The ocean drives global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea.

Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future. However, at the current time, there is a continuous deterioration of coastal waters owing to pollution, and ocean acidification is having an adversarial effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. This is also negatively impacting small scale fisheries.

Saving our ocean must remain a priority. Marine biodiversity is critical to the health of people and our planet. Marine protected areas need to be effectively managed and well-resourced and regulations need to be put in place to reduce overfishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification.

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/

UN Conferences & Observances

- **UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June to 1 July 2022**
  Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions
  https://oceanconference.un.org/

- **High-level Thematic Debate on the Ocean and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, 1 June 2021, United Nations Headquarters in New York**
  https://www.un.org/pga/75/ocean/

- **Ocean Conference, 5 - 9 June 2017 (UN Headquarters, New York)**
  https://oceanconference.un.org/about


- **2021–2030 - International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**: https://www.oceandecade.org/
UN Entities

- **UN Oceans** – an inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues within the UN system: [http://www.unoceans.org](http://www.unoceans.org)
- Ocean Action Hub: [https://www.oceanactionhub.org](https://www.oceanactionhub.org)
- UN Atlas of the Oceans - an Internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans: [http://www.oceansatlas.org](http://www.oceansatlas.org)
- UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform
  - Goal 14: [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal14)
  - Oceans & Seas: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/oceanandseas](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/oceanandseas)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - Sustainable Ocean Initiative: [https://www.cbd.int/soi/](https://www.cbd.int/soi/)
  - Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: [https://www.cbd.int/marine](https://www.cbd.int/marine)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO): [http://www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
  - Oceans: [https://www.undp.org/tag/oceans](https://www.undp.org/tag/oceans)
  - Ocean Innovation Challenge: [https://oceaninnovationchallenge.org/](https://oceaninnovationchallenge.org/)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - Oceans and Seas: [https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas](https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas)
  - Cleans Seas - Turn the tide on plastic: [https://www.cleanseas.org/](https://www.cleanseas.org/)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - One Planet, One Ocean: [http://en.unesco.org/themes/one-planet-one-ocean](http://en.unesco.org/themes/one-planet-one-ocean)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - The Ocean: [https://unfccc.int/topics/ocean](https://unfccc.int/topics/ocean)

Further information

- Ask DAG! Where can I find information about the UN's actions for oceans? [https://ask.un.org/faq/176427](https://ask.un.org/faq/176427)

Selected UN documents and publications

• The Ocean and Us (UNEP GRID-Arendal, August 2016): http://www.grida.no/publications/1
• Blue Economy - Sharing Success Stories to Inspire Change (UNEP GRID-Arendal, May 2016): http://www.grida.no/publications/70
• World Ocean Assessment (UNEP GRID-Arendal, May 2016): http://www.grida.no/publications/112

Selected Statements and Speeches by UN Officials