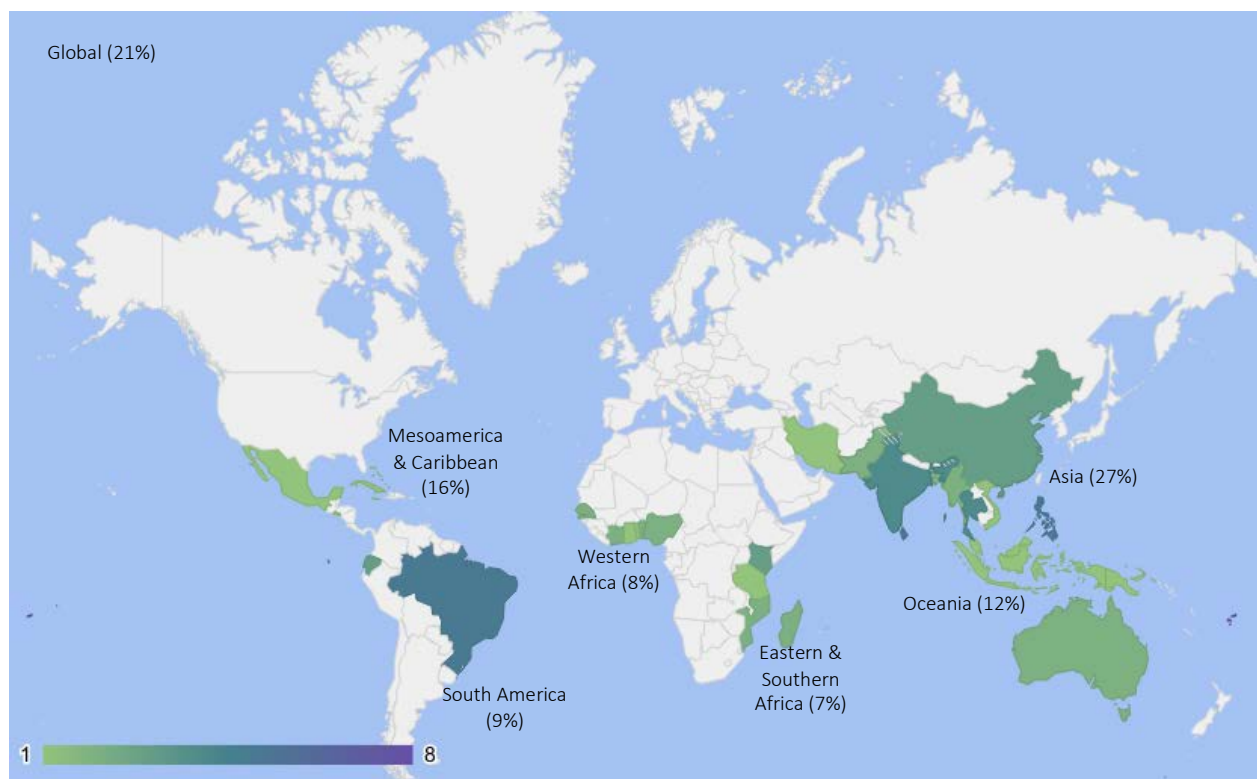
- Generate multi-stakeholder interest and engagement in the Mangrove Community;
- Consult broadly with the Mangrove Community to provide assessments of progress of voluntary commitments, and collect examples of successful implementation of voluntary commitments;
- Help spur the creation and registration of new voluntary commitments by all stakeholders.

THE MANGROVE VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS: OBJECTIVES, GEOGRAPHY, AND STAKEHOLDERS

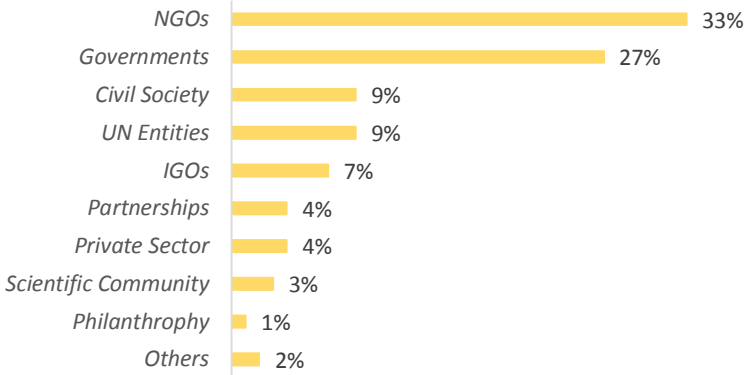
The importance of mangroves to ocean health is reflected in the 116 voluntary commitments submitted to date that relate to the restoration, rehabilitation, protection and management of mangroves and associated ecosystems. These voluntary commitments of the Mangrove Community for Ocean Action reflect the vital role that mangroves play in supporting livelihoods of coastal communities, sustainable fisheries, resilience to the impacts of climate change and sequestering atmospheric CO₂. Objectives of mangrove voluntary commitments addressed the following:

- Mangrove restoration and rehabilitation
- Implementation of improved management including through ecosystem approaches i.e. Ridge to Reef, Marine Spatial Planning
- Management of carbon storage (blue carbon) and scientific research in carbon storage, mapping, monitoring, and modeling
- Quantification and valuation of mangrove ecosystem services
- Improving community and ecosystem resilience and adaptation to impacts of climate change
- Designation of protected areas incorporating mangroves
- Improving sustainability of fisheries
- Improving community livelihoods; sustainable economic activities and alternative livelihoods
- Public education and raising awareness to support better management
- Enhancing cultural aspects and use of traditional knowledge; enhancing participation, gender issues, social justice and human rights
- Pollution reduction
- Financing

In addition to a number of international projects, mangrove voluntary commitments are located in 41 countries (see Appendix I). The most represented countries are Fiji (8), followed by the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Brazil, and Honduras (each with 5 VCs). The majority of targeted actions by voluntary commitments are in Asia (27%), followed by global-scale projects (21%), Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (16%), and Oceania (12%). With over 40% of the world's mangroves occurring in the Asia-Pacific region, it follows that the mangrove COA is heavily comprised of the Asia-Pacific region (39%). Notably, the West and East African coastlines are proportionally underrepresented, combined only accounting for 15% of VCs.



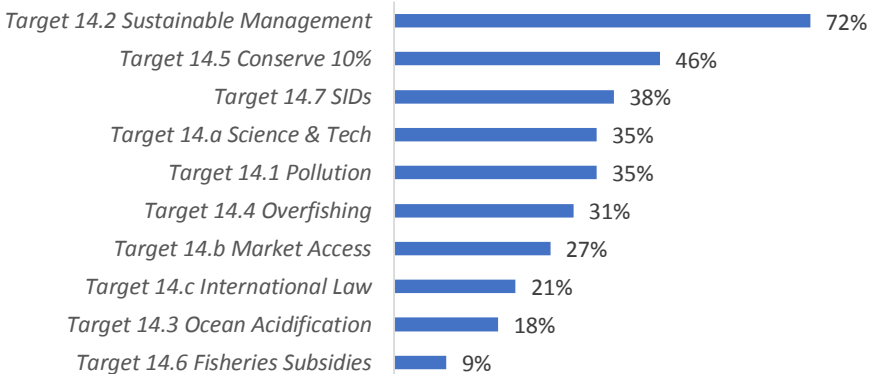
Of the voluntary commitments to date, submitted by 106 unique members, about 60% of the VCs are submitted by NGOs and government ministries. This demonstrates an opportunity to increase engagement from stakeholder groups such as philanthropy, the scientific community, and the private sector. VCs are submitted by NGOs (38), followed by governments (31), civil society (11), United Nations entities (10), IGOs (8), partnerships (5), the private sector (5), academia & the scientific community (4), philanthropic organizations (1), and others (3).⁷ 25 unique government ministries and departments have directly submitted VCs (see Appendix II).



