

7th Our Ocean Conference Call for Commitments

The 7th Our Ocean Conference invites ocean stakeholders to provide progress updates on existing commitments, or to submit new commitments to be announced at the 7th Our Ocean Conference in Palau, 7-8 December 2020. Commitments for ocean sustainability are a central part of the Our Ocean Conference, to demonstrate and inspire ocean action through partnerships, and should be progressive, measurable and impactful.

Commitments can be submitted up until Sunday, 6 December 2020. However, the Secretariat will prepare the provisional Conference agenda, and begin to issue invitations to participate based on commitments accepted up until 15 October 2020. Any updates to the timing or format of the Conference in view of the COVID19 pandemic will be posted on the website.

Updating Previously-made Commitments

Over the past six Our Ocean Conferences, ocean stakeholders have announced over a thousand commitments, including millions of square kilometres of protected area pledges, and billions of dollars in value of other commitments. Transparency is an essential element of the Our Ocean Conference: it is important to take stock and track progress of previously-made commitments, in order to showcase the impact of commitments, and to inspire new future commitments.

The 7th Our Ocean Conference organisers therefore invite stakeholders who have made commitments at previous Our Ocean Conferences to provide updates on the progress of their commitment, and the actual impact of these commitments. The Secretariat will be reaching out to existing commitment-proponents in the months prior to the Conference. Existing users can log-in to the commitment registry to manage their commitment(s), through providing updates on the percentage of progress and description of impact achieved thus far.

Please include references or links to any news items, documentation, or third-party reports that provide supporting information on progress made. For protected area commitments, this progress update should use the 'Stage of Establishment' categories in [The MPA Guide](#) distinguishing proposed/ designated/ implemented/ actively managed areas. If information on 'Level of Protection' has not been previously included, this should be specified in the update.

Please note that updating commitment progress from 75% to 100%, indicating that the commitment has been completed, will require adequate supporting information to be provided and an additional level of verification by the Conference Secretariat.

The Secretariat will be producing an analysis of updated commitments based on progress updates received as of 15 October 2020.

Submitting New Commitments

New commitments that relate to [the OOC2020 themes](#) - Local to Global Action for Our Ocean, Building Generation Ocean, and blue recovery from the COVID19 impacts - will be particularly welcome. All commitments should be categorised within one of the six Areas of Action: Protected Areas, A Clean Ocean, Climate Change, Sustainable Blue Economies, Sustainable Food from the Ocean, and Maritime Security, and be progressive, measurable, and impactful. Sufficient information to support progress tracking should be provided.

For protected area commitments, please also specify 'Level of Protection' (following [The MPA Guide](#) categories of minimally/ lightly/ highly/ fully protected areas, and indicating activities allowed and prohibited). Simply saying 'a MPA' will be insufficient, as there are many different types of protected areas, which depending on the level of protection, will vary in their intended outcomes. Protected area commitments are also required to include information on the size and coordinates of the protected area, and whether biodiversity protection is the primary goal of the protected area. If the protected area is zoned, the different protection levels and areas of each zone should be described in the 'impact' section.

Stakeholders who have not previously submitted a commitment will need to submit a registration application for your organisation within the system, which will be considered by the Secretariat. A user guide for the commitment registry that outlines this process can be accessed via the 'Help' button on [the OOC commitment map viewer](#).

Please note that all submitted commitments will be assessed by the Secretariat in terms of their boldness, measurability, and expected impact, in order to be accepted for inclusion in the Our Ocean Conference commitment registry. The Secretariat reserves the right to not include the submission if it falls short of these requirements.

For queries about the process of submitting commitments, please contact
commitments@ourocean2020.pw.

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