



OVERVIEW

1. International Cooperation:

- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- United Nations Ocean Conference

2. The Mini 30x30:

- The 30x30 global target
- The challenge

3. Marine Protected Areas:

- What are MPAs
- How to create an MPA
- Activities that can be regulated
- Levels of protection
- Benefits
- How much is protected?

4. Activities:

- 1. In my Marine Protected Area
- 2. MPAs from everyone to everyone

5. Call to Action:

- Voting on TOP 3 MPAs benefits
- Subscribing the open letter to the UN

An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, branching coral structures with a yellowish-brown hue. To the left, a dark, rocky reef slope descends into the water. Numerous small, dark fish are swimming in the clear blue water. Sunlight rays penetrate the surface from the top center, creating a bright, starburst effect and illuminating the scene. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SDG 14: Life Below Water

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- A universal blueprint for achieving a **better and more sustainable future** for all.
- Includes **17 Sustainable Development Goals** addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.



Goal 14: Life Bellow Water

Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



United Nations Ocean Conference

UNOC1 (2017)
New York City, USA
Fiji and Sweden

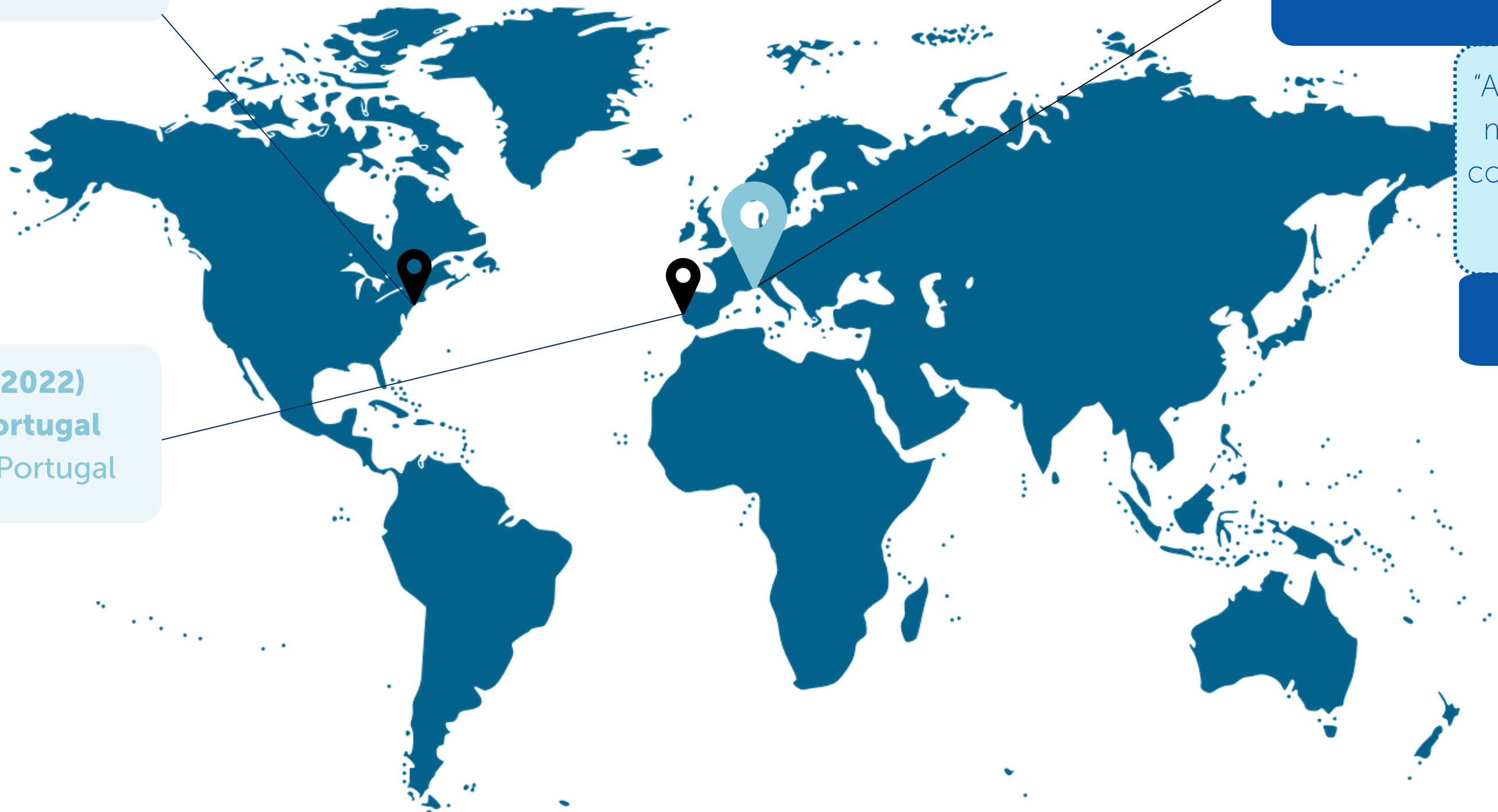
UNOC2 (2022)
Lisbon, Portugal
Kenya and Portugal

