



Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Advancing the Global Oceans Agenda Through 2016



Background

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands was first mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments highlight issues related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the agenda of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and was later formalized at the WSSD in Johannesburg. The Global Forum is a response to perceived needs:

- ◆ for fostering cross-sectoral dialogue on ocean issues among governments, NGOs, international organizations, and the private and scientific sectors
- ◆ for constant advocacy for oceans at the highest political levels
- ◆ for taking an ecosystem-based and integrated approach to oceans governance at national, regional, and global levels, including treating the water system from freshwater, to coasts, to oceans as the interlinked system that it is.

Since 2001, the Global Forum has involved ocean experts representing all sectors from 105 countries 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; 2) analyzing new emerging issues such as improving the governance regime for ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction and addressing the impacts of climate change; and 3) promoting international consensus-building on unresolved ocean issues.

The Global Forum has organized four Global Conferences (in 2001, 2003, and 2006 at UNESCO in Paris and in 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam); organized the Ocean Policy Summit in Lisbon in 2005 documenting experiences with integrated oceans governance in countries and regions around the world; prepared a number of "report cards" on the

implementation of the WSSD ocean targets and of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS; reports on ocean issues in island states; reports on capacity development needs on ocean and coastal management in different world regions; and provided a series of Internet information services, including periodic newsletters.

Strategic Oceans Planning to 2016

In late 2006, the Global Forum began a strategic planning effort in collaboration with governments, United Nations agencies, NGOs, industry, and scientific groups, to advance the global oceans agenda over the ten-year period to 2016.

Twelve Multinational Expert Working Groups, involving 254 experts from 72 countries, have been organized on three major themes based on the WSSD targets on oceans, coasts, and SIDS, also considering a number of overarching, cross-cutting issues, as shown in the chart on page 2.

The Working Groups have prepared a set of Policy Briefs addressing:

- The major problems/obstacles that affect the issue area and ways of overcoming these
- How the global ocean goal/target under consideration can be assessed and progress (or lack thereof) measured; the extent to which intermediate and readily measurable targets and timetables might be set as implementation benchmarks; and the relationship of the ocean goal/target to other global ocean goals/targets
- Strategic opportunities for advancing the global goal/target in the next decade, by whom, and in what fora
- Recommendations on 3-5 specific priority action steps for implementation by national and international decision-makers to advance the issue in the next phase.



LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION



world ocean network



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



Global Forum Working Groups Matrix

Theme 1: Achieving Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010

- Coordinating Group on Theme 1: Cross-Cutting Issues
- Large Marine Ecosystems
- Marine Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Freshwater, Oceans, and Coasts
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Maritime Transportation

Theme 2: Climate, Oceans, and Security

- Coordinating Group on Theme 2: Cross-Cutting Issues
 - Vulnerable Communities
 - Adaptation
 - Environmental Refugees
 - Public Health
 - Vulnerable Ecosystems
 - Natural Disasters
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Ocean Acidification
 - Ocean Warming
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Mauritius Strategy

Theme 3: Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

- Coordinating Group on Theme 3: Cross-Cutting Issues
- Overall Governance Issues
- Ecosystems and Uses
 - Marine Biodiversity
 - Fisheries
 - Bioprospecting
 - Deep Seabed Mining
 - Tourism
 - Maritime Transportation

Overarching, Cross-Cutting Issues

- Capacity Development
- Indicators for Progress
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Public Education/Outreach/Media

The following policy briefs are available on the Global Forum website:

- **Policy Brief on Climate, Oceans, and Security**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Climate-and-Oceans-PB-April2.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Achieving Ecosystem-Based Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 and Progress Indicators**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/EBM-ICM-PB-April4.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Large Marine Ecosystems**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/LME-PB-June18.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Biodiversity-and-MPAs-PB-May15.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Fisheries and Aquaculture**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Fisheries-and-Aquaculture-PB-April2.pdf>

- **Policy Brief on Small Island Developing States and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/SIDS-and-Mauritius-Strategy-PB-April2.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Freshwater and Oceans**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Freshwater-to-Oceans-PB-April3.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on the Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/High-Seas-PB-April9.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Maritime Transportation**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Maritime-Transportation-PB-June18.pdf>
- **Policy Brief on Capacity Development**
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Capacity-Building-PB-April2.pdf>





