



*Celebrating the  
10th Anniversary of the  
Global Ocean Forum  
at Rio+20  
2002-2012*





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# Foreword

This book contains messages from ocean leaders around the world in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum. We thank the contributors very much for these messages.

It is a special pleasure and honor to celebrate this anniversary at the Rio+20 summit, the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Global Ocean Forum was born at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the run-up to the WSSD in 2001, it became evident that ocean issues were not included on the agenda of world leaders at the WSSD. In June 2001, I approached Patricio Bernal (then head of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at UNESCO) at the UN Open Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and we agreed that this was untenable. We decided to organize the first Global Ocean Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands at UNESCO in December 2001, bringing together all segments of the oceans community—governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and the science sector to discuss the imperative of putting the ocean issues on the WSSD agenda, addressing the entire range of issues related to oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS), and taking a cross-sectoral approach. This was most unusual at that time, since most policy dialogue vehicles were either only sectoral in nature or were dominated by a single interest (such as governments or NGOs). Veerle Vandeweerd (then at the UN Environment Programme) joined Patricio and I in a leadership role helping to organize the oceans community and to place the issues on the WSSD agenda.

The conference was a resounding success and clearly articulated the need for giving priority to oceans, coasts, and SIDS in the WSSD. A turning point came in January 2002 at a UN side event co-organized by the Global Ocean Forum (what we then called the informal coordinating group on oceans for the WSSD) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) when Ambassador Neroni Tuiloma Slade, the then-chair of AOSIS, noted in his inimitable style, “It just cannot be that oceans, coasts, and small island states are not on the agenda of the WSSD.” Subsequently, the governments pushed the ocean issues onto the WSSD agenda and, as is well known, a detailed set of targets and timetables related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS emerged in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Patricio, Veerle, and I convened many ocean groups daily at the WSSD and at the end of the WSSD, there was an informal consensus that the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands should be created. Patricio and Veerle’s leadership and willingness to take risks in their informal capacities, was most helpful, at a crucial point in time, in the formation of the Forum.

From the outset, the Global Ocean Forum took a cross-sectoral approach to the ocean issues, emphasizing the interrelationship among the issues, and the relationship between oceans and coasts and other issues. The emphasis has always been on people and oceans, focusing especially on the problems and opportunities faced by island peoples in 44 SIDS and by coastal communities in 183 countries around the world. In 2010, we changed the name of the organization to Global Ocean Forum for simplicity's sake, while retaining the same emphasis on ocean, coasts, and SIDS issues.

Since 2001, the Global Ocean Forum has sought to:

*Advance the global oceans agenda by:*

- 1) promoting the implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS, especially the goals emanating from the 2002 WSSD and from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development;
- 2) analyzing emerging issues such as addressing climate change impacts and improving the governance regime for ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- 3) promoting international consensus-building on unresolved ocean issues.

*Work as a catalyst* to mobilize knowledge, resources, and organizational action to advance the global oceans agenda and to promote integrated oceans management;

*Foster a mutually-supportive global network of ocean policy leaders* with the capacity to implement integrated oceans management;

*Raise the international profile of oceans, coasts, and SIDS* in relevant global, regional, and sub-regional fora; and

*Mobilize public awareness* on global issues related to oceans, coasts, and islands, and promote information sharing and dissemination.

The activities carried out by the Global Ocean Forum since 2001 are described in a 2012 synthesis report, *Global Ocean Forum Report of Activities*, available at <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOF-ReportOfActivities-2012.pdf>.

The Global Ocean Forum has been headquartered at the University of Delaware's Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, and has involved many young scholars specializing in marine policy, instilling in them a keen understanding and passion for the global ocean issues. The support of University of Delaware officials, especially President Patrick Harker and Dean Nancy Targett, is acknowledged with sincere thanks.

The Global Ocean Forum has been supported by 97 organizations from the intergovernmental and international sector, from governments (21 governments, both from developed and developing countries), and from the NGOs, foundations, and research institutions sec-

tors (please see list at the end of this volume) whose contributions are acknowledged with deep gratitude. Major contributors must also be acknowledged with special and very sincere thanks: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies UNEP and UNDP, for their support of the activities of the Global Ocean Forum through two GEF projects: 1. *Fostering a Global Dialogue on Oceans, Coasts, and SIDS, and on Freshwater-Coastal-Marine Interlinkages*; and 2. *GEF IW:LEARN: Portfolio Learning in International Waters with a Focus on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and Regional Asia/Pacific and Coral Triangle Learning Processes*; the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, and the Government of France (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development, and the Sea, French Marine Protected Areas Agency, and Secrétariat Général de la Mer) for hosting the 2010 Global Oceans Conference; the Government of Vietnam (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands) for hosting the 2008 Global Oceans Conference, and to the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment for hosting the Global Ocean Forum Secretariat.

Many thanks are due, as well, to the International Board of Directors of the Global Ocean Forum and to the Policy Advisory Board (comprised of 80 leaders from all sectors and from all world regions) for their policy guidance and support. We also express our sincere appreciation to all the leaders and experts from 110 countries which have participated in Global Ocean Forum activities, and who have inspired our common endeavors through their lively discussions, expertise, and insights. We would like to especially recognize the work of the leaders and members of the Global Ocean Forum expert Working Groups for the preparation of policy briefs and other substantive contributions to the global oceans conferences and other Global Ocean Forum activities.

With much appreciation,

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain  
President, Global Ocean Forum

And the Global Ocean Forum Team:  
Dr. Miriam Balgos, Joseph Appiott, Gwenaëlle Hamon,  
Marisa Van Hoeven, C. Ryan Ono, and Kevin McLaughlin

June 2012





**Dr. Jacqueline Alder**

Coordinator Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems,  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
Nairobi, Kenya

While the **GFOCI** could stand for:

# Global Forum Oceans Coasts and Islands G F O C I

**G** is for generating lots of discussion on how to best manage oceans, coasts and islands

**F** is for the future and facilitating many dialogues that contribute to understanding issues and solutions

**O** is for organizing effective meetings just about anywhere at any time and sometimes with little advance notice and funds

**C** is for constant and consistent in advocating for better management of oceans, coasts and islands

**I** is for inclusive – bringing so many different actors to the same platform and incalculable benefits the Forum has given us all

10th Anniversary



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**Mr. Jens Ambsdorf**

Chief Executive Officer, Lighthouse Foundation  
Hamburg, Germany

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**B**y chance, I came across the announcement for the first Global Ocean Conference. The Foundation, too, was at that stage, very young. One of the reasons for the creation of our foundation was the obvious lack of institutions really addressing marine issues in the context of sustainable development, and so I was really glad to see that there was another group feeling the urgent need to bring the oceans back into consideration for the Rio follow up in Johannesburg. This is now 10 years back, and it is a great pleasure to see how well the Forum has thrived. Not always without difficulties, but steadily and very much thanks to Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain. Today at Rio +20 there is no dispute that the oceans are a centerpiece of our future existence on this planet and also that the Global Ocean Forum is, without doubt, a well-established source of information and discussion arena for many. Nevertheless, the challenges ahead are not diminishing and I strongly believe that we need this room for coming together and exchanging more than ever because only together can we find a way towards a more sustainable, more just existence on our blue planet.



### **Dr. Salvatore Aricò**

Sr. Programme Specialist, Biodiversity Assessments and Inter-agency Coordination, Leader, Natural Sciences Sector Cross-cutting Thematic Unit on Biodiversity, Coordinator, UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative, UNESCO, Paris, France

**I**n my view, the Global Ocean Forum has filled a significant gap in international debates and deliberations related to the oceans by providing a physical and intellectual forum for multi-stakeholder exchanges and interactions. A process and venue for continued dialogues among all those who are involved in ocean affairs was badly needed as of Rio in 1992. It was clear that mechanisms such as UN-OCEANS could only partly reflect the aspirations and expectations of these various stakeholders.

During its existence, the accomplishments of the Global Ocean Forum have long overcome its expected results. Quite simply, the Forum has helped immensely to put the oceans back on the intergovernmental agenda, particularly in relation to the climate change negotiations. In the area of biodiversity, the Forum has conducted pioneering and innovative work which has informed, directly and authoritatively, negotiations related to a possible expansion of the scope of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to include conservation and sustainable and equitable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Longa Vita to the Global Ocean Forum!

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### **Dr. Milton L. Asmus**

Directive Council Member, Fórum do Mar  
Rio Grande, Brazil

Being part of the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) in the last 10 years was an exciting experience. Surely, the GOF is a rich opportunity for institutions from countries where the policies and practices regarding oceans and coastal planning and management are under strong development. As a Brazilian institution, our participation in the Forum can guarantee a close contact with major debates regarding ocean issues, and with up-to-date concepts and practices in the international arena. In other words: you feel like being an active part of the “global ocean.”

In years to come, Brazil, due to its huge oil reserves to be exploited in deep sea, is looking seawards with growing interest. That opportunity is asking for new ocean resource use policies under an internationally desired blue economy. We hope that our participation in the Global Ocean Forum can bring us new perspectives and ideas to deal with such a national challenge





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**Mr. Julian Barbière**

Programme Specialist, Integrated  
Coastal Area Management,  
Ocean Science Section, IOC-UNESCO  
Paris, France

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Ten years ago, I had the privilege of being part of a group of very diverse individuals made up of ocean experts, scientists, government and NGO representatives, that met on the margin of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with the common goal to advance ocean issues in the negotiation process. The value of having such a dialogue amongst a range of ocean actors became instantly obvious, and the same year the Global Ocean Forum was born.

In a time of economic hardship as we are currently experiencing, more than ever, the need for addressing global and cross-cutting issues affecting ocean and sustainability, engaging all sectors of society, and fostering commitments, is badly needed. The Global Ocean Forum is in a unique position to do this. The Forum can play a key role in engaging parties with sometimes diverging interest, in a constructive and informal dialogue, leading to consensus and positive outcome. 'Bon vent' for the next 10 years!

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**Mrs. Monique Barbut**  
CEO, Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Washington DC, USA

**A**s CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), I would like to congratulate the Global Ocean Forum on ten years of success! Over the last decade, the Global Ocean Forum has played an essential role in fostering dialogue and tracking major commitments on the sustainable development of the oceans. The Forum has been an essential member of the global oceans community. Most recently, the GEF, FAO and the Global Ocean Forum are working together towards communicating to financial and policy decision makers and the public at large the importance of investing in sustainable fisheries and conservation of biodiversity in the high seas. The Global Ocean Forum's ability to foster open and constructive policy dialogue for supporting formal UN processes is critical to the future of our oceans, and we look forward to contributing significantly to a global effort to meet the challenges confronting our oceans.

