



UNITED NATIONS  
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# Press Kit





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## Editorials

*To protect the Ocean is to protect one of the global greatest carbon sink and invaluable reserves of biodiversity. It also means giving hope to all those whose lives depend on our Ocean, and to the hundreds of millions of people who will have to face rising sea levels and extreme maritime events. It is also to reinvent the blue economy together, never forgetting that the sea remains a vital source of income, jobs, food, innovation and health for people around the world. Yet today, mounting threats endanger the ability of the Ocean to provide all these services, compelling us to take collective action and better protect them.*

*This duality – an Ocean we must protect and an Ocean that protects us – is the foundation of our collective mobilisation for the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June.*

*In 2025, ten years after the Paris Agreement, in a world that is more aware of the climate and environmental challenges we face, yet not fully prepared to confront them, the Nice Action Plan for the Ocean will stand as a foundational milestone for Ocean governance. It will mark a turning point in science-driven action by policymakers, strengthen the fight against those who violate our shared responsibilities and mobilize the private sector toward a sustainable blue economy. It will also stress our commitment to supporting developing countries, coastal cities and regions that are on the front lines of climate change.*

**Emmanuel Macron**

President of the French Republic



*Protecting our Ocean today is not only an ecological imperative; it is also a moral one. Only through swift and coordinated action can we ensure a healthy and prosperous planet for generations to come. As co-organizers of the third United Nations Ocean Conference, we recall, with France, that the time has come, that the opportunity is unique and that the protection of the Ocean is a priority. May our commitment be as vast as the Ocean that feeds us!*

**Rodrigo Chaves Robles**

President of the Republic of Costa Rica

*I appreciate the honour we have, in Nice, to have been chosen to host this third United Nations Ocean Conference after New York in 2017 and Lisbon in 2022. What will be played out in Nice in June is absolutely crucial.*

*For the first time, local elected representatives, mayors and governors of coastal cities and regions, are invited into discussions that directly concern them. By coming together in an unprecedented coalition, those on the front lines will be able to work together and give multilateralism a new, local and very concrete dimension to discussions between States.*

*The services of the City of Nice and the Metropolis are working hand in hand with the services of the State and the United Nations in order to do everything possible to prepare this absolutely fundamental moment for our common future.*

*In Nice, a green city, we will propose to all residents, young or old, a cultural, educational, event, scientific and artistic program that will be spread throughout the year 2025. It will be based on the themes of the Ocean and marine biodiversity. From Nice's 2025 Carnival, the "King of the Oceans", the Arts and Ocean Biennale, to the Ocean university, it is a whole year of events and projects imbued with the colours and diversity of the Ocean.*

**Christian Estrosi**  
Mayor of Nice

*The Mediterranean is inextricably linked with our region and deeply rooted in its DNA. Since the beginning of our mandate, we have been doing everything possible to preserve it, with its biodiversity that makes it a key asset. Through the « COP in advance » program and the 100% green budget, we drawn up a clear strategy: concrete action, local mobilization, global inspiration.*

*Tangible steps include our Zero-Smoke Stopovers plan, which already connects ships to Marseille, Toulon or Nice and drastically reduces emissions in our major ports. Our own ports are now an exemplary network: 95% of the region's marinas are now certified, proof of the continuous mobilization of the maritime sector. With the Blue Gold plan, we are taking action to preserve every drop of fresh water: renovation of water networks, fight against leaks, support for water-efficient agricultural projects ... it is a direct response to climate change. The Zero Plastics Waste 2030 plan also involves very targeted actions, including litter-picking on beaches, bans on single-use plastics in our regional events, raising awareness among the youngest in schools. It is therefore natural that the Southern Region is at the heart of this 3rd World Ocean Congress.*

*The future of the Mediterranean sea depends on what we do today. And in this fight, our Region stands with all those who want to move from words to actions!*

**Renaud Muselier**

President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region ("Région Sud")

President-Delegate of Régions de France

# France's commitment to the Ocean since 2017: a resolute blue diplomacy

Since 2017, France has had a clear vision, **recognizing the Ocean as a strategic pillar of its diplomacy, economy and environment policy**. With the world's second largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which extends into all the oceans, France is a **maritime balancing power** and is gradually acquiring the instruments required for this role.

## International leadership for Ocean governance

- > The One Ocean Summit was organized in Brest in February 2022, during the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. **More than 30 international initiatives were launched**, including the **High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction** (for the BBNJ Agreement on the high seas), the Coalition "100% marine managed areas", and the **Coalition for Fisheries Transparency**.
- > Since 2023, France has actively advocated for high seas governance, with strong political engagement to foster 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) on the high seas**, which was adopted in March 2023 and ratified by France in November 2024. Since the announcement of the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France has been actively advocating for its entry into force in 2025, working towards the goal of the 60 ratifications required.
- > At the same time, France's support for strengthening multilateral processes and French contributions to COP sessions have been constant, with support for addressing the Ocean in climate negotiations (COP26 in Glasgow, COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, COP28 in Dubai), joint chairmanship of the Coalition for the Integration of the Ocean into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), constant support for the integration of the Ocean into European policies (One Ocean Summit, UNOC 3 with the European Blue Deal).

## Marine biodiversity protection target ("30x30" target)

- > Mobilization from 2019 to protect 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030, enshrined in the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15).
- > Creation or extension of large marine protected areas (MPAs) in the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), French Polynesia and Mayotte.
- > Support for the MedFund initiative and the Mediterranean marine area through cross-financing for Mediterranean MPAs, in conjunction with Monaco, Tunisia and other partners.



## Sustainable fisheries and fight against illegal fishing

- > Support for the implementation of international instruments: Cape Town Agreement on the safety of fishing vessels, FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, ILO Work in Fish-ing Convention on (No. 188) on social rights, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies prohibiting subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, strengthening of European and international cooperation to fight IUU fishing.
- > Consolidation of the FAO fishing vessel register to increase transparency on beneficial ownership.

