



Global Ocean Forum

Global Ocean Forum in the Rio+20 Process

*With the Support of the Global Environment Facility,
the UN Development Programme, and the University of Delaware*

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The Global Ocean Forum was first mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments place issues related to oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS) on the agenda of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was later formalized at the 2002 WSSD.

Since 2001, the Global Ocean Forum has brought together ocean leaders from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international and intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and scientific associations from over 110 countries. The Global Forum responds to perceived needs for fostering cross-sectoral dialogue on ocean issues among governments, NGOs, international organizations, and the private and scientific sectors; constant advocacy for oceans at the highest political levels; and the imperative of taking an ecosystem-based and integrated approach to oceans governance at national, regional, and global levels.

Please see the Global Ocean Forum 2010 Report of Activities:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOF-ReportOfActivities-2010.pdf>

The Global Ocean Forum has been active in the Rio+20 process, working to highlight the importance of oceans and coasts in achieving sustainable development goals and the need for a strong oceans outcome from the Rio+20 Conference. These efforts include:

Policy Analyses

--Report on "Oceans at Rio+20," which tracks progress on major ocean-related goals and commitments of UNCED and the WSSD and puts forth recommendations for the Rio+20 process (Summary for Decision Makers available at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Rio20SummaryReport.pdf>;
Full report forthcoming).

--Substantive submission to the Rio+20 Compilation Document

(<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=510&nr=291&menu=20>).

--Analysis of submissions to the Rio+20 Compilation Document, which has shown that all major political groups and more than 67% of the Member States have highlighted oceans and coasts in their formal input to the Rio+20 Conference

(<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Analysis-Input-to-Rio20-CompilationDocument.pdf>).

The Global Ocean Forum, organized at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, works with national ocean leaders from over 110 countries, to advance the global agenda on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States through policy analyses, multistakeholder dialogues, and public education and outreach.

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--Suggestions for the Rio+20 zero draft, making it more actionable and targeted, sent to government delegations for their consideration in crafting the Rio+20 outcome.

--Panel Presentation at the 12th Meeting of the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, June 20-24, 2011 (<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Cicin-SainUNICPOLOSPresentation-FINAL.pdf>).

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues and Consensus-Building

--Convening a major ocean event at the Rio+20 Conference, “Oceans Day at Rio+20: Advancing Oceans and Coasts at Rio+20 and Beyond,” to be held on June 16, 2012, which will gather ocean leaders from all sectors to:

- (1) Continue to push for a strong oceans outcome at the Rio+20 negotiations, building on the priorities for Rio+20 that have been articulated by the oceans community; and
- (2) Showcase major funded initiatives to spur action on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States in the post-Rio+20 world; and
- (3) Consider the opportunities and challenges for implementation of the “oceans package” emanating from the Rio+20 Conference.

--Facilitating NGO input into the Rio+20 Conference: The Global Ocean Forum, along with the International Ocean Institute, the Pew Environment Group, and Greenpeace, has been designated as a co-facilitator for the “Ocean Cluster” of the NGO Major Group in the Rio+20 Conference, tasked with facilitating input of the NGO community on oceans in the formal Rio+20 process, and coordinating ocean-related activities of the NGO community in the Rio+20 process.

--Leading oceans at the Rio Conventions Pavilion at Rio+20: The Global Ocean Forum, together with the IUCN and The Nature Conservancy, has been designated as the lead organization for oceans in the Rio Conventions Pavilion, a collaborative effort among the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification), the Global Environment Facility, and other global and local partners to strengthen synergies on the implementation of the Rio Conventions by providing a coordinated platform for awareness-raising and information sharing.

--Launching of the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean (<http://globaloceanforum.org/>), a multistakeholder platform for governments, international agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions, and the private sector to articulate concerns and interests and raise profile of oceans at Rio+20 Conference;

--Consultations of the Rio+20 Friends of the Ocean at the 2nd Informal-Informal Negotiations of the Rio+20 outcome, April 24 and May 1, 2012.

--Side event on “Advancing Oceans at Rio+20,” at the 3rd Rio+20 Intersessional Meeting, March 26, 2012 (<http://globaloceanforum.org/2012/04/02/global-ocean-forum-ioc-unesco-and-the-permanent-un-missions-of-seychelles-and-fiji-organize-high-level-ocean-side-event-at-rio20-negotiations/>).

--Side event on “Oceans at Rio+20” at the 2nd Rio+20 Intersessional Meeting, December 15, 2011 (http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Dec15_GOFSideEvent.pdf).

--“Oceans at Rio+20 Workshop—Discussions with UN Delegations,” hosted in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Fiji, Grenada, and the Seychelles to the UN, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO (IOC), September 12, 2011 (http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/September12_Workshop_Summary.pdf).

--Meetings of the Friends of the Ocean at the 12th Meeting of the Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea, which was focused on the Rio+20 Conference, June 20 and 22, 2011;

--“Informal Dialogue and Information-Sharing on Oceans and coasts at Rio+20,” co-hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO (IOC) at the 2nd meeting of the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 2), March 8, 2011;

--Side event at the 2nd meeting of the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 2), “Oceans and Small Island Developing States in the Rio+20 Process,” February 28, 2011;

--Convening of “Oceans Days” in the Context of the Rio Conventions (CBD and UNFCCC)
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

--Oceans Day at Durban at the UNFCCC COP 17, Durban, South Africa

-Summary of Oceans Day:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/OceansDayAtDurban-ENBSummary.pdf>;

-Co-Chairs’ Statement:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/OceansDayAtDurbanCo-ChairsStatement.pdf>;

--Oceans Day at Cancun at the UNFCCC COP 16, Cancun, Mexico December 4, 2010;
(<http://www.oceansday.org/index.html>);

--Oceans Day at Copenhagen at the UNFCCC COP 15, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 14, 2009
(<http://www.oceansday.org/c-index.html>);

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

--Oceans Day at Nagoya at the CBD COP 10, Nagoya, Japan, October 23, 2010
(http://www.globaloceans.org/content/news#Nagoya_Section).