

Ocean-Related Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments

Voluntary Commitments in the “Oceans and Seas, SIDS” category

Building Global Capacity for Marine Sciences, Observation, and Transfer of Marine Technology

Partners:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
(in partnership with Global Ocean Forum Commitment on Capacity Building for Integrated Ocean Governance)

Commitment: This commitment aims at conducting a global and regional assessment of capacity development needs in the field of marine scientific research and ocean observation in developing nations and SIDS, leading to the formulation and implementation of a global strategy to implement these needs, through partnership with countries, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions, and the private sector. This commitment is based on the proposal contained in the UN Blueprint Report on Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and will be implemented in close cooperation with Global Ocean Forum led Voluntary Commitment on building global capacity for integrated ocean governance.

Website: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=361>

Building Ocean Readiness: Capacity Development for Integrated Ocean Governance

Partners:

Global Ocean Forum (GOF), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, World Ocean Network, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Commitment:

Capacity development for integrated ocean governance is essential to achieve sustainable development of oceans and coasts including responses to address new challenges, climate change and biodiversity, loss and provide sustainable ocean and coastal livelihoods. Funding is limited and there has been little collaboration and coordination of efforts among the many actors that assist in capacity development.

A global strategy for ocean readiness, mobilizing expertise and partnerships, will be developed to ensure that governments and institutions have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to develop Blue Economy frameworks, and to address challenges on oceans and coastal communities in a long-term, integrated manner.

Website: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=288>

Creation of a Co-managed Marine Protected Areas Network

Partners:

Fundacion Loxaxanet para la Pesca Sostenible

Commitment:

- The creation of Marine Protected Areas designed and co-managed by artisanal fishers as a tool to ensure marine governance and sustainability of fishery resources.
- Involvement of artisanal fishers in the co-management of fishery resources in the decision making process, which will reduce the gap among authorities and civil society.
- Improvement the socio-economic, environmental and institutional conditions in which artisanal fishers

operate and place them at the heart of the sustainable management of the resources their livelihoods is dependent upon.

--Change of mindset to improve management of marine resources and governance. Dissemination and replication of successful experiences and good practices.

Delivering Ecosystem-Based Coral Reef Management in the World's Regional Seas

Partners:

UNEP, Regional Seas programs and associated networks

Commitment:

Six regional seas with extensive coral reefs incorporate tools for assessing drivers of coral reef resilience and for identifying and prioritizing actions that reduce the major anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, in order to maintain their integrity and functioning.

A global partnership initiative among regional seas will promote policy coherence through common tools and approaches as well as strengthened implementation at the regional level, supporting resilient reefs and dependent communities.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=502>

Global Partnership and Capacity Building for Ecosystem Based Management of Oceans and Coasts: Pursuing Compatible Objectives for Sustainable Development through Integrated Spatial Planning, Management and Policies

Partners:

UNEP, Regional Seas, UN Oceans, governments, NGOs, private sectors, other international organizations.

Commitment:

- (a) An interdisciplinary Partnership and Capacity Building Platform to support ecosystem-based management for sustainable development of oceans and coast established by 2014;
- (b) Cross-sectoral policy frameworks with coherent objectives and management plans to support comprehensive ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts drafted in five countries across the Regional Seas Programme by 2017.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=501>

Laying the Foundations of an Ocean Economy

Partners:

Mauritius, in partnership with development partners

Commitment:

Foundations of an Ocean Economy, to be achieved with assistance from development partners.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=458>

Ocean Watch: Assessment and Promotion of Progress in the Implementation of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 Global Commitments On Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Partners

Global Ocean Forum (GOF), United Nations Development Program , Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

Commitment

The continued assessment, policy dialogue, and reporting of the progress (or lack thereof) in meeting global commitments related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS will ensure continuous exchange of information, sharing of best practices, and provide the opportunity to develop novel approaches to fill gaps in past commitments, and to address new and emerging challenges. This serves to maintain a high public and political profile, and to mobilize the ocean community to achieve effective implementation of commitments.

