

At strategic times throughout the year, The Ocean Project provides guidance to encourage young conservation leaders from around the world to advance ocean and climate conservation action, together. These engagement opportunities are a way for you to take action and raise awareness among your networks about ways to get involved to scale the impact of your action. This resource is meant to be a guide - we encourage you to personalize or adjust as you wish and get as creative as you can to encourage conservation action!

Background

Scientists are clear that we need to protect at least 30% of our lands, waters, and ocean by 2030 (30x30). Yet only about 1% of the High Seas - which cover nearly one-half of our blue planet - are protected, with fish and other marine wildlife under threat from unsustainable and illegal fishing, shipping traffic, noise pollution, plastic and chemical pollution, deep-sea mining and acidifying and warming waters as a result of the climate crisis. A lack of unified governance has left the vast majority unprotected and vulnerable to exploitation.

Momentum is now on our side, with two major victories in 2022 and 2023: united global agreement with both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to protect at least 30% of the lands, waters and ocean by 2030 (30x30) and also a High Seas Treaty. The High Seas Treaty is also known as “Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” and include all the ocean waters and seafloor beyond 200 nautical miles from shore (within 200nm, countries have “Exclusive Economic Zones” that they manage). The United Nations officially adopted the High Seas Treaty in June 2023, and now world leaders need to follow through on their promises. The High Seas Treaty will only officially enter into force once at least 60 nations ratify the treaty, and that will take some work!

It's Time for Action:

After almost two decades of tireless effort, our ocean can be protected by a High Seas Treaty! Many people and organizations have been involved, including youth worldwide especially over the last several years. Government leaders finally listened and took the opportunity to accomplish the first legal framework for marine protected areas (MPAs) and several other conservation measures to protect and conserve our one ocean, which connects us all.

Can We Help? YES!

Cross-regional and cross-generational efforts allowed us to seize this once in a generation opportunity to establish a treaty. Now it is time for us to make sure this treaty does what it's supposed to do, with legally binding power to ensure countries protect the High Seas. Our future depends on keeping the momentum going and pushing our governments to sign and ratify the High Seas Treaty as soon as possible. National leaders' promises are only meaningful if they follow through and actually implement the High Seas Treaty!

Continue on for suggested actions!

Suggested action:

Thanks to everyone's effort, 82 countries have signed the treaty as of the 4th of October.

--> If your country is yet to sign, urge respective governments to sign the treaty and push for early ratification.

--> If your country has signed the treaty, continue to advocate and educate those in your community.

Follow the steps below to show your support for the early ratification of the #HighSeasTreaty:

Small time commitment (Post on Social Media) - 10 minutes

Join the #RaceForRatification online conversation to help amplify the call for swift ratification of the High Seas Treaty! Urge governments to sign and insist them to ratify early, as the High Seas Treaty will only become a reality if countries ratify: signing the treaty is just the beginning! You can:

- Click to Tweet your concerns and find other suggested social posts in the [High Seas Treaty Toolkit](#), including social posts in English, French and Spanish.
 - Use the following hashtags:
 - Primary: #RaceForRatification
 - Secondary: #HighSeasTreaty #OneOceanOnePlanet
 - Use the following tags:
 - Twitter: @HighSeasAllianc
 - Facebook: @highseasalliance
 - Instagram: @highseasalliance

Medium time commitment 30 mins - 1 hour:

- Find relevant webinars or workshops for youth. Many environmental organizations that are focused on marine protection are providing resources to help you stay informed about the Treaty.
- Ask 5 friends or leaders of organizations you know to take this action!
 - Use this sample language when you ask your friends and network:
 - "Hi! Right now our ocean needs world leaders to come together and take action to sign and ratify the High Seas Treaty. The High Seas is the part of our ocean outside of any country's jurisdiction which covers nearly half the planet's entire surface. Would you be willing to show your support for protecting our High Seas by posting on social about it? I can send you some sample posts!"

Additional Resources:

- [High Seas Alliance Toolkit](#)
- [The High Seas Treaty: A Youth Perspective Webinar-World Ocean Day](#)
- Check the [Ratification Tracker](#) for regular updates and info on how to help.

For 22 years, [The Ocean Project](#) has globally coordinated World Ocean Day as an opportunity to unite and rally the world on 8 June, and throughout the year, to take personal, community, and societal action on behalf of our blue planet. It is powered by the Youth Advisory Council, this year comprised of 25 young people from 22 diverse countries.