## Ecological transition of shipping

- > Support for the Clydebank Declaration for green shipping corridors, supporting decar-bonization (COP26).
- > Support for negotiations at the **International Maritime Organization** (IMO) for 2050 carbon neutrality goals.
- > Expansion of the **European Union Emissions Trading System** (EU ETS) to cover ship-ping.
- > Development of **green port infrastructure** such as in Marseille, Le Havre and Fort-de-France.

## Fight against plastic pollution

- > Support for a legally **binding international treaty** on plastic pollution (opened in 2022, due to be concluded in 2025).
- > Support for the negotiation of the Paris agreement in May 2023, and active participation in subsequent sessions.
- > National measures including bans on several types of single-use plastic, experiments with “zero plastic” territories.

## Strengthened scientific diplomacy

- > Support and advocacy for a Coalition for a moratorium on deep seabed mining as long as scientific knowledge remains insufficient.
- > Publication of a French polar strategy to strengthen cooperation and resources for polar scientific research.
- > Launch of the Choose Europe for Science initiative at the Sorbonne: **research becomes a lever of independence, competitiveness and sovereignty** through the strengthening of ac-ademic freedom, a policy of innovation and attractiveness, and investments in the major scientific and technological challenges ahead.

## Threats facing our oceans: scientific facts

Warming water temperatures, environmental acidification, deoxygenation and sea level rise, combined with the impacts of overfishing, pollution and habitat destruction, are leading to the erosion of marine biodiversity, which is threatened even though it remains largely unknown.

### Rising sea levels: current and forecasted for 2050-2100

Between 1901 and 2018, the average sea level rose by approximately 20 cm. Its rise went from 1.3 mm/year between 1901 and 1971 to 3.7 mm/year between 2006 and 2018.

IPCC forecasts indicate that:

- For warming at 1.5°C, sea levels could rise by 30 to 60 cm by 2100.
- In a scenario of high emissions, this rise could reach 60 to 110 cm by 2100.

### Rising water temperatures

As water temperatures rise (the average temperature of oceans increased by 1.5°C over the past century), the capacity of marine ecosystems to absorb increasing local temperatures is lower, which further increases the probability of more marine heat waves.

### Ocean acidification

About a third of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) generated by human activities has been absorbed by the Ocean since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. This contributes to moderating global warming. Without this ability, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere would be much greater than that observed today.

### Coral bleaching

The 4<sup>th</sup> global coral bleaching event began in April 2024 and is the most intense and vast event on record. It is still ongoing. Between 2023 and 2025, 85% of the planet's coral reefs in 82 countries were bleached.

### Pollution, particularly plastic pollution, marine transport and telluric pollution

Every year, about 460 million tons of plastic are produced, making plastic the third most manufactured material in the world, behind cement and steel.

A considerable portion of plastic waste ends up in oceans: 15 tons of plastic are discarded every minute into the Ocean, where plastic waste accounts for 85% of polluting materials (source: OECD).

In 2024, ten oil spills of more than 7 tons were recorded as a result of incidents involving tankers. This constitutes a ten-year average of 7.4 spills, which is slightly more than the average of the 2010s, but much lower compared with previous decades.

Globally, an estimated 80% of wastewater is directly discharged without treatment into the environment, including in coastal environments (2017 UN World Water Development Report, Wastewater: The Untapped Resource).

**Threats to large marine species (sharks, whales, dolphins, turtles, etc.).**

Whales: one in 4 cetacean species (26% of 92 species) is threatened with extinction (i.e., critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) and 11% are near threatened. The proportion of threatened cetaceans has increased: 15% in 1991, 19% in 2008, and 26% in 2021.

Sharks and rays: more than a third of cartilaginous fish is estimated to be threatened. Three species are critically endangered and possibly extinct, which constitutes the first global extinctions of marine species caused by overfishing.

Sea Turtles: Several species of sea turtles are still threatened with extinction, especially with high risks and threats for 9 populations in the Pacific and a very worrying situation for the leatherback sea turtle, the largest and most widespread of the 7 species of sea turtles in the world, critically endangered. However, sea turtle conservation efforts have begun to bear fruit, increasing the percentage of sea turtle populations considered low risk and low threat from 20% in 2011 to 40% today.

**Consequences of overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**

The FAO assessed in 2021, that 37.3% of marine fish stocks were overfished. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, a major threat to biodiversity, accounted for 11 to 19% of global reported catches. However, it is unevenly distributed, certain species are fished being beyond the maximum sustainable yield on account of this practice. IUU fishing most often targets particularly vulnerable species. This is the case for the grey snapper, in maritime areas off the coast of French Guiana, this species being on the CITES Red list in the Vulnerable Category. French authorities patrol this area more than 250 days per year, and they issued 344 reports of illegal fishing in 2024. Other geographical areas around the world have fewer means of control, the situation being therefore even more serious.

# Presentation and priorities of UNOC3

After two first editions, in New York (2017) and in Lisbon (2022), France and Costa Rica co-organise the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, from 9 to 13 June 2025.

Civil society, universities, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders will also attend to collaborate and act together to protect the Ocean.

UNOC 3 will be preceded by a sequence dedicated to civil society, called “We are the Ocean” from 2 June, three special events from 3 to 8 June, in Nice and Monaco, and a space open to the general public, with free admission to La Baleine (The Whale).

Tens of thousands of stakeholders will be involved in Nice and will participate in many events:

- Various UN plenary sessions, Ocean actions panels, and satellite events in the Blue Zone (9-13 June),
- Special events organized by civil society (3-13 June),
- Regional summits on Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, Deltas and Islands (9-10 June),
- Many cultural events in The Whale (2-13 June), accessible to all, free of charge.

Three years after the One Ocean Summit in Brest, France will welcome heads of state and government from around the world, international organizations and major international actors to work together to protect the Ocean, our common good.

## The seas and UN Sustainable Development Goal 14

**UN Sustainable Development Goal 14** which aims at the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, is the only one of the 17 SDDs to be fully dedicated to the oceans. It covers issues as varied as the fight against plastic pollution, the reduction of overfishing, the creation of marine protected areas, or support for small-scale artisanal fishermen.

Adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SSD 14 sets a **global political compass** for the ocean's health. Yet, it is one of the least financed and least advanced goals. Its tangible implementation requires strengthening the international law on the sea.

