



The intense wave surge caused by Cyclone Pam destroyed large parts of Tuvalu's coastline and carried large boulders and broken trees across the island. (UNDP Photo)



OCEAN ACTION

Ocean Action Newsletter: Vol. 11

**September 2019: Link between ocean and climate change to be highlighted
at UN General Assembly High-level Week**

oceanconference.un.org

All eyes are on United Nations Headquarters in New York this month as the High-level General Assembly Week (UNGA) kicks off. This year, the UN is hosting a series of [five high-level summits](#) to move forward the organization's sustainable development agenda under the umbrella "Action for People and Planet." This "Global Goals Week" also marks the four-year anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and comes just after Hurricane Dorian pummeled the Bahamas, raising questions

about the role of climate change in producing more intense and slower-moving hurricanes that stall over the ocean.

Most of this year's UNGA summits have a link to the ocean and SDG 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development: the Secretary-General's [Climate Action Summit](#) (23 September), the [SDG Summit](#) (24-25 September), the [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#) (26 September) and the [High-level Midterm Review of the Samoa Pathway](#), the framework to support sustainable development in small island developing States (27 September). Each of these summits is expected to launch new efforts and initiatives from governments, businesses and civil society to speed up implementation of the SDGs.

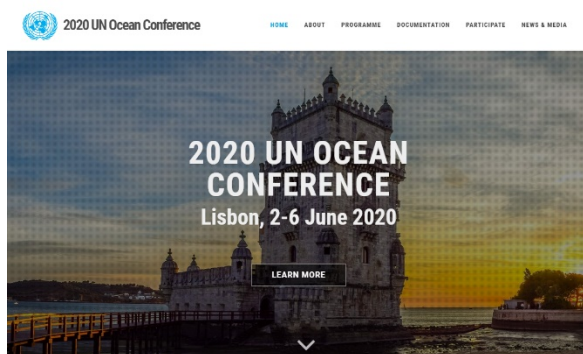
In particular, one of the action areas at the Climate Action Summit is focused on [nature-based solutions](#). Actions on terrestrial ecosystems, fresh water systems, ocean systems and sustainable food systems are essential for reaching the goals described in the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon net zero by 2050. The co-leading countries supporting this track, China and New Zealand, have been tasked with soliciting initiatives related to increasing resilience and carbon sequestration in marine and coastal ecosystems, and enhancing adaptation for marine and coastal communities. The Secretary-General has implored Member States to come to the Climate Action Summit not with great ideas, but instead with concrete actions.

Moving to the SDG Summit, one of that event's outcomes is a new registry of voluntary [SDG Acceleration Actions](#) meant to show urgent innovative, ambitious and impactful implementation of the SDGs. More than 50 actions already [are available](#) for browsing on the registry, with 12 of those related to SDG 14. New financing commitments for ocean conservation and ocean-related partnerships for small island developing States are also expected throughout the week.

Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will release its ["Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate"](#) (SROCC) in Monaco on 25 September during the IPCC's 51st Session. More than 100 scientists from more than 30 countries are assessing the latest scientific knowledge about the physical science basis and impacts of climate change on ocean, coastal, polar and mountain ecosystems, and the human communities that depend on them. Their vulnerabilities as well as adaptation capacities are also evaluated. Options for achieving climate-resilient development pathways will be presented.

More information on the SDG-related events during the UN General Assembly, please visit <https://www.un.org/en/summits2019/>.

Registration for 2020 UN Ocean Conference open on new web portal



available on the site as well.

The oceanconference.un.org website has been revamped to reflect the 2020 UN Ocean Conference that will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 2-6 June. The site features a user-friendly design and the latest documentation and registration information.

Special accreditation for the 2020 Ocean Conference and its preparatory meeting in February 2020 is [now open](#) through 15 November, via the website.

