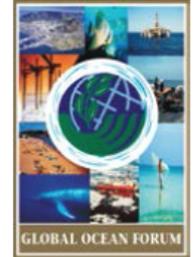


The Centrality of Oceans and Seas for Sustainable Development: Toward an SDG on Oceans and Seas

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Global Ocean Forum

- Mobilized in **2001** to help the world's governments put the issues of oceans, coasts, and islands on the agenda of the **World Summit on Sustainable Development**
- Since 2001, the GOF has brought together **ocean leaders from 110 countries to advance the global ocean agenda**, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, policy analyses, and building of consensus on unresolved issues
- Promotes **cross-sectoral** approaches to oceans and seas, **good governance**, sustainable development for coastal and island **peoples** around the world, and **healthy marine ecosystems**
- **Very active in the Rio+20 process**, inter alia, organizing the Oceans Day at Rio+20, co-leading the Oceans and Seas Cluster of the UN Major Groups



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Proposal for a Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans and Seas Prepared by the Global Ocean Forum¹

**For presentation at the 8th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
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Oceans are the point at which planet, people, and prosperity come together. And that is what sustainable development is about. It is about all of us as shareholders of Earth, incorporated, acknowledging and acting on our responsibility to the planet, to the people, and to its bloodstream, the oceans.

Elizabeth Thompson, Co-Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference, at Oceans Day at Rio+20

Purpose of Presentation

- 1. Underline the centrality of oceans and seas for sustainable development**
- 2. Put forward some tangible suggestions for an oceans SDG goal and a set of accompanying targets**

Centrality of Oceans and Seas for Sustainable Development

1. Oceans and seas are essential for planetary survival ✓

Oceans are the most prominent feature on the planet, covering $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Earth

- Serve as the Earth's **respiratory system**, producing oxygen for life and absorbing carbon dioxide and
- **Regulate the climate and temperature**
- **Hydrological cycle** begins and ends with the oceans, and all rivers, streams lead to the oceans

Bottom-line— all of the world's population must care about the health of the oceans and seas and exercise ocean stewardship

2. Oceans and seas are essential for national and global economic well-being

Examples

- The oceans and seas account for a **large portion of global economic activity**, estimated at \$3-6 trillion
- Coastal economic activity is the lifeblood of over **150 coastal and island nations**

Centrality of Oceans and Seas for Sustainable Development

- **90% of world trade** moves by ship
- Fisheries and aquaculture are a major source of **food security and nutrition**

3. Oceans and seas are essential for social well-being

- Over **40 percent, or 3.1 billion**, of the world's population within 100 kilometers of the ocean or sea in about **150 coastal and island nations**
- Regardless of whether a country is landlocked, or has a coastline, all nations are **directly connected to the oceans and seas through rivers, lakes, and streams**
- “Blue-green economy” **increases overall wealth** of a nation while producing a higher GDP growth rate

- Sustainable ocean activities (e.g. fishing, renewable energy, responsible tourism) **increase employment and reduce poverty, malnutrition, and pollution**
- Ocean-based economies provide **more opportunities for the empowerment and employment of women** (e.g., women comprise the majority of secondary activities workforce in marine fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening the economic vitality of communities and enhancing the status of women in developing countries)
- At the same time, coastal and island populations are **some of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts**— increased frequency and intensity of storms, hurricanes, typhoons; flooding; sea level rise; ocean acidification; fluctuations in ocean circulation and salinity
- Mitigation and adaptation must be further enhanced to build increased **resilience and support for coastal planning, emergency preparedness and response, and early warning observations.**

Elements to Achieve Sustainable Development of Oceans and Seas

- **Good governance** (ecosystem-based, integrated approaches both for oceans and coasts under national jurisdiction and in ABNJ)
- **Implementation of blue growth/blue economy** approaches to help eradicate poverty, move toward a low carbon economy, create jobs
- **Promotion of equity** in the use of marine resources, **inclusiveness, and transparency**
- **Capacity building**– of national and local authorities, fostering of new leaders through **educational programs**, engagement of **science**, empowering the **public to exercise ocean stewardship**

Toward an SDG on Oceans and Seas

- To further guide and fulfill the global commitments made at the 1992, 2002, and 2012 world summits on sustainable development, and in the 1982 UN Convention on Law of the Sea
- Given the centrality of oceans in global and national sustainable development, an SDG on oceans and seas must include actions at all levels
- Put forward one overarching SDG on Oceans and Seas, and 12 targets

Goal on Oceans and Seas

Exercise stewardship of the oceans and seas, protect their vital role in sustaining life on Earth, and promote “blue growth” to achieve prosperous and resilient peoples and communities

Targets

Target 1. Achieve **healthy marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity**.....

Target 2: Safeguard the world's **fisheries**.....

Target 3: Reduce the incidence and impacts of **marine pollution**....

Target 4: Address the issues on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of marine **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction** (64% of the oceans).....

Target 5: Improve international **cooperation**, especially at the **regional level on transboundary waters**.....

Target 6: Build the **capacity** of nations (marine management and on marine natural and social sciences).....

Target 7: Develop the **public's** capacity to exercise **ocean stewardship**.....

Targets

Target 8: Promote “**blue growth/blue economy**” to help eradicate **poverty**, move toward a **low-carbon economy**, **create jobs**....

Target 9: Improve **ecosystem-based management** of oceans and coasts under national jurisdiction.....

Target 10: Address the **special needs** of least developed countries, African states, and SIDS in marine management and **enhance the social and economic benefits** derived from these resources.....

Target 11: Ensure that coastal and island communities have adequate **resources** for effective **adaptation** to the impacts of ocean warming and ocean acidification.....

Target 12: Address the problems of **climate change-induced displacement** of peoples.....

An aerial photograph of a massive ocean wave, likely a tsunami or a large storm surge, with a prominent white foam crest. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The wave is moving from the top right towards the bottom left of the frame.

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**Elizabeth Thompson, Co-Executive Coordinator for the Rio+20 Conference,
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