

GLOBAL OCEAN FORUM

Recommendations for Oceans and Coasts at Rio+20

The Global Ocean Forum welcomes the focus on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in the Rio+20 process and the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome. We call on countries and civil society representatives to continue to push for a strong ocean outcome from the Rio+20 Conference that will reflect the importance of oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in achieving sustainable development goals.

We have compiled the following recommendations for consideration by governments in forthcoming negotiations on the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document. These recommendations are drawn from the Global Ocean Forum report, *Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development?* which can be downloaded at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Rio20SummaryReport.pdf>

OCEANS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mitigation

- Adopt stringent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid disastrous consequences on oceans and coastal communities and to ensure the continuing functioning of the oceans in sustaining life on Earth;
- Conserve and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems as major carbon sinks ("Blue Carbon"), and integrate Blue Carbon into the policy and financing processes of the UNFCCC as a climate change mitigation mechanism;
- Sustainably develop offshore renewable energy (e.g., offshore wind), guided by marine spatial planning tools;
- Accelerate efforts by the IMO and others to reduce emissions from ships and fishing vessels;
- Consider and develop regulatory systems for carbon capture and storage via injection in deep seabed geological formations.

Adaptation

- Implement ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation through integrated coastal and ocean management institutions at various levels to build the preparedness and adaptive capacities of coastal communities;
- Provide sufficient funding, supported by improved adaptation cost estimates, to support adaptation plans and activities for coastal communities, including through the possible creation of a Coastal Adaptation Fund or by directing a significant portion of current Adaptation Funds to coastal issues;
- Develop and support measures to address the full range of issues associated with the displacement of coastal populations as a result of climate change.

Capacity Development, Scientific Monitoring, and Public Education

- Provide technical assistance to small island developing States (SIDS) and developing countries to build capacity to undertake adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Establish scientific capacity in all countries for environmental assessment, monitoring, and prediction;

- Expand public outreach and education efforts to improve awareness of the risks posed to coastal communities and to catalyze support for appropriate behavioral changes and policy responses for mitigation and adaptation.

INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE

Recommendations for National and Sub-National Levels

- Scale up successful national and sub-national efforts in Ecosystem-Based Management/Integrated Coastal Management (EBM/ICM) to include larger portions of coastal and ocean areas under national jurisdiction by 2020;
- Strengthen integrated institutions and ocean and coastal decision-making processes, including through ocean and coastal laws, by 2020.

Recommendations for Regional Level

- Accelerate the development and implementation of EBM/ICM in regional and transboundary areas, including through the Large Marine Ecosystem Programs and the Regional Seas Programs, encouraging the adoption of regional protocols on EBM/ICM to guide action at regional and national levels.

Recommendations for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

- Apply EBM/ICM principles and approaches to ABNJ to address multiple use conflicts, manage new uses, and protect vulnerable ecosystems and marine biodiversity;
- Vest authority for applying EBM/ICM approaches in ABNJ in existing or new institutions and establish a process for multiple-use decision making.

Recommendations for Global Level

- Elevate oceans to the highest levels of the UN system to enable a cross-cutting approach and timely response to major threats and opportunities, including through:
 - Establishment of a UN Secretary-General or other high-level coordination mechanism on oceans,
 - Development of a UN Ocean Budget report, tracking and assessing ocean-related funding at the global level.
- Link various ocean-related fora (e.g., Law of the Sea processes, Convention on Biological Diversity) and reform existing institutions, including the UN Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC), and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, to provide for consistent policy development in addressing ocean issues;

- Consider the need for new international agreements for emerging areas (e.g., carbon capture and storage, offshore aquaculture, marine debris).

Recommendations at All Levels

- Apply Marine Spatial Planning within the framework of EBM/ICM, aiming to achieve the CBD's Aichi target of protecting at least 10% of marine and coastal areas.

KEY ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE

Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Accelerate multi-pronged efforts to arrest the continuing decline of global fish stocks, including:
 - Ratification and implementation of global instruments (e.g., UN Fish Stocks Agreement, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO Port State Measures Agreement, UNGA resolutions for addressing deep-sea fisheries);
 - Strengthening and, where appropriate, creating new Regional Fishery Bodies/Arrangements
 - Supporting national strategies and action plans to address IUU fishing and reduce fishing overcapacity
 - Developing capacity to implement global instruments and national plans of action
- Consider the need for more far-reaching and innovative solutions if positive on-the-ground results are not obtained within a certain time frame.

Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas

- Accelerate the establishment of MPA networks in the context of EBM/ICM and marine spatial planning, with emphasis on climate change resilience;
- Create and improve the capacity of institutional mechanisms for creating and managing MPAs.

Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

- Given the "soft law" basis of the GPA and weaknesses in implementation typically associated with soft law approaches, consider forging a global legally-binding instrument on land-based pollution, while continuing the development and implementation of national plans of action and regional Land-Based Sources Protocols through increased capacity development.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Develop a strategic approach to funding and capacity building for oceans and coasts, including through increased coordination among States, donors, IGOs, and providers of capacity training. Periodically assess and track overall efforts and expenditures in capacity development and aggregate impact;

- Increase the total amount of financing devoted to capacity development, commensurate with the needs and challenges facing developing countries and SIDS;
- Develop and/or strengthen mechanisms for sharing of training and education materials, and lessons learned in capacity development, including the development of an information clearinghouse on capacity building;
- Support the implementation of the Regular Process for the Global Marine Assessment, including the completion of its first global assessment of the state of the marine environment by 2014, through capacity building at all levels, to enhance the scientific basis for decision making.

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

- Enhance ocean use agreements in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of SIDS to ensure social equity, resource conservation, and public transparency, and to ensure that the benefits derived from the sustainable utilization of EEZ resources accrue to SIDS;
- Provide financial support to SIDS to improve their ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, supported by improved cost estimates, and to protect coastal and ocean ecosystems, securing their role in providing the valuable ecosystem services, products, and livelihoods critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially poverty alleviation;
- Enhance capacity development on the interrelated issues of ocean and coastal management, climate change, and biodiversity, especially:
 - 1) among high-level leaders,
 - 2) among the next generation of leaders through investment in university programs, and
 - 3) among local community leaders.

GREEN (BLUE) ECONOMY

- Develop an international policy framework for the Blue Economy, which clearly defines the concept, its elements, and a roadmap for development and implementation;
- Scale-up successful green economy initiatives (e.g., responsible coastal tourism practices, certification of sustainably caught seafood) and strengthen means of implementation through capacity building, technology transfer, and provision of financial resources;
- Ensure that the greening of ocean industries contributes to:
 - 1) income and jobs;
 - 2) Reduced carbon emissions, waste and pollution;
 - and 3) sustainable development, social equity and inclusiveness, and poverty reduction;
- Support the valuation and payments for ecosystem services for more effective decision making in development planning involving ocean resources;
- Support alternative livelihood development;
- Support research, development, and transfer of clean technologies, including offshore renewable energy.