SDG14 TARGETS IN THE MANGROVE VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

The wide-ranging benefits of mangrove restoration, conservation & sustainable management is a key pathway to meeting the targets of SDG14. The most frequently addressed Target in the Mangrove Community of Ocean Action was Target 14.2 (sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems) at 72% of the registered voluntary commitments. The measures relating to this generally involved some aspect of ecosystem-based management, including integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning and ridge-to-reef management plans, community-based marine managed areas, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation measures such as ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

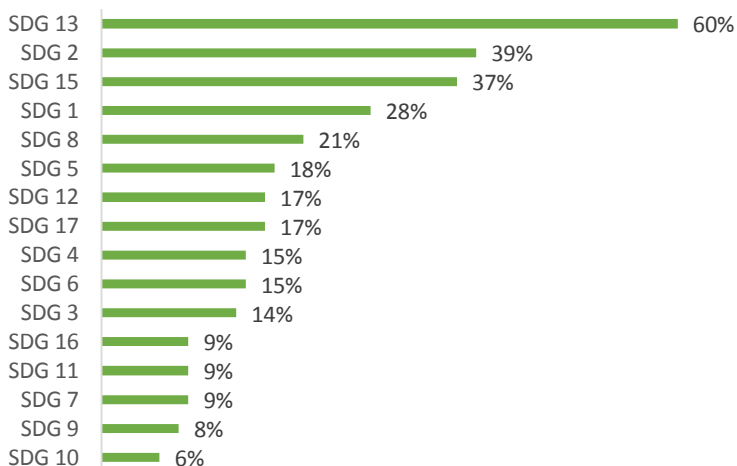
Other SDG14 targets prioritized in the Mangrove COA were Target 14.5 (conservation of at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020) at 46% of commitments, Target 14.7 (increasing economic benefits to SIDS and least developed countries by 2030) at 38% of commitments, followed by Target 14.a (increasing scientific knowledge, research capacity and technology transfer) at 35% of commitments and Target 14.1 (preventing and reducing marine pollution by 2025) at 35% of commitments.



⁷ Categories are as defined by UN-DESA and self-identified by stakeholders when submitting a VC

INTERLINKAGES WITH OTHER SDGS

SDG 14 is closely interlinked with other SDGs, including those relating to climate action, poverty, hunger, life on land, clean water, gender equality, economic growth, and responsible consumption and production. Since mangrove ecosystems provide a suite of co-benefits, many mangrove voluntary commitments not only contribute to the achievement of SDG 14, but other SDGs as well. **In particular, climate action towards SDG13 was a key component in 60% of the mangrove voluntary commitments.** Notably, there were also close linkages with eliminating poverty and hunger (SDG1 and SDG2), sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG15), and ensuring livelihoods and economic growth (SDG8).



SDG13: Climate Action

Restoring mangrove forests directly contributes to goals related to climate adaptation and mitigation, as healthy mangrove forests sequester carbon and are a protective buffer zone strengthening the resilience of coastal areas from climate-related hazards such as storm surges and sea-level rise. Climate action towards SDG13 was a key component in 60% of the mangrove voluntary commitments. These include those related to blue carbon storage such as the GEF Blue Forests Project ([#21548](#)) and the Australian-led International Partnership for Blue Carbon ([#16878](#)) to enhance the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems including mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses. Mangrove voluntary commitments addressing SDG13 also include commitments that aim to build resilience of coastal communities for climate adaptation through mangrove restoration and management. Examples include a commitment by Samoa for the rehabilitation and protection of mangrove ecosystems for climate change adaptation, livelihoods, and biodiversity ([#16546](#)), a commitment by Grenada to combat the negative effects of climate change through coastal ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in mangrove systems ([#14568](#)), and a commitment by Nigeria towards combatting coastal degradation and strengthening institutional capacity of management of mangrove ecosystems to increase climate resilience of coastal communities ([#15147](#)).

SDG 1 & 2 Eliminating Poverty & Hunger

Mangrove ecosystems support diverse terrestrial, estuarine, and marine species, contributing to both food security and to local livelihoods by providing employment for coastal populations. An estimated 80% of global fish catches are directly or indirectly dependent on mangroves, making these forests important to ensure food security for local communities as well as globally. Thus a number of the mangrove voluntary commitments contribute to eliminating poverty and hunger - SDG1 and SDG2 – including through the restoration and management of mangroves for improved livelihoods, increased food security, and more sustainable fisheries. Examples include a commitment by Timor-Leste, noting that mangroves contribute to food security for 90% of Timorese people, to produce by 2020 a report on national mangroves to contribute to sound coastal development planning ([#17896](#)), a commitment by the Philippines to identify and nationally scale up best practices for coastal management including how mangrove restoration can be utilized to help improve coastal livelihoods and address overexploitation of fisheries ([#21316](#)), and a commitment by WWF-Malaysia to contribute to generating income, livelihoods, and food security benefits for coastal communities through the establishment and collaborative management of Tun Mustapha Park, including restoration of key ecosystems including mangroves ([#14967](#)). Other commitments in this category included restoration projects in Ecuador in areas where mangroves have high value for food security and ecotourism ([#19744](#), [#19739](#)).

SDG15: Life on Land

Restoring mangroves means regaining extremely productive ecosystems that provide breeding and nursery grounds and ideal habitat for a variety of plant and animal species. Located at the interface between coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, mangrove actions contribute to SDG15 simultaneously with SDG14. The voluntary commitments in this category included those that included protection and management of mangroves and associated coastal environments through activities such as mangrove planting, watershed management and pollution reduction, and restoration and protected areas that extend from the land to the sea (e.g. Ridge to Reef). For example, the government of Fiji has committed to adopt and implement a unified Mangrove Management Plan utilizing a ridge to reef approach emphasizing the connectivity between land and sea and prioritizing areas in land, forests, and freshwater systems with direct outflow to the ocean ([#19984](#)). Other key examples included sustainable land management practices and improved pollution control to improve health of degraded mangrove systems in Kiribati ([#20179](#)), and strengthening enforcement to control the discharge of pollutants to coastal areas while simultaneously restoring 8,500 hectares of wetlands and mangroves to improve water quality and coastal resilience in China ([#17134](#)).

PROGRESS & ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION FOR MANGROVES

To build momentum and progress, the Mangrove COA convened a number of times in 2018 both virtually and in-person. A short summary follows.

COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION FOR MANGROVES MEETING AT RAMSAR COP13

The event “UN Ocean Conference Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves: Progress and Opportunities” was held at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) in Dubai on 22 October 2018. At the event, remarks were made by Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Martha Rojas Urrego, Ramsar Convention Secretary General, Stewart Maginnis, Global Director of IUCN’s Nature-based Solutions Group, and Elizabeth Mrema, Law and Conventions Division UNEP. Government representatives from Australia, Brazil, Fiji and Sweden presented insights from existing voluntary commitments, including actions on restoration, protection and on blue carbon.

In addition, Honduras, on behalf of the fourteen countries of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela) announced their intention to submit the Initiative as a new voluntary commitment. The main actions of the initiative include the development of policies and regulations to promote the protection and conservation of mangroves and coral reefs and achieve their effective management through integrated management of watersheds and marine/coastal areas.

The Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone) also announced their intent to join the Community of Ocean Action and submit a new voluntary commitment – (now registered as [#25433](#)). This partnership works on the mobilization of stakeholder awareness and exchange of good practices on the coastal erosion and coastal risk management and the protection of coastal and marine wetlands.



L-R: **Elizabeth Mrema**, UNEP; **Peter Thomson**, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean; **Martha Rojas Urrego**, Ramsar Secretary General; and **Stewart Maginnis**, Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group, IUCN. **Photo by IISD/ENB | Francis Dejon.**
<http://enb.iisd.org/ramsar/cop13/22oct.html>

WEBINARS OF THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION FOR MANGROVES

Three regional webinars were held jointly by IUCN, Ramsar, and UN-DESA for the Asia, Oceania, and Americas/Africa region on 7, 12, and 20 September 2018, with an emphasis on recruiting new voluntary commitments and reporting on progress and challenges Community members are facing in the implementation of their voluntary commitments. Many members provided updates on their projects, including GRID-Arendal on the Blue Forests Project and Blue Carbon Code of Conduct Project ([#21548](#), [#20420](#)), IUCN Sri Lanka regarding their support to the government on marine and coastal resource management and sustainable livelihoods in Northern Sri Lanka ([#19874](#)), the Fiji Government through the Department of Lands and the Ra Provincial Council the creation of an Integrated Coastal Management Plan with ridge-to-reef planning and management ([#19984](#)), and the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network ([#21668](#)). IUCN provided updates on the progress of the Community as a whole in terms of Community growth and voluntary commitment distribution. Key results from a member survey were shared and discussed among webinar participants, particularly on the challenges Community members are facing in implementation, and how the Community can help members overcome these. Recordings are available [here](#).

REGIONAL MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to the formal meeting at Ramsar COP, a number of regional meetings addressing the Community of Ocean Action, recruiting new voluntary commitments, and following up on the implementation of voluntary commitments were held.

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 German co-organised 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 additional experts from Asia to foster cross-regional engagement. Ambassador Thomson provided a video address reflecting on the Mangrove COA to frame the workshop.



Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop

5-8 March 2018 in Suva, Fiji

In a workshop co-hosted by IUCN, the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, and the partner-led initiative 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 Ambassador Thomson to emphasize the role of the COA on Mangroves in implementing global mangrove voluntary commitments at scale.

15th Meeting of the MFF Regional Steering Committee

24-27 September 2018 in Bali, Indonesia

The IUCN and UNDP regional coastal initiative [Mangroves for the Future](#) (MFF) held its 15th Steering Committee meeting in Bali to assess achievements during Phase 3 (2014-2018) and discuss the programme's sustainability beyond 2018. Since 2014 more than 140 projects have been completed benefiting more than 300,000 people in 11 partner countries, with almost 75% of projects implemented by either community based organisations or local non-government organisations. As MFF moves forward, there will be continued emphasis on collating, sharing and applying best practices and lessons learned in order to efficiently support countries respond to emerging issues for coastal resource management. MFF's unique governance structures, partnership based approach, and extensive network will continue to be a valuable platform for collaboration and implementation to achieve healthy coastal ecosystems for sustainable development.



Tonga Mangrove Workshop

29 October to 1 November 2018, Tonga

Facilitated in collaboration between IUCN, the Mangrove Action Project, and the Tonga Ministry of Environment, this workshop centered on capacity-training workshops for participants on ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the process of mangrove valuation, for the purpose of the development of a national mangrove plan. As part of the outcomes of the workshop, the Tonga Ministry of Environment announced their intent to submit the development of the national mangrove management action plan as a voluntary commitment in the Mangrove COA.

United Nations ESCAP Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean

20 November 18, 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

The COA for Mangroves was pleased to cohost alongside the COA for Coral Reefs a session focused on marine and coastal ecosystem management, coral reefs, and mangroves. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Asia Regional Director and Director of the IUCN Hub for Asia-Oceania, represented the Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves, alongside Dr Paul Marshall, Director of Reef Ecologic, who represented the COA for Coral Reefs. Ms Kabraji set the scene for regional progress on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems, the importance of mangroves in the Asia-Pacific region, and the overall progress of the COA for Mangroves. In the session, the Thailand Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) gave a presentation on the Government of Thailand's Voluntary Commitment towards sustainable management of marine and coastal habitats ([#18211](#)) and Mr. Michael Stewart presented on the creation of a global platform focused on regenerating ocean health and mitigating climate change where individuals and companies can offset their climate impact by committing financial support to rehabilitation of mangroves ([#25401](#)). Discussions focused on catalyzing future action, growing the Community, and how to better align support and reporting for SDG 14 jointly across COAs and other frameworks.



Meeting of Co-Focal Points for the Communities of Ocean Action **25 November 2018, Nairobi, Kenya**

The Mangrove COA's co-focal points Dr. Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director for Asia (nominated by Ms. Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)) and Ms. Martha Rojas Urrago, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, both attended the UN-DESA Meeting of Focal Points for the Communities of Ocean Action to share the progress of the Mangrove COA alongside identification of gaps, good practices and lessons learned in the delivery of the voluntary commitments, updates and progress in the preparation of the COA mid-term evaluations, and plan for activities for the COAs in 2019, with a view to maximizing contributions to the next anticipated Ocean Conference in 2020.



Sustainable Blue Economy Conference: HuMANGROVES – The Connection between Sustainably Managed Mangrove and Local Development
27 November 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, this session organized by Save Our Mangroves Now! highlighted opportunities to link innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance, to improve success rates of mangrove projects, discussed means to use legal frameworks to foster sustainable management of mangroves with clear local benefits, and highlighted the role of the Mangrove Community of Action towards the implementation of SDG14. IUCN's work as focal point for the Mangrove COA is supported by SOMN, and SOMN itself is a voluntary commitment in the framework of the Mangrove COA ([#27534](#)), working, among other targets, to mainstream mangrove conservation into countries' national development plans and increasing representation of the Western Indian Ocean region in the Mangrove COA.

