

LEADING BY DOING

Latest large-scale actions and new announcements on ocean conservation to achieve 2030 goals



MONDAY 27TH JUNE | 11:30-12:45
SIDE EVENT ROOM 2, ALTICE ARENA

OFFICIAL UN OCEAN CONFERENCE BLUE ZONE CONCEPT NOTE

Leading by doing: Latest large-scale actions and new announcements on ocean conservation to achieve 2030 goal.

I. DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

27th June 2022, 11:30-12:45 | Side event room 2, Altice Arena, Lisbon

I. RATIONAL

The sustainable management of coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems and fisheries is critical to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The urgency of the intertwined biodiversity and climate crises has produced calls for substantially expanding biodiversity protection. The designation and effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has been consistently considered among the most suitable solutions for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, minimizing the effects of increasing pressures on the marine environment, including those resulting from climate change.

In January of 2020, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity released its 'zero draft' text proposal for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Featured in the text is a target to protect at least 30% of the planet — land and sea — by 2030. Scientific evidence indicates that effective protection of at least 30% of the global ocean is key to reverse adverse ecological impacts, preserve fish populations and marine ecosystems, increase resilience to climate change and sustain long-term ocean health.

Understanding the urgency of establishing concrete actions for the protection of the ocean, the United Nations established 2021-2030 as the “Decade on Ecosystem Restoration” and as the “Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. The latter calls for cooperation through a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Portugal, the Dominican Republic, the Global Mangrove Alliance and Mozambique represent global examples of action, cooperation, success, and



innovation in marine protection by making immediate and stepwise progress towards the 30x30 target.

II. AIM

Laying the foundation for future success, by showcasing ocean conservation solutions and impacts in Portugal, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Mozambique and globally by the Global Mangrove Alliance.

III. OBJECTIVES

This side event aims to further discussions on the challenges and successes of implementing MPAs in various countries across the globe and present the necessary frameworks required to ensure local, regional, and national buy-in and stakeholder engagement in the effective establishment and management of MPAs.

IV. ORGANIZING PARTNERS

- Republic of Portugal
- Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic
- Ministry of Environment of Uruguay
- National Administration of Conservation Areas of the Ministry of Land and Environment, Mozambique
- Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique
- Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Conservation International
- Rare
- WWF
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Wetlands International
- Global Mangrove Alliance
- Save Our Mangroves Now
- Mission Blue
- Oceano Azul Foundation
- Blue Forest

V. FORMAT

This session will be divided into three sections, where various governmental and civil society actors from Portugal, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay Mozambique and



globally by the Global Mangrove Alliance will present and discuss examples of marine protection, as well as announce new commitments to achieve 2030 ocean conservation goals.

In the **“New Hope Spot and 30x30 announcements”** section Uruguay will join Dominican Republic in announcing an ambitious commitment to protect 30% of its domestic marine waters by 2030. This announcement will position Uruguay and the Dominican Republic along with other leaders in Latin America who are advancing marine protected areas free from extractive and destructive activities to safeguard the ocean in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

In the **“Showcasing mangrove bright spots and success stories”** section, partners of the Global Mangrove Alliance will share how they are working together towards collective goals for a transformative change in the global protection and conservation of mangrove ecosystems. The Global Mangrove Alliance brings together technical experts, civil society organizations, governments, local communities, businesses, funding agencies and foundations to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated, global approach to mangrove conservation and restoration at a scale that matters. Then, we will hear from national and provincial authorities and partners in Mozambique about the mangrove restoration efforts in Maputo National Park and the wider bay area of the Maputo Protected Landscape, as well as the new “Mangroves for Peace” project in Cabo Delgado Province and how they are working to accelerate mangrove protection in policy and practice through the development of the national Marine Spatial Plan, the National Territorial Development Plan and the National Mangrove Strategy, in an integrated and sustainable manner, including a combination of grey and green infrastructure, designating mangroves as protected zones and generating blueprint for alternative income for women and youth towards accelerated climate resilience and ecosystem restoration.

In the **“Portugal Case Studies”** section, the Government of Portugal will highlight examples of different approaches to achieve success in fast-tracking designation, implementation and management of coastal and offshore MPAs. The Regional Government of Madeira will take the floor to showcase the success of Selvagens Islands Marine Reserve, which expanded from 94km² to 2,676km², making it the largest fully protected MPA in the North Atlantic and Europe. Additionally, the Regional Government of Azores will also take the floor to talk about the program “Blue Azores”, which has secured 30% of the Azorean Sea as marine protected areas, accounting for almost 300.000 km² with 15% of the EEZ of the Azores fully protected. Lastly, the Marine Natural Park of the Algarve Reef will be represented, highlighting the creation of Portugal’s first Marine Protected Area of Community Interest, through a bottom-up and community lead process, using scientific, legal, economic and social

studies to protect Portugal’s largest coastal rocky reef that is essential to the economic activity of the Algarve region.

VI. AGENDA (tbc):

Time	Agenda Item
	Welcome by Moderator
11:30	Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
	Opening remarks
11:33	His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
	Actions and announcements
11:38	Dominican Republic – New Hope Spot and 30x30 announcement moving forward now <i>One minute of respect for the late Minister of Environment Orlando Jorge Mera</i> Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic Private sector and NGO alliance (Dominican Republic)
11:48	Uruguay – New Hope Spot and 30x30 announcement moving forward now Ministry of Environment of Uruguay Regional Government of Rocha Q&A Short discussion
	#Roots of Hope: Showcasing mangrove bright spots and success stories
11:58	Short animation by Save our Mangroves Now Global Mangrove Alliance National Administration of Conservation Areas of the Ministry of Land and Environment, Mozambique Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique and Blue Forest Q&A Short discussion



12:18 Government of Portugal
Regional Government of Azores
Regional Government of Madeira
Marine Protected Area of Community Interest of Algarve
[Q&A](#)
Short discussion

Wrap-up

12:38 High-level closing by Dr. Sylvia Earle
12:45 END

VII. SPEAKERS

Opening Remarks

- His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Moderator

- Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Dominican Republic, Uruguay & Mission Blue

- Milagros de Camps, Vice Minister of Environment of Dominican Republic
- Jake Kheel, Private sector and NGO alliance
- Minister for Environment of Uruguay Adrián Peña
- Director for Environment of the Regional Government of Rocha Rodrigo Garcia

Global Mangrove Alliance and Mozambique

- Ms Emily Landis, Climate and Ocean Lead, The Nature Conservancy (on behalf of the Global Mangrove Alliance partners)
- Mr Miguel Goncalves, Maputo National Park and Ponta do Ouro Marine Reserve Administrator from the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) of the Mozambique's Ministry of Land and Environment, an IUCN Member

- Mr Arlindo Dgege, Provincial Director for Territorial Development (PNDT, MSP) and Environment (Biodiversity, Conservation, Climate Change), Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique
- Mr Vahid Fotuhi, Founder and CEO of Blue Forest

Portugal Case Studies:

- Tiago Pitta e Cunha, CEO of Oceano Azul Foundation
- Duarte Cordeiro, Portuguese Minister for Environment and Climate Action
- José Manuel Bolieiro, President of the Regional Government of Azores
- Miguel Albuquerque, President of the Regional Government of Madeira
- Emanuel Gonçalves, Oceano Azul Foundation

Closing Remarks

- Dr Sylvia Earle, President and Chairman of Mission Blue