

### **30x30 Ocean Accelerator Announcement**

The Wildlife Conservation Society is pleased to announce the launch of the 30x30 Ocean Accelerator. The Ocean Accelerator is an innovative resource mobilization mechanism that provides technical and financial support to achieve 1 million square kilometers in new ocean protection and enhance effective management of at least 130 existing MPAs by 2030.

We have leveraged \$40M of active funding commitments for 30x30 ocean action, including over \$10M of new financing through the Ocean Accelerator.

The Ocean Accelerator is designed to be fast and flexible – helping governments, local communities, and conservation organizations seize time-sensitive opportunities to protect the ocean in ways that are inclusive, durable, and impactful. We are using these funds to work with government and local partners to apply innovative ocean solutions in over 25 countries. We are also supporting intergovernmental bodies with assistance for regional 30x30 planning and implementation.

WCS has a strong track record of raising finance for ocean conservation: from 2016 to 2020, WCS raised \$16.5 million that was invested into our MPA Fund, used to leverage an additional \$73 million for direct support to countries striving to meet the SDG 14 area-based management targets. These resources enabled designation of over 563,000 square kilometers of new areas under significant ocean protection.

We now aim to raise ambition and accelerate ocean conservation action through our 30x30 Ocean Accelerator.