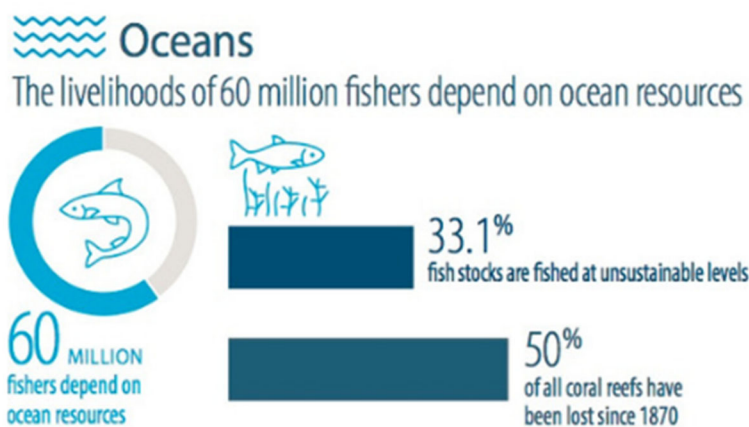
Information on other categories of accreditation is

The recently revised UN Ocean Action portal, with all of the information on voluntary commitments, the Communities of Ocean Action and the 2017 Ocean Conference, is accessible here:

oceanconference.un.org/OceanAction.

UN report calls for new relationship between people and nature

Achieving human well-being and eradicating poverty for all of the Earth's people is still possible, but only if there is a fundamental—and urgent—change in the relationship between people and nature, according to the UN-mandated [Global Sustainable Development Report 2019](#) (GSDR), a quadrennial publication written by an Independent Group of Scientists. The report was launched on 11 September and will be formally presented to UN Member States at the SDG Summit.



An infographic from the GSDR 2019 addressing the ocean-SDG relationship.

The report's Call to Action emphasizes that the global environmental commons—such as the atmosphere, rainforests and the ocean—must be safeguarded as crucial sources of ecosystem services and natural resources. Governments, local communities, the private sector and international actors must work together to conserve, restore and sustainably use natural resources. Accurately assessing environmental assets is a critical first step, and their value should be reflected through pricing, transfers, regulation and other economic instruments.

[Read the full GSDR report](#) for more details on recommendations for protecting the ocean.



Highlights from the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson

Throughout the summer, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, has continued his work around the world advocating for diligent implementation of SDG 14. In June on World Oceans Day, he was the keynote speaker at the Our Ocean Wealth Summit in Ireland, and collaborated for the day with Project Everyone to issue a [viral video message](#) on the state of the Ocean's health. Later in the month he was in New Caledonia to give the keynote address at the SPC Conference promoting the UN Decade for Ocean Science and a Sustainable Future for the Blue Pacific. He rounded out June in Paris in order to address the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC UNESCO) Assembly in Paris.

July began in Abu Dhabi with participation in the preparatory meeting for the Climate Action Summit, where the Special Envoy as a member of the Summit's organizing committee continued to press for recognition of the Ocean's inseparable link to climate change adaptation and mitigation. From there he went to Geneva in pursuit of SDG14.6 (removal of fisheries subsidies) responsibilities at the WTO, for meetings with the WTO Secretary-General and to make addresses to WTO Ambassadors and the WTO Aid for Trade Global Review. From there he was back in Paris for a meeting with IOC-UNESCO on the preparations for the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the 2020 UN Ocean Conference. In mid- July, Ambassador Thomson was in New York for the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, for SDG14 meetings with Permanent Representatives and the UN Secretariat, and to attend the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In early August, he was in Malta to give the keynote address at the first Meeting of Ocean Ambassadors; from whence he went to Santiago, Chile for meetings with the President of Chile, Ministers and officials of the Chilean government in relation to the Blue COP, elimination of IUU fishing and establishment of an MPA to encompass the Antarctica Peninsula. Later in the month he was in Norway for meetings with the Norwegian government on the progress of the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, and then in the Netherlands for the fifth Sherpa meeting of the High-level Panel. Towards the end of the month he was in Sweden to perform speaking duties at the SIWI World Water Week to build cooperation between global efforts in support of SDGs 6 and 14 (fresh and salt water communities). He

finished off the month back in New York for the second meeting of the Advisory Committee of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and to address the Ambassadors of the Group of Friends of Ocean and Seas (GoFOS) on SDG14 progress.

The Ambassador traveled to Asia-Pacific in September, delivering keynote speeches at ESCAP's Asia-Pacific Climate Week in Bangkok and then in Samoa at SPREP's 29th Ministerial Meeting on a Resilient Blue Pacific, before finishing off in Tahiti to speak on Ocean Action at the Conference of the Presidents of Pacific Parliaments. The Special Envoy will be in New York for the duration of the UNGA High-level Week for a series of Ocean Action commitments.