*anniversary*



### **Dr. Patricio Bernal**

Coordinator of IUCN High Seas Initiatives  
Paris, France

**A** *fruitful decade.* It all started in mid-2001, at the Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. We met at the coffee bar of the UN Headquarters with Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain and assessed that unless a targeted effort to raise an ocean agenda is made, many critical issues for oceans and coasts would be left outside of the decision-making process at WSSD in Johannesburg the coming year. We decided to convene at the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission in Paris, a special Ocean, Coast and Island Conference at the end of 2001, with the intention to bring together experts, civil society and government representatives. The Conference, despite its novelty and mixed nature of its participants, some acting in their individual capacity, others representing their Governments and institutions, was a resounding success and we came out of Paris with a cogent, comprehensive report with concrete proposals and targets. Responding to the broad invitation from the Secretary General of the UN to contribute in the preparation of WSSD, we managed to formally submit the Paris Report to the preparatory process of WSSD in January of 2002. At the Prepcom in February that year, the Report became an official Information Document and all delegations could form their own opinion on the proposals. I must say that most of those proposals made it into the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, constituting a strong Ocean, Coast and Islands agenda that still are with us today. At Johannesburg, we convened daily briefings and coordinated action among a group of 42 organizations. Without thinking ahead, we had laid down the very strong foundation of the Global Ocean Forum. In the wrap up session at Johannesburg, a unanimous call to continue with the coordination of effort during implementation emerged from the participants, and the Global Ocean Forum was born. It has been a very productive decade of initiatives and activities. Many individuals and ideas have come and gone, but nobody can say that the Forum had not served its main purpose to convene the broad community to work for a sustainable future for Ocean, Coasts and Islands.



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**Dr. Raphaël Billé**

Programme Director –  
Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change  
Institute for Sustainable Development and  
International Relations (IDDRI)  
Paris, France

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The Global Ocean Forum has been center stage in my professional landscape for as long as I have had an interest in ocean and coastal management. I first attended the “Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10” in Paris in December 2001 as a PhD student, and have been a regular ever since. What strikes me most over the years is the capacity of the Secretariat to mobilize energies and competencies wherever they are. Whether you just turned 25 or retired several years ago, whether you live in New York or in a remote island of a developing country, your goodwill and enthusiasm are the only conditions for the Global Ocean Forum team to let you contribute your expertise to the success of this collective endeavour.

The current international governance framework for ocean and coastal management is highly fragmented. Discussions held at the global or regional level are also increasingly technical and specialized. A key role for the Global Ocean Forum in the future will be to help make the “governance archipelago” a coherent management system. The Forum will likely be the only arena in which governments, international organizations, NGOs, industries and scientists will continue discussing, in just one place, fisheries and renewable energies, high seas and coastal management. We would all waste a lot if these communities gave up trying to understand each other and to cross-fertilize experiences.



**Dr. Ram Boohj**  
Programme Specialist  
Natural Sciences  
UNESCO Office  
New Delhi

It is a moment of great pride for all of us to see the Global Ocean Forum celebrate a decade of its achievements at Rio in June 2012. The journey of the Global Ocean Forum, from Johannesburg in 2002 to Rio now, has been full of dynamic actions, strategies and achievements in mobilization of the world's governments, to bring oceans at the forefront of global agenda on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States. The 10th anniversary event at the Rio+20 Conference, with the organization of the Oceans Day, assumes great significance considering the important role that oceans play in the green economy. This will also be an occasion to draw the world's attention towards the challenges of ocean governance.

I have been involved with the Global Ocean Forum right from its inception in 2002 and have very closely followed the developments over the last decade with colleagues and friends of the World Ocean Network (WON) particularly in bringing aquaria, education centers and museums of the world on board and putting education and communication as an important agenda item of the Global Ocean Forum. I would like to put on record my great appreciation and felicitation to our dearest colleague Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, President of the Global Ocean Forum, for her dynamic leadership in energizing and making the Global Ocean Forum a vibrant community. I remember her inspiring

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message to the special session that I had organized on the Indian Ocean Tsunami as part of the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Future in January 2005 in Ahmedabad, India, in which she pledged the support of the Global Ocean Forum to the tsunami affected communities. She has always been supportive of the WON in recognizing the key role of education and public awareness for the support of oceans conservation and governance, particularly the Ocean Passport and Ocean Information Package programmes which I was coordinating, where she provided valuable advice and support in developing the content and themes.

The accomplishments of the Global Ocean Forum over the past ten years is in no way ordinary considering the tremendous support that it has been able to mobilize for the cause of oceans from the governments, UN agencies, civil society, scientific community, and a range of other stakeholders. Rio +20 is a good opportunity to reflect on the 10 years of actions and accomplishments, as well as to set the agenda for the next decade and beyond. It is also a time to recognize the enormity of the tasks and challenges that lie ahead. It is hoped that the Global Ocean Forum will spearhead the oceans movement further in the following decades to create an enabling environment for the sustainable management of oceans, coasts and islands for present and future generations.



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**Dr. Lucien Chabason**

Senior Advisor  
Institute for Sustainable Development and  
International Relations (IDDRI)  
Paris, France

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Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Global Ocean Forum succeeded in bringing together the main actors interested in advancing the global coastal and marine agenda involving actors both private and public, from governments, IGOs, NGOs, business and the scientific community. It provided major opportunities to exchange analysis and views on emerging issues such as the protection of the marine environment in areas beyond national jurisdiction on an informal and fruitful basis. It did its best to promote mutual understanding and more transparency in the global governance related to coast and oceans management. In the long term, the catalytic role played by the Global Ocean Forum will be recognized as a major step in the improvement of the global governance of common goods.

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### **Dr. Chua Thia-Eng**

East Asian Seas Partnership Council  
Partnerships in Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)  
Manila, Philippines

**I**t has been a rewarding 10 years since the establishment of the Global Ocean Forum! Through the untiring efforts and leadership of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, the Global Ocean Forum has drawn the attention of world leaders at various international and UN forums on current sustainable development challenges affecting our coasts, islands and oceans around the world. Though much of the ocean issues remain unresolved, there are significant signs of increasing global efforts in terms of developing much needed ocean policies and action programmes to address the issues of climate change, rapid loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation.

The challenge for the next 10 years will be even greater as new economic activities will come to focus in coastal areas, seas, and oceans, including areas beyond national jurisdiction. The role of the Global Ocean Forum will be even more challenging and needed in expanding its efforts and influence for advancing collective global efforts in achieving sustainable use of our marine ecosystem services and protection of our remaining world ocean heritage.

*university*



### **Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi**

Professor/Doctor, Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Environment, Hanoi University of Science; High-level Researcher, Center for Sea and Island Research (CSIR), Vietnam National University (VNU); Chairman, Vietnam Association of Marine Environment and Nature Protection (VAMENP), Hanoi, Vietnam

The Global Ocean Forum (GOF), since its establishment in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, has devoted a 10-year journey of facilitating the implementation of international commitments toward the sustainable development of oceans. In the last 10 years, the GOF has developed and very importantly contributed to ocean initiatives and policy thinking at the global level as well as to supportive actions at the national level. In the process of hosting and co-organizing with the GOF the 4th Global Oceans Conference held in Ha Noi on April 7-11, 2008, I believe that the Government of Viet Nam has successfully collaborated in putting the global spotlight on the direct link between climate change, the health of the oceans, and human well-being. Since the 4th Global Oceans Conference, Viet Nam has demonstrated the importance of developing an integrated and ecosystem-based national ocean policy and the requisite institutional structure for its implementation, beginning with the establishment of the Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands (VASI) in 2008.

It is my hope that in the next ten years, the GOF will continue in its leadership role in addressing persistent oceans issues as well as emerging ones such as those related to the blue economy, climate change and its impacts on ocean ecosystems and communities. On behalf of the Government of Viet Nam and myself, I would like to thank the GOF for its support and assistance to Viet Nam, especially in showcasing our nation's oceans initiatives to the international community. Support the Global Ocean Forum, care for our oceans!

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### **Mr. Manuel Cira**

Nausicaa Head of Cultural Services and  
International Partnerships and  
World Ocean Network International  
Secretariat Coordinator  
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

**I**n ten years the ocean agenda has moved forward in a spectacular way: marine protected area networks have been developed, land-based pollution has been recognized as a priority issue, services provided by marine ecosystems have been evaluated and priced, the management of living marine resources has improved, and the role of ocean in climate regulation has been better understood, as well as the role of marine biodiversity in our planet's resilience. Emerging issues have appeared such as the necessity to manage the ocean beyond national jurisdiction, as well as the importance of regulating the exploitation of our precious marine biodiversity in a sustainable and ethical way. I strongly believe that the momentum created by the Global Ocean Forum since Johannesburg WSSD, with regular Global Ocean Conferences, publications and events, has been decisive in the rise of ocean awareness amongst decision makers, stakeholders and the public.

Thanks to the Global Ocean Forum, the World Ocean Network has been able to communicate on these issues to inform and mobilize stakeholders and the general public. Today I believe more people are aware of the importance of the ocean in their daily life, and more stakeholders are aware that the Ocean is the support system of our life on Earth. More people are becoming Citizens of the Ocean and are willing to act, changing their habits – consumption, leisure activities, transports, waste, etc. I am confident that we can now work on a better future for all of us, and that the mobilization of decision makers, stakeholders and civil society, initiated by the Global Ocean Forum, will ensure an effective participation of all in building a new way of life on our Ocean Planet, toward a Blue Society.



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**Prof. Ik Kyo Chung**

Department of Oceanography  
Pusan National University  
Busan, Republic of Korea

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I am a member of the Working Group on Climate, Oceans and Security. I joined the Global Ocean Forum when I introduced the Korean Project, “GHG Emissions Reduction Using Seaweeds,” during the 4th Global Oceans Conference in 2008. As the Global Ocean Forum was the first international organization which recognized the importance of coastal vegetation such as mangrove forests, seagrass beds, salt marshes and kelp forests, it was a lead venue for addressing the management of these critical systems in the context of climate change before UNEP’s Blue Carbon. Since then, the Global Ocean Forum has focused attention on Blue Carbon. As part of Blue Carbon, the Coastal CO<sub>2</sub> Removal Belt (CCRB) developed by the Korean Project could be implemented under the ICZM with EBM concept. CCRB could be considered as mitigation and adaptation measures in Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action. I strongly recommend that the Global Ocean Forum support this issue.

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**Dr. Simon Cripps**

Chief Executive  
Dorset Wildlife Trust  
Dorset, United Kingdom

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**A**t the very highest level, the Global Ocean Forum has been the main driver in raising the profile of marine issues and ensuring oceans have a seat at the table of some of the world's most important decision-making mechanisms and events. This started at WSSD where, without the Global Ocean Forum's mobilisation of the marine community, ocean issues would not have been discussed.

Whilst the fisheries of the world remain in a perilous state, one of the Global Ocean Forum's greatest contributions has been to promote ocean governance and consensus on international issues, particularly on the high seas.

A key challenge for the Global Ocean Forum in the future will be to engage the support of those groups and individuals who do not normally consider ocean issues, so that the protection, restoration and sustainable development of the marine environment and its fisheries underpins their thinking and decision-making. These would include government finance ministries, the business development sector, national security entities, and financial investment institutions.