UNFCCC COP24: The Global Mangrove Alliance and Save Our Mangroves Now!: “How do we get there? The need for a coordinated mangrove conservation agenda”
5 December 2018, Katowice, Poland

Global Mangrove Alliance members IUCN, WWF, TNC, CI, Wetlands International, and Rare hosted an expert panel consisting of representatives by international organizations, NGOs and the governments of Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea to reflect on the science and economics of natural climate solutions, with an emphasis on mangroves, and how the mitigation potential of nature can help to answer the three questions in the Talanoa Dialogue: “Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?”, including highlighting the target of the Global Mangrove Alliance to increase mangrove cover 20% over current extent by 2030 ([#14787](#)).



UNFCCC COP24: Our Ocean as a Climate Solution: How the COAs are Addressing Climate Change
7 December 2018, Katowice, Poland

At this event hosted by UN-DESA, high-level representatives from multiple COAs highlighted how sustainable ocean management is helping to alleviate the negative impacts of climate change. Ali Raza Rizvi of IUCN presented on the importance of mangroves as a climate solution, the progress of the Mangrove COA in 2018, and the strong interlinkages of the mangrove voluntary commitments with SDG13.



RECRUITMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS & PROGRESS UPDATES

Since the Ocean Conference in 2017, the Mangrove COA had demonstrated growth in membership and recruitment of new voluntary commitments, as well as in Community engagement in capturing ongoing progress from our existing commitments. **Since the Ocean Conference, 17 new voluntary commitments were submitted to the Mangrove COA, accounting for approximately 20% of new voluntary commitments under the Ocean Conference Framework this year.** However, despite continued engagement, only 22% of the voluntary commitments had provided progress updates at the time of this report. As such, and considering the challenges in data availability (see discussion section of this report), it was a challenge to track progress against deliverables or progress towards SDG 14 indicators in a conclusive way. However a number of the voluntary commitments that were updated showed individual exciting progress and engagement.

Multi-stakeholder efforts to enhance socio-ecological landscape resilience in Pakistan's Indus Delta area ([#19371](#))

The Indus Delta is the world's fifth largest delta system and possesses the seventh largest mangrove forest system, occupying an area of about 600,000 hectares with mudflats and mangrove forests between Karachi and the Desert of Kutch. The Indus Delta is rich in biodiversity and natural resources including mangrove forests, fisheries, wetlands, coastal creek systems, flora and fauna as well as cultural and historical heritage. Since the submittal of this voluntary commitment by UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program, 31,720 hectares of coastal ecosystems have been protected and restored, including 499 hectares of reforestation of mangroves in and around Ketibunder South Wild Life Sanctuary, and the mobilization and engagement of communities including indigenous Jat cameleers for conservation of over 15,500 hectares of mangroves in Ketibunder South Wildlife Sanctuary.

Planting 100,000 mangrove plants in 10 hectares of wetland between 2017 and 2018 in Guanaja ([#17254](#))

The Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA) in Guanaja, Honduras, announced that they to date have replanted 20% of their target of 100,000 mangrove plants in 10 hectares of wetland, approximately 10,000 plants per hectare.

Knowledge sharing for the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and in the Indo-Pacific ([#16878](#))

Australia leads the International Partnership for Blue Carbon which aims to enhance the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems that sequester carbon in mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses. Since the submittal of the voluntary commitment, the IPBC hosted a workshop in the Philippines in August 2017 to raise awareness and share knowledge about blue carbon, where government policy makers, experts and project implementers attended and identified areas for future collaboration across the Coral Triangle region. Subsequently, Australia supported the development of a blue carbon learning module for policy makers. The first workshop using the module was held in August 2018 and attended by Indonesian government representatives. Australia also supported a blue carbon conference in March 2018 for the Indian Ocean region, where government representatives developed a regional understanding of coastal blue carbon ecosystems, discussed technical and policy approaches to their management, and identified a pathway to collaborate and coordinate efforts, including research collaborations. Australia also supported the Asia Pacific Rainforest Summit, held in Bali in April 2018, where the important role of mangroves was highlighted. Indonesia's mangroves are estimated to store as much as 3.14 billion tons of carbon, a third of the carbon stored in ecosystems worldwide.

Biodiversity Conservation, Coastal, Ocean Clean-up and Protection ([#14216](#))

The local NGO SPAWNOrg INC. in the Philippines committed to continuing its effort in programs and activities for beach clean-ups, mangrove planting, tree planting, education and awareness programs, trainings and seminars, etc. scheduled throughout the year in cooperation with the local government, local organizations, institutions, and even with foreign organizations. Despite reporting financial issues hindering their progress, they have reported mangrove plantings and beach clean-ups throughout the year.



Larry Basas @url_lars · 8 Sep 2017
#OceanAction14216 - In behalf of SPAWN, Mr. Kennet Villegas together w/ OISCA Japan, planted more mangroves in our Town-Tanauan, Leyte-Phil

INSPIRING AND IMPACTFUL VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS IN THE MANGROVE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION.

TAKING ACTION TO INCREASE MANGROVE HABITAT 20% BY 2030: THE GLOBAL MANGROVE ALLIANCE ([#14787](#))

The Global Mangrove Alliance is a unique platform by founding partners Conservation International, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and Wetlands International to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated, global approach to mangrove conservation, restoration, and sustainable use at a scale that matters. Based on a global analysis of the threats to mangroves and opportunities for conservation, the GMA is building a global movement of civil society organisations, technical experts, government agencies, corporations, funding agencies, foundations and community groups to jointly work towards the ambitious goal of increasing global mangrove cover by 20% by 2030, with defined underlying targets for boosting their value for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, food security and human wellbeing. The GMA uses its collective strengths and partnerships to address the barriers to large-scale mangrove conservation and restoration through several streams of work, including through:

- **Finance:** develop novel and diverse valuation and financing mechanisms that help take mangrove ecosystem conservation and restoration to scale.
- **Improving policy:** work with governments to develop integrated management plans that consider the multijurisdictional nature of mangrove conservation and restoration.
- **Building capacity:** build awareness among policymakers, financing institutions, NGOs and others of the multiple benefits and cost effectiveness of conserving and restoring mangroves for climate change adaptation, mitigation and human well-being.
- **Proof of Concept:** develop real-world examples of integrating mangroves into national-level management plans, and local scale demonstrations of improved human well-being due to mangrove conservation and restoration.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** develop the knowledge and tools required to integrate mangroves and their ecosystem services into national level mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and land-use strategies.

The Alliance works locally, regionally and globally to secure commitments from its partners, governments, and the private sector to halt and reverse mangrove loss. Since the submittal of the initial voluntary commitment, the GMA has announced that over the last year 12 partners have joined the Alliance, including newcomers Blue Ventures, the Mangrove Action Project, RARE, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Zoological Society of London, and the National Audubon Society. In addition, nine governments to date - Thailand, Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Honduras, and Brazil - have endorsed the GMA. Their next steps are to acquire restoration pledges from multiple regions by 2020 to work towards the global goal of increasing the area of mangrove habitat 20 percent over the current extent by the year 2030.