As preparations for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference ramp up, and as we head into the UN General Assembly's High-level Week, the Special Envoy has upped his media outreach, including in languages other than English. For instance, he was the subject of an in-depth [profile by El Mercurio](#), a premier newspaper in Chile, discussing the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference—the “Blue COP.” He also penned an [op-ed for TIME magazine](#), calling for an end to fisheries subsidies:

“On an individual level, we all have a role to play as well. In my own work, one of my top priorities is putting an end to the billions of dollars in government subsidies worldwide that go mostly to industrial fleets chasing diminishing stocks of fish—and ensuring that the public funds saved are spent on beneficial measures like establishing and enforcing marine-protected areas. But everyone, from government officials to business executives to scientists to students, has the ability to make a difference. We can choose not to use nonessential plastics. We can consume seafood only from sustainable, legally caught stocks. We can get serious about reducing our carbon footprints, so we are on the right side of global efforts toward a carbon-neutral world by 2050.”

You are invited to follow the Special Envoy's [Twitter account](#) and [Instagram account](#), where he shares messages of solutions and strategies for achieving a healthy Ocean through implementation of SDG14 and fidelity to the Paris Climate Agreement. More information about his work can be found on the website oceanconference.un.org/SpecialEnvoy.



Updates from the Communities of Ocean Action (COAs)



3 COAs to co-organize joint meeting with eye towards biodiversity efforts

Just as the UN is working to promote the links between climate change and the SDGs, three COAs are coming together to better link their work. The meeting “Advancing Ocean Action Towards SDG 14: Leveraging Synergies for Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, Mangroves and Coral Reefs” will take place from 11-13 November in Montreal, Canada. Co-organized by the COAs on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Management, Mangroves and Coral Reefs, the meeting will focus on identifying ways to advance progress towards SDG 14 by highlighting experiences and lessons learned from the Voluntary Commitments in these COAs, and also will discuss opportunities for synergies among efforts to achieve SDG 14 and the ongoing deliberations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

This meeting will be held as part of 2020 Ocean Pathways Week in Montreal and will take place immediately before the CBD thematic workshop on marine and coastal biodiversity for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



Ocean acidification

Upcoming webinar: 25 September, 9 a.m. CEST

The fourth webinar of the COA on Ocean Acidification will feature Peter Thor of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), who will present on Sweden’s plans to address and support SDG 14.3, including through a national ocean acidification monitoring programme ([#19499](#)). This will be followed by a talk by Dorothee Bakker, University of East Anglia, UK, who will present the Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas (SOCAT; [#20464](#)). The presentations will be followed by a discussion about opportunities for the COA on OA to work together to advance progress on SDG 14.3.

To participate in this webinar, please RSVP by emailing OAICC.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Save the date: 5th International Symposium on the Ocean in a High CO₂ World

The 5th International Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO₂ World was held in Lima, Peru, from 7-10 September 2020. The previous symposia in this series were held in Paris in 2004, Monaco in 2008, Monterey in 2012, and Hobart in 2016, each proving to be essential for the international, multidisciplinary community of researchers studying ocean acidification.



The 5th symposium will maintain the traditional focus of the four previous symposia and look at ocean acidification and associated impacts on marine organisms, ecosystems, and biogeochemical cycles. Ocean acidification will be considered in combination with other global changes such as warming and deoxygenation. The symposium program is being developed by the International Scientific Committee and will be on the [symposium website](#) soon.

OceanObs'19 decadal conference happening in Hawaii



The OceanObs'19 decadal conference is being held 16-20 September in Honolulu, USA. This event includes several breakout sessions and talks related to the SDGs and will highlight the work being done by the ocean acidification community. The conference also will help in identifying ways to advance ocean observing for the decade to come. The COA on OA Co-focal point Bronte Tilbrook will participate in several sessions relevant to the COA on OA, including a breakout session on the SDGs, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and ocean science capacity-building, among others. The full conference program can be found [here](#).

GOA-ON Community White Paper published

An overview of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network's ([GOA-ON](#)) genesis, current efforts, challenges and visions for the coming decade has been published in a new paper entitled "An Enhanced Ocean Acidification Observing Network: From People to Technology to Data Synthesis and Information Exchange," in *Frontiers in Marine Science*. This article was written as a Community White Paper in the context of the OceanObs decadal conference, aimed at highlighting and improving ocean observations on the regional and global scales. The publication can be accessed [here](#).