*university*



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**Mrs. Margaret A. Davidson**

Acting Director, Office of Ocean and  
Coastal Resource Management  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration (NOAA)  
Washington DC, USA

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Even as we acquire more understanding of the interconnectivity and importance of the world's oceans and coasts, the challenges continue to grow. The Global Ocean Forum continues to play a key role in not only maintaining a spotlight on the need to understand and address those mounting challenges, but also in sustaining and growing the community of practitioners around the world. This permits all of us, regardless of our situation or our challenges, to share lessons and best practices which accelerates the diffusion of these skill sets most quickly. Both of these accomplishments are in addition to the very specific accomplishments associated with particular venues, projects and publications of the Global Ocean Forum. I foresee that these 'services' will continue to be very useful in a challenging world.

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**Richard Delaney**

President and CEO  
Center for Coastal Studies  
Provincetown, MA, USA

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Congratulations and thank you to the Global Ocean Forum for 10 years of leadership, and inspiration for oceans! For those of us committed to the well-being of ocean resources, the Global Ocean Forum has provided a consistent and collegial forum for unifying those efforts. By providing a powerful common voice for a diverse range of ocean advocates at the highest level of governments over the last decade, the Global Ocean Forum has worked effectively to keep ocean issues on the international agenda. Perhaps the most important long term contribution that the Global Ocean Forum provides is the development and mentoring of talented young professionals, affording them front line experiences with the actions and strategies needed to affect international issues. It is this next generation that will need to carry the campaign for the oceans to an even higher level.

I look forward to the next ten years of collaborations and friendships through the GOF!

*university*





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**Prof. Stephen de Mora**

Chief Executive, Organization:  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
Plymouth, United Kingdom

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Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) has worked with the Global Ocean Forum since 2009 to promote stewardship of the world's largest ecosystem in order to sustain its potential for the benefit of society. Our collaboration focused in particular on the understanding of the risks of ocean acidification and its sister stressors of ocean warming and oxygen loss ([www.oceanunderstress.com](http://www.oceanunderstress.com)).

It has been exciting to see the key role the Global Ocean Forum has played in the advancement of the global ocean agenda and how it has built its knowledge, networks and support to enable and inform initiatives for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and of SIDS. For example, the effort that the Global Ocean Forum has input to the ocean agenda in the lead up to Rio+20 has been remarkable. PML is committed to following a trans-disciplinary approach across the physical, life, chemical, Earth, social and economic sciences in ocean issues, delivering science relevant to policy-makers and society. We look forward to Oceans Day at Rio +20, helping to achieve a positive outcome for the ocean there and to continue our relationship with Global Ocean Forum in the years ahead.

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### **Dr. Salif Diop, Head**

Ecosystems Section, Scientific Assessment Branch  
Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
Nairobi, Kenya

**O**n the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, I congratulate the Global Ocean Forum for its achievements during the past ten years:

- Enormous achievements in bringing the science and policy communities together for the better future of our Oceans Planet.
- Bringing the Oceans message prominently in all high level fora, including during the 2012 Rio+20 major worldwide event.
- Catalyzing tremendous efforts about science/management/ policy alternatives regarding governance of marine areas, bringing major stakeholders under the same roof with a very participatory and inclusive approach.
- Making sure that the Oceans Agenda will be put at the highest political level for effective strategic action and implementation for the next decade.

*Anniversary*



**Dr. Alfred M. Duda**

Senior Advisor (Retired)  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Washington, DC, USA

In the run-up to the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, there was new excitement about oceans, coasts, and islands. Working groups were establishing targets for consideration by Heads of State, Agenda 21 provisions were being revisited, and surprisingly successful results from 10 years of GEF Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects in its International Waters focal area were becoming available. There was a need to fill the gap in tracking global results, discussing challenges, and bringing them to the attention of policymakers. The Global Ocean Forum provided an attractive mechanism to advance this ocean agenda by involving developing country officials in its work, and from its start the GEF had interest to nurture and support this unique vehicle that could bridge science, policy, and political agendas. We have not been disappointed in our GEF investment.

From its early conferences in Europe that spread around the world to Vietnam, its working groups, and valuable report cards on progress toward the Johannesburg targets, the Forum held together the oceans community in the last 10 years as no other institution could. In bringing global results to the attention of policy makers in “Ocean Days” organized at the UN, at Conferences of Parties for the climate and biological diversity conventions, and now at Rio+20, I would attribute the new global awareness of the concerns of oceans, coasts, and islands to the work of the Forum. We are grateful to the contribution the Forum has made in working with the 124 different GEF recipient countries that have collaborated on International Waters projects for their shared coasts, LMEs, and island states. Congratulations to the Global Ocean Forum on a decade of achievement and for helping to turn the tide for improved oceans governance.

10th



### **Dr. Milen Dyoulgerov**

Coordinator, Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery  
(GFDRR), The World Bank,  
Washington DC, USA

Ten years ago, the Global Ocean Forum gave a powerful voice to the marine and coastal sustainable development agenda. Filling a critical void, the Forum created-- and successfully sustained over the years-- a platform to bring together scientists, practitioners, and decision-makers at the global level. In the process, it also established itself as a catalyst for objective, evidence-based policymaking.

Now, the Forum's assessment of the progress with the implementation of the "blue" Agenda 21 is providing an awakening call that, 20 years after the first Rio Summit, we continue to neglect and underinvest in that agenda at our own peril. Moving ahead, I expect that the demand for the Global Ocean Forum's catalytic role will only grow along with the growing recognition that we can neither close the looming food-security gap nor face the climate change challenge unless we look back at the oceans.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum, we are also celebrating the vision of its President, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, and the dedication and tireless work of its Secretariat--true ocean heroes to whom we owe a debt of recognition.



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**Mr. William M. Eichbaum**

Vice President, Marine and Arctic Policy

World Wildlife Fund US

Washington DC, USA

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WWF has been pleased to work with The Global Ocean Forum, especially over the past half decade, to strengthen and enhance awareness of the challenges facing the world's oceans. From The World Ocean Conference in Manado in 2009 to Rio+20 this year, the Global Ocean Forum, WWF, and many others have worked hard to assure that the public and key policy makers have gained a renewed appreciation of what needs to be done to restore our seas. It has been especially important that the Forum has striven to see that ocean conservation issues are more effectively integrated into the full range of environmental challenges facing society. While the issues remain daunting, there can be little question that the Global Ocean Forum has been a forceful platform from which many voices have been able to speak to these challenges. Because of the work of the Global Ocean Forum, the future of the ocean is brighter than it might have been. Thanks for your leadership on these extraordinarily difficult issues.

10th Arctic



**Ms. Tina Farmer**

Communications & Publications  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Rome, Italy

Over the last ten years, the Global Ocean Forum has managed to bring the multifaceted and complex issues related to the world's oceans to the forefront. Led by Professor Biliana Cicin-Sain, the Global Ocean Forum has raised awareness and sounded a successful call for action around the globe on these problems. I have had the pleasure of seeing Biliana and her indefatigable team in action. Whether in a room full of government leaders, in a scientific forum, at a high-level international event, or among a crowd of concerned NGOs, the Global Ocean Forum is ready to advance its efforts to facilitate dialogue and understanding on the major issues challenging the sustainable development of the world's oceans. I now have the opportunity to work closely with the Global Ocean Forum in a very exciting project to strengthen global capacity to effectively manage areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) as part of a GEF/FAO program on 'Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ'.

Happy 10th anniversary to the Global Ocean Forum –  
keep making a difference!

*anniversary*



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**Dr. Gustavo Fonseca**

Head, Natural Resources  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Washington DC, USA

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Oceans have emerged as a critical item on the international environmental agenda, so it is fitting that the Global Ocean Forum's 10th Anniversary coincides with the Rio+20 Earth Summit. The high-level discussions at the Summit will place particular importance on the world's oceans, which are under threat of over-fishing, pollution, the transfer of alien species to new marine areas, global warming, and the decline of coral reefs. The Forum has actively promoted and advanced constructive dialogue among ocean stakeholders and has been instrumental in expanding our understanding of the special challenges faced by small island developing States. As a member of the Global Ocean Forum Policy Advisory Board, the Global Environment Facility looks forward to working with the Forum to further its mandate to raise awareness and act on the next generation of crucial oceans issues – the sustainable use of its resources.

10th Anniversary





### **Dr. David Freestone**

Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance;  
Former Deputy General Counsel, The World Bank  
Washington DC

**M**any Congratulations to the Global Oceans Forum on its 10th Anniversary and of course to its instigator and leader – Dr Biliana Cicin-Sain!

The concept of providing an informal setting in which the key players on the oceans agenda can meet and exchange views frankly is an outstanding one and has over the last decade proven to be highly effective. I think that the issue of governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction has benefitted immensely from the discussions and reports which have been sponsored by the Forum – not only at its biannual meetings, but also at the workshops which the Forum has sponsored with the support of its members. Particularly notable are the ABNJ Workshops in Nice and in Singapore in 2008. The reports from those workshops, and the issues raised and discussed at those two meetings still resonate with the discussions currently taking place within the UN and at the forthcoming Rio+20 meeting. It has been a great privilege to work with the Forum and with Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain. I think it is still performing a great service in ensuring that oceans issues are brought to the table at a variety of international meetings – including those of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – which had virtually ignored oceans issues until the Forum stepped to the table. All the best for the next decade!

*Anniversary*



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**Dr. Guillermo Garcia Montero**

Director, National Aquarium of Cuba;  
President, National Oceanographic Committee  
Habana, Cuba

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Ten years are practically nothing compared to the time scale of any human activity. However, it can be affirmed that the Global Ocean Forum has multiplied this unit of time. In this short period its impacts have been many. The Forum has facilitated the mobilization of many consciences. It has been able to sensitize many minds in the political and decision-making community. It has moved countless stake-holders of the ocean and coastal world. It has been able to gather, in a positive environment and towards a common objective, the best of the wide sector of ocean and coastal sciences and users. In this regard, it has been able to put together the best of the scientific thoughts within the reach of any citizen of the world, in peoples' common language and has made more and more clear, the influence of oceans and coasts in peoples' lives. Its visibility is already, without any doubt, a fact. The Global Ocean Forum promotes consensus around ocean and coastal issues, including the need for better and sustainable oceans and coasts. The world is reaching a high level of sensitivity to this reality and this necessity, although there are not yet enough people to meet this enormous challenge. That is today perhaps one of the main impacts of the Forum and it should be one of its main objectives for the immediate future.

The Global Ocean Forum's political influence has been also remarkable. In my opinion, no organization, except in the United Nations, has been able to sensitize so many brilliant and influential minds of scientists and political representatives, debating the many, diverse, and important issues of marine and coastal matters. Promoting and facilitating communication among people is an essential part of success, and this has been an unquestionable achievement of the Global Ocean Forum. Hopefully, we can maintain this momentum for always.