This international law on the sea is based on a fundamental legal foundation, the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, known as the Ocean Constitution, which was signed in Montego Bay in 1982 and entered into force in 1944. It defines the rights and obligations of States in terms of navigation, resources, marine environmental protection and jurisdiction.

Until 2023, there was no specific international treaty to protect biodiversity on the high seas, two-thirds of the world's ocean. This is why the adoption of the BBNJ Treaty (biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions) marks a historic turning point. Finally, it provides a legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of these vital areas and complements the legal architecture of the UNCLOS.

By operationalizing the tools for marine governance, resource sharing and the creation of marine protected areas on the high seas, the BBNJ Treaty embodies a concrete implementation of SDG 14. What is at stake today: its ratification by 60 States to enter into force and give a real legal boost to the protection of the Ocean.

## What is UNOC3?

The United Nations Ocean Conference aims to accelerate the implementation of cooperation and actions, to allow the proper implementation of multilateral instruments. Unlike climate and biodiversity, whose common management is based on international conventions whose States Parties meet regularly at Conferences of the Parties (COP), the protection of the Ocean by the international community is based on several international treaties and conventions, but does not have unified governance over all marine areas. The first two editions of UNOC have, however, allowed a growing awareness of the specific issues related to the sea and oceans, and to mobilize all actors to act in the service of the oceans.

Since 2017, the previous international summits on the environment (UNOC, COP) have indeed enabled substantial voluntary commitments by States, including the establishment of coalitions of leading countries in terms of protection of marine biodiversity, the establishment of marine protected areas.

For this UNOC3 Conference, France wishes to build on these important results and further raise the level of ambition of the commitments that will be announced in Nice. For nearly two years, important work has been underway to enable Nice to adopt an international governance framework for the high seas with the ratification of the BBNJ Treaty, commitments for the regional management of plastic waste and better protection of ecosystems. UNOC 3 also aims to strengthen the role of science and knowledge in guiding our policies and developing the sustainable blue economy.

## **Major events and progress made in protection of the oceans**

### **2015 – COP21, Paris**

France obtains the commission of a special report of the IPCC on oceans and the cryosphere (published in 2019), the first recognition of the central role of the Ocean in the regulation of the global climate.

### **2021 – COP15, Kunming-Montreal (Biodiversity)**

The objective to protect 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030 is adopted. The oceans are fully incorporated into national protection strategies

### **2022 – One Ocean Summit, Brest**

Announcement of a coalition for the BBNJ treaty on the high seas, call for a moratorium on deep sea exploitation, support for blue science diplomacy. The beginning of a collective dynamic towards the adoption of an international treaty.

### **2022 – COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh**

France makes a public statement against deep seabed mining. More than 32 States join the coalition for a moratorium or a precautionary pause. The precautionary principle is becoming an emerging diplomatic norm.

### **2023 – The BBNJ Agreement is adopted in New York**

The first international agreement dedicated to protecting marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions is signed. The agreement finally makes it possible to create marine protected areas in the high seas and regulate human activities in 60% of the world's oceans.

### **2023 - Climate agreement at the IMO: Decarbonization of maritime transport committed.**

The International Maritime Organization sets a carbon neutrality target for international transport by 2050. Agreement is actively supported by France and its European partners.

## A new step forward in Ocean governance: the Nice Action Plan for the Ocean

This third Ocean Conference will strengthen the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) on the marine environment with three priorities, in order to lead to ambitious actions by stakeholders:

1. Strengthening and better disseminating knowledge linked to marine science for better political decision-making.
2. Working towards completion of multilateral processes linked to the Ocean, to boost ambition for their protection. The entry into force of the agreement to protect the high seas and marine biodiversity, or BBNJ Agreement, will be a major priority of UNOC3.
3. Mobilizing financing to conserve and use sustainably the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG 14) and support the development of a sustainable blue economy.

The Nice Action Plan for the Ocean will consist in a political statement and a list of voluntary commitments from stakeholders and numerous coalitions.

### UNOC3 Programme (9-13 June)

In parallel with the plenary session from 9 to 13 June, sequences of dialogues will bring together Member States, United Nations organisations and representatives of the civil society (NGOs, scientists, private sector). These dialogues, the Ocean Action Panels, open to governments, civil society and businesses, will highlight the coalitions and initiatives adopted in favour of the Ocean and anchor the conference in action by proposing concrete solutions with all participants. It will be an opportunity for political decision-makers to exchange with all stakeholders in the management of the Ocean, to ensure a better preservation of the common good that is the Ocean.



Adopted by consensus by the 193 member countries of the United Nations in July 2025, the Ocean Action Panels are structured around ten themes:

- 1. Foster sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.**  

- 2. Conserve, sustainably manage and restore marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.**  

- 3. Promote and support all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub regional level.**  

- 4. Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.**  

- 5. Leverage ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.**  

- 6. Enable sustainable ocean-based economies that leave no one behind.**  

- 7. Promote sustainable food production from the Ocean to achieve food security.**  

- 8. Improve scientific knowledge and the science-policy interface.**  

- 9. Strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean and its resources by applying international law as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its implementing agreements.**  

- 10. Mobilize financing for ocean actions in support of SDG14.**  


**Monday, 9 June**



## 9:00 – 13:00 – Opening plenary session

### 9:00 – 10:00 – Opening segment

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Conserve, sustainably manage and restore marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.

### 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.

## Tuesday, 10 June

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Plenary session

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Mobilize financing for ocean actions in support of SDG14.

### 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.

## Wednesday, 11 June

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Foster sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.

### 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Enabling sustainable ocean-based economies that leave no one behind.

## Thursday, 12 June

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Leverage ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.

### 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Promote and support all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and sub regional level.

## Friday, 13 June

### 10:00 – 13:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Promote sustainable food production from the Ocean to achieve food security.

### 13:00 – 15:00 – Lunch

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Ocean Action Panel

Strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean and its resources by applying international law as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its implementing agreements.

### 15:00 – 18:00 – Closing plenary session

## **“We are the Ocean”: civil society’s key role in UNOC3**

The commitment of the French government, the City of Nice, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region (“Région Sud”) and private partners has made for a rich programme in Nice, leading up to the Conference’s high-level segment, through the civil society sequence called “We are the Ocean”, which starts on 2 June 2025.

