



Paris Declaration

Context

The Paris Climate 2015 symposium, Objective Ocean: Proposals for a Blue Economy, held on June 8, 2015 in the framework of CoP21 at the European Space Agency in Paris reunited key stakeholders representing maritime economy, local authorities networks, civil society associations and economic organizations. The aforementioned participants have jointly agreed on the present proposal.

The signatories, as well as the networks they represent, shall bring the contents of the declaration herewith to the attention of relevant parties at the Paris Climate 2015 Summit – to be acted upon immediately.

This document has been shared as part of the Green Cross symposium for the World Ocean Day (June 8th, 2015), in the European Space Agency (Paris).

Preamble – the ocean, humankind and climate

The ocean plays an essential role in the world's water cycle. It provides an amenable environment to live in, vast amounts of edible resources, and is a key component of climate regulation.

However, our oceans are sick. Faced with climate instability, pollution, and over-exploitation of their resources, the health of oceans is deteriorating. They are losing biodiversity, their surface levels are rising, and sustainable activities are increasingly impacted. Our past and present are intertwined with the ocean; our very future is at stake and demands a new relationship to be built. We must endeavour to act.

In this mindset, drawing on its great diversity, the group of contributors assembled on June 8 has laid out a joint road map for an efficient framework, which shall reconcile the development of fertile and diverse ecosystems with the capacity to address the needs of human activities.

We have no choice but to reach a global agreement on combatting climate change – one that includes strong and quantified commitments regarding the protection of our oceans – at the Paris Climate conference this December. Getting there will require concerted effort between the leaders of states in their wide variety, as well as economic forces and civil society around the globe. Together they shall mobilise, in line with these recommendations, around very specific targets. Many efficient solutions have already shown great potential to preserve the health of the ocean, especially where climate is concerned, and should be implemented immediately, with no further delay whatsoever.

That is the objective of the present declaration. It recommends solutions, built around strong and consensus-driven conclusions, in four priority areas:

- Harmonized management of coastal activities
- Health and Nourishment of Oceans and Humans,
- The future of transportation and ships
- Security and surveillance for sustainable development.

PROPOSITION 1	HARMONIZED MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES
Assessment	<p>Coasts are at once attractive and sensitive areas. The growing amount and diversity of coastal and marine activities carried out are ongoing sources of tension and conflict.</p> <p>Climate change has severe consequences for the coasts (rising sea levels, unstable weather, disruption of ecosystems) which local populations are often ill-equipped to combat. The challenge is to reconcile marine preservation with the socio-economic factors at stake.</p>
Proposal	<p>Developing <i>circular economy</i> groups that can come together and facilitate dialogue between public and private stakeholders, sea users and environmental associations.</p>
Guidelines and commitments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing tools for integrated maritime space management and planification, in accordance with the guiding principle of constructive dialogue between stakeholders, as well as recommendations from the United Nations, European Union and groups of local representatives. 2. Developing, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that showcase the importance of re-invigorating ecosystems in line with the development of local economies. 3. Acknowledging marine space as an estate where human activity can be pursued, with full respect for marine ecosystems, so as to improve living conditions for local populations and to complement the land ecosystems (especially through renewable marine energy). 4. Mobilising, more and better, tangible Green Climate Fund (GCF) environmental compartments and REDD+ mechanisms which are connected to the carbon stored in marine ecosystems – so as to accelerate carbon dioxide emission reductions before 2020, and to contribute to the reconstruction of coastal ecosystems and the completion of MPAs. 5. Reinforcing the local resilience of vulnerable coastal human populations, through local policies in line with National Adaptation Plans.