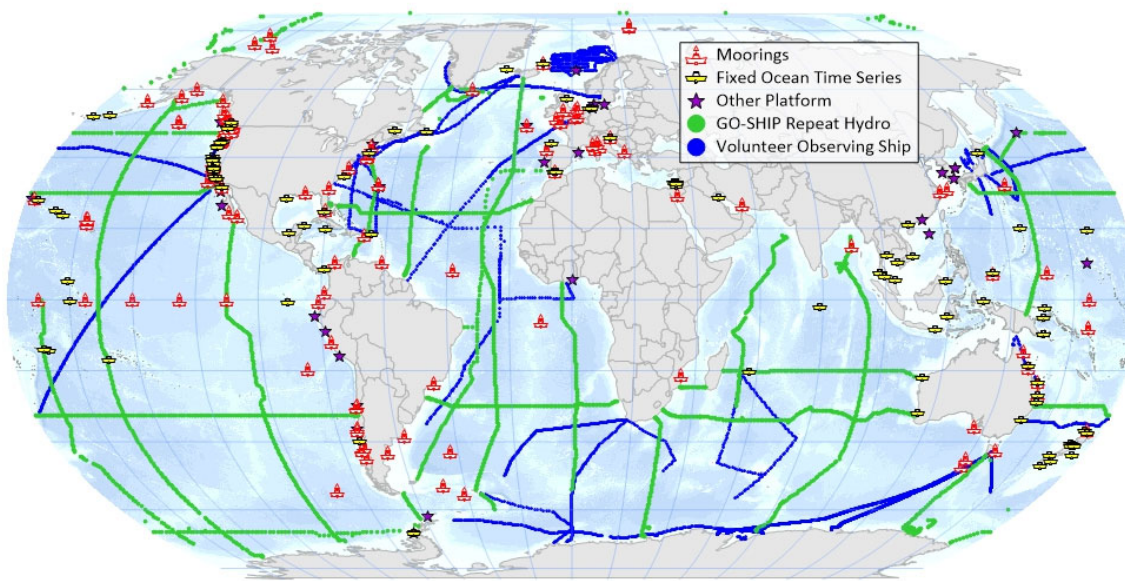


Figure from the GOA-ON Community White Paper representing global ocean acidification monitoring efforts.

Launch of new IAEA project to study impacts of ocean acidification on seafood

The IAEA Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre ([OA-ICC](#)) has launched a new research project to better understand the impacts of ocean acidification on socio-economically important seafood species. The first meeting for this project was held in Kristineberg, Sweden, from 26-30 August. Throughout the four years of this project, scientists from 18 countries will test the effects of possible future ocean acidification conditions on different species of shrimp, sea urchins, fish and molluscs using standardized experimental methods. More information on this project can be found [here](#).



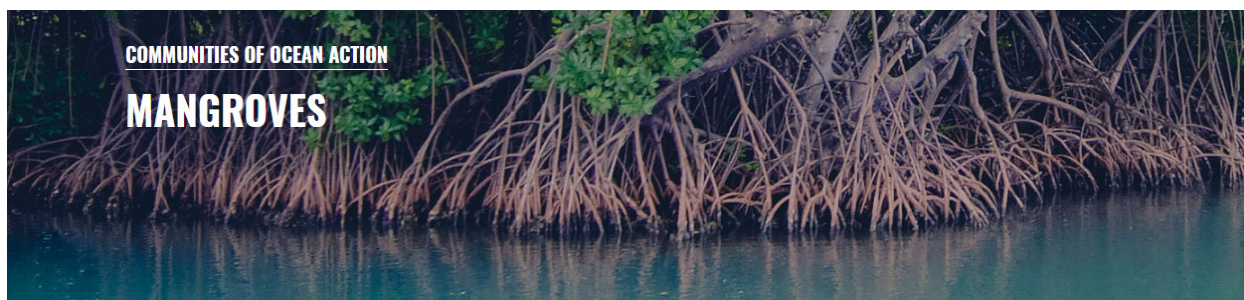
Increasing capacity for ocean observation in West Asia

The Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA) organized a workshop to develop regional capacity for ocean observation in support of SDG target 14.3 together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON). The workshop aimed to align ocean acidification research and monitoring in region of the RCOWA, as well as to foster data collection and experimentation in support of SDG 14.3. Hosted by the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS) in Tehran, Iran, from 8-9 June, the workshop served 29 scientists and other stakeholders from the region.