### **The Whale, starting 2 June at Nice Palais des Expositions (Exhibition Hall)**

La **Baleine** (The Whale) will be the epicentre of civil society and major ocean stakeholders at UNOC3. Wholly financed by the private sector, this inclusive, immersive and welcoming space is **open to the public, with free entry between 10:00 and 19:00**. The Whale will take over Nice Palais des Expositions, offering thematic pavilions, exhibitions, performances and a forum for more than two hundred events, debates and screenings.

It will be accessible from **2 to 13 June to the general public, with a programme for young and old**.

The 13 thematic pavilions will all feature the various themes discussed at UNOC3:

#### **1. Ocean-related challenges and environment**

Marine biodiversity, plastic pollution, climate & ocean, cryosphere, coastal ecosystems, marine protected areas, resilience.

#### **2. Science & knowledge**

Scientific research, deep water exploration, ocean data, citizen science, education on the sea and conservation

#### **3. Solutions and innovation for the Ocean**

Decarbonization of maritime transport, sustainable food from the Ocean, renewable marine energies, territorial innovation, pilot projects.

#### **4. Cultures, narratives & raising awareness**

Exhibitions, artistic installations, 360° screening, performances, cultural mediation, narratives & stories.

#### **5. Commitments, businesses & cooperation programmes**

Governance, international cooperation, inclusion, youth, coastal communities, environmental justice.

Events will be proposed throughout the Conference in different formats:

1. Conferences & round tables (*conferences, round tables, interviews with key personalities*)
2. Workshops & active participation (*creative workshops, collaborative games, murals, joint construction*)
3. Projects presentation (*pitches, feedback, presentations of innovative solutions*)
4. Inspiring meetings & testimonies (*short formats, often personal stories*)
5. Live shows & performances (*theatre, dance, music, artistic performances*)
6. Exhibitions & visual trails (*plastic arts installations, scenography features, exhibitions*)
7. Screenings & immersive experiences (*films, documentaries, 360° screenings, VR, sensory activities*)

More than 400 events will be organized inside The Whale.

### **“Les Merveilles de l’Océan” (Port Lympia, Nice, 2-15 June)**

The “Merveilles de l’Océan” (Wonders of the Ocean) fleet, made up of around 50 historic, scientific or oceanographic research boats from across the world, will be anchored in the port of Nice between **2 and 15 June 2025**. As places of mediation, these boats will present their activities to the delegates of UNOC3 and the general public. These Wonders of the Ocean will sail in procession in the Baie des Anges on **8 June 2025 for World Ocean Day**, in a parade open to the public and UNOC delegations.



## Special events in the run-up to the political conference

### One Ocean Science Congress (Nice, 3-6 June 2025)

*Co-organized by IFREMER and CNRS*

The One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC) provides Heads of State and Government with scientific insights about the health and future dynamics of the world's oceans, their conservation and sustainable use, and the services and benefits they offer our societies. During the OOSC, participants will assess the ocean's capacity to support the major transitions outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OOSC will present the latest high-level contributions from the global oceanographic community, focusing on interdisciplinary collaboration for a comprehensive understanding of marine challenges, encompassing topics ranging from coastal areas to the high seas and taking into account the perspectives of diverse ocean basins, island and coastal nations and landlocked countries, thus highlighting the universal impact of the health and state of the Ocean. On this basis, recommendations will be made to Heads of State and Government at UNOC3. Nearly 2000 international scientists will be present.

### Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit (Nice, 7 June 2025)

*Co-organized by the City of Nice and the Ocean & Climate Platform*

Global warming has caused sea levels to rise of 10.3 cm since 1993, with the phenomenon accelerating over the 2013-2023 period (4.3 mm/year, versus 2.1 mm/year over the 1993–2003 period). By 2050, more than a billion people will have to cope with a significant increase in the risks associated with rising sea levels. Some 20% of the 5,000 km of French coastlines are already affected by rising sea levels and 1.5 million people are exposed to a risk of coastal flooding.

Given this threat, the Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit, chaired by Christian Estrosi, President of Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, will be the starting point for an international coalition to promote the adaptation and resilience of coastal cities and regions. The summit will bring together mayors and governors of coastal cities and regions, as well as national and international leaders, reflecting the diversity of coastal areas threatened by climate change. Alongside these stakeholders, key players in the climate transition – scientists, private sector and civil society representatives, city networks – will be pooling their expertise on this remarkable day. Some 500 local elected officials, representing nearly a billion citizens, are expected to attend.

The Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit will shine a light on projects that address the following priorities:

- create a shared vision of resilient coastlines;
- mobilize knowledge and data by and for the relevant territories;
- forge public-private partnerships.

## Blue Economy and Finance Forum – BEFF (Monaco, 7 and 8 June 2025)

*Co-organized by the Principality of Monaco*

The sea is the world's main trade route: 80% of goods are transported by sea. Although it is the most energy-efficient mode of transport with regard to the volumes transported<sup>1</sup>, emissions from maritime transport account for 3% of global emissions<sup>2</sup>, and 3% to 4% of emissions in Europe.

This two-day event dedicated to economic and financial issues will be held in Monaco, with the full support of the Principality, on 7 and 8 June 2025. It will bring together nearly a thousand major maritime sector players. A “blue ports and shipping” session will include players from the world's largest ports, the maritime transport (all types of shipowners) and port logistics sectors, and the cruise industry.

As a space where experts, policymakers, philanthropists, global investors and leading representatives from the financial world can connect, the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) will showcase and promote the essential role that sustainable investment, cutting-edge innovation and forward-thinking policies play in ensuring the long-term health and prosperity of our Ocean and economies.

Commitments and funding will be announced at BEFF to decarbonize the maritime sector (e.g. sustainable fuels, port electrification), encourage collaboration and spotlight the latest developments in the blue economy, with a clear focus on creating a resilient and prosperous ocean ecosystem that supports current and future generations. The BEFF will conclude on 8 June in the presence of Heads of State and Government.

### Key figures on global maritime transport emissions

80% of the world's goods are shipped by sea.

