

A nighttime photograph of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, showing the city lights reflecting on the water and the surrounding mountains. The image is framed by a decorative border with a repeating pattern of red, white, and blue diagonal stripes.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Rio+20 Ocean Outcome

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The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Context

- *Earth Summit 1992*, produced the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity
- *World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002*, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, detailed targets and timetables

Rio+20 in Context

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012. Purposes of the Conference:

- Secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development
- Assess progress on implementation gaps in meeting previously agreed commitments
- Address new and emerging challenges
- Special focus on:
 - Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
 - Institutional framework for sustainable development

How Well Did Rio+20 Do?

- Secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development – *good generally, excellent in oceans*
- Assess progress on implementation gaps in meeting previously agreed commitments— *weak generally, good in oceans*
- Address new and emerging challenges—*weak on climate change*
- Focus on:
 - Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication— *no concrete targets, no road map*
 - Institutional framework for sustainable development— *largely left to up to the UN General Assembly*

The Green Economy

- **Scale up green economy initiatives**
- **Strengthen implementation through capacity building, sharing of best practices, technology transfer, and provision of financial resources**
- **Governments to take a leadership role in developing green economy policies and strategies through an inclusive and transparent process**
- **Encourage existing and new cooperatives, microenterprises, and partnerships, including public private partnerships, to mobilize financing and support poverty eradication**
- **Create enabling frameworks to foster environmentally sound technology, research and development, and innovation.**
- **Support increased use of renewable energy sources and other low-emission technologies.**

Rio+20: The Outcome

•Outcome document “soft” and some major decisions left to other fora

Some reasons:

--there was no underlying conceptual framework (compare to Bruntland report)

--there was not enough time to develop blueprint on green economy

--the negotiating process was very short

--there were and are significant political differences among the countries

--these are factors that will continue to hinder the process

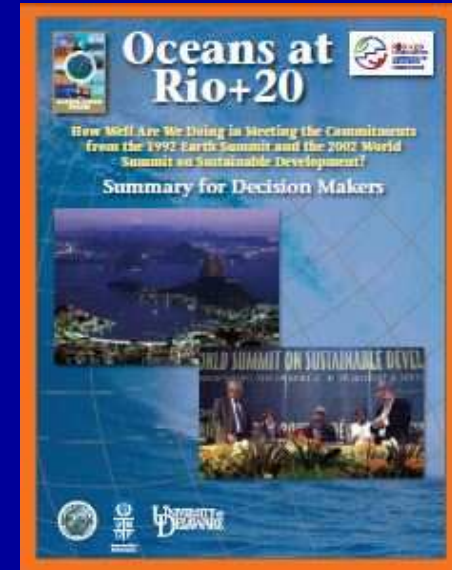
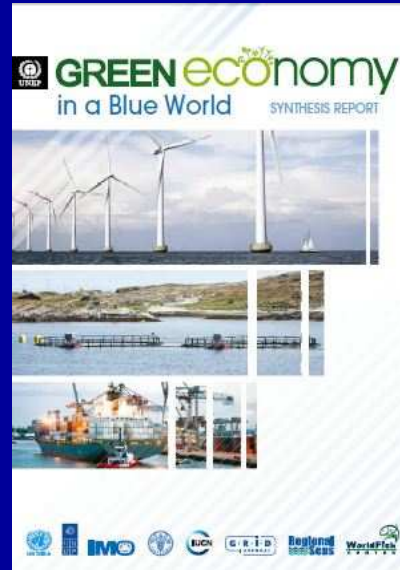
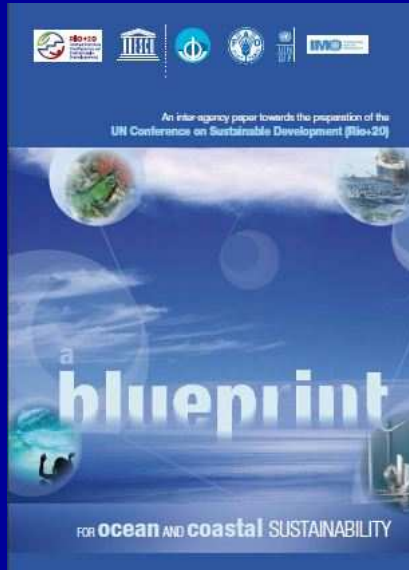
Institutional Framework Decisions for UNGA

- **High level body to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development**
- **Upgrade the UN Environment Programme**
- **Address options for a financing strategy**
- **Facilitation mechanism for development/transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies**
- **Launch an inclusive process to devise a set of Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Decide on the development of an implementing agreement to UNCLOS on ABNJ by 2014**
- **Decide on modalities for the 3rd SIDS international conference in 2014 (follow-up to Barbados and Mauritius)**

Oceans at Rio+20

- **Great political mobilization on oceans**
 - **At the beginning of the Rio+20 process, little mention of oceans**
 - **By November 2011, in inputs to “zero draft,” 67% of nations and 100% of all political groupings referred to oceans**
 - **In outcome document, oceans treated in 20 paragraphs**
- **Oceans and their role in planetary survival and human well-being now firmly on the global agenda**
- **Analytical reports and consensus around them, a big contribution**