Studying ocean acidification in a multi-stressor context

The IAEA Environment Laboratories in Monaco welcomed 16 participants from 16 countries from 24-28 June for a training course on designing and running multi-stressor ocean acidification experiments. The course taught participants how to use the Multiple Environmental Driver Design Lab for Experiments ([MEDDLE](#)), produced by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) [Working Group 149](#). Participants were able to use these new tools to plan their own experimental designs and research questions.





Mangroves

Business, government and civil society join forces for large-scale coastal cleanup in Thailand

Volunteers from the private sector, civil society organizations and government agencies rallied together to pick up items like beverage bottles, bottle caps, plastic bags, food wrappers, fabric, tires and cigarette butts from the Bang Pu mangrove in Thailand. Collectively they collected and segregated more than 4,500 PET bottles, 1,500 glass bottles, 200 kg of foam and 275 kg of slippers. The cleanup, which was graced by HRH Princess Aditayadornkitikhun, was organized by the Thailand Biodiversity Network Alliance (B-DNA), the country's first and only national business and biodiversity platform, to raise awareness about plastic pollution.

"We all generate litter, so combating marine plastic pollution is everyone's responsibility," said Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, and B-DNA Advisory Committee Member.

Founded by IUCN and Toyota, Thailand B-DNA is a membership platform which aims to strengthen the private sector's role in nature conservation in Thailand, with a focus on biodiversity and contributing to achieving the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The platform also provides companies the opportunity to build their awareness and capacity for sustainability, and to network and collaborate on conservation projects across Thailand. The platform's priority for the next few years is to help businesses tackle plastic pollution. [Read more here.](#)

"Mangroves in Manhattan" at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

At the UN's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, IUCN, WWF Germany, and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) hosted a reception on the role of mangrove restoration, conservation and management as a nature-based solution to help the implementation of the SDGs, with a particular emphasis on SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The event, hosted at the German Mission and moderated by Ali Raza Rizvi of IUCN, showcased the critical connections between humans and mangroves by highlighting the potential of mangroves for climate mitigation, adaptation, food security and economic development at both local and global scales. Speakers included Karin Goebel, Head of Economic Development of the German Permanent Mission to the UN; Gottfried von Gemmingen, Head of the Division of the Agenda for Sustainable Development for Reducing Poverty and Inequality at the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ); Amb. Ronald Jumeau, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the UN; Mandresy Rakotoarison, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Finance of Madagascar; Claire Blanchard, Head of Global Policy, WWF International; Juha Siikamaki, the Chief Economist of IUCN; and Kate Brown, Executive Director of the Global Island Partnership.

The keynote address was given via video by Amb. Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, discussing the role of mangrove and coastal ecosystems for SDGs and the work of the Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves, led by IUCN and Ramsar. He called for ambitious action leading into the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and the alignment of mangroves into both the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The video is available [here](#).

Opportunities to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through increasing mangrove coverage worldwide were highlighted, including through the ambitious target of Save Our Mangroves Now! and the Global Mangrove Alliance to restore the global extent of mangrove coverage 20% by 2030. Key takeaway messages included:

- There is an urgent need to address the drivers of ecosystem loss. Before addressing mangrove restoration, our key task is to halt and avoid mangrove loss and encourage sustainable use and management.
- Why are mangroves still being lost with all their economic benefits? Often the people acquiring the benefits are not the people in charge of managing the mangroves. One key change in the Seychelles was motivating hotels and tourism from destroying mangroves to preserving mangroves.
- Effective mangrove governance is highly tailored to the specific context. Cross-sectoral partnerships and knowledge exchange are crucial for successful cooperation. Collaborative partnerships and alliances need to be strengthened to create transformative change.
- Mangrove ecosystems need to be promoted globally and better integrated across international dialogues on economics, human well-being and sustainable development, food security, fisheries, and more. Upcoming priorities in 2020 include the adoption of the new Convention on Biological Diversity's global biodiversity framework and the first revision process of the Nationally Determined Contributions through the Paris Agreement.

For more information contact [Emily Goodwin](#) and [Dorothee Herr](#).

Tangled roots and changing tides: Law at the service of mangrove conservation and sustainable use

Due to the position of mangroves at the intersection of wetland, ocean, freshwater and forest, the legal framework governing mangroves is highly fragmented. It is only on rare occasions that legislation specially dedicated to mangrove management is developed. Most of the time, mangroves are indirectly defined and governed by forest, fisheries, wetlands or other sectoral provisions. These provisions can be adequate but they must be harmonized and their application to mangroves clarified for the legal framework to be effective. This situation creates confusion at the institutional level as several institutions with overlapping mandates may be responsible for mangroves, but lack capacity and coordination, leading to mismanagement and lack of implementation.