- Maritime transport is the most energy-efficient mode of transport in terms of volumes transported: it is 20 times more efficient than road transport and 100 times more efficient than air transport.
- Maritime transport accounts for 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and between 3% and 4% of European GHG emissions.

The international community and industrial stakeholders have committed to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping to zero before or around 2050 through the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

- Numerous efforts have been made to reduce emissions: France's major seaports currently have nine onshore power supply (OPS) connections. Another 10 OPS connections are under development, and 42 OPS connections are planned for all major French seaports by 2030. The use of alternative energy sources by French-registered commercial vessels is becoming more widespread, with the aim of achieving a 6% reduction in the carbon intensity of the energy used onboard ships by 2030.

1. [mer.gouv.fr/la-decarbonation-de-la-filiere-maritime](https://mer.gouv.fr/la-decarbonation-de-la-filiere-maritime) (French only)

2. Figure from the International Maritime Organization's fourth study on greenhouse gases, published in 2020: [imo.org/en/ourwork/Environment/Pages/Fourth-IMO-Greenhouse-Gas-Study-2020.aspx](https://imo.org/en/ourwork/Environment/Pages/Fourth-IMO-Greenhouse-Gas-Study-2020.aspx)

## **World Oceans Day (Nice, 8 June)**

On 8 June, World Oceans Day will be celebrated by delegations, civil society and citizens across Nice, along the Promenade des Anglais and at The Whale.

To mark the occasion, a boat parade called “The Wonders of the Oceans” will be held at sea, with additional festivities along the Promenade des Anglais. The United Nations will also be celebrating World Oceans Day around the port. Various events will take place throughout the day, including “Women in Ocean Action” to honour the role of women in the maritime world, and the “Island Forum”, which will address issues related to oceans and islands. The day will wrap up with the official inauguration of The Whale, an official dinner and entertainment around Nice.

## **Year of the Sea: a thematic cultural programme (Nice, February-September 2025)**

As part of the Year of the Sea, Nice is celebrating the Ocean in an extraordinary way. The Nice Carnival, one of the largest carnival celebrations in the world, was entirely dedicated to the Ocean this year (15 February-2 March 2025).

From May to October 2025, the Arts and Ocean Biennale will feature more than 50 exhibitions and installations in the city’s main museums and public spaces. With many cultural events proposed around UNOC 3, the Metropolis of Nice will offer an unparalleled programme to showcase the oceans through art, music, stage performance, literature, sports and other festivities.

During the United Nations Ocean Conference, more than fifty venues will finally host 500 side events proposed by organizations from nearly 150 countries, drawing a lively and focused portrait of the action and solutions offered by the Ocean.

## **Regional summits on the sidelines of UNOC3**

### **World Island Forum (8 to 10 June), The Whale**

One year on from the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Antigua and Barbuda, UNOC3 will allow this work to continue. The World Island Forum will bring together island Heads of State and Government, as well as other public actors, international financial institutions and development banks, and private and civil society stakeholders such as scientists, donors, businesses, investors and NGOs. These various stakeholders will be invited to lead initiatives to promote the blue economy and finance development, to build resilience among populations and territories, and to protect the environment in island States. The Forum will bring together, around this economic angle, all the island States and actors present at the Conference, regardless of their level of development, and from all the sea basins, from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific, from the Mediterranean as well as the Arctic, Southern, Atlantic and Caribbean areas. The floor will also be given to French overseas regions in the perspective of their regional ecosystems.

## **Africa for the Ocean Summit (Palais des Rois Sardes, Nice, 9 June)**

The Moroccan government will chair the “Africa for the Ocean” summit, dedicated to the challenges of the blue economy in Africa, on 9 June 2025 at 11:00 at the Palais des Rois Sardes. The summit will connect Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, as well as the presidents and representatives of multilateral development banks and regional organizations, to discuss Africa’s development opportunities through ocean resources. Among other areas, the summit will focus on raising funds for a modern and resilient infrastructure development, ocean governance and fish stock management, as well as connectivity between maritime and landlocked countries. The summit will lead to strategic partnerships on the Ocean, with solutions tailored to regional issues.

## **Summit for a Connected Mediterranean (Palais des Rois Sardes, Nice, 9 June)**

France will organize a summit on connectivity in the presence of Heads of State and Government of the countries of Europe, the Mediterranean and the Gulf, regional organizations and private actors. This summit will be held on 9 June 2025 at the Palace of Sardinian Kings in Nice, on the sidelines of UNOC 3. It will result in ambitious political commitments to strengthen connections in the Mediterranean area as well as a series of announcements of investments in land and maritime, digital and energy transport infrastructure.

## **Mediterranean Day (Centre Universitaire Méditerranéen, Nice, 10 June)**

Mediterranean Sea Day will be celebrated on 10 June on the sidelines of UNOC3. It will bring together ministers, local elected officials, civil society, scientists and maritime sector leaders from across the Mediterranean Sea. The event will provide a platform for discussion and cooperation on the region’s various challenges, with the aim of building a more sustainable and resilient Mediterranean Area for future generations.

The day will be organized around a number of high-level thematic sessions and panels, including:

- The role of local authorities in protecting the Ocean,
- Finance and innovation as accelerators of the sustainable blue economy,
- Civil society initiatives in the Mediterranean Area.

The Mediterranean Sea Day will also be dedicated to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, a fundamental text for the protection of the marine environment and the coastline in the Mediterranean, with a meeting of Mediterranean environment ministers that will adopt a declaration to strengthen actions against plastic pollution.

# The Ocean in figures

The Ocean cover more than **70%** of the planet and account for **97%** of water resources<sup>3</sup>. As our planet's "blue lung", the Ocean plays a crucial role in fighting climate change and is the world's largest biodiversity reserve. They are of vital economic and ecological importance, but they face a number of challenges:

## Oceans

- More than **3 billion** people depend directly on the Ocean for their livelihood.<sup>4</sup>
- Products from the oceans and inland waters provide over **20%** of animal-based protein for more than 3.3 billion people around the world and livelihoods for around 60 million people.

