

ONE OCEAN SUMMIT: IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE CALLS FOR 8 STRONG COMMITMENTS FOR OCEAN PROTECTION

During the last IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021 in Marseille, the President of the French Republic announced the organization of a One Ocean Summit to be held from February 9 to 11, 2022 in Brest. Several initiatives must be launched for better governance of the Ocean, the protection of marine ecosystems, the fight against pollution, particularly plastic, and the fight against climate change.

“The World Conservation Congress in Marseille has launched a new international dynamic for the protection of biodiversity. The One Ocean Summit is an opportunity to strengthen it in favor of the ocean with crucial issues since it represents 70% of the surface of our planet” - Maud Lelièvre, President of the French Committee of the IUCN.

The French Committee of the IUCN recalls the urgency of protecting the ocean given that two thirds of its surface are today considered to be severely altered by human activities (IPBES 2019).

Present in Brest at the One Ocean Summit, the French Committee calls for the implementation of 8 commitments in response to the [recommendations of the IUCN World Congress on the Ocean](#):

1. **Complete the negotiations of the [international agreement on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction \(high seas\)](#) as soon as possible**, in March 2022, and integrate in the final text the establishment and management of an ecologically representative, well-connected, well-managed and **effective marine protected areas**, including a substantial part highly and fully protected, as well as **environmental impact assessments** based on a rigorous, integrated, independent and science-based system for assessing individual and cumulative effects of human activities and climate change on the marine biodiversity of the high seas.
2. **Fight against [plastic pollution](#)** by eliminating the production and use of unnecessary plastics, especially single-use plastics, and by promoting innovation throughout the value chain, facilitating responsible management for plastic waste and debris, and ending dumping in nature and the oceans. IUCN calls for a rapid **global agreement to combat this marine plastic pollution**.
3. **Apply rigorous approaches for [maritime spatial planning](#)** so that they **guarantee the long-term preservation and protection of marine ecosystems**, stressing the avoidance and reduction of environmental impacts.
4. **Reduce the [impact of fishing](#) on marine biodiversity and improve the [management of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices](#) (FADs)**, an environmentally damaging method that has dramatically increased around the world.
5. **Adopt a [moratorium on deep seabed mining](#)**, until conditions are defined to ensure the **protection of deep seabed ecosystems and biodiversity**.
6. **Strengthen protection measures for marine species such as [marine mammals and sharks and rays](#)**, of which 25% and 37% respectively are threatened according to the IUCN Red List of threatened species, by acting in particular on the [reduction of accidental catches](#).

7. **Pursue the creation of marine protected areas** and collectively support the global objective of [30% marine protected areas by 2030](#) in the new global biodiversity strategy to be adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15), emphasizing the compliance with IUCN global categories of protected areas, the quality of their management, in accordance with the global standard of the [IUCN Green List of Protected Areas](#), and full protection.
8. Finally, the French Committee of IUCN **calls for compliance with the Paris Agreement to limit the [impacts of climate change on the ocean](#)** and to develop nature-based solutions by strengthening the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems that play an important role for blue carbon, such as coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses.

About the IUCN French Committee (International Union for Conservation of Nature) www.uicn.fr

The IUCN French Committee is a non-governmental organization, which brings together the 2nd largest number of IUCN members in the world with two ministries, 13 public bodies, 47 NGOs and more than 250 experts. At the international level, IUCN brings together some 1,300 organizations and 15,000 experts. IUCN is the only environmental organization that has an observer status with the UN. The IUCN enables its members and experts (biologists, economists, lawyers, etc.) to collaborate at the international level in order to share their knowledge and their action on biodiversity. Since its creation in 1948 in Fontainebleau, IUCN has proposed 1,300 recommendations to preserve biodiversity and has made it possible to structure and strengthen global action in this area. Every four years, it organizes the World Conservation Congress, the last of which was held in Marseille in September 2021, before the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the One Ocean Summit.

PRESS CONTACT

Emilie Dupouy
Communication officer
communication@uicn.fr