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**Dr. Cécile Gaspar**

Veterinary Surgeon, IUCN Expert

President, Te Mana O Te Moana

Moorea, French Polynesia

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The Global Ocean Forum has played a crucial role in my deep involvement in ocean conservation, research and education. While I had the chance to attend the 2001 and 2003 Global Conference at UNESCO site in Paris, it became clear to my mind that I will from this time on, commit to prepare solid action plan to protect our oceans. From there came the wish to get structured and we started the NGO te mana o te moana, in 2004. I am also deeply involved in and co-founder of the World Ocean Network and I can attest that these organizations have changed my vision of the future. Our NGO has many successes in achieving its goals and the Global Ocean Forum is a crucial tool that not only motivates us but helps increase action in our field and volunteer population.... We need to keep this strength and continue... Planet earth needs us....

*university*



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**Mrs. Lynne Zeitlin Hale**

Director, Marine Initiative  
The Nature Conservancy, Narragansett  
Rhode Island, USA

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The Global Ocean Forum has done a remarkable job in bringing the large and previously scattered ocean –interested groups into an “Ocean Community,” a community whose voice is increasingly heard. Never has the need been greater for a clear, strong voice for the ocean, for coastal people, and for island and coastal nations. Thanks to the Global Ocean Forum for all it has done; and thanks in advance for what we hope you can do in the future.

10th Anniversary



**Dr. Ampai Harakunarak**

Task Manager, Global Environment

Facility (International Waters)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Bangkok,  
Thailand

In developing countries, SIDS, and countries with economies in transition, capacity development in integrated management of oceans and coasts is essential to attain the goals of sustainable development for the well-being of people depending on the oceans and their ecosystems. As a priority area of the Global Ocean Forum, a number of important initiatives have been successfully launched and implemented during the past decade, including the assessments of capacity-building needs at three levels (individual, institutional, and societal), the device of a Global Strategy for Capacity Development in Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management, and Ocean Leadership Training Program.

It is impressive to realize how rapidly the stage has been reached - where global scientists and policy actors are cohesively working together to reach a global consensus at the highest political levels and steadily move towards achieving sustainable development of the oceans, coasts, and SIDS. By continuing to productively utilize institutions' experiences and individuals' expertise on marine policy, through a strong leadership foundation and well-supported activities, the Global Ocean Forum has undoubtedly proved the power of initiative in joining global efforts to contributing to achieving the WSSD ocean targets and timetables. Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum!

*anniversary*



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**Dr. Marea E. Hatziolos**

Senior Coastal and Marine Specialist  
Environment Unit East Asia/Pacific Region  
The World Bank,  
Washington, DC, USA

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**A**s a participant in the Global Ocean Forum since its inception in Paris in 2001, and a member of its Policy Advisory Board, I have seen the Forum under Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain's leadership evolve from a group of concerned international stakeholders coming together at regular intervals to discuss ocean issues and how to get traction on key actions, to a truly global platform of experts and international movers and shakers who have succeeded in putting oceans front and center of the sustainable development debate.

The Global Ocean Forum has a number of achievements under its belt. It has organized and convened regular Global Oceans Conferences to heighten awareness of growing threats to ocean health (from chaotic coastal development to overfishing, pollution and biodiversity loss), and the intensification of these threats from climate change and ocean acidification. At the same time, the Global Ocean Forum has raised these issues in the context of sustainability, food security and poverty reduction, increasing their visibility and relevance.

The Global Ocean Forum and its dedicated team of players behind the scenes has made oceans a cross-cutting theme by sponsoring Oceans Day at major UN Conferences of the Parties, including the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions. It has orchestrated an entire day of high level discourse on oceans, linking ocean health, ecosystem processes, and the provision of goods and services to climate regulation, adaptation and globally important biodiversity. And, perhaps most importantly, at Rio+20 the Global Ocean Forum has helped put oceans squarely on the international agenda for Sustainable Development—making ocean health at the heart of earth health and human welfare.



### **Dr. Andrew Hudson**

Cluster Leader

Water and Ocean Governance Program, UNDP  
and Coordinator, UN-Oceans

The Global Ocean Forum has played a pivotal role over the last ten years in advancing the ocean agenda. By convening high level decision makers, experts, advocates and other stakeholders, the Global Ocean Forum has succeeded in bringing together multiple perspectives on the complex challenges facing ocean sustainability. Through its comprehensive policy analyses and 'scorecards' on WSSD, Agenda 21 and numerous other ocean commitments, the Global Ocean Forum provides important impetus to the international community to get on track to meeting these commitments within agreed time frames. The continued efforts of the Global Ocean Forum will be even more vital in the post-Rio environment as the world commits to a new framework for the next ten or more years of urgently needed action on ocean protection and restoration.



## **Dr. Dosoo Jang**

Director

Center for International Cooperative Programs (CICOP)  
Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute (KORDI)  
Ansan, Republic of Korea

**H**earty congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum. In the past 10 years, the leadership and global network of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and her team have been salient and commendable in bringing the ocean stakeholders and communities together to discuss the innumerable issues and problems facing our ocean and coasts. The Global Ocean Forum made a superb effort in order to organize the side events called "Oceans Day" at UNFCCC COPs 15, 16 and 17 held in Copenhagen, Denmark, Cancun, Mexico, and Durban, South Africa, respectively, to raise the voice of the ocean community and stakeholders about the importance and role of the ocean in climate change. Throughout those Oceans Day events, the Global Ocean Forum played a core role in driving the concerted international efforts and gave voice to enlighten the non-ocean communities and political decision-makers to understand the role and effects of climate change on the ocean. I have no doubt that the Global Ocean Forum will leave a footprint once again by organizing The Oceans Day event during Rio+20 to be held on June 16, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and its subsequent involvement connecting the ocean communities with the Yeosu Declaration Forum to be held during the Closing Day of the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea on August 12, 2012.

I look forward to the continued success and great accomplishments of the Global Ocean Forum, not only in providing useful advice and information for both national and international policy decision-makers, but also in bringing marine experts together to discuss what governance and institutional arrangements will be needed for national governments and international organizations in order to deal with our ocean's issues and problems more effectively and in an integrated manner.





### **Professor David Johnson**

Executive Secretary, OSPAR Commission  
London, United Kingdom

**T**he Global Ocean Forum provides a unique networking platform for ocean policy professionals. Through briefings, conferences, workshops and innovative online materials, the Global Ocean Forum has forged relationships and stimulated collective agenda setting. Of particular importance has been the representation of small island developing States through the drive and dynamic leadership of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain.

I have had the pleasure and privilege to be involved since the Global Ocean Forum's inception and been a member of the Policy Advisory Board since 2007. I would like to see the Global Ocean Forum continue to be about people: providing persuasive arguments for decision-makers to act upon, and empowering people with facts and figures, making explicit the progress (or lack of it) being made against the targets we have set ourselves to manage our global ocean resource. Coasts and oceans sustain our planet and their future deserves our concerted energy, expertise and attention.

*university*



### **Ambassador Ronald Jumeau**

Ambassador for Climate Change and  
Small Island Developing State Issues  
Seychelles

I have met few people as truly dedicated to the health and sustainability of the global marine and coastal environment as those at the Global Ocean Forum. They have proven themselves to be true champions of oceans, coasts and islands and of the peoples and communities who call these home.

In fact I would venture so far as to say the Global Ocean Forum can take some credit for the current unprecedented focus on, and concern for, the sustainability of our oceans in the lead up to the Rio+20 summit.

This is why, as a representative of Seychelles, one of the world's smallest island states and largest ocean territories, I have never hesitated to participate in Global Ocean Forum activities, especially its now-signature Oceans Day series, when invited to do so.

I thus want to put on record, on this 10th anniversary of the Global Ocean Forum, my and the Republic of Seychelles' deep appreciation to Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and her dynamic and committed team for all the tireless work they do in the name of the ocean and coastal communities around the world.

As the world pays more attention to the state, protection and sustainable use of our oceans in the face of increasing adverse effects of climate change, now is the time for the Global Ocean Forum to lead, from the front and by example...

10th Anniversary



**Mr. Christophe Lefebvre**

Responsible for International Affairs  
of the French Marine Protected Areas Agency  
IUCN Global Ocean Councillor  
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

I would first point out the energy and the remarkable work done by the President of the Global Ocean Forum and all her team. Awareness of the international institutions to the challenges of sustainable development of the oceans has been facilitated by the action and reflection undertaken by the Forum since the Johannesburg Summit. Particularly concerned with the issue of marine protected areas, I think that the Global Ocean Forum, through the organization of international conferences dealing with all of the environmental themes of oceans, allows cross development with environmental issues, and put the issue of marine protected areas in the context of socio-economic issues.

The Forum is a great Think Tank to propose political strategies to enable States to better meet their international commitments. Regarding marine protected areas, the Forum provides, in particular, strategic elements to achieve the objectives of Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and assess progress in this area.

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**Dr. Raphael P.M. Lotilla**

Regional Programme Director  
GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Regional Programme;  
Executive Director, PEMSEA

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In the last ten years, PEMSEA has collaborated with the Global Ocean Forum in advocating the primary importance of the Ocean in world-wide discussions. PEMSEA, as a regional entity, has sought to raise the East Asian Sea region's perspectives at the Global Ocean Forum, at the same time that it has sought to advance the implementation of global commitments in the region. In this context, the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia was adopted in 2003 as the region's follow-up to the Rio+10 Johannesburg action plan following the general consensus reached at the Manado Global Ocean Policy Day in May 2009, the East Asian Seas focus of implementation efforts was subsequently articulated in Manila in November 2009. This year, the East Asian Seas Congress 2012 will once again give a thrust to regional implementation at the global discussions at Rio+20, particularly at The Oceans Day. We welcome every opportunity in the years ahead to strengthen this global-regional complementarity in the work of PEMSEA and the Global Ocean Forum for our common heritage – the Ocean.

10th Anniversary



### **Dr. Robin Mahon**

Professor of Marine Affairs and Director  
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental  
Studies (CERMES)  
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
St. Michael, Barbados

**I**n my view the Global Ocean Forum has provided a much needed interface between scientists and policy makers for ocean issues at the global level. It has done a great deal to advance awareness of the impacts that humans are having on coastal and marine ecosystems globally, and of the need to act with speed and urgency in addressing these impacts. By bringing together leading scientists from around the world, it has also done a great deal to bring the ocean community together around the full range of issues that we face. Coming from a small island myself, I have been greatly heartened to find that the Global Ocean Forum's emphasis on small islands has given them a much greater voice.

On a very personal level, I have found the networking and contacts made at the meetings of the Global Ocean Forum to be useful and even in one instance, pivotal in my work. It was at an early Global Ocean Forum meeting in Paris that I met Lighthouse Foundation CEO Jens Amsdorf and got talking about sustainable development in small islands. I was able to get him interested in the Grenadine Islands, and in supporting a project there to strengthen civil society involvement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems. Eight years later, a successful project ended and transitioned into an indigenous NGO, Sustainable Grenadines Inc, which is continuing to do solid work there; one small success story in the larger scheme of what the Global Ocean Forum stands for and promotes.