Analyses of Ocean Issues



Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments

- **Over 700 commitments from all stakeholders- governments UN system, IGOs, private sector and civil society**
- **\$500 billion in actions pledged towards sustainable development**
- **9 Registered commitments in ‘Oceans, Coasts, and SIDS,’ including 2 by Global Ocean Forum and partners on capacity development, and on monitoring of ocean commitments, and related commitments in climate change (2), sustainable development policy and practice (1), and sustainable energy (22)**

**What did Rio+20 Add to the Existing
Global Commitments on Oceans,
Coasts, and Small Island Developing
States?**

Major Area	Reinforcement of Existing Goals?	New Goals/Actions
Integrated, Ecosystem-Based Ocean and Coastal Management	Yes	--UNGA decision on development of an instrument for ABNJ --Mainstreaming socio-economic benefits and impacts of biodiversity
Monitoring and Assessment of the Marine Environment	States to consider the findings of the Regular Process following review in 2014	No
Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Pollution	Reduce incidence and impacts of marine pollution through IMO and GPA agreements	Reduce marine debris by 2025

Major Area	Reinforcement of Existing Goals?	New Goals/Actions
Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Intensify effort to reach JPoI target to restore stocks to MSY by 2015 --Address bycatch, discards, and destructive practices --Protect vulnerable ecosystems, using EIA --National actions to deter IUU --Eliminate harmful subsidies-support WTO negotiations --Build capacity to increase MSC, compliance, and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --RFMOs to undergo independent review to increase transparency and accountability --Improve market access, including to small-scale, artisanal, women, indigenous, and local fishworkers
Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Implement Law of the Sea and SD commitments --Enable realization of benefits from sustainable resource use, including technology transfer --Sustainable tourism 	<p>No</p>

Major Area	Reinforcement of Existing Goals?	New Goals/Actions
Climate Change and Ocean Acidification	Early warning systems for disaster risk reduction, including relevant capacity	Precautionary approach in ocean fertilization
Small Island Developing States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Implement BPoA, MSI --Improve national capacity to manage and realize benefits of natural resources 	Hold SIDS global conference in 2014

Advancing Rio+20 Implementation

Post Rio+20 and Post-2015 Processes at Play

- **Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Establishment of High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**
- **Planning for Third Global Conference on SIDS**
- **High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 Development Agenda**
- **UN System Task Team on Post-2015 Development Agenda**
- **Global, Regional, and National Consultations**
- **Sustainable Development Solutions Network**

Oceans in the 2015 Development Process

Caballero

- **Post 2015 agenda must focus on poverty eradication as a priority, and that it must be “people-centered.” Unfortunately, for many the focus on “people” still translates into a perspective that excludes the natural resource base and in fact, often seems to pit people against what is broadly referred to as “the environment”**
- **There have been failures in articulating to a broader audience the centrality of functional, healthy, resilient oceans to human development**
- **The definition of the new development agenda will be a complex process. The ocean community needs to position itself early on, and to work diligently on all fronts over the coming years**
- **It is vitally important that oceans are not marginalized from the new development agenda.**

Rio+20 Implementation

Maintaining Political Momentum at Global Level

- Oceans firmly on the political global agenda, but this must be constantly maintained, rekindled, and advanced
- Must ensure that Post-Rio and Post-2015 processes are transparent and inclusive
- Coherence and coordination among the various elements is essential
- Ocean issues are being overshadowed
 - Oceans span all major thematic areas and should not be seen as just another sector
- Important to revive the Rio+20 NGO Oceans Cluster
- The bottom line is that oceans are not faring well in this process, and that remobilization of governments and civil society must happen again, “constant advocacy”

Rio+20 Implementation

Global Level Tracking of Progress

- Need better measurement and evaluation frameworks to assess progress at the global scale and support accountability
- Charge institutions with collecting, on a periodic basis, national and global data on the entire range of issues related to oceans
- Regular assessment of information on the social and economic well-being of coastal communities in order to ascertain progress on MDGs in the context of oceans, coasts, and SIDS
- Understand linked and dependent nature of the various UNCED/WSSD/Rio+20 goals when assessing progress

Rio+20 Implementation

National Level Implementation

- It is the responsibility of countries to implement, but international agencies, NGOs, industry, science institutions must provide support and facilitation. The outlook here is enhanced since we now know better what works and doesn't.