- Policy Brief on Compliance and Enforcement
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Compliance-and-Enforcement-PB-June18.pdf>
- Policy Brief on Developing a Strategy for Public Education and Outreach
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Public-Education-PB-April2.pdf>

4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in the Context of Climate Change, April 7-11, 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

The 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands brought together 439 ocean and coastal leaders from 62 countries, representing all sectors, including governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the business community, ocean donors, and scientific institutions. The conference assessed essential issues in the governance of the world's oceans, with a focus on moving toward an ecosystem-based and integrated approach to oceans governance at national, regional, and global levels. For the first time, a concerted effort was made to bring oceans policy together with climate change, which, as indicated in the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will have profound effects on ecosystems and coastal populations around the world, especially among the poorest people on Earth and in small island developing States.

The conference focused especially on assessing the progress that has been achieved (or lack thereof) on the global oceans targets established by the world's political leaders at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: Achieving ecosystem-based and integrated ocean and coastal management by 2010, reducing marine biodiversity loss by 2010, establishing networks of marine protected areas by 2012, and restoring fishery stocks by 2015, among others.

The conference underlined that ocean and coastal managers are at the front line of climate changes. The climate issues that ocean and coastal leaders around the world will need to face will ineradicably change the nature of ocean and coastal management, introducing increased uncertainty, the need to incorporate climate change planning into all existing management processes, the need to develop and apply new tools related to vulnerability assessment, and the need to make difficult choices in what in many cases will be "no win" situations, involving adverse impacts to vulnerable ecosystems and communities. Conference participants underlined that we must begin this process now, including altering coastal development that is already in the pipeline--we don't have the luxury of waiting 10 years before we consider the implications and before we act.

Coverage of the Global Conference is available at the following sites:

- The Global Forum website:
<http://www.globaloceans.org>
- The Global Forum, the World Ocean Network and the World Ocean Observatory have created a special GOC2008 website and YouTube channel designed specifically to inform audiences across the world about the context and work of the Global Forum using rich media. The YouTube site features interviews with 45 ocean and coastal experts from various sectors around the globe.

GOC2008 Website:
<http://www.thew2o.net/goc2008/index.html>

GOC2008 YouTube Channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/globaloceans2008>

The International Institute for Sustainable Development – Reporting Services (IISDRS) provided daily coverage of Conference proceedings and prepared the Conference Summary. (please see link on page 4)





Other Relevant Documents and Links

Conference Introduction

- Introduction to the 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/BilianaCicinSainIntro.pdf>

Conference Program

- **Link:** <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/ConferenceProgram-April4.pdf>

Conference Summary Report

- 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Conference Overview and Earth Negotiations Bulletin Summary Report
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Conference-Outcomes-ENBSummary.pdf>

Post-Hanoi Submissions to International Entities by the Global Forum

- Submission of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands to the UN Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, New York, 28 April - 2 May 2008
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/highseas/pdf/GlobalForumSubmission-2ndAdHocWGMeeting-April2008-red.pdf>
- Report to the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 19-30 May 2008, Bonn, Germany
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Biodiversity-and-MPAs-PB-May15.pdf>
- Submission of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, 23-27 June 2008 "Global Oceans Conference in Hanoi Urges International Attention to Ocean/Climate Issues"
Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/ICP-9.pdf>
- Powerpoint Presentation on "Results and Next Steps: 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in the Context of Climate Change," Presented at the United Nations

Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, June 24, 2008

Link: <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/pdf/Conference-Outcomes-Presentation.ppt>

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Report of Activities, 2005-2008

- **Link:** http://www.globaloceans.org/gef/pdf/Report_GlobalForumActivities_2005-2008.pdf

Collaboration Invited in the Global Forum's Program of Work 2008-2012

Organizations with an interest in advancing the global oceans agenda are invited to collaborate with the Global Forum in the further development and implementation of the strategic plan to advance the global oceans agenda and associated activities.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:

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