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR COASTAL AND OCEAN RESILIENCE FOR MAURITIUS ([#27167](#))

The objective of the Mauritius Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping mangrove propagation programme is to restore mangroves in denuded areas to increase coastal and ocean resilience and enhance fisheries resources. Before the 1990s, large expanses of mangroves were cleared on the island in the name of development. About 70% of commercial fishes depend on mangrove sites during their juvenile stages, so healthy mangroves are vital as many people in Mauritius depend on fisheries (fishing, crab catching) to earn a living. In this respect, the Ministry started a mangrove propagation programme including sensitization in 1995 so as to protect and restore the denuded areas. Much of the swamps have thus been saved and today mangrove propagation is encouraged throughout the island. Since June 1995, many propagules have been planted on the west, north, south and east coasts amounting to more than 400,000 seedlings covering an area of more than 200,000 m² to date.

Their voluntary commitment is to complete a mapping project estimating mangrove distribution on a species basis to understand the most appropriate areas where each species is thriving so as to promote their successful propagation. Furthermore, the Ministry plans to continue with ongoing public outreach on the importance of mangroves using improved tools.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE BRAZILIAN COASTLINE ([#19679](#))

Brazil has one of the most extensive coastlines in the world at more than 8,500 km, and the coast is home to around 26.6% of the country's population. However it is estimated that 40% of the Brazilian coast faces serious erosion problems. The Ministry of the Environment committed to launch and implement the National Program for the Conservation of the Brazilian Coastline (PROCOSTA) to consolidate a program for monitoring, managing and conserving the national coastline in face of anthropogenic and natural pressures. The Program is composed of four structuring projects:

- The Alt-Bat Project which aims to accurately define the country's coastline and establish a national database for coastal modeling systems.
- The Coastal Hazards Project aims to use modeling software to make projections future scenarios impacts on the coastline at intervals of 5, 10, 25 and 50 years;
- The Coastal Risks and Adaptation Strategies Project aims to create risk identification maps considering socio-environmental and economic aspects followed by an action plan with risk mitigation strategies;
- The Coastline Conservation Management and Monitoring Project aims to establish a continuous coastline monitoring program, including a system of valuation and payment for environmental services provided by preserved coastal ecosystems.

The final result will help define sustainable use of the Brazilian coast, focusing on the conservation and preservation of coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, dunes, sandbanks, and coral reefs.

In addition, Brazil has also submitted two other associated voluntary commitments. **“Development of effective area-based conservation measures in marine areas”** ([#19649](#)) aims to support the implementation of sustainable development objectives and goals through identifying ecologically important nature conservation areas including mangrove areas on the Amazon estuary from Parnaíba to Oyapock, representing approximately 80% of total Brazilian mangrove area. **“Development and implementation of the Brazilian Blue Fund”** ([#19669](#)) will define a coastal marine strategy and programme and establish a Brazilian Blue Fund dedicated to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures in Brazilian coastal and marine jurisdictional areas; the planned coastal marine strategy includes the Brazilian Mangrove Project, which will also deliver a national Mangrove Atlas and a National Mangrove Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme.

REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, LIVELIHOODS AND BIODIVERSITY IN SAMOA ([#16546](#))

The Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment committed to ensuring mangroves are preserved for their social, economic, and cultural benefits to Pacific Island communities. Awareness, capacity building, research, legislation and the establishment of mangrove marine protected areas inside communities will ensure mangroves can be rehabilitated and protected for climate change adaptation, livelihoods and biodiversity.

IMPLEMENTING ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION APPROACHES TO BOTH MANGROVE AND CORAL REEF RESTORATION IN GRENADA, WITH A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND CO-MANAGEMENT ([#14568](#))

Grenada is currently piloting a number of ecosystem-based adaptation projects throughout the country in order to combat the negative effects of Climate Change. This project aims to enhance and demonstrate integrated planning tools and technical guidance to assist decision-making and effective stakeholder consultation in the development of coastal EbA interventions including in mangroves and associated ecosystems, support relevant authorities and communities in the selection, planning and implementation of practical EbA measures, and support regional capacity-building and global transfer of good practices and experiences gained to other coastal regions as a means to scale up EbA development and implementation, including informing supportive adaptation policies, strategies and adaptation plans.

INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT TO PRESERVE ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES, IMPROVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAIN LIVELIHOODS IN FIJI ([#19984](#))

Fiji contains a diverse range of coastal ecosystems with varying habitats, geographic environments and intensity of land use that provide an ideal suite of learning environments for biodiversity conservation, forest carbon stock protection and enhancement and integrated natural resources management. The objective of this voluntary commitment is to promote sustainable development and implement more effective frameworks to manage Fiji's coastal ecosystems and, as a result, protect the well-being and food security of Fijians in maritime regions through the creation of a national Integrated Coastal Management Plan with a ridge-to-reef approach prioritizing critical interphases between land, forests and freshwater systems that have direct outflow to the ocean. Adaptation among coastal communities includes alternative waste management options, community and private sector wastewater management, freshwater fishing practices and community-based protected areas in rivers and streams; riparian buffer restoration; community-based Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within larger Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and coastal fisheries enforcement; mangroves rehabilitation and protection; erosion-control; farming practices and cattle ranching; reforestation; and sustainable agroforestry models. Restoration efforts are already underway in the Province of Ra and Kadavu, Fiji.

The Fijian government has also submitted commitments to expand marine and coastal protected areas including the restoration of rivers, riparian buffers, and mangrove forests ([#19904](#)) and for the incorporation of ocean information including spatial information on mangrove distribution into the national VanuaGIS Platform ([#19984](#))

IMPROVED PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVE RESOURCES FOR THE CONTROL OF COASTAL EROSION, POLLUTION, PRESERVATION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES AND THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY IN COTE D'IVOIRE ([#17782](#))

Mangrove ecosystems are threatened with degradation in coastal countries in West Africa because mangroves have a status of common good, which entitles any individual to exploit the resources of these formations without prior authorization. To help overcome the challenges of the current pace of exploitation and degradation, FERADD initiated this project with the objective to conserve mangrove biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire and manage in a sustainable and participatory way with a view to combating coastal erosion, pollution and the preservation of fish stocks. The target locality is Grand-Lahou. The following results are expected:

- mangrove resource management systems and institutions are effective in Cote d'Ivoire
- The 1500 hectares of mangrove forest are planted every year in Cote d'Ivoire;
- 800 mangrove management actors are trained in Cote d'Ivoire;
- the capacity of 40 coastal zone groupings is strengthened on alternative livelihoods such as oyster production techniques, bee breeding and the production of natural honey each year;
- Village councils for sustainable management of mangroves are created, strengthened and operational.

INDONESIA SUBSTANTIALLY ENLARGING ITS MARITIME CONSERVATION AREA ([#14399](#))

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state, with over 17,000 islands comprising an abundance of marine diversity, and is home to about 23% of the world's mangroves in about 3 million hectares of mangrove forest. These areas are critical to food security in Indonesia as about 55 percent of existing fisheries production in Indonesia is linked to coastal areas, particularly from mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, lagoons, and estuaries. Noting that environmentally destructive fishing practices, improper waste disposal, sand mining, and other damaging human activities have threatened the sustainability of these ecosystems, Indonesia has committed to effectively conserve 20,000,000 hectares of marine and coastal resources by 2020, including mangroves. This target is combined with other programs such as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs.

