



High-Level Event
10x20 Initiative on Marine Protected Areas
Achieving the Promise to Protect the Oceans and Seas

United Nations Headquarters
Thursday, 22 September 2016, 4:30 - 6:00 PM - GR 7

Hosted by the Bahamas, Italy, Kenya, Palau, Poland, and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, in collaboration with Fiji, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, the Global Partnerships Forum, the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science and UNEP

PROGRAMME

WELCOMING REMARKS



- **H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Amendola**, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Chair of 10x20 Initiative



- **H.E. Mr. Frederick A. Mitchell**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Vice Chair of 10x20 Initiative



- **H.E. Prof. Judi W. Wakhungu**, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kenya, Vice Chair of 10x20 Initiative



- **H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka**, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Vice Chair of 10x20 Initiative

TOWARDS 10X20 - SPECIAL REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson**, President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly



- **H.E. Ms. Ségolène Royal**, President of COP21 & Minister of Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs of France (tbc)



- **H.E. Ms. Catherine Novelli**, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, USA



- **Dr. Sylvia Earle**, Oceanographer, Founder of Mission Blue

PROGRAMME CONTINUED

LIGHTNING ROUND - RAISING AWARENESS



• **Mr. Montel Williams**, Special Envoy, Save Our Sharks Coalition



• **Dr. Dan Myers**, International Policy Manager, National Geographic Society



• **Ms. Karen Sack**, Managing Director of Ocean Unite (message from Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group and Mr. Adrian Grenier, Actor and Ocean Advocate)

LOOKING AHEAD - THE ROAD TO JUNE 2017



• **H.E. Ms. Annika Soder**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Co-host of 2017 UN Conference on Oceans



The event will be moderated by
Mr. Amir Dossal, President, Global Partnerships Forum, Co-founder, Ocean Sanctuary Alliance



By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14 TARGET 5

THE 10X20 INITIATIVE

In September 2015 193 world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda and committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to ensure a better world for all by 2030.

Among them, Goal 14 seeks to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” including a specific target to be achieved by 2020: “conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.”

This need is so urgent and the time so short that a new diplomatic consortium was created within the UN, the 10X20 Initiative (or 10X20), to ensure that Target 5 will be met. The Government of Italy and the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance (OSA) formally launched the 10X20 Initiative in October of 2015. Five months later, in March of 2016, they convened together with UNEP a conference in Rome that brought world scientists and marine protected area practitioners, and diplomats from 34 countries together to discuss this urgent imperative. Outcomes included the Rome Call to Action, which presents a roadmap for meeting Target 5 goals by 2020, and the Scientists Consensus Statement, detailing the best available science for creating effective MPAs.

The Rome Call to Action promotes further dialogue between the scientific community and policy makers, and the development of a “toolkit” that will assist nations in the identification, design, finance and governance of appropriate MPAs and MPA networks.

The Scientists Consensus Statement includes 34 detailed points of agreement, covering the characteristics of MPAs, the principles of governance, and the financing mechanisms most likely to lead to effective MPAs.

A Marine Protected Area is an umbrella term that encompasses virtually any type of refuge that provides protection to marine life. A wealth of scientific studies have documented that MPAs can assist in restoring overfished populations and the ecosystems in which they live,

Rebuilding ocean health can play a key role in food security, as seafood products are a major source of protein for three billion people. A typical result is a three-to-five times increase in previously fished species within five to ten years. A marine reserve in the northern hemisphere in the Pacific, saw an 11 times increase in top predator biomass within a decade. The first shark sanctuary was declared by Palau in 2009 and now there are more than 20 shark sanctuaries around the world, the result of a strong coalition of UN countries advocating together

While virtually every country with a coastline has declared one or more marine sanctuaries, the reserves tend to be small and not connected. Only three-and-a-half per cent of oceans worldwide are currently under protection. The most reliable forecasts indicate that upwards of 30 percent of the ocean surface must ultimately be protected to meet global sustainability goals. While this target may seem distant, the 10X20 goal is attainable as a waypoint to long-term sustainability.

