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The Blue Society Concept

Blue Society Launch Event

18 November, 2015



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Blue Society Vision

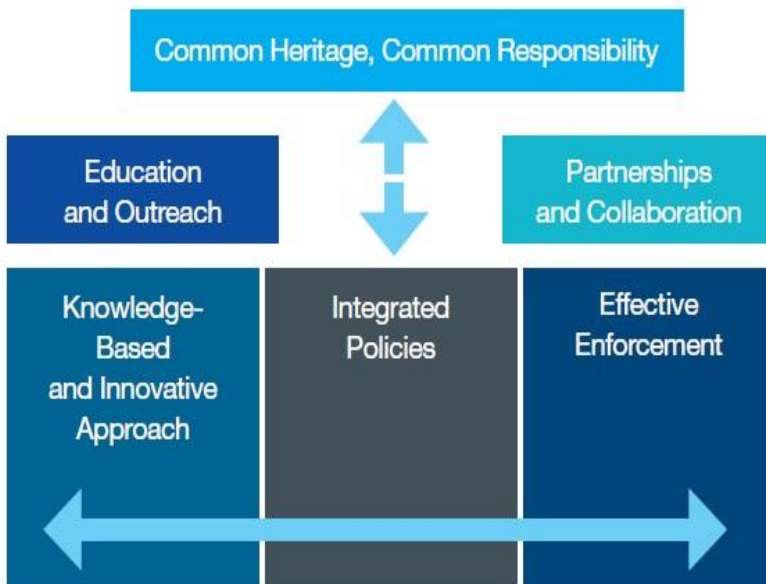
- A society in which the marine environment is *sustainably managed*, giving future generations the opportunity to *enjoy and benefit from the many services and resources* provided by a healthy ocean, while also preserving *ecosystem integrity and functioning*.
- **This requires:**
 - A system of governance in which the ocean is recognized as a *global common that must be collectively managed*.
 - A balanced approach that *leverages the ocean's potential while preserving its integrity and functioning* to the benefit of all.
- **Blue Society Expert Group:** analysed the outcomes of the consultation and mobilization phases of the SFS project to: develop and enrich the Blue Society concept, and formulate recommendations for improved ocean governance and research.



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Key Components



- ❖ **‘Common Heritage, Common Responsibility’** as the guiding Blue Society principle.
- ❖ This principle provides the backdrop for the five *interrelated* Blue Society goals:
 - “**Knowledge-Based & Innovative Approach**”
 - “**Integrated Policies**”
 - “**Effective Enforcement**”
 - “**Partnerships and Collaboration**”
 - “**Education and Outreach**”.



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Common Heritage, Common Responsibility

The ocean is the common heritage of humankind - should be **collectively and coherently managed by all nations**. The ocean must be understood as **a single system**.

Ocean governance requires **multi-level action** – stakeholder engagement and participation. Must enable local communities to take ownership of their resource management and protection.

Need for an **enlarged planetary governance** system ⇒ effective mechanism for ocean stewardship at all the relevant levels.

Marine natural capital must be **preserved and used in an equitable manner**.



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Knowledge Based and Innovative Approach

Decision-making based on the best available scientific knowledge and information - ensure evidence-based policies that promote sustainable marine activities and resource use, while preserving ocean integrity.

Integrated Ecosystem-Based Approach and Precautionary Approach = key pillars for coastal/marine governance and adaptive management.

Science-policy connection at all levels (i.e. national, regional and international) through dedicated knowledge cross-exchange mechanisms.

Increase accessibility of scientific research and underlying data to encourage innovative governmental and private sector initiatives and help find a balance between social, economic and environmental well-being.



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Integrated Policies

Cross-sectoral collaboration needed **across the entire policy-spectrum.**

Development of an integrated, **multi-sector approach to ocean governance** to overcome piece-meal approach of sector-by-sector management.

Traditional land-based policy-making must be replaced with an integrated **“Land and Ocean” policy-making process.**

Effective and coherent **spatial planning** for both coastal and marine ecosystems.



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Effective Enforcement

Full enforcement, and extension, of existing policy principles to achieve balance between leveraging the ocean's potential and preserving the integrity of its ecosystems

Contribution of **natural capital** to sustainable development and human well-being should be fully acknowledged, **integrated into national accounts and incorporated into policymaking and business practices.**

Economic deterrents are needed to ensure the effective enforcement of environmental policies; “polluters must pay” principle.

Need for **coordinated, overarching global programmes with effective regulation and enforcement mechanisms.**



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Partnerships and Collaboration

Interaction between **civil society, private sector, international, national and regional institutions**.

Solutions for improved ocean governance through **inclusive, transparent and accountable mechanisms** that allow for informed judgments to be made at the local, national, regional and global level.

Decision-making should **incorporate input from civil society** and other stakeholders through inclusive consultation processes.



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Education and Outreach

Raise awareness and increase basic knowledge about the ocean among the general public, industry and decision-makers.

Schools, with the support of governments, play an important institutional role in developing a strong **understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems** and the ocean as an indispensable provider of economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.

Raise awareness of the **opportunities provided by the marine environment** as well as the link between the ocean and human wellbeing.

Effective communication of research results key to achieving higher levels of marine awareness. Collaboration between scientists, governments, private sector and civil society is also essential.



Expert Group Recommendations

General global recommendation for mobilizing a Blue Society:
activate and strengthen environmental stewardship values

Full list of Recommendations in **Blue Society Concept Note**

