



## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ONE OCEAN SUMMIT**

During the last IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 2021), the President of the French Republic announced the organization of the One Ocean Summit which will take place in Brest from February 9 to 11, 2022. Several initiatives must be launched for better governance of the oceans, the protection of marine ecosystems, the fight against pollution, particularly plastic, and the fight against climate change. On this occasion, the **IUCN French Committee recalls the urgency of protecting the ocean** given that two thirds of the Ocean is now considered to be severely altered by human activities (IPBES 2019). **IUCN therefore calls for commitments and concrete actions in response to the [recommendations for the Ocean of the IUCN World Conservation Congress](#).**

### **Recommendations of the IUCN French Committee on Ocean Governance**

- ❖ The One Ocean Summit comes a few weeks before the United Nations intergovernmental conference for the adoption of an international agreement on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) or high seas. The high seas represent almost two thirds of the world's ocean and only 1.2% of these waters are protected. In a context of increasing threats for marine biodiversity of the high seas (climate change, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, overfishing, illegal fishing, deep-sea mining, habitat destruction, noise, or the chemical and plastic pollution), IUCN supports ([recommendation 126](#)) the adoption of an ambitious international treaty, legally binding, which provides for the identification, establishment and management of an ecologically representative network, well connected and effectively managed of marine protected areas (MPAs), a substantial part of which should be highly and fully protected. IUCN also requests that the final text provides for 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 ABNJ.
- ❖ **Each year, approximately 11 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans.** [A report by the International Resource Panel](#) (IRP/ United Nations Programm for Environment) shows that current policies are not up to the task. IUCN calls ([recommendation 022](#)) to **combat plastic pollution by eliminating the production and use of unnecessary plastics**, especially single-use plastics, and by promoting innovation across the value chain, facilitating the responsible management of plastic waste and debris, and ending dumping in nature and the oceans. IUCN indicates that there is a need to invest in environmentally friendly plastic waste collection, recycling and treatment systems, based on the separate

collection of plastic waste and recycling, in the first place, and on other forms of recovery, prevention and alternatives to plastic, when environmentally friendly recycling of plastic waste is not possible, taking into account all their impacts on the environment. **IUCN supports the adoption of a global agreement to combat marine plastic pollution** and to work in collaboration with other international plastics initiatives (Alliance to End Plastic Waste, New Plastics Economy, Plastic Consumer Goods Forum Working Group and the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste).

- ❖ The International Seabed Authority (the ISA) is currently working on the establishment of a regulatory code for the exploitation of deep seabed mineral resources. In this context, IUCN has called for a moratorium on deep seabed mining (recommendation 069), until conditions have been defined to ensure the protection of the marine environment, including the in place rigorous and transparent environmental impact assessments, as well as policies to ensure the responsible production and use of metals, such as reducing demand for primary metals, moving towards a resource-efficient circular economy, and responsible land mining practices have been developed and implemented.
- ❖ IUCN requests ([recommendation 112](#)) that States' maritime spatial planning approaches guarantee the long-term preservation and protection of marine ecosystems. They must aim to avoid and then reduce the impacts identified in order to guarantee the good ecological status of ecosystems and species in an approach of no net loss of biodiversity.
- ❖ IUCN calls for compliance with the Paris Agreement to limit the impacts of climate change on the ocean ([recommendation 037](#)) 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.

## Recommendations of the IUCN French Committee on protection of marine biodiversity

- ❖ IUCN requests that States support the global objective of 30% marine protected areas by 2030 ([recommendation 101](#)) in anticipation of the adoption of the new post-2020 global biodiversity strategy at the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15). The French Committee of the IUCN emphasizes that the 30x30 objective must concern both terrestrial and marine environments (30% for terrestrial and 30% for marine areas). It calls for **the creation of marine protected areas to meet the IUCN global categories of protected areas and for the effectiveness of protected area management to be explicitly included in the strategy**. As such, the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas, officially launched in 2014 at the World Parks Congress, is a tool to help States improve and assess the effectiveness of protected area management. IUCN Green list is now a global reference for the entire nature conservation community. France has the largest number of protected areas labeled in the Green List (22 sites out of 59) and efforts must be continued to ensure that all

protected areas are effectively managed.

- ❖ **Efforts must also focus on full and high protection:** only 2.8% of international waters are currently under full protection, and 1.6% in France, which has the second largest maritime domain in the world. At a time when France holds the Presidency of the European Union, **the French Committee of the IUCN welcomes the objective of 10% of strict protection of the European maritime areas by 2030, adopted in the Strategy of the Union European for Biodiversity.** It also welcomes the objective announced by the French President at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille to increase fully protected zones in the Mediterranean Sea from 0.23% to 5% by 2027, and calls for an increase of fully protected zones on the other French marine areas.
- ❖ **The IUCN calls for the strengthening protection measures of marine species such as marine mammals, sharks and rays, of which 25% and 37% respectively are threatened according to the IUCN Global Red List, by acting on the reduction incidental catches ([recommendation 027](#)).** Marine mammals are threatened around the world by to the persistence of major impacts due in particular to accidental atches in active, abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, collisions with ships, underwater noise, pollution due to human activities, habitat loss and overfishing. IUCN calls ([recommendation 118](#)) for the creation of reinforced protection areas for the most threatened populations of marine mammals, based on the areas that have already been identified as responding to the marine mammals' conservation and protection needs (e.g. marine protected areas, Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), etc.) and on existing effective mitigation measures (for example, seasonal closures, the reduction in vessel speed, etc.) As such, the French Committee of the IUCN supports the recommendation of the European Commission to **close certain fisheries in order to avoid the capture and death of thousands of dolphins in the fishing nets in the Golge of Gascogne.**

## **Recommendations of the IUCN French Committee on fisheries and marine energies**

- ❖ IUCN calls for **reducing the impact of fishing on marine biodiversity ([recommendation 124](#))** and for **better management of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) ([recommendation 028](#)).** Used mainly for tuna fishing, FADs are a fishing method that is particularly harmful to the environment. The use of FADs has increased significantly around the world since 2012, both on the high seas and in exclusive economic zones (EEZs), with high levels of catches of juvenile bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red list, and yellowfin tuna.
- ❖ IUCN calls ([recommendation 112](#)) that **the development of offshore renewable energies is carried out in such a way as to minimize the impact on marine ecosystems and that the conservation of biodiversity is integrated into all energy plans and programs.** This is in line with the [recommendations of the French Committee of the IUCN](#) for better integration of biodiversity in the environmental assessment process for offshore wind farm projects. The study by the French Committee highlights in particular that the impacts of these wind farms on the biodiversity can be, for a significant part, avoided or reduced if a **complete Strategic**

**Environmental Assessment on the scale of each marine regions and subregions is carried out including an assessment of the specific and cumulative impacts of all activities at sea**