To address these challenges, the IUCN Environmental Law Centre worked with lawyers from seven countries to develop a comprehensive study detailing the legal and institutional frameworks affecting mangroves, and their impact on stakeholders' behaviour and the natural environment. Produced by Save Our Mangroves Now! ([#27534](#)), a collaboration between IUCN and WWF, the study draws on detailed governance assessments in Costa Rica, Vietnam, Madagascar, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, as well as legislative reviews in Mexico and India and a global desk study. It goes beyond

legal analysis to include social, political, economic and scientific information from surveys and interviews with government officials, community members, scientists, lawyers and civil society. It was enriched by workshops conducted in four countries of the Western Indian Ocean region: Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The study generates ten recommendations for policymakers to improve mangrove management and governance and suggests tools to implement these proposals. It finds that successful mangrove governance depends on institutional capacity to ensure legal enforcement and proper communication and coordination between the different agencies in charge. It also relies on the level of engagement and involvement of other stakeholders such as local communities, the private sector and the general public. The study especially highlights the need to ensure accountability and public participation in decision making on investment, development, resource management and conservation. It focuses attention on the importance of basing decisions on science and accurate data.

These findings will be disseminated to decision makers and the public in order to enlighten decisions, strategies and actions. Meanwhile, SOMN will continue to promote and support ambitious and effective policies and commitments at the national and international levels to enable conservation of one of our planet's most valuable and threatened resources.

The publication will be released [HERE](#) later this month. For more information, please contact [Lydia Slobodian](#).

Special event

- The [Nature4Climate](#) coalition will host [Nature's Climate Hub](#) from 22-25 September in New York on the sidelines of UNGA. During four days of programming, the coalition will discuss nature-based solutions to the climate challenge as they relate to forests, soils, food and agriculture, freshwater, ocean and marine ecosystems and wildlife. The hub is a collaborative venture bringing together more than 100 events from more than 50 organizations and organized by a coalition of 20 partners. The programme of the "Ocean Day" on 24 September is available [here](#), with most events open for registration.

Updates from Voluntary Commitments

- **Assessment of microplastics in coral reef ecosystem of Gulf of Mannar, India (31814):** Samples of sediment and water, 130 of each, were collected from 21 locations along the 160-kilometer long coast covering the coral reef areas (mainland and islands) of the Gulf of Mannar, Southern India, to study the abundance, characteristics and surface degradation features of microplastics (MP). Analysis of the samples from the southern Gulf of Mannar area show that the quantity of MP varies from 6,054 to 126,697 items per litre in subsurface water, and from 5,029 to 103,887 items per kilogram in sediment. The highest MP concentrations were observed in the mainland samples. MP distributions in the shoreward direction of the islands closely reflect those of mainland. Ten different types of polymers were identified across all samples collected, with

polyethylene (PE) being the most common. MP fibres (1-3 mm) were the most abundant form in water samples, while MP fragments (3-5 mm) were the most abundant in sediment samples. Analysis of selected MPs using scanning electron microscopy, combined with energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDAX), highlights the presence of cracks, protrusions and depositions on the surface of many MPs, indicating their partial degradation through weathering processes. EDAX analysis frequently showed the presence of Ni, Cd, Pb, Zn and Fe associated with MP surfaces.

Scientists also carried out an investigation of microplastics in the clam (*Donax* sp.), and water and sediment from its habitat (inter-tidal area) from 11 sites in the study area. Clams were grouped under three categories [Type 1 (<1 cm), Type 2 (1-2 cm), Type 3 (3-4 cm)]. Microplastics were found at concentrations ranging from 0.9-6.5 items/g and 0.6-1.3 items/individual) in clam species, 10-30 items/l in water and 24-235 items/kg in sediment. Fibres were the most dominant MP types accounting for 40-100% in clams across all sampling sites. The analysis of the remaining water and sediment samples is still in progress.