IUCN SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA ([#19874](#))

Coastal and marine resources in Northern Sri Lanka and the populations dependent on these resources are impacted by climate vulnerabilities such as sea level rise, sea water intrusion into low coastal areas, prolonged droughts, localized floods and more frequent

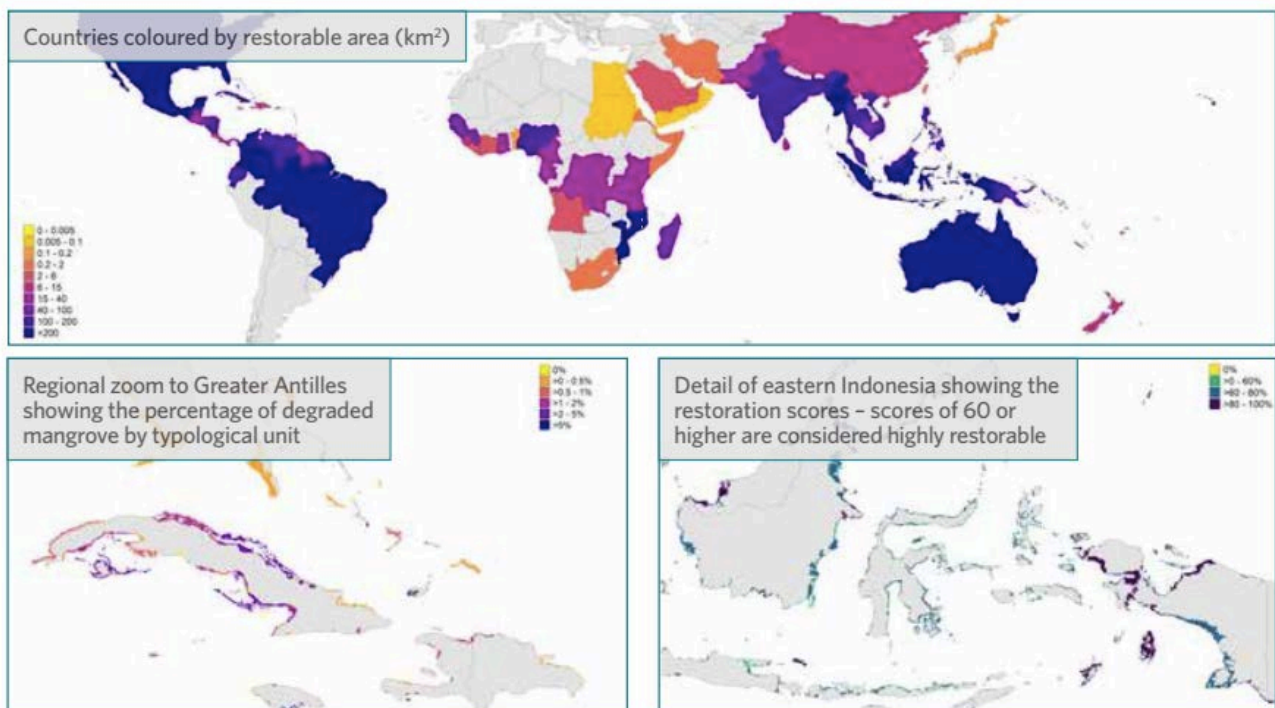
storm surges and cyclones. Destructive harvesting of marine and coastal living resources, lack of knowledge of ecosystem services and environmental processes; poor understanding of human actions and climate change impacts, land activities that are polluting and destroying habitat, and the prevailing extreme poverty of certain segments of the coastal population have been identified as the causes and barriers for sustainable and resilience based development.

IUCN Sri Lanka committed, as a follow up to the Gulf of Mannar Living Resources Study and deliberations between India and Sri Lanka in December 2014, to support the Government of Sri Lanka, highlighting the creation of an enabling environment for communities to work with policy planners and adopt sustainable and resilient livelihoods to the extent that pressure on living resources are reduced to a sustainable level. Their objectives include enhancing the capacity of coastal resource managers through Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) learning programmes, assisting the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystem in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar, the preparation of a sustainable development plan for 23 coastal islands in Palk Bay including alternative livelihoods for coastal communities to minimise pressure on coastal resources, ICM learning programmes for coastal managers, and the restoration and protection of approximately 500 hectares of mangrove coastline.

MANGROVE RESTORATION POTENTIAL MAP ([#27592](#))

A joint effort by IUCN and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in collaboration with University of Cambridge and supported by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) committed the production of a global map of mangrove restoration potential. So far there has not been any global assessment of mangrove restoration potential as it relates to both climate adaptation and mitigation. The interactive map will provide global, as well as national overview figures on mangrove restoration potential, based on mangrove typologies, regional and national boundaries, biogeographic ecoregions as well as protected area status. The map will allow identification of priority areas for mangrove restoration based on both potential ecosystem services gains and/or other socio-economic benefits. Alongside the map, a policy report and several policy briefs will be developed to inform policy makers and practitioners about the application of this map. The briefs will show how the map can be used to inform national implementation strategies, thus supporting countries efforts to meet international climate and conservation targets. This work is part of a large BMU-IKI funded project called: Utilizing landscape scale forest ecosystem rehabilitation as a cost-effective bridge for the integrated deployment of national land-based mitigation and adaptation strategies.

A recent update to the VC showcased that the map was launched in November 2018 and is available at maps.oceanwealth.org/mangrove-restoration/; the report is available [here](#).



CHALLENGES AND FURTHER ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY OF OCEAN ACTION FOR MANGROVES

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VCS

As part of our engagement with the COA a survey was disseminated by IUCN throughout COA members in 2018, in which the most cited challenges in implementation of voluntary commitments were identified as (1) lack of data for national mangrove status and coastal vulnerability (2) limited technical training and capacity for restoration projects (3) funding limitations and (4) policy gaps in local & national policy, and (5) a need for developing regional capacity in mangrove science and applied management solutions. These identified challenges should be considered in the recruitment of additional voluntary commitments, diversification of stakeholder engagement, and consideration of SDG14 targets and other development goals moving forward.

GAPS IN STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, GEOGRAPHY, BROADER DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND DATA LIMITATIONS

A number of gaps emerged during the analysis of the mangrove voluntary commitments that should be addressed through a directed focus towards increasing engagement in these areas. They include gaps in stakeholder participation, underrepresented regions and geographical gaps, and gaps in broader sustainable development targets. These challenges were also discussed at the workshop of the COAs in Nairobi, 25th of November 2018.