This builds on the work undertaken by the GOF and partners, in the report “Oceans at Rio+20: Summary for Decision Makers,” available online.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=289>

Reduce pollutants from sea and land-based activities, including litter, harmful substances and nutrients from wastewater, industrial and agricultural runoff entering the world’s oceans

Partners

Governments of Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, USA, the European Union; the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA); the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI); International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC); the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UN-HABITAT; IOCUNESCO, UNDP, NOAA; UN-Water; UN-Oceans

Commitment

All countries would have set relevant national targets for nutrient loadings, marine litter reduction and wastewater discharges. The planning of strategies for achieving these targets would have been commenced, through processes such as Regional Seas Action Plans and through functioning Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Nutrients, and Wastewater Management.

Website

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=500>

Smart Ocean/Smart Industries: Global scaling up of ocean and climate data collection by industry

Partners

World Ocean Council member companies, i.e. from shipping, oil/gas, fisheries, mining, renewable energy, etc.

Commitment

WOC and leadership companies will create a system to scale up and coordinate industry collecting of

ocean/climate data for scientific programs that improve ocean health and industry sustainability. The Smart Ocean/Smart Industries program is operational and ready to be used by a range of companies, sectors and locations worldwide by 2015. To achieve this overall target, pilot projects in one or more regions will be undertaken using industry vessels and platforms from several sectors, e.g. shipping and oil and gas. Pilot efforts will develop the system and process for systematic, regular, sustained and integrated collection of standardized ocean, weather and climate data at industry vessels and platforms and data communication to national and international ocean, weather and climate programs.

Website

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=1034>

The Ocean Stewardship Initiative in the Blue Society

Partners

Nausicaà, World Ocean Network, and the Global Ocean Forum

Potential partners (to be confirmed)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

United Nations Development Programme

Ocean Policy Research Foundation

Sea for Society consortium

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

Commitment

In the last summits on SD, States agreed on the need for a joint framework for conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources. To reach this goal, we shall bring together researchers, policy makers, economic stakeholders, local authorities and the general public in dialogue, mutual learning, and action in order to develop the “Blue Society” concept, a new vision of our life on Earth, in the spirit of sustainability, well-being and equity for mankind in harmony with the World Ocean. To implement it, we shall identify innovative research themes and governance modes and promote them to be duplicated elsewhere.

Website

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=809&nr=513>

Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Climate Change” Category

Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Management of Coastal Ecosystems

Partners

UNEP, GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, IOC of UNESCO, IUCN, Academic Institutions, NGOs

Commitment

International policy and financing processes under the UNFCCC encompass and enable coastal ecosystem-based mitigation activities. The area of mangroves, seagrass beds and tidal wetlands under sustainable management for climate change mitigation is increased in five developing countries, and greenhouse gas balance and other ecosystem services are consistently quantified and valued using standardized methodologies.

Website

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=499>

Ecosystems-based Adaptation (EBA) Programme

Partners

UNDP, IUCN

Commitment

The outcome of this commitment is countries having improved integration of climate change responses into national development processes by incorporating Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation into development planning and policymaking. This includes increasing the access of communities to relevant climate change assessments and information for decision-making and long-term planning. One project will be in a SIDS.

Website

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=495>

Signature of Cooperation Agreements between the IOC, and SPREP and IOC and 5Cs

Partners

Indian Ocean Commission, South Pacific Regional Program for Environment (SPREP) and the Community Center of Caribbean States for Climate Change (CCCCC)

Commitment

SIDS countries of the three regions will have increased their capacity in accessing climate finance, will have developed collaborations in developing human capacity to deliver on Blue economy and sustainable development; will have prepared for the SIDS summit in 2014.

Website

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=509>

Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Sustainable Development Strategies and Policies” Category

Smart Island Strategy—Government of Aruba

Partners

Government of Aruba, New America Foundation, Carbon War Room

Commitment

By 2020, Aruba’s Smart Island Strategy will transition the island to 100 percent renewable energy, increase housing choices and neighborhood quality, strengthen social cohesion, reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility, reduce obesity and improve public health, improve water conservation, and diversify an expanding island economy.

Website

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=514>

Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Sustainable Energy” Category

Barbados Declaration – Voluntary Commitment by Island Governments (22 in total)

Partners

Island governments, with support from the governments of Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom, and UNDP.

Commitment

Renewable Energy - to diversify its matrix and achieve a renewable energy target, with timetable.

Targets and timetables for each government differ.

Website:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Climate%20Change/Barbados-Declaration-2012.pdf>