UNOC3 (June, 2025)
Nice, France
Costa Rica and France

"Accelerating action and
mobilizing all actors to
conserve and sustainably
use the ocean"

**An action-oriented
conference**

**Learn more
about UNOC3**



MINI 30
30x
A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN

30x30 GLOBAL TARGET



World Conservation Congress, Hawai'i

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) calls on its members to **protect 30% of the ocean by 2030**

2016

2022

United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Canada

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

established 23 global targets;

Target 3 is the **"30x30 target"**:
protect 30% of the planet by 2030.



THE CHALLENGE



Students from all around the world will participate and advocate for ocean action



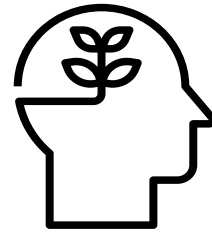
Group photos from participants will be used to create a mural



Delivery of an open letter to the UN at UNOC3 with the students' opinions

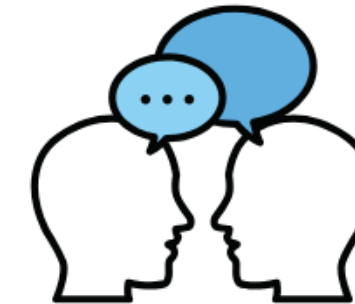
Young voices must be heard when their future is at stake!

STUDENTS ARE CHALLENGED TO



Learn about MPAs

Subscribe the open letter
to the United Nations, to
urge the global 30x30
target achievement