*University*



### **Mr. Árni M. Mathiesen**

Assistant Director-General  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy

**T**he Global Ocean Forum was created ten years ago to help the world's governments place issues related to oceans, coasts and small island developing States on the agenda of world leaders at the WSSD in Johannesburg. Now, as the global community gets ready to engage in the Rio+20 summit, oceans features prominently as one of the seven areas which need priority attention. Thanks in part to the constant activities and pursuits of the Global Ocean Forum – mobilizing support and involvement from a wide range of participants, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - oceans-related issues are now firmly established on the global agenda.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO has been proud to work with the Global Ocean Forum and its president Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain. From our involvement in co-organizing Oceans Day events at high-level meetings, to contributing to the GOF Policy Advisory Board, to participating in thematic working groups, we have developed a strong relationship with the Global Ocean Forum. Today the Department is partnering with the Global Ocean Forum as part of the five-year GEF/FAO program, Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) where the Global Ocean Forum will use its expertise towards strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ.

I also had the opportunity in a different capacity to follow Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain's work when preparing the establishment of the Forum. That was very enjoyable, as it has been to follow its growth ever since. It is therefore obvious to all that the Global Ocean Forum has a role to play in the future development of oceans governance.

10th Anniversary



## **Professor Jacqueline McGlade**

Executive Director  
European Environment Agency  
Copenhagen, Denmark

The European Environment Agency, which I have the immense pleasure to direct, was honoured to support the Global Ocean Forum in what will undoubtedly remain as one of its major accomplishments: the holding, at EEA premises in Copenhagen, of the first-ever Oceans Day at a UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-15) on 14 December 2009. This event, in both its intent and impressive attendance – participants packed in every corner and stumbling over TV cameras – rocketed upward on the policy agenda the pivotal role of oceans in global climate regulation, as well as the edifying impacts from climate change on our oceans, coastal and marine areas. Such challenging topics, to that time, had not been comprehensively analysed in the IPCC Reports. In turn, this meant that the direct links between climate change, ocean health, economic welfare, and human well-being were not coming across strongly enough in related discussions, including on impact characterisation, vulnerability, and adaptation measures. It is, therefore, legitimately encouraging to note that the current drafts of the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report (Working Groups 1 and 2) include full chapters on coastal and ocean systems, aiming at increasing the understanding on the role of oceans in climate regulation and better characterising climate change impacts on those systems. The Agency, through this exciting cooperation with GOF, effectively fulfilled its duty as a science-policy interface.

More than two years later, Rio+20 will stress the critical roles of our oceans in several sustainability and development issues: benefiting from the good and services provided by healthy oceans is a public global good. In my view, the role for the Global Ocean Forum should be to keep on advancing the global oceans agenda; a continued provision of evidence of the integrated nature of coastal, ocean and human systems stands very high indeed on the needs for a relevant knowledge base for informed action. The Global Ocean Forum should act to improve integration between knowledge, policy/law/governance, protection/conservation, financing and management of human activities (including reduction of current impacts and prevention of further ones) on coastal areas and oceans. We, at the EEA, are ready and engaged in providing further support, services, and tools to this challenging end.



**Dr. Bernice McLean**  
Independent Consultant  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Congratulations for a decade of ocean advocacy well spent. Having participated in the first years of mobilizing and formalising the Global Ocean Forum, it is gratifying to see how successful the team has been in unifying concern and interest at the highest levels for ocean governance priorities. It is no small challenge to maintain the global community of concern. I look forward to supporting your continued success in building momentum towards tangible solutions to the threats facing our ocean ecosystems and the people around the world that depend on them. May the decade ahead be one of innovation, quality leadership and hands-on action towards real and positive change.

10th Anniversary





### **Mr. Ashley Naidoo**

Directorate, Oceans Conservation Strategies  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
South Africa

I am glad that the Global Ocean Forum shares a significant part of its history with South Africa, with its formalization in Johannesburg around the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. While it continues to achieve on its primary objective of raising the profile of Oceans, Islands and Coasts, the Forum plays other equally important parallel roles. This includes creating impactful platforms around global discussions for small island developing States to raise global marine issues that are of particular concern and interest to them. It also has demonstrated that these States have knowledge and capacities to contribute to and enhance global discussions. By ensuring a relatively constant presence at these discussions and through the hosting of the Forum meetings, the Global Ocean Forum has provided venues for participants to establish meaningful networks of policy and science experts around their areas of work.

It was with great pleasure that the Government of South Africa co-organized the Oceans Day at Durban with the Global Ocean Forum in 2011. At this important venue, representatives from government, international organizations, NGOs, and scientists came together to discuss the significant challenges of climate change on coastal states, and the impacts it is already having in communities in Africa. These dialogues are key to ensuring that climate change policies are informed by sound science and shared experience.

I look forward to growing through and celebrating the next ten years with the Global Ocean Forum!

university



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**Dr. Letitia A. Obeng**

Chair

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Stockholm, Sweden

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Congratulations to the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) for 10 years of valuable advocacy and support for the stewardship of the world's oceans. Global Ocean Forum conferences and other activities have increased awareness and understanding of the issues and supported ways forward. Global Ocean Forum efforts to help improve governance of, and attention to, maintaining and protecting the biodiversity of our oceans and coastal zones are bearing fruit as is the support to small island developing States (SIDS) as they tackle climate change impacts.

There is a great opportunity ahead for the Global Ocean Forum and Global Water Partnership's Country and Regional Partnerships to collaborate even more closely, recognizing that the coastal/ocean environment is strongly dependent on the flows and pollutants from river basins in the hinterland. Part of this opportunity is to cooperate on linking the Integrated Water Resources Management approach in the freshwater system, with integrated coastal zone/ocean management processes.

Best wishes to Global Ocean Forum for an even more successful next decade.

10th Anniversary



### **Professor Michael Phillips**

Head of School, Built and Natural Environment  
Faculty of Applied Design and Engineering,  
Swansea Metropolitan University,  
Mount Pleasant, Swansea, Wales, UK

**T**he Global Ocean Forum has brought ocean issues to prominence in many arenas. It includes decision-makers (national, international and supra-national), NGOs, industry, academia and importantly, those implementing projects on the ground. It has facilitated an effective exchange of dialogue and expertise, and uses modern technology and the internet to widely disseminate findings. However, despite making significant progress on ocean related concerns, there are still many issues needing its attention.

As a member of the Forum's Climate, Oceans and Security Working Group, legal and decision-maker input to discussions enables those of us with scientific backgrounds to understand legal and political barriers to potential solutions. Such engagement provides insights and education for all concerned. As part of my involvement, I arranged a session on Coastal Tourism and Climate Change at the 2010 Global Oceans Conference, where speakers discussed climate impacts on coastal resources and resilience. I feel valued and privileged to contribute to the Global Ocean Forum and look forward to continuing my involvement in the future.

*University*



**H.E. Ms. Isabelle Picco**  
Permanent Representative  
of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations  
Principality of Monaco

For a decade, the Global Ocean Forum has provided governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions, and the private sector with a unique platform to share knowledge and best practices to fulfill our common commitments towards a Blue Economy.

In this ever increasing challenge, the vision and passion of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain have been instrumental. Her leadership and extraordinary dedication to ensure healthier and better managed oceans and coasts are a constant inspiration to keep oceans and seas central to the sustainable development agenda.

To work or cooperate with the Forum always makes you feel that you are part of a global movement, an increasing consciousness that oceans whose fascinating richness we keep discovering and exploiting, are fragile and need better protection and better management.

2012 marks the Global Ocean Forum's Tenth Anniversary, at the time that the international community holds the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio and commemorates the Thirtieth Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

This year is definitely a landmark for all those who have and will keep working for oceans and seas. Thus, on this special occasion, the Principality of Monaco wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to the Global Ocean Forum and sends its best wishes for its future endeavor.

10th Anniversary



### **Marcus Polette**

Professor in Coastal Zone Management  
University of Vale do Itajaí – UNIVALI,  
Itajaí, Brazil

In the biodiverse and fantastic Blue Planet many human driving forces have left deep marks on coastal landscapes, some inconsequential, others irreversible. The coastal zone became the paradoxical territory. It has become the territory of cities, densely, spontaneously populated, and socially inequitable, but hopes for a better world remain. The challenges are complex and must go through a process of territorial organization both in coastal and marine areas, as well as mediation of interests between different economic sectors and institutions at different geographical levels. The adoption of principles and guidelines, agreed upon by consensus, with capable governance and solid public policies, are crucial nowadays. Few international initiatives have been so innovative, effective, and efforts creating as the Global Ocean Forum. It is a process built on a solid structured basis, by dedication, and permanent commitment with the present and the future.

university



### **Professor Ann Powers**

Center for Environmental Legal Studies

Pace Law School

White Plains, New York, USA

In 2002, as nations prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Samoan Ambassador Neroni Slade declared that “it just cannot be that oceans, coasts, and island States are not on the WSSD agenda.” To remedy that oversight, Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain brought together an unusual collaboration of government officials, scientists and NGO leaders who saw to it that oceans figured prominently in the Summit. That collaboration, embodied in the Global Ocean Forum, has now stretched over a decade and been a major proactive force in ocean-related policy and diplomatic debates. It has provided stimulus for new developments and support for the stewardship and protection of the oceans, coasts and islands, with discernible impacts in numerous international documents and programs, including the negotiations which have brought us to Rio+20. But regardless of the outcome of UNCSD, formidable difficulties lie ahead for our ocean and coastal environments. Rising waters threaten entire island nations, depleted fish stocks undermine food security and deprive fishing communities of their livelihood, and our oceans are warming, acidifying and becoming more polluted. As we face these challenges the role of the Global Ocean Forum will become even more critical.

10th Anniversary



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**Mr. Tony Ribbink**

Director, Sustainable Seas Trust  
Grahamstown, South Africa

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The Global Ocean Forum has had 10 stunningly successful years. The Global Ocean Forum's achievements can be measured by its wonderful conferences, by its growth as more countries and organizations join every year, by the impacts it has had on global policy, on governments, and on large and small organizations; but to me the greatest positive feature is the skill and compassion of the leadership in bridging the gap between impoverished coastal communities on the one hand and global leadership, including presidents, on the other. Dr Biliana Cicin-Sain in particular, and Global Ocean Forum Team as a whole, have the ability to pay as much sincere attention to a barefoot child in a fishing village as to a global leader. When everyone is important to Global Ocean Forum, success and harmony are inevitable.

The Sustainable Seas Trust urges the Global Ocean Forum to continue to build its all-embracing collaboration and understanding.