## Oceans and climate

- The Ocean has absorbed around **90%** of the excess heat in the Earth system generated by rising greenhouse gas levels.<sup>5</sup>
- Since the pre-industrial era, ocean acidity has increased by **30%**, a level that could reach **170%** by 2100.<sup>6</sup>  
"Ocean acidification" is the process by which ocean pH decreases – meaning its acidity increases. The world's oceans have become **26%** more acidic since the start of the Industrial Revolution in around 1800. Meanwhile, predictive modelling has shown a possible **170%** rise in ocean acidity by 2100. Today, ocean acidification is occurring 10 times faster than at any other point in the past 55 million years.

## Global warming of ocean temperatures

- Over the last decade, the average ocean surface temperature has risen by around **0.9°C** compared with the period between 1850 and 1900.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2023 and 2024, average annual ocean temperatures were the highest on record.<sup>8</sup>

## Sea level rise

- The rate of sea level rise has doubled in the last 30 years.<sup>9</sup>
- The average sea level rose by **0.2 metres** between 1901 and 2018. The average rate of sea level rise was +1.3 mm/year between 1901 and 1971, increasing to +1.9 mm/year between 1971 and 2006. This rate nearly doubled to +3.7 mm/year between 2006 and 2018.<sup>10</sup>

3. [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/chapter-3/](https://ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/chapter-3/)

4. [news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093572](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093572)

5. [unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SBSTA\\_Ocean\\_Dialogue\\_SummaryReport.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SBSTA_Ocean_Dialogue_SummaryReport.pdf)

6. [unesco.org/en/articles/new-unesco-report-rate-ocean-warming-doubled-20-years-rate-sea-level-rise-doubled-30-years](https://unesco.org/en/articles/new-unesco-report-rate-ocean-warming-doubled-20-years-rate-sea-level-rise-doubled-30-years)

7. [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

8. [iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/marine-heatwaves#3828](https://iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/marine-heatwaves#3828)

9. [unesco.org/en/articles/new-unesco-report-rate-ocean-warming-doubled-20-years-rate-sea-level-rise-doubled-30-years](https://unesco.org/en/articles/new-unesco-report-rate-ocean-warming-doubled-20-years-rate-sea-level-rise-doubled-30-years)

10. [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)



## Marine ecosystems

- Around half of all live coral cover has disappeared since the 1870s, and losses have accelerated in recent decades.<sup>11</sup>
- A global average temperature rise of **2°C** would destroy **99%** of the world's coral reefs, with devastating consequences.<sup>12</sup>
- Marine protected areas (MPAs) are home to **72%** of the **1,500** marine species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.<sup>13</sup>
- The latest version of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies a third of sharks, rays and chimeras as threatened and **67%** as endangered, solely due to overfishing.
- Some **8 to 14 million** tons of plastic end up in the Ocean every year.

## Ocean funding

- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean is the least funded of all the SDGs.<sup>14</sup>
- Since the start of the UN Ocean Decade, more than **500 projects** have been launched around the world and more than a billion dollars devoted to protecting and improving our knowledge of the oceans. (18)
- Meanwhile, economic activities directly linked to the Ocean add **\$1.5 trillion** to the global economy every year.<sup>15</sup>
- Coral reefs provide an estimated **\$375 billion** in resources and services each year.<sup>16</sup>

## Fisheries and oceans

- In 2022, global fisheries and aquaculture production reached an all-time high of **223.2 million** tons, including **185.4 million** tons of aquatic animals and **37.8 million** tons of algae. Marine capture fisheries produced **92.3 million** tons in 2022.<sup>17</sup>
- The primary sector of fisheries and aquaculture employed **61.8 million** people in 2022.<sup>18</sup>
- Global consumption of aquatic animal foods has risen sharply in recent years to **20.7 kg** per capita in 2022.<sup>19</sup>

11. [ipbes.net/global-assessment](https://ipbes.net/global-assessment)

12. [ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/SR15\\_Chapter\\_3\\_LR.pdf](https://ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/SR15_Chapter_3_LR.pdf)

13. [unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390054.locale=en](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390054.locale=en)

14. [un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/)

15. [oecd.org/en/publications/the-ocean-economy-in-2030\\_9789264251724-en.html](https://oecd.org/en/publications/the-ocean-economy-in-2030_9789264251724-en.html)

16. [iucn.org/our-work/oceans-and-coasts](https://iucn.org/our-work/oceans-and-coasts)

17. [fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en](https://fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en)

18. [fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en](https://fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en)

19. [fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en](https://fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en)

- The total export value of all aquatic products reached a record high of **\$195 billion** in 2022.<sup>20</sup>
- The state of marine fishery stocks shows that **62.3%** were fished within biologically sustainable levels in 2021, and therefore **37.3%** were overfished.<sup>21</sup>
- While it is difficult to determine the exact extent of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, a study on this subject<sup>22</sup> estimates it at **10 to 26 million** tons worldwide, i.e. **11% to 19 %** of reported catches, for a total value of **\$10 to \$23 billion**.

### Maritime transport

- **80%** of world trade volume is carried by sea<sup>23</sup>
- Maritime transport is the most energy-efficient means of transport in terms of transported volumes: a factor of 20 times more efficient than road transport and 100 times more than air transport.<sup>24</sup>
- International shipping accounts for **3%** of greenhouse gas emissions,<sup>25</sup> although these emissions have risen **20%** over the last decade.<sup>26</sup>
- The international community and the industry are working on reaching net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping by or around 2050 under the International Maritime Organization's 2023 Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.<sup>27</sup>
- Decarbonizing the world's shipping fleet by 2050 will require an additional **\$8 billion to \$28 billion** annually, and an even greater investment of **\$28 to \$90 billion** per year to develop the infrastructure for **100%** carbon-neutral fuels by 2050.<sup>28</sup>

20. [fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en](https://www.fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en)

21. [fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en](https://www.fao.org/publications/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-and-aquaculture/en)

22. [op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/illegal-fishing-20-2022/en/index.html](https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/illegal-fishing-20-2022/en/index.html) and <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

23. [unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023](https://unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023)

24. French Roadmap for Decarbonization of the Maritime Sector 2024

[wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/French%20Roadmap%20for%20decarbonization.pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/French%20Roadmap%20for%20decarbonization.pdf)