Discuss the
importance of MPAs

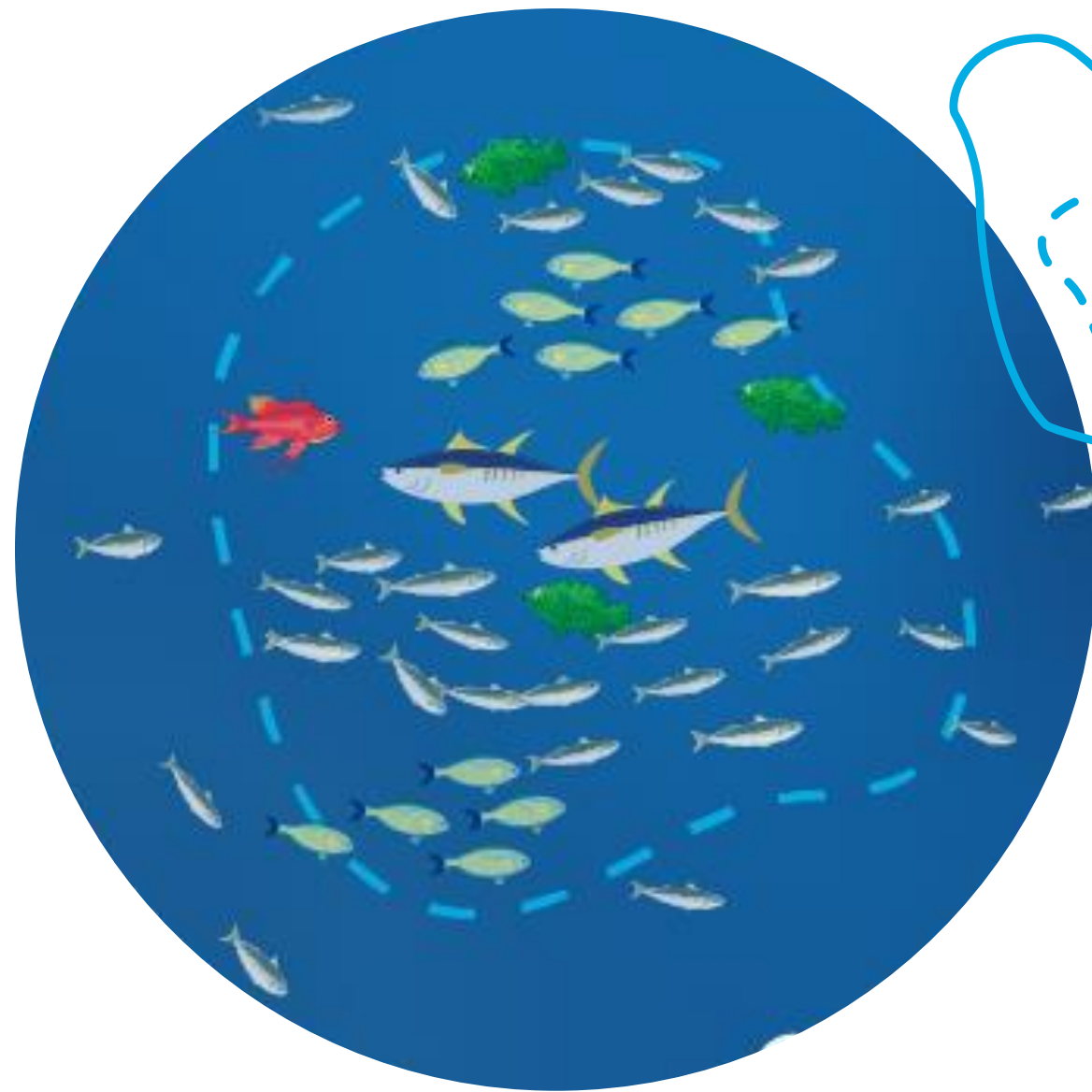


Vote for the TOP 3
MPAs benefits and
submit a group photo

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



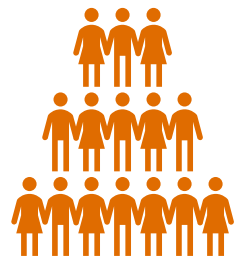
WHAT ARE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?



Defined geographical areas below the tideline with rules that limit human activities

HOW TO CREATE AN MPA

When creating a Marine Protected Area several aspects must be considered:



People



Science



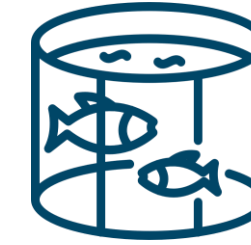
Environment

1. **Science** to inform the need and the natural values to protect.
2. **All interested parts** need to be involved and recognize the benefits of MPAs:
scientists, politicians, fishers, tourism operators, businesses, local communities...
3. **The potential benefits** for the environment, the people, businesses and economy.
4. **Policymakers** decide and create laws to define new MPAs and the rules to limit human activities.
5. **Education and ocean action** must reinforce the importance of MPAs.

WHICH HUMAN ACTIVITIES CAN BE REGULATED?



**Mining, prospecting,
exploitation and active pipelines**



Aquaculture



Dredging and dumping



Anchoring



Fishing



Infrastructures for:
aquaculture, tourism, renewable
energy , artificial reefs, ports, marinas...