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**Dr. Jake Rice**

Senior Science Advisor  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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I encountered the Global Ocean Forum through my work to help bridge the perspectives of conservation of biodiversity and management of fisheries and other human uses of the oceans. To play a bridging role, one must reach all sides of an issue, a task which requires settings where the relevant agencies and interests meet on common ground. The Global Ocean Forum has provided such settings. True there are other settings, typically where ocean policy is negotiated. The GOF is unique however, in being a setting where interest groups can set aside their entrenched policy positions and engage in expert and inclusive dialogue. Ideas are explored; viewpoints shared; knowledge gained; and common ground built. The Global Ocean Forum has served us all well for a decade, bringing diverse viewpoints together, treating all with respect, and finding common ground on which to build forward-looking ocean policy.

10th Anniversary





### **Evelia Rivera-Arriaga**

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development  
Government of the State of Campeche, Mexico

Oceans, coasts, and islands have now a voice, an advocate, and a decisive presence in every major international environmental agenda. This has been the major accomplishment of the Global Ocean Forum for the past ten years.

Twenty years ago, at UNCED, Agenda 21 granted an entire chapter to address key issues regarding oceans, coasts, and islands. Nevertheless, ten years later in Johannesburg, attention was lost, and the ocean community convened a worldwide movement to raise international, as well as national, attention for oceans, coasts, and islands. This is how the Global Forum for Oceans, Coasts, and Islands was born.

Ever since, the Global Ocean Forum has represented the interests of fisheries, coral reefs, marine mammals, and marine protected areas, among many other topics. It has also stressed pollution problems, sea level rise dangers, development of marine policies, implementation of integrated coastal management programs, and promoted environmental education, as well as emergent methodologies for measuring blue carbon, and so on and so forth.

In Mexico, the influence of the Global Ocean Forum resulted in local, regional, and national improvements in legal frameworks for marine resources, ocean spaces, integrated coastal management programs, and national ocean and coastal policies, as well as the creation of the Intersecretarial Committee for the Mexican Seas (SIMARES). At this point, having demonstrated all the achievements at international and national levels on ocean and coastal policies, the Global Ocean Forum should promote two things: 1) A permanent position at the UN General Assembly for the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment with voice; and 2) An Ocean Convention, led by the Coastal States in order to address all the key issues that the Global Ocean Forum has been working on.

In 2010, I was honored to co-organize with the Global Ocean Forum the Oceans Day at Cancun at the 16th COP of the UNFCCC. Climate change and ocean acidification will have innumerable effects on coastal communities, ecosystems, and processes that will require effective mitigation, adaptation, technology, and financing. The Oceans Day at Cancun served to shed light on these policy challenges, and brought attention to the urgency of climate change impacts facing Mexico and all coastal countries around the world. The Oceans Day at Cancun was successful in elevating these concerns, and is having an impact at the UNFCCC, where oceans and coastal issues are becoming more prominent.



## **Mr. Jacques Rougerie**

President and Founder

SeaOrbiter

Paris, France

**I**t is with real honor and excitement that I answer to the invitation that was made to me by Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, president of the Global Ocean Forum, to mark the 10th anniversary of this organization.

What a progress since Johannesburg in 2002! And what a move forward for the benefit of the oceans, the coasts and the small island developing States that were, before, largely left aside by the world summits, notably those dedicated to sustainable development.

And it is thanks to its international dimension that the Global Ocean Forum has been able to address oceanic issues and their necessary integration among the main international political stakes, and contribute so efficiently to the definition of today's socio-economic balance of our planet.

Countless are the operating platforms by which the Global Ocean Forum has transcended its original mission.

This remarkable institution has become a unique organization in terms of skills to serve the ocean and its island nations.

If you look into the future, the mission of the Global Ocean Forum and the whole community of experts and supports associated with it, and which we have the honor to be part of, should be to increase its efforts in order to relay more widely and strongly the awareness that it has generated so it will help civilization to face the major challenges of its inevitable evolution even more.

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, the Global Ocean Forum has built tremendous momentum under your pulse and with your uncommon energy, leading to a unique reflective platform within the concert of international agencies committed to sustainable development as applied to the ocean.

More than ever, we need its strength to unify all the voices that have been claiming for so many years that the ocean stands right at the heart of our planetary system: that it is the guarantor of the survival of human societies, and that it will certainly decide the destiny of civilizations to come.

Again, it is a great honor to be associated, in this symbolic day, to your very fundamental and symbolic mission for the future of humanity.



## **Professor Michael Scoullas**

Chairman

Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP - MED),  
Athens, Greece

Oceans are not just an important component of the global hydrological cycle. Oceans are the most vital reservoir on Earth, providing essential support functions to marine and human life, while being the top source of oxygen, a major carbon dioxide sink, and the major natural resource to support the 21st century economy. Apart from all those who earn their lives from sea, scientists, economists, politicians and the wide public are concerned about the oceans, and are ocean-users. Their views, aspirations and suggestions need to be taken into account.

Until now, many important initiatives have been undertaken by individuals and organizations aiming to reflect the various stakeholders' views. The Global Ocean Forum is not just one of them. It is an effort, which has been proven to be efficient and effective in bringing together many complementary talents of stakeholders, individuals and organizations, in advocating for meaningful inclusion of oceans issues in important global and regional negotiations on sustainable development, and adopting an ecosystem-based and integrated approach for their governance.

The Global Ocean Forum's efforts to address pressing issues affecting oceans, coasts and islands have been characterized by major accomplishments, such as the organization of influential conferences that have a great impact on decision makers (e.g. Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10: Toward the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, December 3-7, 2001, UNESCO, Paris), the development of comprehensive reports and policy briefs / recommendations (e.g. 2010 Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas), the dissemination of good practices, particularly on the cross-cutting issues such as integrated coastal and ocean management, and of course all preparations for Rio+20.

I do hope that its second decade will be equally productive and I am looking forward to an even closer cooperation with the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC) on issues of common interest.



### **Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng**

Senior Specialist Advisor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Singapore

It is my great honour to congratulate the Global Ocean Forum on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. The Global Ocean Forum's inception ten years ago to allow high-level officials from governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and the scientific community to come together, provided a unique platform for an integrated perspective to advance the global oceans agenda and address issues related to oceans, coasts and small island developing States. This integrated platform allowed a more rounded discussion on new and emerging challenges that are only now entering the mainstream. The notion of a Blue Economy; the role of oceans in the climate change debate; and the concept of ecosystem-based coastal and ocean governance, were all high on the agenda of the Global Ocean Forum in 2001, well before they attained their current popularity in the global sustainability circuit. Singapore is happy to have been involved in helping the Global Ocean Forum in its continuing effort to drive the discourse on oceans governance. We were honoured to host the 3rd Global Oceans Workshop on Governing the Oceans in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction from 12-14 November 2008, which was co-organised with the Global Ocean Forum. We hope that the Global Ocean Forum will continue its good work post Rio+20 and stand ready to support its future endeavours.

10th Anniversary



**Dr. Mannava V.K. Sivakumar**

Director

Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch  
World Meteorological Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland

Oceans cover 72% of the Earth's surface area, forming the largest habitat on Earth, while coastal areas contain some of the world's most diverse and productive ecosystems, including mangroves, coral reefs, and sea-grass beds. Oceans are part of the complex climate system and as climate science and the Earth's climate have continued to evolve over recent decades, there is now greater awareness of the role of oceans in modulating climate. Marine meteorological services have traditionally delivered warnings of gales, storms, sea waves and tropical cyclones mainly in support of shipping activities. However, with recognition of the impacts of global change on the coastal ecology, meteorological services are increasingly called to provide support to real-time oceanography and marine biology. The Global Ocean Forum, since its inception in 2001 played a critical role in mobilizing ocean communities and preparing important policy briefs. I congratulate the Global Ocean Forum on its Tenth Anniversary and wish the Forum continued success in the coming years.

*Anniversary*



## **Tuiloma Neroni Slade**

Secretary General  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
Suva, Fiji

Over the past 10 years I have taken close personal and professional interest in the development and work of the Global Ocean Forum following its formation in mid-2002. It is therefore with the greatest of pleasure that I offer Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and her team warmest admiration and congratulations on their uncompromising efforts to mobilise global action on the sustainable development of our planet's precious oceans, seas, islands and coastal ecosystems and the billions of people they collectively support.

Through my own experience supporting the United Nations system with the early development and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), I know firsthand the great challenges associated with overcoming conflicting national interests and raising international understanding of our ocean systems to drive the development of sound policies, practices and effective development.

In the lead up to Rio, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has been privileged to partner with the Global Ocean Forum, and other public and private sector organisations, to co-organise The Oceans Day that is to be held in Rio de Janeiro. I very much look forward to our pending efforts at Rio, which ultimately must be quickly transformed into meaningful action for member countries in the post-Rio context. I have no doubt that as we move beyond Rio, the Global Ocean Forum will continue to play its widely acknowledged critical role in the Pacific region and beyond, as it is clear to me that the time is ripe for concerted and concrete action to support the sustainable care and management of the world's oceans and to maximise economic, social and environmental returns for all communities.



## **Dr. Ibrahim Thiaw**

Director

Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Nairobi, Kenya

The Global Ocean Forum fills the gap of providing a platform for various stakeholders with an ocean and coastal agenda to access like-minded organizations (including civil society, the private sector, and research) along with governments. The Forum is in the unique position to provide a framework for discussion, including on some of the difficult questions on why oceans and coasts continue to degrade. In doing so, the Forum has been able to not only take up emerging issues, but also not let go of persistent problems such as pollution that are still to be resolved. We hope that the Forum continues to not let us forget these problems. In the future, hopefully the Forum will remind us of the past so we will not make the same mistakes, and remind us of what worked and did not work in managing our coasts and oceans.

Furthermore, the Global Ocean Forum provides an opportunity to discuss cutting edge issues bridging science and policy. It is our hope that the Forum will be able to maintain and enhance solid and constructive interactions with ocean and coast related intergovernmental processes.