- Gaps in stakeholder participation and opportunities for increased engagement:** The entities making the fewest commitments were philanthropic organizations, scientific community & academia, and private industry. Directed outreach is needed to these stakeholder groups who may be aware of the importance of mangrove ecosystems but not of this initiative tracking process towards the implementation SDG14. Further engagement of philanthropic organizations will be critical to leverage resources for mangrove projects and initiatives, especially noting that funding limitations were identified by the COA as a key limiting factor towards their implementation of commitments. Recruiting additional involvement of academia and the scientific community is needed, especially for those who are already studying and working in these systems and providing data and information for assessments, but may not be translating their work to SDG implementation. Finally, engagement of the private sector is critical for mangrove conservation, for businesses that directly benefit from sustainable management of mangroves (e.g. fisheries, insurance, tourism) as well as those involved in mangrove degradation, through activities such as helping industries assess and mitigate their impacts, influencing supply chains related to aquaculture, and changing business practices.
- Underrepresented regions and geographical gaps:** In line with distribution of mangroves worldwide, the mangrove COA is heavily comprised of the Asia-Pacific region (39% of VCs). Notably in the geographic analysis, the West and East African coastlines were proportionally underrepresented, combined only accounting for 15% of VCs. In particular the Western Indian Ocean Region only accounted for 6% of the commitments, despite being home to expansive mangrove coverage. Recruitment of new voluntary commitments should be focused on diversifying increasing geographic representation in the West and East African Coastlines, as well as increasing stakeholder diversity.
- Gaps in broader sustainable development aspects of SDG 14 targets:** In the analysis of the relationship between SDG 14 voluntary commitments and other SDGs, the least identified SDG was SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, followed by SDG 9 (resilient infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable and resilient cities), and 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies).
- Data limitations and addressing stakeholder bias in both the SDG14 targets and interlinkages with other SDGs.** As these were self-identified in the submittal of a voluntary commitment by the stakeholders, worth noting is that VCs submitted by governments and NGOs were more likely to address a wider number of targets and associated SDGs than those submitted by other stakeholders. This may indicate that these stakeholders were more likely to recognize and identify the contribution of their project to multiple SDG14 targets compared to other stakeholders; however, other projects are likely also be contributing to these targets, presenting a challenge in global tracking towards these targets. Future analyses could systematically identify which VCs contribute to which targets and other goals to evaluate this bias and more systematically evaluate the contribution of VCs to SDG14 indicators.

INCREASING ENGAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN THROUGH SAVE OUR MANGROVES NOW!

One of the most apparent geographic gaps in the Mangrove Community of Ocean Action is the lack of projects on both the West and East African coastlines, and especially the Western Indian Ocean Region. This region was only addressed by 6% of the commitments, despite being home to expansive mangrove coverage. In 2018 Save Our Mangroves Now (SOMN), a joint commitment of BMZ, IUCN, and WWF, joined the Community of Ocean Action with a focus on geographic representation in the Western Indian Ocean region ([#27534](#)). The SOMN initiative aims to upscale and focus global efforts to stop and decrease the degradation of mangrove habitats, including through:

- Embedding ambitious objectives on mangrove protection and restoration in international and national political agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi targets and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Jointly by BMZ, the partners are increasing awareness among decision makers about the importance of mangrove conservation as part of the global conservation, sustainable development and climate solutions.
- Pooling leading expertise, enhancing knowledge-sharing and closing existing knowledge gaps on mangrove conservation and restoration.
- **Supporting innovative projects, fostering the dissemination of best practices and assisting in the mainstreaming of mangrove conservation into national development plans in the Western Indian Ocean.**

Other voluntary commitments in this region include a VC by the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters, and Fisheries of the Republic of Mozambique to deliver Mozambican Marine Spatial Planning for Coastal & Ocean Management through creating an integrated management approach bringing together coastal & marine actors to map ocean use, coordinate activities, and plan for upcoming oil & natural gas development off the coastline ([#17170](#)). This includes a commitment to restore at least 5,000 hectares of mangroves by 2025 through the implementation of a strategic action plan for mangroves for increase climate resilience in coastal communities.

The Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative ([#17618](#)), submitted by WWF Madagascar and partners alongside emerging partnerships of countries, civil society, and the private sector, is working to preserve the Northern Mozambique Channel region in Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, the Seychelles, and Comoros. Noting its outstanding marine biodiversity as a biological reservoir for the East African coastal areas, superlative coral reefs, pelagic systems, mangroves and seagrasses, the initiative plans to deliver integrated ocean governance through Marine Spatial Planning and sustainable principles and standards for key economic sector, starting with building public-private partnerships and funding to support the target countries in implementing the regional vision, and developing a MSP framework with countries and stakeholders by 2021 to promote effective planning and ensure best practices by the oil and gas sectors are adopted by both governments and private sector champions to mitigate the impacts of the sector.

Finally, acknowledging the critical importance of coastal mangrove forests and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has awarded a grant to the project "Managing mangroves for climate change regulation and other ecosystem services" in Kenya as part of their voluntary commitment "The ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018" ([#16778](#)). One theme of their plan of action is encouraging financing for projects and initiatives which aim to protect and restore mangroves and associated ecosystems to mitigate the impact of climate change.

CHALLENGES IN MEASURING PROGRESS AND MIDTERM REPORTING

A number of challenges across the Community of Ocean Action arose during the midterm reporting process. First, considering the current level of information provided when VCs are registered and the frequency with which they are providing updates, while we were able to assess the current state of the Community of Ocean Action as a whole and highlight individual updates, progress, and challenges identified by our members, it was a challenge to track progress against deliverables in a conclusive way. A number of contributing factors were identified:

- **Inconsistencies in deliverables and slow recruitment of progress updates by stakeholders:** Only 25 (22%) of the mangrove commitments have provided progress updates so far. In addition, the VCs consist of broad topics and projects with very different scopes, which makes it challenging to effectively track against indicators for SDG14.
- **Data availability and management, including stakeholder bias in SDG14 indicators & interlinkages with other SDGs.** The data is based on what stakeholders self-identified upon the submittal of their VCs. As such, there may be inaccuracies in organization type (e.g. non-governmental organizations vs civil society organizations), beneficiary countries identified, and identified linkages to SDG14 targets and other SDGs. Worth noting is the inconsistencies in the information provided by different voluntary commitments, different stakeholders, and bias of governments and NGOs to reporting more linkages to SDG14 targets and other SDGs. This data could be improved moving forward for a salient assessment of progress towards SDG14. In addition, the data available to download

from the Ocean Conference Portal must be kept up to date with the new voluntary commitments submitted and reflect which Communities of Ocean Action the commitments are posted to.

- **More clear, standardized and homogenous criteria** are required for follow up and assessment of the progress of the voluntary commitments, to ensure all the Communities are reporting in a systematic fashion. Building on synergies between Communities, and avoiding double reporting on commitments, would be clarified through both improved data availability/management and standardized criteria for assessment and reporting.

MOVING THE COMMUNITIES OF OCEAN ACTION FORWARD

LESSONS LEARNED, MAINTAINING MOMENTUM, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS UTILIZING MANGROVES FOR SDG14

First, as identified in this report, recruitment of new voluntary commitments and progress updates for the Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves should be focused on diversifying the membership among stakeholders with a focus on philanthropic organizations, the scientific community and academia, and private industry, as well as engaging underrepresented geographic regions and local communities. Catalyzing and generating these new voluntary commitments should be done by directed engagement of the Mangrove Community of Ocean Action in encouraging reporting as well as through joint outreach by all the Communities of Ocean Action and UN-DESA. As a unified front, the Communities of Ocean Action should demonstrate and emphasize the importance of SDG14 and the value of the COAs for global SDG14 tracking.

