

Implementing the Ocean SDG: from knowledge to action

Ministry of Ecology,
Sustainable Development and Energy

Hôtel de Roquelaure,
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IDDRI



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



Ministère
de l'Écologie,
du Développement
Durable
et de l'Énergie

Background

At the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, States agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to bring together the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and environmental concerns under one global framework. In July 2014, the Open Working Group on SDGs submitted its proposed goals to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). A stand-alone Ocean SDG is included, which is to: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". A number of related targets and indicators are currently being discussed, dealing especially with reducing marine pollution, addressing the impacts of ocean acidification, and restoring fish stocks. The SDGs are due to be formally adopted by the UNGA in September 2015. In parallel, numbers of assessments of the marine environment are currently undertaken, including the World Ocean Assessment, the Transboundary Water Assessment and regional inventories.

Objectives

Implementing the Ocean SDG will be challenging. It will require to make use of the best available scientific knowledge to target key issues and to adopt political decisions aimed at putting the Ocean on a sustainable pathway. This conference will identify how to meet these needs and highlight possible options for implementing the Ocean SDG.

12:30

Registration of participants

13:00

Welcome addresses

Teresa Ribera, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning

13:45

Session 1 Assessing the state of the Ocean

Chair: **Julien Rochette**, Programme coordinator, Oceans and coastal zones, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Conclusions of the first World Ocean Assessment

Jake Rice, Chief scientist Emeritus, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, and Member of the Group of Experts for the World Ocean assessment

Global trends in world fisheries

Philippe Cury, Senior scientist, Research Institute for the Development (IRD), France

Impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the ocean and its services

Jean-Pierre Gattuso, Senior Research Scientist, CNRS and Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC) and Associate Researcher at IDDRI, France

Coral reefs in peril

Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland, Australia

Sea level rise: impacts and adaptation options

Iñigo Losada, Head of Research, Environmental Hydraulics Institute, University of Cantabria, Spain

Discussion with the audience

15:30

Session 2 How the Ocean SDG could help to make a difference?

Chair: **Sébastien Treyer**, Director of programmes, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Implementing the Ocean SDG: the role of international organisations

Mette Wilkie, Director, Division on Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Monitoring the implementation of the Ocean SDG through triennial oceans and seas global conferences

Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations

Sustaining ocean observation

Martin Visbeck, Head of Research Unit Physical Oceanography, GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany

Oceanographic research and capacity development in support of SDG implementation

Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

Financing the implementation of the Ocean SDG

Rémi Parmentier, Deputy Executive Secretary, Global Ocean Commission

Discussion with the audience

17:00

Coffee break

17:30

Roundtable Building momentum for an effective integration of the Ocean in the post-2015 regime

Chair: **Teresa Ribera**, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

Lisa Emelia Svensson, Ambassador for Oceans, Seas and Fresh Water, Sweden

Klaus Töpfer, Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Pascal Lamy, Commissioner, Global Ocean Commission

Julio Cordano, Head of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

Anne Hall, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States (*Tbc*)

18:30

Conclusion

Ségolène Royal, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France

An underwater photograph showing a large, dense school of fish swimming in clear blue water. The fish are silvery and appear to be moving in a coordinated pattern. The background is a deep blue, with some light filtering through from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The fish are the primary focus, filling the right side of the frame.

Organisers

The conference is organised by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), in partnership with the United States Embassy in France, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) and the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

Language

The conference will be held both in French and English. Simultaneous interpretation services will be available in both languages.