*University*



## **Ms. Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez**

Former Deputy Director

GEF IW:LEARN

Boston, USA

**I**n the ten tumultuous years since the establishment of the Global Ocean Forum at WSSD, while the world has come to be characterized by uncertainty and volatility in the intersecting spheres of social, economic and political endeavor due to humanity's influence as an increasingly dominant species exerting a growing yet unrecognized impact on the earth's environment and global climate, the Global Ocean Forum has not only brought coherence but also begun to close the "ocean gap" in the development discourse, where a lack of understanding had previously overlooked the central and vital role of oceans to human survival and well-being. The Global Ocean Forum has convened ocean leaders from the previously isolated spheres of governance at various levels, research and academia, and industry and enterprise around ocean, coastal and island issues which cannot be tackled without cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, and often transboundary cooperation and collaboration, through new alliances and partnerships which have been directly or indirectly forged through interactions in Global Ocean Forum working groups, inspired through participation in dynamic global gatherings, and influenced and shaped by a series of rigorously researched policy briefs produced by the Global Ocean Forum on ocean and coastal governance and management. The Global Ocean Forum has provided thought leadership and an inclusive and supportive peer learning arena within which global leaders have begun to work in concert advancing the ocean agenda, not only on restoration and protection of coastal and marine resource systems through ecosystem-based management, but also integrating nested levels of governance that extend to the logical management unit at the scale of the large marine ecosystem requiring unprecedented cooperation among coastal communities and across borders, including significant contributions which have accelerated progress and mobilized significant support for international cooperation in closing the governance gap in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Perhaps the most significant achievement of the Global Ocean Forum has been the framing of the discourse on Oceans, Climate and Security. The introduction of an Oceans Day dialogue process in synergy with the Rio conventions has helped to define a 21st century agenda both in close collaboration with the CBD, and also within the UNFCCC process. The Global Ocean Forum is responsible for the dawning of awareness in raising the profile of the



ocean as central to adaptation and mitigation policies and measures, including promoting opportunities to combine the two through full valuation of "blue carbon." The Global Ocean Forum has frankly confronted the "climate divide" at which the small island developing States represent the front lines, and the bridging of which is central to the mobilization and equity of climate financing.

The Global Ocean Forum gives agency to, and a platform for, the rich diversity of stakeholders who represent some four billion people - the coastal and island peoples of the world - to come together with many voices, in unity of purpose, in clearly articulating the need and the steps and measures necessary for full integration of the coastal and ocean priorities which are fundamental to human security, which in the 21st century means food security for billions of people who depend on living marine resources for nutrition, the security of human and ecosystems health. The Global Ocean Forum provides a locus at the leading edge of scientific enquiry, making it accessible and understandable to governments, policymakers and practitioners struggling with the exigencies of an increasingly crowded, polluted and warming planet, the economic security of livelihoods for coastal people and the multiple ocean sectors which represent the wealth of nations now threatened by sea level rise, ocean acidification, and ocean warming, which is directly linked to an increasing frequency and intensity of storms, disasters, loss and damages of unprecedented number and magnitude. The Global Ocean Forum is also a dynamic forum for turning these challenges into opportunities, for driving the transition from reaction to crisis to early warning, preparedness and proactive resilience-building, for transformation of a fundamentally inequitable fossil-fuel based economy which exacerbates extremes of wealth and poverty and differentially threatens the security, sovereignty and survival of low-lying coastal countries to a low-carbon green economy guided by principles of sustainability and equity. The Global Ocean Forum is to be commended for helping to shape a new discourse for the 21st century towards an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable new era, with a hopeful vision of a peaceful and prosperous "blue society."



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**Mr. Ivica Trumbic**

Regional Advisor  
UNEP-MAP GEF Strategic Partnership  
for the Mediterranean LME  
Athens, Greece

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I was the member of the Forum from its very beginning, which gave me the opportunity to follow the process of ocean issues getting higher on the political agenda. We all knew from before that oceans are indispensable to maintain life on Earth, but the Global Ocean Forum brought forward the idea that oceans need to be managed in a sustainable manner and with all countries bordering the sea cooperating in that endeavor. Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain was the main engine propelling that effort and we should all be thankful to her. And I am particularly thankful, because she gave me the opportunity for an early testing of the idea for a Mediterranean Barcelona Convention's Protocol on ICZM, which finally resulted in its entry into force last year. The Global Ocean Forum should not lose the momentum. We are facing one challenge as never before: climate change. The Global Ocean Forum is an indispensable weapon to win that battle too.

10th Anniversary



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**Mr. Peter Neill**

Director  
World Ocean Observatory  
Chair, Ocean Classroom Foundation  
New York, USA

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For a decade, the Global Ocean Forum has served as an important, independent advocate for the definition and implementation of global ocean policy. Through research and position papers, conferences, events, and outreach, the Global Ocean Forum has persistently and effectively advanced discussion and collaboration between decision-makers at all levels of the United Nations, governmental, non-governmental, and educational organizations, and civil society of priorities for ocean research and governance. As importantly, the Global Ocean Forum has focused on solutions that advance responsible policy and action for small island nations, international collaboration, education, and outreach. The World Ocean Observatory has been pleased to have cooperated in the latter initiative, extending public awareness through Global Ocean Forum web-based programs and events, participating on its committee for education and outreach, and partnering with the World Ocean Network to build public awareness through information services, social media, and outreach initiatives to a global community of the ocean. Congratulations and thanks to Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and her dedicated colleagues for their knowledge, persistence, and success.



### **Mr. Paul Nemitz**

Director

Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship, European  
Commission Directorate-General for Justice  
Brussels, Belgium

**M**ankind needs oceans and seas which produce energy, food, wellbeing and serve global logistics. If we want productive oceans and seas, we must protect them.

Protection of the oceans needs engagement. Those leaders who engage in protecting the oceans and seas come together in the Global Ocean Forum.

This is the center of engagement for the common heritage of mankind, across borders and continents, across positions and short term interests.

This is where ideas are born which have a future, because they are born out of deliberations between people who engage for the common good, with their minds and their hearts.

The integrated ocean and maritime policies which have emerged in the European Union and the United States over the last decade are key to sustainable growth in coastal regions and maritime sectors of the economy.

They would not exist in their present form without the inspiration from the Global Ocean Forum.

10th Anniversary



## **Dr. Kenneth Sherman**

Director

Large Marine Ecosystem Program  
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Narragansett, Rhode Island, USA

Congratulations on reaching a 10 year milestone in your steady forward movement on behalf of sustaining the health of the World's oceans. Your leadership at the University of Delaware has, in the best traditions of academia, created and maintained a superb Global Ocean Forum team for promoting and supporting much needed academic-to-government-to citizen dialogue for advancing policies and actions to recover and sustain goods and services of coasts, islands, and open marine waters around the globe.

The Global Ocean Forum has been effective in raising the profile for sustainable development of ocean resources at risk from climate change, overfishing, nutrient over-enrichment, habitat degradation, acidification and biodiversity loss. The Global Ocean Forum amplified the need for ocean remediation actions at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 and continues today on the eve of Rio+20 to marshal common interests of the international community of scientists, resource managers, government leaders, and the public-at-large toward better financial support and more focused effort to restore and sustainably develop the oceans full potential for present and future generations.

*University*



**Mr. Laurent Stefanini**  
Former Ambassador for the  
Environment France (2006-2010)  
Paris, France

Oceans have been regarded for too long as unappropriated areas where “freedom of the seas” is unregulated. In the face of increasing pollution, in particular land-based pollution, and of the overharvesting of living resources, the Global Ocean Forum provides a flexible and suitable response that allows all ocean stakeholders – public, private, community, scientific and business stakeholders alike, as well as local authorities – to consult each other and put forward solutions.

The 5th Global Oceans Conference organized at UNESCO by the French government and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, along with the Global Ocean Forum was a highlight of my career as a diplomat and perfectly in keeping with the partnerships launched at Rio+10 in Johannesburg.

Let our Forum’s achievements be hailed at Rio+20 in Rio!

10th Anniversary



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**Mr. Serguei Tarassenko**

Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs  
and the Law of the Sea  
New York, USA

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It is with great pleasure that the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, congratulates the Global Ocean Forum on its 10th anniversary. It is heartening to see that, ten years after the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the global alliance that was created to ensure a place for oceans on the WSSD agenda continues working so keenly towards the realization of the commitments undertaken at that time.

At this moment of many celebrations, including that of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, DOALOS commends the Global Ocean Forum for its dedication and efforts towards advancing the global oceans agenda. We note in particular the Forum's unwavering support to the work of the United Nations and its active participation in meetings relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

Over the years we have observed the successful capacity of the Forum in mobilizing stakeholders on oceans issues. We trust that the Global Ocean Forum will continue to carry out its mission for many years ahead, fostering better governance of the oceans to meet the new and emerging challenges.

*anniversary*



**Mr. Hiroshi Terashima**  
Executive Director, Ocean Policy  
Research Foundation (OPRF)  
Tokyo, Japan

With a chapter of its own in Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, international society for the first time acquired a common policy framework for the oceans. However, in the talks leading up to the 2002 WSSD in Johannesburg, the oceans were not being recognized as a fundamental pillar for sustainable development, thus leaving unclear how the Programme of Action established by Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 should be implemented over the next 10 years. Alarmed by this, ocean advocates from both the public and private sectors gathered in Paris in December 2001 for urgent discussions, resulting in their unanimous agreement to have ocean problems addressed as part of the agenda for the 2002 WSSD's Plan of Implementation, in which they succeeded. Thus, the Global Ocean Forum was born.

Fortunately, and thanks to the work of many ocean advocates, the ocean has again been designated a separate Priority Issue at the upcoming Rio+20 Summit. We must now ensure that the output of Rio+20 includes a 10-year Action Plan for integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans. Also, regions and States, who are ultimately responsible for implementing the Action Plan, must locate ocean issues within their larger policy frameworks and carry out effective implementation. In order to bring this about, the Global Ocean Forum must play a leading role in generating worldwide cooperation to actively apply the output of Rio+20.

10th A





### **Mr. Philippe Vallette**

General Manager of NAUSICAA  
Co-chair of the World Ocean Network (WON)  
Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

**A**t the origin of the Global Forum for Oceans, Coasts and Islands, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and Veerle Vanderweerd, Director of the GPA/UNEP, were visionary when they succeeded in putting the ocean at the center of the negotiations during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg knowing that the oceans had originally been forgotten!

At the WSSD, I was introduced to the Global Ocean Forum, which I quickly realized was open to civil society participation. Respectful and open-minded discussions allowed me to express my ideas about the importance of promoting action for all the citizens that could be reached through the World Ocean Network that was at the time in the process of being created.

The Global Ocean Forum is a unique and irreplaceable organization because its members, coming from very different horizons, establish together a permanent monitoring of the decisions taken by the States and are constantly urging them to implement these measures. This is a very important work, but in ten years so much has already been accomplished: stakeholders have been put in relation with each other, high level meetings and world conferences have been organized, events such as the Ocean Days have been organized during the international conferences on climate and biodiversity to ascertain that the ocean, coasts and small islands are taken into account, and national policies for oceans have been launched.

The Global Ocean Forum now prepares for the future by allowing the promotion of the idea that the ocean is the new solution to get out of the world's crisis, that it will help us to ensure a prosperous and equitable future for humanity while preserving the potential of our planet. This means reinventing a society that will be fair and more sustainable, and will allow us to share resources and well-being. We have named it the Blue Society.

We, the ocean community, think that the solutions for our future will come mainly from the ocean.