PROPOSITION 2	HEALTH AND NOURISHMENT OF OCEANS AND HUMANS
Assessment	<p>Climate change, along with a number of common human behaviours, is impacting the ocean and its resources – which are not only key to climatic equilibrium but also provide for humanity. The – imperative - sustainable exploitation of ocean resources requires that uses be monitored and measured, but also kept safe from the effects of climate change. It is crucial to raise awareness among consumers so that they can adapt their behaviours. The resulting change in exploitation must allow for the preservation of the planet’s “capital”, by ensuring its use is sustainable and renewable.</p>
Proposal	<p>Consolidating a unified methodology to identify the footprint of each human activity on the ocean, relying on scientific analysis, impact studies and informed stakeholder consultations.</p>
Guidelines and commitments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Building a constructive dialogue between stakeholders, basin by basin, on ensuring sustainable management and preservation of marine food stocks, both collected and farmed. 7. Developing scientific intelligence around ecosystems, focusing specifically on the impacts of climate disturbance, pollution and local human activities. 8. Making labels more inclusive, encouraging their use by professionals as well as by consumers. 9. Raising awareness and foster education about the fragility, seasonality and origins of ocean resources.

PROPOSITION 3	THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION AND SHIPS
Assessment	Compared to land and air, maritime transport is by far the cleanest method per tonne transported. It is also increasingly respectful of the environment (due to evolving regulations, new technologies including gas propulsion or oil-spill prevention techniques). The use of these technologies must be spread as much and as fast as possible.
Proposal	Fostering and facilitating the adoption of the necessary port and marine infrastructures to allow the application of new emission standards (on smoke and CO2) and the treatment of ballast water.
Guidelines and commitments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Drawing from existing examples (European and national) to develop LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminals in ports worldwide. 11. Creating better waste reclamation infrastructures relating to ballast water, treatment of petrol residues, and circular port economies. 12. Installing green taxation locally (notably for CO2), which can then gradually be advocated for at an international level to trigger huge efficiency gains.

PROPOSITION 4	SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Assessment	<p>Preserving the ocean in the face of a changing climate and pollution requires first and foremost active surveillance, and adaptation and mitigation measures that match the extent of the challenge, at a global level.</p> <p>The development of satellites and in-situ observation methods permitting efficient governance must be subject to a forceful and ambitious plan of action, on par with the immense size and importance of the ocean. Pooling all means available and kick-starting synergies between states, local authorities, private enterprises and civil society associations will be necessary if this is ever to be achieved.</p>
Proposal	Developing precise knowledge of how the ocean works, how it interacts with the climate, and how it functions when in a healthy state. This calls for a global, shared and open database.
Guidelines and commitments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Developing an Open Data compendium bringing together public and private data in the service of research and action by different stakeholders, with efficient and virtuous financial models. 14. Building up data acquisition and processing means across all possible platforms, whether terrestrial, aerial, marine, sub-marine or orbital, manned or unmanned. 15. Synergising existing national, regional and international scientific programmes with community or private initiatives. 16. Fostering knowledge-sharing, exchanges and decentralised cooperation – in particular, by advancing the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), circular economy networks, local governments and affected enterprises. 17. Structuring the oversight and sharing of information and experience on predicting extreme weather events, territorial resilience and the continuity of human and economic activities. 18. Setting up an international process guaranteeing the Antarctic's lasting preservation and perpetuating the recognition of its international status, and ensuring a sustainable and peaceful governance of the Arctic.

This declaration has been signed in June 2015 by the following organizations :

- ACIDD, ACB – Réseau des bretons d’influence, ARF – Association des Régions de France, Armateurs de France, Climates, Club France Développement Durable, Cluster Maritime Français, Collège des Directeurs du Développement Durable, Comité 21, Décider Ensemble, Durapole, European Partners for the Environment, Expédition 7^{ème} continent, Fondation Malpelo et Autres Ecosystèmes Marins, Forum China Europa, France Libertés, GICAN, Green Cross, Institut de l’Economie Circulaire, Institut Michel Serres, Métamorphose Outremer, Ocean Futures Society, Orée, R20, SeaOrbiter, WWF...

In addition, the following representatives have signed in person the declaration :

- Pr Robert Bell, Mme Céline Cousteau, M. Gregory B. Gallagher, M. Anthony Lecren, Mme Corinne Lepage, Mme Houria Tazi Sadeq, M. Gino Van Begin

This text will be open to additional signoffs, on <http://www.cop21.mobi>, from June 15 up to June 30. It will then be shared as part of the Planetworkshops Global Conference, in Chantilly (France), from July 6th to 8th, 2015.

Should you want to sign up this text on behalf of one organization, please contact contact@cop21.mobi