- **Methodology and quantification of blue carbon in the mangrove areas of the Fonseca Gulf in Honduras and El Salvador (#31422):** Blue carbon is the carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. It is stored either in soil, in the biomass living above the ground or in the dead biomass from seagrass, marshes and mangroves. Unlike terrestrial ecosystems, carbon sedimented in the soil of coastal ecosystems can be extensive and can remain trapped for centuries or millennia, producing large amounts of carbon reserves. This report presents the results of blue carbon sampling in Chismuyo Bay (Honduras) and La Unión Bay (El Salvador), using the general methodology for estimating blue carbon stocks in Central America. One of the objectives of this document is to raise awareness among the authorities in Honduras and El Salvador to boost mangrove recovery in the region and thus mitigate the effects of climate change.

New Voluntary Commitment in the spotlight

Sea Turtle Conservation

The Students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN) is a voluntary group working on olive ridley sea turtle protection on a 14-kilometer stretch of beach in Chennai, India (#32667). Sea turtles in this area have long suffered negative effects from their human neighbors, first by egg poaching and later, with the growth of the city, the brightly lit beaches and stray dogs became a major problem for emerging hatchlings.

Project objectives: 1. Conservation of olive ridley sea turtles, especially on and off the coast of Chennai; 2. Awareness creation among students and general public; 3. Protection of the coast and near shore areas.

Implementation: Sea turtle nesting begins in late December and finishes in late March. Volunteers patrol the beach every night looking for turtle tracks or for nesting turtles. Once the nest is found, the eggs are taken in bags and relocated into a hatchery, which is a fenced-off area of beach in a quiet, dark stretch. Incubation is approximately 45 days, and hatchlings emerge between mid-February and mid-May. The hatchery is monitored round the clock to ensure the safe release of every emerging hatchling.

Community engagement: Every Friday and Saturday night, student groups, families and individuals join the patrol team of experienced volunteers for “Turtle Walks.” Interactive bilingual discussions on conservation issues, particularly regarding sea turtles and the marine environment, precede each walk. Student and family groups can visit the hatchery every evening to witness hatchlings being released. SSTCN volunteers for talks and presentations on turtles and ocean life, and organize school and inter-collegiate symposiums, as well as beach clean-ups.

Training: Over the years, SSTCN has provided training for various groups interested in sea turtle conservation, including the state forest department, representatives of coastal districts and private groups involved in sea turtle conservation. SSTCN organizes workshops, species conservation action plans and trainings that include field work for patrolling and hatchery management.

Influencing policy: Through sustained efforts and with the support of an understanding Chief Wildlife Warden, SSTCN managed to get a Government Order passed to switch off several large mast lights on Chennai’s beaches during the sea turtle season in order to protect hatchlings from disorientation.

Other new Voluntary Commitments

- **Protection of the Arctic Ocean and its ecosystem,** [33271](#) (Parvati.org)
- **Liceu Santista Geography Lab,** [33235](#) (Liceu Santista)
- **One Gulf of California (1GC),** [33153](#), (Ciudades Unidas de America Latina, A.C.)
- **Goal 7, 14 and 13 commitment,** [33099](#) (Burn No Trash)
- **Creating awareness and ensuring access to technology through education & community programs,** [33006](#) (Pushpa Patil Foundation)
- **A Maritime Strategy for the sustainable development of the blue economy in Catalonia,** [32799](#) (Government of Catalonia)
- **Connecting individuals to long term ocean preservation with the help of a reusable bottle,** [32769](#) (Ocean Bottle)
- **National Association of Fishermen (NAF),** [32742](#) (NAF)
- **International Project Manager/Terra Damp Co., Ltd.,** [32706](#) (Yongbom Cho)
- **GLOSS-Global Ocean Social Sciences,** [32701](#) (Ocean University Initiative/Universite de Bretagne Occidentale-University of Brest)

- **Ocean University Initiative**, [32694](#) (Universite de Bretagne Occidentale-Brest University)
- **Microcosmos Oceanico (Oceanic Microcosm)**, [32577](#) (CIDEMAR Foudation)
- **“Science Under Sail” in the South Pacific for the Global Goals**, [32505](#) (Oceanic Research Institute)
- **Design and implementation of a national fisheries governance model based on co-management**, [32480](#) (Government of Catalonia)
- **Shark photosynthesis identification iNaturalist**, [32393](#) (Ocean Sanctuaries)
- **Mangrove Reforestation**, [32177](#) (Project Bataan)
- **Action and Outreach on Ocean Acidification**, [32099](#) (National Fisheries Conservation Center)

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Nations**

Department of
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