



Declaration Between the Republic of France and IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) under a One Ocean Partnership

“The Nice–Abu Dhabi–Belem Roadmap for a One Ocean Partnership”

Highlighting that one third of the total human population, lives within 100 km (60 miles) of the ocean;

Acknowledging the crucial role of the ocean as a climate regulator, which, since the beginning of the industrial era, has stored more than 90% of the excess heat resulting from human-induced climate change and a third of the planet's carbon emissions;

Recalling that the ocean provides vital services such as food, oxygen, jobs and livelihoods, with an estimated annual economic value of the ocean of 2.5 trillion dollars, equivalent to the world's fifth largest economy;

Also recalling that the ocean is home to a range of habitats such as coral reefs, kelp forests, mangrove swamps, and seagrass meadows, which support numerous species and that these ecosystems are essential for the health of the planet, as well as co-benefits like carbon sequestration and coastal protection;

Pointing out that the ocean is home to a great biodiversity, which is now partly threatened, as indicated in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Emphasising that today, 80% of the ocean remains unexplored, especially the deep ocean and yet harbours almost 90% of the world's biodiversity.

Acknowledging the growing impact of plastic pollution, chemical contaminants, and hyper nutrification that degrade ocean health, disrupt food chains, and threaten the well-being of coastal communities;

Alarmed by the significant threats the ocean faces, including pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, and habitat destruction, exacerbated by climate change multi-stressors which undermine marine ecosystems and biodiversity, as documented by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species;

Concerned by the adverse effects of climate change, which lead to coral bleaching, ocean acidification, deoxygenation and the increased frequency and intensity of Marine Heat Waves and the displacement of marine species, further destabilizing the delicate balance of ocean ecosystem functions and productivity;

Emphasizing the urgent need to address unsustainable fishing practices, which deplete fish stocks and threaten the resilience of marine habitats and livelihoods dependent on them;

Noting that the average coverage of marine Key Biodiversity Areas by Marine Protected Areas is still <50%, as revealed by UN Sustainable Development Goals indicator 14.5.1;

Emphasizing that the third United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Nice (France) in June 2025 paves the way to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in October 2025;

Emphasizing the longstanding and fruitful partnership between the Republic of France and IUCN, established through the France-IUCN Framework Agreement in 2005. This Agreement brings together several key French institutions, including the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MTE), the Ministry of the Overseas (MOM), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MASA), and the French Development Agency (AFD), and is further supported by dedicated collaboration with the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Biodiversity Agency. This partnership has continuously contributed to advancing ocean conservation efforts — notably through the promotion of a regenerative Blue Economy, the effective management of marine protected areas, and high seas governance.

The Republic of France and IUCN welcome the increasing political and public recognition of importance of the ocean since the first UN Ocean Conference in 2017 and also welcome the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 to strengthen scientific understanding of the ocean and the SDG 14 targets followed by the commitments taken in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Republic of France and IUCN also welcome the outcomes of the One Polar Summit, held in Paris, France in 2023 and the launch of the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025-2034) to raise awareness and knowledge on the consequences of the global changes to the cryosphere on the hydrological cycle and rising sea levels.

France and IUCN note with deep concern that the health status of the ocean is alarming, despite its pivotal role, and they call upon UN Member States to take increased action to meet all targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and redouble efforts to achieve those with an already lapsed 2020 timeline.

Recognizing that synergistic and global action is more urgent than ever for effective ocean governance and management, France and IUCN therefore call on States to ratify the Agreement 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 (BBNJ Agreement), and to establish a High Ambition Coalition for BBNJ secretary. Further, they call on States to conclude negotiations on an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, and to adhere to, ratify and implement other international law instruments that address ocean and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use including the WTO Fish Agreement.

Regarding voluntary commitments, France and IUCN note that to ensure a meaningful contribution towards a healthy ocean, and a just transition towards a low carbon and sustainable and regenerative blue economy, these must rely on a rigorous framework for their monitoring, reporting and verification.

Looking ahead to the third United Nations Ocean Conference to be held in Nice (France) in June 2025 and to the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in October 2025, the Republic of France and the IUCN foster urgent need to power transformative and collaborative ocean conservation action by 2030 and therefore agree to strengthen their strategic political alignment and accelerate efforts in order to reach these shared priorities:

1. Achieving 30x30 and implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by promoting the protection of marine Key Biodiversity Areas covering at least 30% of the ocean by 2030, to ensure measurable and tangible ocean conservation outcomes.
2. Advancing Ocean Governance by supporting the establishment of a High Ambition Coalition for BBNJ (HAC-BBNJ) for the rapid entry into force and equitable and effective implementation of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement to safeguard marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
3. Advancing Ocean Science and Knowledge at all levels from sub-national to international level, and including inter alia completion of the Global Marine Species Assessment for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, generating policy relevant metrics (eg the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric) and indicators (eg the Red List Index) from this, expanding marine coverage of the Red List of Ecosystems, and broadening identification of marine Key Biodiversity Areas both within and beyond national jurisdictions, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.5.1.
4. Amplifying the Protection of Marine Species by promoting the establishing and launching of a Global Coalition for Better Protection of Marine Species, drawing from the IUCN Red List and its derivative products, based on the best available science and strengthened legal and institutional frameworks at all levels.
5. Promoting an Ambitious Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution by advocating for a robust and binding international agreement to phase out the most harmful plastic products, to reduce the production and consumption of plastics, to curb plastic pollution, to safeguard marine biodiversity, and to protect human health.
6. Advocating for the protection of the Cryosphere by calling for urgent and decisive action, including strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced scientific research on cryosphere dynamics and consequences on ecosystems and human livelihood, as well as other interconnections between climate and ocean, and the integration of its far-reaching impacts into global policy-making and adaptation strategies.
7. Accelerating Ocean Finance Action by promoting a path towards a One Ocean Finance Facility at the global level, which is accessible, inclusive, and capable of mobilizing significant financial resources from all sources to support marine protection, sustainable use, and regenerative blue economy and blue carbon initiatives globally.

Through this Declaration, the Republic of France and IUCN commit to working in close collaboration under the One Ocean Partnership to realize these shared goals and deliver lasting, science-driven, and equitable solutions for ocean health and resilience by 2030.



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