



WWF statement in Partnership Dialogue 2 "Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems"

Jessica Battle, 6 June, 10.00-13.00, Conf room 4

Co-chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

The Ocean is the world's 7th largest economy – but its assets are in decline. In order to reverse the decline, leaders in all areas must invest in a sustainable blue economy that provides a future for people who depend upon ocean health for food security and livelihoods. WWF has developed a set of principles setting out what we mean by a sustainable blue economy, and offer to work with stakeholders to implement these as part of our 11 voluntary commitments.

As an essential part of this rescue package for the ocean, we urge leaders to **Protect critical habitats for fisheries and for coastal protection (including for disaster insurance) through use of the most appropriate spatial management tools, and ensure that at least 30 percent of mangroves, coral reefs, mudflats and sea grass beds are conserved.**

But also the high seas need action, therefore we work at the UNGA BBNJ to establish a new legally binding instrument to enable integrated ocean management in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Equally important as protecting biodiversity and ecosystem function, is to ensure that any policies that are adopted have the buy in and make sense for people using the resources for food and livelihoods, so we work to ensure local

communities and especially women are included in management decisions of resources they depend upon for food and livelihoods.

WWF has made a set of commitments towards SDG14 in the run up to the conference, but those are only a snapshot of the many projects we are involved in across the world.

No one can solve the ocean crisis alone – it has to be done in partnerships. One such project is **Tun Mustapha Park, Sabah, Malaysia.**

With one million hectares of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, Malaysia's Tun Mustapha is a treasure trove of biodiversity and home to endangered marine life. It's also an invaluable fishing ground, supplying food and livelihoods for more than 80,000 people in the surrounding coastal and island communities.

WWF is working with stakeholders in regional and national government, business, civil society, and communities, to ensure that Tun Mustapha becomes a multiple use managed park, with different areas designated for strict protection, tourism, artisanal fishing, and commercial fishing.

Ladies and gentlemen, WWF stands ready to work with you all, in government, business, science and civil society, to ensure we Manage, protect, conserve and restore marine and coastal ecosystems – for people's future across the world.