### **Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd**

Director, Energy and Environment  
United Nations Development Programme  
New York, USA

**I**t all started with a number of ocean experts being frustrated and maybe even a bit angry. In the lead up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, oceans did not receive the attention they deserved. Hence, a few of us heeded the call of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and formed an informal group to argue for greater attention to oceans issues in the WSSD. We bundled our forces, networks, and knowledge and from there the Global Ocean forum was born. Much has been achieved since then! Regular Global Ocean Conferences, publications, and events, have significantly contributed to shaping and forwarding the international ocean agenda. The Global Ocean Forum became the venue where key ocean experts from all walks of society - government employees, scientists, UN and IFI staffers, NGO's - got together to jointly discuss the global ocean issues with the aim of shaping the ocean agenda. Now as we prepare for Rio+20, ocean issues are well reflected in the submissions to the outcome document by the different parties. The first draft of the compilation text provided a comprehensive overview of major ocean issues. If all this text will make it to the final outcome document remains to be seen. However, the fact remains that oceans have made it to the top of the political agenda.

And this, in great part, is due to the unwavering call for attention by the Global Ocean Forum and its leader Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain. The Global Ocean Forum proves that you do not always need formalized institutions and organisations to have an impact. Sometimes, as the Global Ocean Forum shows, the determination and conviction of experts, bureaucrats, and managers alike, on a global common issue that impacts on the wellbeing of so many and is crucial for the health and survival of the planet, can lead to better results than tens of projects. Having said this, the Global Ocean Forum could not have achieved these results if the GEF and other partners had not provided the funding to make the conferences, studies, publications, etc. possible. It has been money well spent. Let's hope that this trend continues in the next decade.



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**Dr. Marjo Vierros**

Adjunct Senior Fellow, United Nations  
University Institute of Advanced Studies  
International Organizations Center  
Yokohama, Japan

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**D**uring the last ten years, the Global Ocean Forum has provided an opportunity for learning and dialogue between people from diverse backgrounds. Members of international organizations, ocean industry, and governments were provided with time and space to discuss issues of common concern. Those from the fisheries sector had an opportunity to engage with representatives of conservation organizations. All of us were inspired by the leadership shown by government officials from small island developing States, who saw climate change not only as a threat but an opportunity for action. The Global Ocean Forum provided all of us an opportunity to engage and hear different viewpoints, and to cross-fertilize thoughts and ideas with colleagues from around the world. The resulting informal exchanges were often of immense value, and will hopefully continue far into the future.

*University*



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**Dr. David Vousden**

Project Director, Agulhas and  
Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems  
(ASCLME) Project,  
Grahamstown, South Africa

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The Global Ocean Forum has been quite invaluable for the ASCLME Project in several areas. The opportunities for both formal and informal networking and information-sharing have been outstanding, and the presence of high-level officials at conferences has been invaluable. A major highlight has been its focus on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), a key topic in sustainable ocean governance infrequently and inadequately addressed by the international community. Another key focus has been on the progress towards and achievement of WSSD goals related to the marine environment. Finally, its focus on the cross-cutting issue of climate change and the importance of the oceans and adopting integrated, ecosystem-based approaches to problems is vital in building political will to act.

The future role of the Global Ocean Forum should be to continue its valued work in focusing the attention of the international community on marine issues and in creating innovative new approaches and disseminating best practices to meet the challenges of the coming years. The multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach it has adopted is undoubtedly a 'best-case' scenario to ensure equitable and sustainable results. It is clear that with the global nature of the challenges we face, only global solutions will be effective. The Global Ocean Forum has and should continue to deliver such solutions.

10th Annual



### **Tonny Wagey**

Researcher at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries  
Indonesia

**T**he Global Ocean Forum has been one of the major drivers in the implementation of ocean policies in many countries around the world. As an advocacy organization, GOF also supports the establishment of resource management plan from the coastal area to the EEZ, even beyond the area of national jurisdiction. What an achievement for GOF after 10 years, and I want to congratulate Prof. Biliana Cicin-Sain for her tireless effort to promote what she strongly believes, and that is the healthy ocean and coast.

I was very fortunate to know GOF through Biliana in 2006. After this brief encounter, we then developed a plan to host the first World Ocean Conference in Indonesia. The legacy of this conference was cemented in the Manado Ocean Declaration. This was such an important milestone for Indonesia to accelerate its marine policy towards achieving people's welfare, economic growth and ecosystem sustainability. At the same time, this has made Indonesia as one of the global leading nations in implementing marine and fisheries sustainable development.

*university*



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**Ms. LaVerne Walker**

Senior Project Officer,  
Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME),  
Cartagena, Colombia

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**T**he Global Ocean Forum has ensured that ocean issues have not gotten lost in the wider global dialogue. It provides an unique opportunity where national governments, IGOs, NGOs, civil society, scientists and the private sector can come together outside of a formal negotiating environment to discuss critical issues pertaining to the governance and management of oceans, coasts and islands and to track implementation of the WSSD and JPoI targets.

The Global Ocean Forum has also played a critical role in raising the awareness of the vulnerabilities facing small island developing States to the global community. The Global Ocean Forum has worked very closely with the Alliance of small island developing States to advocate that increased capacity is required for many SIDS to allow them to effectively reach the BPoA and MSI targets.

In the coming years, the Global Ocean Forum should continue to advance the important role that the oceans play in regulating global climate and the important role that oceans, coasts and islands play in sustaining millions of people and economies around the world.

10th Anniversary



### **Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright**

Executive Secretary  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)  
Paris, France

Very soon after joining the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in 2010 as Executive Secretary, it became clear to me the unique role that the Global Ocean Forum plays in bringing together the international community to advance discussions on ocean issues. Having had the honor to co-chair the 2010 Global Ocean Conference at UNESCO-IOC in Paris, I was amazed by the diversity of ocean actors that came together. I believe that this diversity, ranging from Heads of State to local NGO practitioners, is the real strength of the Forum, as is the fact that anyone who is committed to advancing the ocean agenda can participate, and more importantly have his or her voice heard. As we move toward the future, I would like to see the Global Ocean Forum strengthen its approach at the regional level, as I believe that not all issues can be solved in a global setting, and that the concept of regional “Global ocean fora” would make much sense.

*university*



## **Dr. Zhanhai Zhang**

Director General  
Department of International Cooperation  
State Oceanic Administration  
People's Republic of China

**I**t is my great honor to express my sincere congratulations to the outstanding accomplishments achieved by the Global Ocean Forum on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

As we have witnessed the growth of the Global Ocean Forum since its commencement at 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Global Ocean Forum has played an important role in promoting the sustainable development of oceans, both at the global and regional levels in the past decade by holding dialogues among governments, NGOs, international organizations, the private sector, and scientific groups, building consensus on international oceans issues, which has provided a mechanism to bring together the representatives from these sectors to find common solutions to problems. The Global Ocean Forum has grown into a well-known organization in the field of ocean governance and sustainable development due to its unrelenting efforts in advocating for the role of oceans in sustaining life on earth and climate change by organizing a series of Ocean Days during several conferences of the UNFCCC, raising awareness of the role that the ocean plays as a regulator of climate. Another prominent Global Ocean Forum effort worth mentioning is its contribution towards the achievement of a significant oceans outcome at Rio+20.

It is our sincere wish that the Global Ocean Forum continues its present momentum and efforts in promoting the important role of oceans in sustainable development and serves as an important coordinating mechanism worldwide, and takes the lead in the implementation of the follow-up of the important outcome of the Rio+20 Conference on oceans, thus making a further contribution to the realization of the MDGs.





## Sources of Global Ocean Forum Support (2005-2012)

*The support (financial and in-kind) of the following organizations is acknowledged with sincere appreciation.*

### Intergovernmental and International Organizations

#### Intergovernmental Organizations

- Asian Development Bank
- Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Global Environment Facility
- GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network
- International Maritime Organization
- Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; Division of Ecological Sciences; Division of Water Sciences; Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Environment Programme (Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch; Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities)
- United Nations University
- UN-Oceans
- World Bank
- World Bank Institute
- World Meteorological Organization

#### International Organizations

- Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) Project
- Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme
- Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) Project
- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project
- Coastal and Marine Programme, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD-COSMAR)
- Commission Peripherique des Regions Maritimes, Europe
- Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP)
- Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE)
- Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)
- Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) Project
- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone
- New Partnership for Africa's Development
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

#### Other Entities

- Partnership for Climate, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (comprising twenty intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations)

#### Governments

- European Commission (DG-MARE; DG-Environment)
- European Environment Agency
- Government of Belgium (Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation, and Foreign Trade)

- Government of Canada (Department of Fisheries and Oceans)
- Government of France (Directorate for Water and Biodiversity, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; and French Marine Protected Areas Agency)
- Government of Grenada
- Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries)
- Government of Italy (General Directorate for Nature Protection, Ministry for the Environment and Territory)
- Government of Japan (Ministry of Environment, and Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy)
- Government of Mexico (National Polytechnic Institute; Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources; Secretariat of Planning and Environmental Policy)
- Government of Mozambique
- Government of the Netherlands (Department of Nature)
- Government of People's Republic of China (State Oceanic Administration)
- Government of Portugal (Intersectoral Oceanographic Commission, Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education; Strategic Commission on the Oceans; Secretary of State for Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Port Authority of Lisbon)
- Government of Republic of Korea (Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, The Organizing Committee for Expo 2012, Yeosu, Korea; Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute)
- Government of Seychelles
- Government of Singapore (Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Parks Board)
- Government of South Africa (Department of Environment Affairs)

- Government of Spain, Ministry of Science and Innovation
- Government of the United States of America (NOAA: National Ocean Service (Coastal Services Center, International Program Office), National Marine Fisheries Service; Department of State; USAID)
- Government of United Kingdom, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Government of Vietnam (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands)
- Principality of Monaco
- City of Yesou, Republic of Korea
- Secretaries of Environment and Natural Resources of the Mexican States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan, Mexico

#### **NGOs, Foundations, Research Institutions, and Museums/Aquaria**

##### *Nongovernmental Organizations*

- Fórum Do Mar, Brazil
- Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
- Green Cross France et Territoires
- International Coastal and Ocean Organization
- International Ocean Institute
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Oceana
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sea Orbiter
- Tara Expeditions
- The Nature Conservancy
- The IOC (UNESCO) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE)

- World Wildlife Fund
- Worldfish Center

#### ***Foundations***

- Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal
- Lighthouse Foundation, Germany
- Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD), Portugal
- Nippon Foundation, Japan
- Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), Japan
- Sea Level Rise Foundation, Seychelles

#### ***Research Institutions***

- Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University
- Centro de Ecología, Pesquerías y Oceanografía del Golfo de México (EPOMEX), Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, México
- Dalhousie University, Marine and Environmental Law Institute
- Global Change Institute, University of Queensland
- InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP)
- Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), France
- Instituto Español de Oceanografía
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory / Partnership for the Observation of the Global Oceans
- Pusan National University, Republic of Korea
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego
- Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University
- University of Delaware, Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy
- University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

- Zoological Society of London, UK

#### ***Aquaria and Museums***

- Centre de Découverte du Monde Marin, Nice, France
- NAUSICAA (Centre National de la Mer), France
- Oceanário de Lisboa
- World Ocean Observatory
- World Ocean Network