To build on synergies within the Communities, increased coordination is required regarding voluntary commitments assigned to multiple Communities of Ocean Action. Joint outreach and thematic workshops should build on the interconnectedness of SDG14 targets and demonstrate a targeted outreach strategy for SDG14 engagement and tracking, in addition to Communities meeting independently on their focal area. This future engagement of the communities should build on the joint and interlinked nature of the COAs, following the examples of events such as the UN ESCAP Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, the event *"Our Ocean as a Climate Solution: How the COAs are Addressing Climate Change"* at UNFCCC COP24, and the upcoming joint Coastal & Ecosystem Management and Mangroves COA workshop in 2019, to grow together and build on synergies as we work towards SDG14.

This report also demonstrated close linkages between mangrove actions towards SDG14 and other development goals. Sixty percent of the mangrove voluntary commitments contributed to climate action towards SDG13, and the commitments also noted contributed to SDGs on poverty, hunger, life on land, clean water, gender equality, economic growth, and responsible consumption and production. Moving forward into 2019 and towards the next Ocean Conference in 2020, the Communities of Ocean Action have an important role in working to raise the perceived importance of SDG14 on an international stage, including by emphasizing how SDG14 commitments strongly contribute to the targets of other SDGs.

Finally, acknowledging the invaluable contribution of mangroves to numerous sustainable development goals, the momentum of the Mangrove COA could be harnessed including through the development of a targeted UN plan on mangroves through 2030, supporting the Global Mangrove Alliance's overarching restoration target of 20% by 2030, existing restoration targets within the voluntary commitments, and the implementation of SDG14 as well as other SDG targets. Facilitated through the focal points of the COA, the Mangrove COA would work with UN-DESA, COA members and other strategic partners to assist in the development and implementation of such a targeted plan on mangroves.

This report was composed with initial guidance from UN-DESA regarding the interim reporting process for the Communities of Ocean Action; IUCN and Ramsar look forward to receiving additional guidance from UN-DESA for 2020. This report has been compiled jointly by IUCN and the Ramsar Secretariat, with special thanks to Emily Goodwin from IUCN. IUCN would also like to thank Mangroves for the Future for technical inputs and the Save our Mangroves Now! Initiative and the German BMZ for supporting the compilation of this report.

Appendix I. Beneficiary Countries of Voluntary Commitments

Country	Number of VCs
Global-scale projects	26
Fiji	8
Brazil	5
Philippines	5
Sri Lanka	5
Indonesia	5
Honduras	5
India	4
Thailand	4
Dominican Republic	4
Panama	3
China	3
Ecuador	3
Kenya	3
Samoa	3
Australia	2
Bangladesh	2
Benin	2
Cote d'Ivoire	2
Kiribati	2
Madagascar	2
Mozambique	2
Myanmar	2
Nigeria	2
Pakistan	2
Senegal	2
Colombia	2
Bahamas	1
Cuba	1
Costa Rica	1
El Salvador	1
Ghana	1
Grenada	1
Iran	1
Jamaica	1
Malaysia	1
Mauritius	1
Mexico	1
Papau New Guinea	1
Seychelles	1
Tanzania	1
Timor Leste	1
Togo	1
Viet Nam	1
Aruba	1

Appendix II. National Voluntary Commitments

VC #	Country	Ministry	Title
<i>Asia</i>			
21316	Philippines	Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippines	National Search for Outstanding Coastal Community Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) (CLEAN AND PLENTIFUL OCEAN)
17134	China	Department of Ecological Environment Protection, State Oceanic Administration, P.R. China	Strengthen the Protection of the Marine Ecological Environment
14399	Indonesia	Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia	Indonesia Substantially Enlarge its Maritime Conservation Area
18211	Thailand	Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand towards sustainable management of marine and coastal habitats
19899	Sri Lanka	Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka	Protection of Marine and Coastal Resources
18538	Bangladesh	Bangladesh (Government)	Sustainability of mangrove forest and coastal afforestation
17896	Timor-Leste	Government of Timor-Leste	Complete mapping of vulnerable coastal areas
16034	Pakistan	Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan	Designation of the First Ever Marine Protected Area in Pakistan
19489	Iran	Iran Department of Environment Qeshm Free Area	Qeshm Island Environmental Management Office
<i>Africa</i>			
17170	Mozambique	Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries of the Republic of Mozambique	Mozambican Marine Spatial Planning for coastal and ocean management
27167	Mauritius	Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Mauritius	Critical role of Mangrove ecosystem for coastal and ocean resilience for Mauritius
15147	Nigeria	Nigeria (Forestry Commission, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria)	Implementing Ecosystem Based Adaptation approaches to both mangrove and the Atlantic Ocean coast line in Cross River State, Nigeria with a focus on institutional and capacity strengthening, combating coastal degradation and sustainable livelihoods
<i>Oceania</i>			
21432	Papua New Guinea	Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, Papua New Guinea	Bootless Bay Managed Marine Area
16878	Australia	Australia Department of the Environment and Energy	Knowledge sharing for the protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and in the Indo-Pacific
20014	Fiji	Ministry of Land & Mineral Resources, Fiji	The Incorporation of Ocean Information into the VanuaGIS Platform
19984	Fiji	Department of Environment, Fiji	Integrated Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystems Services, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji
19904	Fiji	Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Environment, Fiji	Expansion of Large Scale Marine Managed Areas in Fiji
16546	Samoa	Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Rehabilitation and protection of mangrove ecosystems for climate change adaptation, livelihoods and biodiversity

<i>Mesoamerica and the Caribbean</i>			
20224	Mexico	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico	Promote Marine Spatial Planning and other coastal and marine planning and management instruments in Mexico
14568	Grenada	Grenada (Environment Division, Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and the Environment	Implementing Ecosystem Based Adaptation approaches to both mangrove and coral reef restoration in Grenada with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and co-management
19579	Costa Rica	Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC/MINAE) e Instituto Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPESCA)	Aprovechamiento Sostenible de moluscos en Patrimonio Natural del Estado
20624	Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Dominican Republic	Evaluación de manglares, arrecifes, playas, praderas marinas para una valoración de los servicios ambientales de ecosistemas costeros y marinos: 3 provincias costeras, 1 por año
20952	Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Dominican Republic	Desarrollo del Proyecto para la preparación de REDD+ República Dominicana, con el componente de bosque de manglar
20948	Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Dominican Republic	Restauración de áreas de ecosistemas de manglares y áreas de praderas marinas
<i>South America</i>			
19679	Brazil	Brazilian Government	Implementation of the National Program for the Conservation of the Brazilian Coastline
19669	Brazil	Brazilian Government	Development and implementation of the Brazilian Blue Fund
19649	Brazil	Brazilian Government	Development of effective area-based conservation measures in marine areas
<i>International</i>			
27534	Beneficiary countries: Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania	Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Save Our Mangroves Now!
15692	French Overseas Territories	France	French Initiative for Coral Reefs (IFRECOR): Plan of actions 2016-2020
16778	Global	Governments of France, Monaco, and Sweden	The ICRI plan of Action 2016-2018
18823	Global	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Sweden	Strengthening capacity on ocean acidification monitoring, ecosystem resilience, MPA networks in a changing climate, coral reef protection and marine spatial planning