

Progress Report on 10x20 Initiative

NEW PROMISES ADD UP TO 6.4% GLOBAL MARINE PROTECTION

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The global community is rallying support for marine protected areas (MPAs) as an effective conservation tool and global ocean MPA coverage has doubled in the last 3 years. Nations recognize the dire situation in our oceans and are taking steps to strongly protect marine areas to safeguard vulnerable life in the sea.

International conservation goals, including SDG goal 14 target 5 as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi Biodiversity Target 11) call for Member-States to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas in ecologically representative protected areas by 2020, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information.

At the 2016 Our Ocean Conference in September, hosted by US Secretary of State John Kerry, Member-States, NGO's and private foundations stepped forward to announce over 136 new initiatives on marine conservation and protection, valued at more than \$5.24 billion, as well as new commitments to protect over 1.5 million square miles of the ocean.

In addition in October The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources – known as CCAMLR – announced that the Antarctic's Ross Sea will be the largest marine protected area in the world by December 2017. This announcement represented agreement by the EU as well as 24 individual Member-States.

MPAtlas.org, an initiative of Marine Conservation Institute, is a visual database that tracks global marine conservation efforts as well as protected area promises and progress. Using this database, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the world, we know that as of August 2016, 2.3% of the global % of the global ocean. If all of the proposed MPAs are implemented as planned the total amount of marine area protected would reach 6.4% of the ocean.

Among the nations recently announcing expanded ocean protection are Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, New Caledonia, Norway, Palau, Russia, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Globally many Member-States are coming closer to the 10% target, and some nations are already there (Australia, Chile, Kiribati, Monaco, Palau, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the US, to name some).

Many others have renewed their commitment to get to 10% by 2020. Unfortunately, however, a large number of nations are still quite far from the 10% target.

Marine Conservation Institute will be working with Ocean Sanctuary Alliance to track these numbers over the next few years as 2020 fast approaches.

While commitments to protect our ocean are an essential first step to safeguarding marine life, it is important to recognize that the ecological benefits inherent in conservation commitments will not take effect until they are implemented and enforced.

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