

Sally Paterson
Chief Executive
Live Ocean Foundation

[Greeting in Māori]

Ko au, ko te moana
Ko te moana, ko au.
Nō Aotearoa matou
Ko Live Ocean matou
Ko Sally Paterson au

Tena koutou nga tangata whenua
Tena koutou Portugal, Kenya, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and other distinguished attendees
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

[in English]

I am the ocean and the ocean is me
We are from Aotearoa New Zealand
We are Live Ocean
I am Sally Paterson

I would like to acknowledge the First Nations of this land
Acknowledgements to you the host countries of Portugal, Kenya, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and other distinguished attendees

To you all here today I greet your past, your present, and your future

I stand here representing Live Ocean from Aotearoa New Zealand, a country that sits in the world's largest ocean, the Pacific. The ocean space that New Zealand has both rights to and responsibility for is vast, one of the world's largest. It spans from the very warm waters at the near pristine rangitāhua kermadec islands, to the very cold waters of the subantarctic islands, where the waters team with life and are home to a vast number of marine species and seabirds. Many of these species can only be found in the islands and waters of Aotearoa.

Live Ocean is honoured to bring the voices of sporting and ocean champions from Aotearoa New Zealand and around this world to this forum. The commitment "Voices for a Healthy Ocean" carries over 120 sports people and leaders from the ocean community in New Zealand and beyond, who have committed to use their voice and platform for the ocean.

As individuals, organisations and sporting platforms we pledge our support the science, the partnership and governance solutions needed to meet SD14 targets by 2030. There is no option other than to act, together and with urgency to secure the ongoing health and productivity of the ocean.

Ngā Mihi.