



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

[Leading by doing: Latest large-scale actions and new announcements on ocean conservation to achieve 2030 goals.]

[Monday 27th June, 11:30-12:45, Side Event Room 2, Altice Arena]

Organized by: [Republic of Portugal, Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic, Ministry of Environment of Uruguay, National Administration of Conservation Areas of the Ministry of Land and Environment, Mozambique, Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation International, Rare, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Wetlands International, Global Mangrove Alliance, Save our Mangroves Now, Mission Blue, Oceano Azul Foundation, Waitt Institute and Blue Forest]

Background on the event (one paragraph)

This side event was the stage of various large scale ocean protection announcements, as well as a discussion on some key topics, such as the importance of Mangrove ecosystems. The Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Belgium, Portugal and Mozambique joined by several civil society organizations, including The Global Mangrove Alliance, Grupo Puntacana Foundation, Mission Blue and Oceano Azul Foundation, shared new commitments to achieve the goals of the 30×30 global movement, standing as examples of leadership and action across the globe.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- New global announcements on Marine Protected Areas
 - The Dominican Republic announced its commitment to the 30×30 global movement by permanently protecting nearly a third of its ocean territory.

- Uruguay announced commitment to protecting 10% of its EEZ, or Exclusive Economic Zone with a new marine protected area (MPA) encompassing 12,000 km² with 60% as a no-take zone.
 - Portugal announced the approval of the creation of Portugal's first Marine Protected Area of Community Interest, the Algarve Reef - Pedra do Valado through a bottom-up and community lead process, using scientific, legal, economic and social studies to protect Portugal's largest coastal rocky reef.
 - The Regional Government of Azores announced that the Azores will protect 30% of its ocean by 2023, of which 15% is fully protected.
 - The Regional Government of Madeira reinforced the importance of taking leadership by showcasing the implementation of the Selvagens Nature Reserve, the largest fully protected MPA in Europe and the entire North Atlantic, covering a territory of 2,677 km².
- A thematic panel to discuss the importance of Mangrove ecosystems in protecting coastal communities and buffering the effects of climate change, showcasing bright spots and success stories globally.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- To foster international collaboration in MPA implementation.
 - Cooperation through a common framework to ensure that ocean science can fully support countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- To take bold action and lead in ocean protection by committing to implement 30% of Marine Protected Areas before the proposed deadline of 2030.
- To foster cooperation towards collective goals for a transformative change in the global protection and conservation of mangrove ecosystems.