

Supporting the Implementation of SDG 14 State of play on the UN Ocean Conference

European Parliament Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

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IUCN – Permanent observer at the UN Involved in the SDG 14 Ocean Conference since the start

IUCN main areas of concerns/activities

- Climate Change
- Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial Planning
- Ocean Shipping
- Invasive Alien Species
- Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
- International Law
- Ocean Pollution
- Gender and Indigenous Peoples



1. Climate Change

- Consider nature-based solutions through the protection and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems as a fundamental contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation, alongside their multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Increase the integration of coastal and marine ecosystems in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).
- Ensure increased and long-term financing with simplified access to climate finance for coastal and marine projects in order to support and mobilize all relevant stakeholders particularly at the local level.



2. Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial Planning

- Recognize the growing scientific and global consensus of what is needed for the global ocean and the global consensus from the Hawaii World Conservation Congress in 2016 of at least 30%.
- BE GUIDED by the CBD/IUCN definitions of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) which are clear and unambiguous. There is need to ensure that CBD and IUCN standards around MPAs are recognized and attention drawn to concerns of misinterpretation of the IUCN protected areas definition and categories.



3. Ocean Shipping

- Recognize both acute (ship-strike mortality) and chronic (elevation of marine ambient noise at a global scale) shipping impacts on marine.
- Reduce direct injury or mortality from ship strikes, and sub-lethal behavioural effects of underwater noise pollution.
- Develop ship-noise monitoring and mitigation efforts.



4. Invasive Alien Species

- Join the Honolulu Challenge on IAS9, recently launched at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, which calls for the urgent development of bold, yet practical, measures to safeguard biodiversity and human wellbeing from the devastating impacts of IAS.



5. Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

- Reach a consensus on the substantive recommendations to the UNGA on the elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under UNCLOS for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ.
- Support science-based processes that allow for the establishment of an ecologically representative and well-connected system of MPAs.



6. International Law

- Enforce instruments that implement international law that address ocean and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea.



7. Ocean Pollution

- Support scientific research and harmonization of data collecting protocols and enhancing cooperation in scientific research and the sharing of data to better understand the relationship between climate and the health and productivity of the oceans.



8. Gender and Indigenous Peoples

- Embrace the crucial role women and men alike play in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Integrate gender responsive reforms and their implementation by equally considering the needs, priorities, knowledge and experiences of men and women alike in marine and coastal ecosystems.



IUCN recommendations

IUCN urges all states to:

1. Consider nature-based solutions through the **protection and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems** as a fundamental contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
2. Recognize the **inadequacy of the 10% marine target for protection** versus the growing scientific and global consensus of what is actually needed for the global ocean;
3. Accelerate action to prevent and **significantly reduce marine pollution** of all kinds;
4. Agree to convene **in 2018 an intergovernmental conference** to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ;
5. Reduce direct injury or mortality from ship strikes, and sub-lethal behavioural effects of underwater noise pollution;
6. Join the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments;
7. Affirm the importance of **promoting proactive, effective, inclusive, gender-responsive solutions** and to ACCOUNT for the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, and their conservation, economic, social and cultural traditions and aspirations.



IUCN further urges parties to:

1. Reference explicitly the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. The world community has an agreed way forward on climate change, including addressing the interlinkages with the ocean, which needs to be highlighted and recognized;
2. Highlight that the ocean and its biodiversity are impacted by multiple, and often cumulative stressors;
3. Strengthen the reference to the importance of marine biodiversity for sustainable development;
4. Maintain specific reference to “land-based pollution” and RETAIN a reference to “microplastics”;
5. Support language taking action to address increasing threats to whales and other marine species from ship strikes and ocean noise;
6. Emphasize the prevention as the most effective means of addressing the threat to marine biodiversity posed by invasive alien species;
7. Appoint an UN Ocean Ombudsman or Special Rapporteur to provide the focus needed for reviewing progress and the voluntary commitments made across the many sectors, agencies and stakeholders involved in ocean issues.



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<https://www.iucn.org/theme/global-policy/resources/position-papers/sustainable-development>