On EBM/ICM:

- Scale up national programs to include larger portions of the coastal zone and ocean under national jurisdiction
- Further strengthen integrated institutions and decision processes for the coast and ocean
- Provide long-term capacity development in ICM/EBM, incorporating leadership training
- Provide appropriate support for the above

THE OCEANS DAY AT RIO+20



The Oceans Day at Rio+20

- 375 participants from 46 countries
- Panels on renewing commitments, integrated governance, the living ocean, SIDS and oceans, climate change and ocean acidification, the blue economy, and moving forward

Main Organizers:



State Oceanic
Administration



People's Republic
of China



Global Environment
Facility



United Nations
Development
Programme



Co-Organizers:



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



United Nations
Environment Programme



International Maritime
Organization



THE WORLD BANK
Working for a World Free of Poverty



FORUM
DO MAR



Pacific Islands Forum
Secretariat



Republic of
Seychelles



Vietnam

world ocean
network

KORDI

Korea Ocean Research &
Development Institute



World Wildlife Fund

The Nature
Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Convention on
Biological Diversity



www.climeproject.org



NRDC
Natural Resources
Defense Council

Rio Oceans Declaration

We are in a new era in which climate change effects ineradicably pose a situation of higher risk and of possible tipping points. At the same time, as we chart the way to the new low-carbon economy and society, great opportunities for ambitious innovation are also prominent on the horizon.

We must strengthen our collective institutions for dealing with the new level of risk and to realize the opportunities that lie ahead.



Major Recommendations from Oceans Day at Rio+20

- **Scale up integrated ocean governance at national and regional levels, and in ABNJ**
- **Implement climate, oceans, and security measures (mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity development)**
- **Mobilize financing and capacity development especially for developing nations and SIDS**
- **Improve the international framework/architecture on oceans**
- **Promote the Blue Economy**

Blue Economy in Rio+20 Process

- **Blue Economy in the Rio+20 process emphasized by China, Pacific Island nations, other SIDS nations, GOF, operationalized by the European Union, central part of PEMSEA declaration post Rio+20**
- **Need to develop an international policy framework for the Blue Economy, which clearly defines the concept, its elements, and a roadmap for development and implementation**
- **Promoted especially by China in the APEC context and by Korea in the Yeosu context**

Blue Economy and Rio+20

Blue Economy must contribute to:

- 1) reduced carbon emissions**
- 2) reduced waste and pollution**
- 3) income and jobs**
- 4) sustainable development, social equity and inclusiveness, and poverty eradication**

Blue Economy should scale up green economy initiatives in the ocean sector, e.g.:

- 1) green shipping**
- 2) responsible coastal tourism practices**
- 3) certification of sustainably caught seafood**
- 4) protection and restoration of blue carbon**

Blue Economy and Rio+20

- Blue Economy should support research, development, and transfer of **clean technologies, especially offshore renewable energy** (wind, tidal, wave, other)
- Blue Economy should support the **valuation and payments for ecosystem services** for more effective decision making in development planning involving ocean ecosystems and resources
- Blue Economy should support the creation of markets to value and trade **“Blue Carbon,”** the carbon stored in marine and coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, salt marshes, and sea grasses

Blue Economy and Rio+20

- Blue Economy should be carried out through existing **ICM/EBM programs**
- The Blue Economy and “**Blue Society**” must go hand in hand, public ocean stewardship must be promoted

**Global Ocean Forum
Post Rio+20 Work**

I. SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL COMMITMENTS ON OCEANS IN THE POST-RIO+20 CONTEXT

1. Strategic Planning for Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes

- **Multistakeholder Consultations on Rio+20 Implementation**
- **6th Global Ocean Conference with “Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes” as a major theme**
- **Support of the Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States in 2014**
- **Work on operationalizing and implementing the Blue Economy concept, together with China, Korea, APEC countries**

2. Ocean Watch: Tracking Progress on the Achievement of Major Ocean-Related Goals Emanating from UNCED, WSSD, and Rio+20

- **Periodic systematic assessments of progress achieved (or lack thereof) to be conducted every five years (2017)**

3. Supporting New Global Initiatives (including the Global Partnership for Oceans and the UN Oceans Compact)

- **Promotion of capacity development as an essential element of post-Rio+20 implementation efforts**

II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVED OCEAN GOVERNANCE

4. Building Ocean Readiness: Capacity Development for Integrated Ocean Governance

- Development of training programs for high-level decisionmakers, local leaders, and the next generation of ocean leaders on oceans, climate, and biodiversity

5. Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

6. Fostering Regional Interconnections to Support Improved Regional Ocean Governance

- Promotion of improved information-sharing and dialogue among global and regional policy processes

Capacity Development (cont.)

7. Fostering Multi-Stakeholder Ocean Fora at the National Level

- Support of the development of multi-stakeholder ocean fora at the national level in coastal and island countries

8. Improving Knowledge Management on Ocean and Climate Issues

- Launch of an ocean and climate information service providing a web-based platform for access to information on oceans and climate issues

Move Forward with Confidence

As we move forward, we must do so with a sense of confidence and renewed purpose:

- We have a detailed set of global prescriptions on oceans from 1992, 2002, and 2012**
- We know what has/has not worked**
- We have a high level of political support**
- We have mobilized very large coalitions that will continue to work hard.**

“Oceans are the point at which planet, people, and prosperity come together. And that is what sustainable development is about. It is about all of us as shareholders of Earth, incorporated, acknowledging and acting on our responsibility to the planet, to the people, and to its bloodstream, the oceans.”

--Ambassador Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator, Rio+20 Conference, at the Oceans Day at Rio+20