

Who are UN-Oceans members

For more information, see:

UN-Oceans Web site
www.unoceans.org/About.htm

UN Atlas of the Oceans
www.oceansatlas.org

1992 Earth Summit, Agenda 21
www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21

2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development
www.un.org/events/wssd/

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Any secretariat in the UN system may become a member of UN-Oceans through a simple expression of will.

In order to cover political, legal, security, economic, social, and environmental aspects, membership also includes international financial and other institutions as well as secretariats of multilateral environment treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Relevant international NGOs and other international stakeholders can participate in the work of the UN-Oceans Task Forces under the responsibility of the lead institutions coordinating the task forces.



UN-OCEANS

An interagency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN System

www.unoceans.org



What is UN-Oceans

The UN-Oceans network is the interagency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system with an aim to:

- strengthen coordination and cooperation of United Nations activities related to oceans and coastal areas
- review the relevant programmes and activities of the United Nations system, undertaken as part of its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- identify emerging issues, define joint actions and establish specific task teams to deal with these, as appropriate
- promote the integrated management of oceans at the international level
- facilitate, as appropriate, the inputs to the annual report on oceans and the law of the sea of the Secretary-General
- promote the coherence of United Nations system activities on oceans and coastal areas with the mandates of the General Assembly, and the priorities contained in the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and of governing bodies of all members of UN-OCEANS

History of UN-Oceans

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (“the Earth Summit”) adopted Agenda 21, an international programme of action for global sustainable development for the 21st century. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 specifically deals with the protection of the oceans and the protection and rational use and development of their living resources. To present a coordinated and comprehensive view of UN agency activities in support of Chapter 17, the UN agencies dealing with oceans and coastal issues formed the Sub-committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1993.

In September 2003, the United Nations High-Level Committee on Programmes approved the creation of an Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (subsequently named “UN-Oceans”) covering a wide range of issues and composed of the relevant programmes, entities and specialized agencies of the UN system and the secretariats of the relevant international conventions. The first meeting of the UN-Oceans was in January 2005 and has since held annual meetings.

UN-Oceans at work

The objective of UN-Oceans is to enhance cooperation and coordination among the international organizations and bodies concerned with oceans-related activities.

Members pursue time-bound initiatives, with well-defined terms of reference, through ad hoc Task Forces open to the participation of NGOs and other international stakeholders, as required. These task forces, coordinated by a lead institution foster collaboration around existing joint activities as well as on new emerging activities identified by UN-Oceans.

Task forces provide UN-Oceans a flexible and participatory way to focus on and respond to a wide-range of topics with involvement from across all sectors:

- Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Establishing a Regular Process for Global Assessment of the Marine Environment
- Global Partnership for Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA)
- Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-based Management Tools

Past Task Forces have dealt with Post-tsunami Response (discontinued in 2006) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (discontinued in 2007).