A 10X20 Initiative’s steering committee has been created to provide technical and policy guidance to help national governments, UN agencies, and development investors identify potential MPAs, and to advise on the best available science, governance, and financial mechanisms that will result in effective and sustainable MPAs. In addition to Italy as chair, the Bahamas, Kenya, Palau and Poland are

currently serving as vice-chairs, together with the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance.

The 10X20 Initiative will continue to draw attention to the solutions that exist to the problems of ocean health and overfishing. The Initiative supports continued dialogue between policy makers and scientists and the involvement of citizens dedicated to restoring the health of the world’s oceans and its marine populations. An important

upcoming milestone for presentation of the results of 10X20 is the International Conference on the Oceans scheduled for June of 2017 in New York.

Coalitions of United Nations states have had powerful results. A similar solidarity is needed to achieve 10X20. Countries and world leaders must together seize this singular opportunity to restore marine life in our oceans, or risk they be forever lost.

CONFERENCE ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A Dialogue Between Scientists and Policymakers
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Rome, March 7-9, 2016

Scientists’ Consensus Statement

25 Marine Scientists and MPA experts representing 18 countries worked to achieve a broad consensus on issues related to defining, governing, and financing ocean sanctuaries.

They reached agreement on 34 individual points in trying to answer these three questions:

- 1) What are the characteristics of MPAs that will make them most effective at conserving biodiversity and regenerating fish populations?
- 2) What governance structures might best support the successful implementation and management of MPAs?
- 3) How can MPAs be made financially self-sustaining?

The complete statement can be read at:
www.oceansanctuaryalliance.org

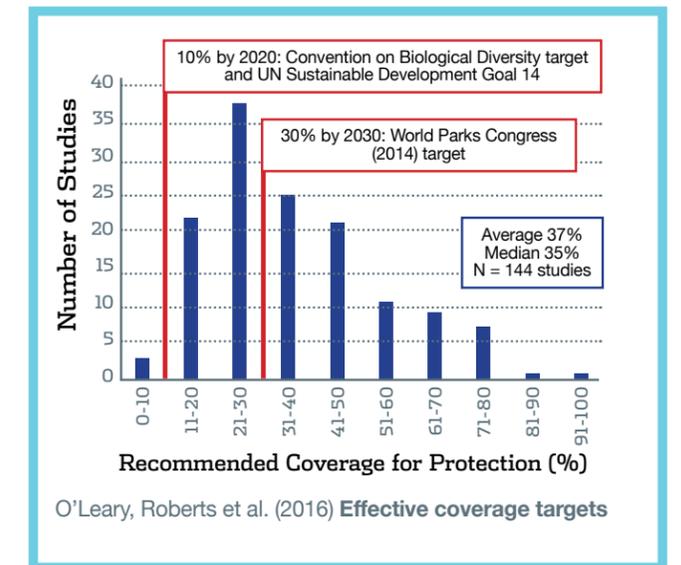
Here are some of the key findings that were presented to the Rome conference:

- Marine protected areas work best when they are fully protected from exploitation and other sources of harm.
- They do not work well when they receive only light protection, as is common practice today.
- Therefore, in meeting the 10% MPA target, countries should seek to maximise the inclusion of fully or strongly protected MPAs (IUCN categories, I and II), including fully protected zones within large, multiple use MPAs.

MPAs often fail for lack of finance, management, poor design etc. But many today are failing because of lack of ambition, based on the incorrect assumption that degraded ecosystems are actually in good shape (shifting baseline syndrome). The protection given must be sufficient to facilitate recovery.

Is the 10% MPA coverage target sufficient?

- Synthesis of 144 studies
- We extracted a percentage figure from each study that represented the coverage of MPAs needed to achieve, maximise or optimise benefits against a stated goal, including biodiversity conservation and fisheries goals.



•Scientific evidence indicates that many of the desired benefits of MPAs will only be secured by MPA coverages in the region of several tens of percent of the oceans.

•10% is an important waypoint rather than the endpoint for ocean protection.

