



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?

Summary for Decision Makers



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Acknowledgements

Notes to Readers

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This Report relies, in large part, on the expert judgements of participants at the five global ocean conferences organized by the Global Ocean Forum who come from all sectors of the global ocean policy community (governments, international agencies, NGOs, industry, science groups). As well, the report relies on past policy analyses carried out by the Global Ocean Forum, especially a 2006 report that tracks progress in meeting the WSSD commitments on oceans, coasts, and islands, ten policy briefs prepared for the 2008 global oceans conference, and three policy briefs prepared for the 2010 global ocean conference (citations found at the end of the Summary).

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Summary for Decision Makers

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(Note: Errors or omissions in this report are the responsibility
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Foreword

Focusing on a Results Agenda for Coasts, Oceans, and Island States

When we look at a map of our tiny planet, we cannot avoid noticing that the oceans dominate over the land. Our “Blue Planet” is blessed with vast oceans and intricate coastlines that support our global economy. Maritime transport, international trade in fisheries, food security for coastal communities, the economic engine of coastal tourism, and even inland rainfall patterns depend on the sea.

It is unfortunate that news continues to be bad on the ecological status of our coasts and oceans. Every day, another story appears on the increasing degradation and depletion of the oceans. Coastal habitats, the “blue forests” are disappearing at rates even more rapid than inland forests. Ninety percent of top predatory fish in the oceans have been reported to be fished-out and loss of biological diversity continues. “Dead Zones” of oxygen depletion from pollution and harmful algal blooms increase every year. Yet, we must realize that the situation would be even worse if the original Rio Summit twenty years ago and the Johannesburg Summit ten years ago had not set out a course for action.

But how is the world community doing in meeting goals and targets related to coasts, oceans, and island states? Are governments and international organizations responding with appropriate interventions? There is just no simple answer because the big challenges of our time are interlinked with the global economy and in turn most of them are at the heart of the protection of coasts and oceans. This is why global action on oceans must be redoubled...to address the challenges posed by the global economy.

This publication measures the progress made toward the broad goals, targets, and timetables established by the international community. The analysis can only be qualitative, but it tells us that the issue of sustainability is complex, the challenges great, and the progress mixed. Nonetheless, the information that has been included is critical for global policymakers

to absorb. We have to do better in moving from words to action, by joining forces in partnership, and in measuring the results. Yes, there are successes, especially a number of them supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies such as UNDP. These successes depend on harnessing the power of participation by stakeholders across sectors, which is of critical importance in the case of the business community with its potential to influence the global economy with “greener” policies and practices.

For our part at the GEF, developing countries have placed a high priority on coastal and marine ecosystems for projects in our International Waters focal area. We have supported ecosystem-based approaches to improved management of 20 of the Earth’s 64 Large Marine Ecosystems. In these GEF projects, 110 GEF recipient countries are collaborating with 20 non-recipient countries on their shared coastal and marine resources. Moreover, GEF assistance to these coastal countries has been accompanied by over \$4 Billion in investments from other sources. Results take time, but it is good news that developing countries are taking collective action and are asking for assistance to protect coasts and oceans. In turn, GEF has responded with programs that cover one-third of the coastal oceans of our planet.

Measuring results is critical. We all know that and we know that it is difficult to report results on a global scale. This report provides important information for all of us on coasts, oceans, and islands. It illustrates that we must all work harder if our global economy and our coastal communities are to be sustained for our children and their children. Nothing less than a renewed commitment to action will do!

Monique Barbut

Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility

List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction	GRAMED	Global and Regional Marine Assessment Database	JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	GWP	Global Water Partnership	LBS	Land-based activities affecting the marine environment
BPoA	Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	HELCOM	Helsinki Commission	LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	IAS	University-Institute of Advanced Studies	MCS	Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance
CoML	Census of Marine Life	ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
COP	Conference of the Parties	ICM	Integrated Coastal Management	MPA	Marine Protected Area
CReW	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management	ICP	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
CSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development	ICSU	International Council for Science	NGO	Non Governmental Organization
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative	ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
DIVERSITAS	An international programme of biodiversity science	IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme	NPA	National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management	IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization	NPOA	National Plan of Action
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	IGR	Intergovernmental Review Meetings	OBIS	Ocean Biogeographic Information System
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme	OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin	IMO	International Maritime Organization	PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
ESSP	Earth System Science Partnership	IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	PIPA	Phoenix Islands Protected Area
EU	European Union	IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	PrepCom	Preparatory Committee Meeting
FMP	Fishery Management Plan	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
GEC	Global Environmental Change	IPOA	International Plan of Action	ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
GEF	Global Environment Facility	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	SCOR	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
GIS	Geographical Information System	IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GMA	Global Marine Assessment			SLR	Sea Level Rise
GOF	Global Ocean Forum				
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System				
GPA	UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities				

SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Realistic and Timely	UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	UNICPOLOS	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
SOFIA	State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	UNU	United Nations University
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
UN	United Nations	UNDOALOS	United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea	WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
UN BBNJ	UN Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	WMO	World Maritime Organization
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	WON	World Ocean Network
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
		UNGA	United Nations General Assembly	WTO	World Trade Organization
				YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

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