25. IMO, Fourth Greenhouse Gas Study 2020: [imo.org/en/ourwork/Environment/Pages/Fourth-IMO-Greenhouse-Gas-Study-2020.aspx](https://imo.org/en/ourwork/Environment/Pages/Fourth-IMO-Greenhouse-Gas-Study-2020.aspx)

26. [unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023](https://unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023)

27. [imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/2023-IMO-Strategy-on-Reduction-of-GHG-Emissions-from-Ships.aspx](https://imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/2023-IMO-Strategy-on-Reduction-of-GHG-Emissions-from-Ships.aspx)

28. [unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023](https://unctad.org/publication/review-maritime-transport-2023)

# UNOC3 Flagship Projects

## Mercator Ocean International

Mercator Ocean International is a leading international operational oceanography stakeholder specialized in ocean modelling and forecasting services. Established in 1995, the organization celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2025, marking three decades of expertise and innovation in developing ocean knowledge. Headed by Pierre Bahurel, Mercator Ocean International works from its head office in Toulouse, France, with a team of over 100 experts (oceanographers and scientists, ocean forecasting experts, digital modelling engineers, researchers, etc.).

Mercator Ocean International will be present at UNOC 3 in June 2025, as the future intergovernmental organization dedicated to the digital ocean, and as the European reference centre for ocean forecasting. The organization will thus reaffirm its commitment to contribute to SDG 14.

Entrusted by the European Commission to implement digital ocean systems and services, Mercator Ocean International will coordinate the European Digital Ocean Pavilion.

The conference will deliver on three priorities for Mercator Ocean International:

1. Sign the official accession of Member States to the future intergovernmental organization Mercator Ocean, through the signature of its Convention. This event, which is part of the diplomatic agenda of France and other European states at UNOC, will mark a key step in the construction of a cooperation framework for governance and innovation in the field of the digital ocean.
2. Demonstrate the European Digital Twin of the Ocean in the European Digital Ocean Pavilion. Mercator Ocean International will showcase the capabilities of operational oceanography and the power of digital oceans for informed decision-making for sustainable ocean management.
3. Strengthen international community cooperation: Mercator Ocean International will rally the major ocean forecasting players and sign cooperation agreements with them in a number of countries including Costa Rica, co-hosting the conference, Brazil, India, Canada and Australia.

**Contact:** Laurence Collet, Mercator Ocean International, Corporate Communications & Media Relations - lcollet@mercator-ocean.fr.

## Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition aims to unite a thousand cities and regions representing a billion of the world's people in support of the adaptation and resilience of coastal cities and regions worldwide. Chaired by the Mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, the coalition's official launch will be the highlight of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit held on 7 June 2025 on the sidelines of UNOC3.

Hosted by the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM), the coalition will rally decision-makers and officials responsible for coastal cities and regions (including mayors and governors) alongside key adaptation players from the world over (scientific institutions, financial organizations and civil society) to define a shared

vision and support delivery on concrete responses. It will address all the impacts of sea level rise and the major impacts of climate change on coastal areas, including erosion, submerged land, flooding, salinization, extreme rainfall and the destruction of natural habitats, as well as their consequences for coastal cities and regions and their people, infrastructures and jobs.

**Contact:**

- Sarah Palazot, SEATIES Project Manager, Ocean & Climate Platform – [spalazot@ocean-climate.org](mailto:spalazot@ocean-climate.org).  
- Gaëlle Missionier, Press Director, Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur – [gaelle.missionier@nicecotedazur.org](mailto:gaelle.missionier@nicecotedazur.org).

## Private sector engagement

### One Ocean Finance Facility

The Global Coral Reef Fund is developing the One Ocean Finance Facility, with the goal of achieving a statement of intent at UNOC 3 to expand the facility by UNOC 4 and by 2040 to raise €170 billion. The facility would be based largely on private financing, drawn from the industries that use the Ocean (maritime transport, submarine blues, etc.).

### Business in Ocean

The Business in Ocean initiative will rally businesses around individual commitments driven by a call to action. A platform will be set up for the **business endorsement process** to collect pledges, and **French activities** will be presented. The call to action is led by international business networks: Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE), UN Global Compact, WEF and WBCSD.

### Philanthropists and Investors for the Ocean

Alongside Change Now and Bloomberg, this initiative will strengthen a raft of planned investments (including philanthropic) in transformative strategies and projects for the Ocean and its resources through to 2030. The total amount will be announced at the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF), the launch having been scheduled during the ChangeNOW Summit in Paris in April.



# UNOC Partners and Leading Sponsors

## Institutional partners

### • City of Nice

As the host city of the conference, Nice is the organizing partner of the conference and its special preparatory events. Christian Estrosi – President of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition, Mayor of Nice and President of the Metropolitan Area – is fully committed to protect the oceans and adapting cities and regions to sea level rise.

### • Principality of Monaco

The Principality of Monaco, host of the Blue Economy and Finance Forum, is rallying economic players for a sustainable blue economy. Prince Albert II actively supports protecting the Ocean through the Oceanographic Institute and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

### • Ocean & Climate Platform

Coordinating civil society engagement at UNOC, the Ocean & Climate Platform has also been mandated to **coordinate the development of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience** Coalition alongside the Mayor of Nice and President of the Coalition, Christian Estrosi. The Coalition will be officially launched at the special event for coastal cities exposed to sea level rise.

## Leading UNOC sponsors

### A global partner

#### CMA CGM

The CMA CGM Group, a global player in maritime, land, air and logistics solutions, and media, is a partner of UNOC 3, serving a common objective: to accelerate the preservation of the oceans through concrete actions in favor of biodiversity and the climate.

The CMA CGM Group – a global player in sea, land, air and logistics solutions, and media – is a UNOC3 partner working towards a shared goal to speed up ocean conservation with high-impact on biodiversity and climate action.

Long committed to environmental protection, the CMA CGM Group has made bold moves that are now the benchmark in the maritime industry. As a low-carbon pioneer, the group has invested heavily in a fleet of vessels compatible with the use of low-carbon fuels. In 2019, it was also the first to refuse to use the Northern Sea Route in a move to protect fragile Arctic ecosystems.