ROME CALL TO ACTION

We the scientists and diplomats gathered in Rome on 7 – 9 March 2016 to initiate a dialogue on

responding to the imperative of increasing the geographical scope of Marine Protected Areas by 2020, as mandated by Agenda 2030 and embodied into target 5 of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the scientific knowledge about MPAs constitutes a sound and reliable basis for providing guidance and direction for achieving Target 14.5,

RECOGNIZING that the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits deriving from Marine Protected Areas, that include increased food security, provision of livelihood options, better economic returns from marine resources, and greater resilience and disaster risk reduction in

CONTINUED the face of climate change, are among the basic building blocks on which to advance sustainable development,

RECOGNIZING that the achievement of globally representative and ecologically networked protected marine ecosystems is integral to Target 14.5 and that MPAs are also needed in areas closer to human population centres,

CONSIDERING that well-planned and fully or strongly protected MPAs are the most effective in realizing the many potential benefits,

ACKNOWLEDGING that diversity is key to resilience and that the potential conflicts between use and conservation of marine resources can be addressed and resolved by means of a sound and robust MPA governance capacity,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the achievement of SDG Target 14.5 is a process that should be aligned and coordinated with existing legal frameworks contained in MEAs, such as CBD (including Aichi Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020, Target 11), the SAMOA Pathway and the new Paris Agreement on Climate, as well as ongoing intergovernmental discussions regarding the development of a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and other international initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, the Coral Triangle and the Caribbean Challenge Initiatives and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.

We have taken account of the foregoing aspects and issue the following

CALL TO ACTION

1. Incorporate the establishment of MPAs into the national strategies that are being adopted to implement and localize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. Make use of the best available science as well as institutional and operational experience to establish, maintain, and effectively manage MPAs¹;

3. Consider that Target 14.5 represents an important waypoint rather than an endpoint in our quest towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the achievement of healthy, resilient and productive oceans;

4. Map and describe areas where MPAs are especially needed and prioritize protection of vulnerable species and habitats as an initial measure in view of the year 2020 target, giving the highest consideration to both biodiversity distribution and ecosystem functioning ;

5. Promote and help develop MPA governance frameworks that are appropriate to the specific MPA context and draw in an integrated manner on economic, knowledge, legal and participative incentives;

6. Devise approaches for sustainability of MPAs that can best ensure the long term benefits of MPAs and their fair and equitable distribution among all sectors;

7. Devise and help develop approaches to consistently involve all stakeholders, including local communities in a just and equitable manner in the assessment, designation and management of MPAs to improve ownership, benefit from traditional knowledge and practices, and stimulate the creation of livelihoods, thereby increasing the likelihood of success and sustainability;

8. Increase focus on the economic issues

related to MPAs and help devise and develop updated cost-benefit analysis that take into account the existing gap between the short term nature of investments and the long term character of MPA benefits;

9. Support resource mobilization activities from all sources with a view to promoting and accelerating investment in the establishment and maintenance of MPAs, as part of the international effort towards the achievement of sustainable development;

10. Help countries with capacity building and identification of resource opportunities.

IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE AIMS WE CALL ON

11. The international scientific community to continue research on Ocean issues on an urgent priority basis;

12. The group of scientists and other MPA experts gathered in Rome to offer their assistance in the implementation of Target 5 of Sustainable Development Goal 14 both globally and in specific regions, including the application of their recommendations provided in the Rome Scientists' Consensus;

13. The Steering Committee of the 10x20 Initiative to:

(a) intensify its advocacy and support role to bring the present Call to Action to the attention of the international community;

(b) devise appropriate and effective follow-up activities to the CALL to ACTION;

(c) promote further dialogue between the scientific community and policy-makers including by calling upon and engaging the group of MPA experts gathered in Rome;

(d) develop a "tool-box" that will assist in the identification, design, finance and governance of appropriate MPAs and MPA networks in a multiplicity of contexts, including transitional challenges for the establishment of MPAs.

14. The Steering Committee of the 10x20 Initiative to bring to the attention of Member States, including through the High Level Political Forum, the present CALL to ACTION and

to convey to them the request to include into the Agenda of the forthcoming international conference on the Oceans – Fiji, 2017 – consideration of progress made towards the achievement of Target 14.5.



Conference at the Palazzo Farnesina in Rome

¹ Including the Rome 10x20 Conference Scientists' Consensus statement