To achieve the net zero carbon target by 2050, the group optimises its vessels and operations, notably through artificial intelligence, and contributes to the development of a sustainable low-carbon marine fuel industry. CMA CGM also puts its expertise at the service of protecting marine life and threatened ecosystems, alongside the largest environmental preservation institutions around the world.

The CMA CGM Group set up the NEW ENERGIES Coalition of 20 leading supply chain players working towards a shared low-carbon goal. It has also launched a large-scale coalition with maritime stakeholders and public authorities to promote an international regulatory framework conducive to low-carbon fuel uptake.

With operations in 177 countries, the group employs 160,000 staff worldwide and nearly 6,000 people at its head office in Marseille.

## **Premium partners**

### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

As a premium partner of UNOC3 in Nice, Bloomberg Philanthropies stands with France to advance solutions to protect the Ocean.

With the Bloomberg Ocean Initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies is supporting coastal communities, NGOs and research institutions working on protecting marine ecosystems and building ocean resilience.

Launched in 2014, the initiative focuses on regions with vital coral reef systems, major fishing nations and communities where fish is a primary source of nutrition. It promotes data-driven solutions to improve fisheries management, end illegal fishing and protect the world's most resilient coral reefs.

Bloomberg Philanthropies' partnership with France is driving forward progress with key ocean priorities such as the 30x30 Target, development of blue economy finance, and support for coastal communities grappling with rising sea levels.

At UNOC events in Nice and Monaco, Bloomberg Philanthropies will meet with leaders in the scientific community, urban resilience, finance and innovation, drawing on its global network to promote a more sustainable Ocean and improve the quality of life for billions of people who depend on the Ocean.

### **AXA**

Leaning into the climate challenges, AXA is fully committed as a premium partner to UNOC3 in Nice in June 2025.

In 2024, AXA raised €8.3 billion to finance the climate transition and community resilience. It also collected €2.1 billion in premiums to insure low-carbon technologies. AXA is actively committed to protecting the oceans in both its core business as an insurer and through its philanthropic support to science. This can be clearly seen from its purpose to act for human progress by protecting what matters.

UNOC extends its warm thanks to AXA for its premium support to the marine science, coastal resilience and blue economy events held at UNOC in the Blue Zone, in The Whale at the Nice Exhibition Centre and at the Blue Economy & Finance Forum at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco.

With its support for UNOC, AXA sends a clear message that the future of the Ocean is a strategic investment for the planet – and for each and every one of us.

## **Oceano Azul**

The Oceano Azul Foundation's mission is to serve the Ocean with clear-sighted determination by promoting more decisive actions and major commitments supportive of prosperity for all life on the planet.

To this end, the foundation advances science-based conservation, achieving major policy changes and transforming decision-making to ensure a healthy, resilient and sustainable Ocean for future generations. In particular, it supports the creation of marine protected areas, to preserve, promote and enhance the natural blue capital of some of the most important marine ecosystems for our planet, such as the Azores or the Gorringe Seamount, as well as in the promotion of effective instruments for ocean governance, such as the High Seas Treaty and the European Pact for the Ocean.

A shining symbol of the foundation's participation, the historical Santa Maria Manuela will be moored in Nice Harbour where it will serve as Oceano Azul's base throughout UNOC.

The Next Generation: Ocean Basecamp Pavilion, another Oceano Azul Foundation initiative supported by a coalition of NGOs, will be set up in The Whale – UNOC's flagship forum for innovation, youth engagement and concrete solutions.

## **Minderoo Foundation**

Minderoo is a proud Australian philanthropic organization working to forge a fair future by challenging inequalities and supporting those who bring about meaningful change.

Founded by Dr Andrew Forrest AO and Nicola Forrest AO in 2001, Minderoo collaborates with communities, leaders, scientists and governments to deliver programmes and research with lasting impacts. The foundation works in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide supporting those most in need.

Minderoo focuses its efforts on three key areas: supporting communities, promoting gender equality and protecting natural ecosystems. These areas are complemented by targeted impact missions to enable the foundation to respond to urgent challenges and existential threats in such areas as early childhood development, eradicating modern slavery, climate change action and responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Minderoo's action is based on evidence-based data and solid partnerships. It supports people and organizations driving change and helps them maximize their impact.

Minderoo also supports efforts to restore marine ecosystems, improve coastal communities' livelihoods and deliver on global commitments where they matter the most, because a fair future calls for ocean health, which is vital for the wellbeing of populations and the environment.

# Press

Ahead of and during UNOC3, more than 1,200 side events will be organized in the blue and green zones, off-site and online, by some 105 countries. These events, many of which will be open to the press, are an opportunity for all participants to share knowledge and share knowledge and solutions to foster the achievement of SDG 14.

## Accreditation

### BLUE ZONE

The blue zone is dedicated to the high-level conference and is administered by the UN. Accreditations closed on 19 May 2025.

Access to the blue zone, situated at Nice's Port Lympia, requires presentation of the badge issued by the UN and emailed confirmation of registration from the host country ([unoc-registration.fr](https://unoc-registration.fr))

### GREEN ZONE

The green zone will host many side events where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to discuss ocean issues. Press accreditation for the green zone is subject to validation by France. Accreditations closed on 17 May 2025 for the period from 9 to 13 June.

To access The Whale from 2 to 7 June, visit the press area here: [we-are-the-ocean.com/press](https://we-are-the-ocean.com/press).

## Special events

Ahead of the political conference, three major special events are also open to the press:

### One Ocean Science Congress (Nice, 3-6 June)

More information on the event's web page: [oceandecade.org/fr/events/one-ocean-science-congress/](https://oceandecade.org/fr/events/one-ocean-science-congress/)

*The accreditation platform will open soon*

### Ocean Rise & Resilience Coalition Summit (Nice, 7 June)

Accreditation link: [accreditations.nice.fr/en/users/sign\\_up?&pf=UNOC25](https://accreditations.nice.fr/en/users/sign_up?&pf=UNOC25)

### Blue Economy and Finance Forum (Monaco, 7-8 June 2025)

Accreditation link: [beff2025monaco.org/press-room](https://beff2025monaco.org/press-room)