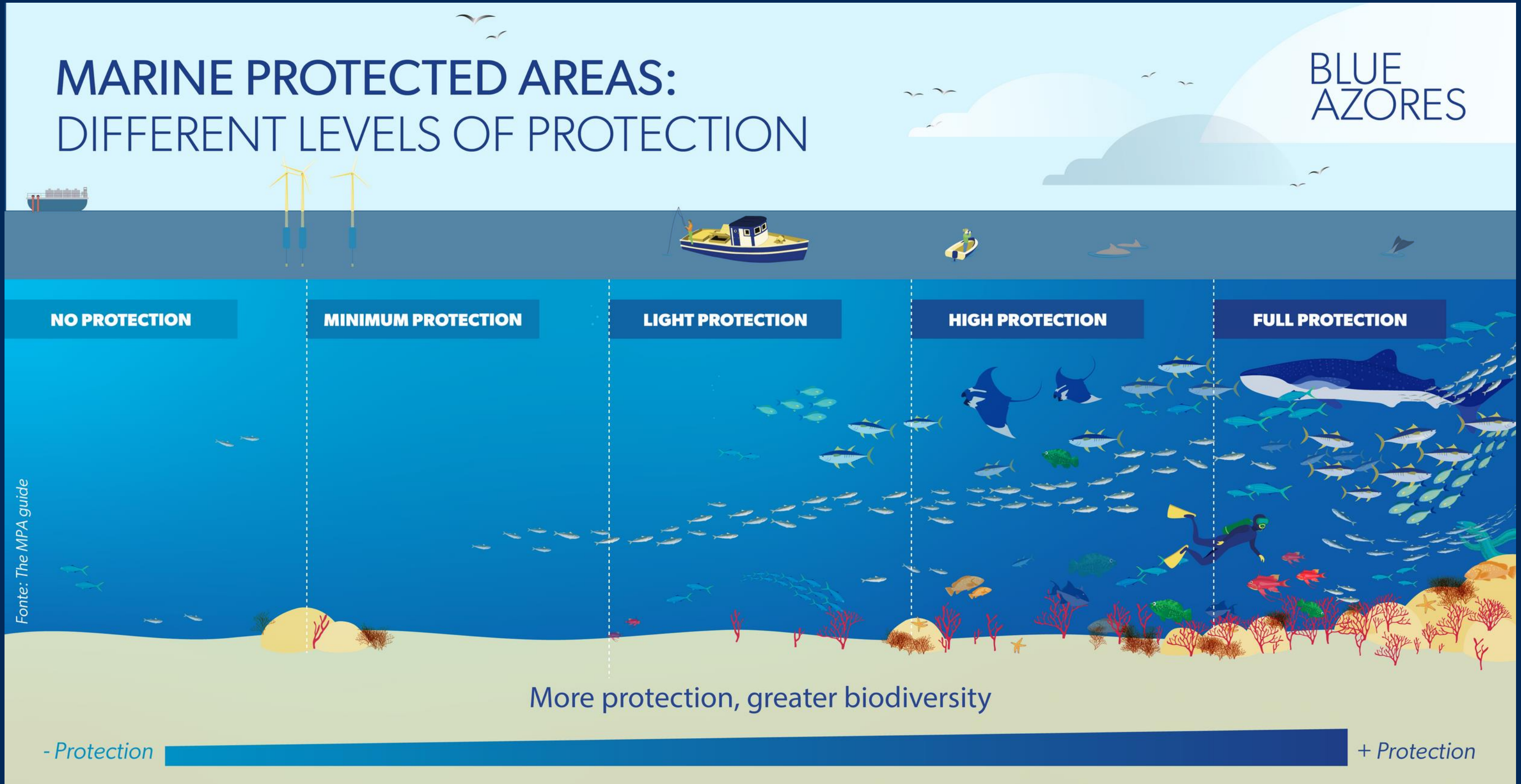


Non-extractive activities

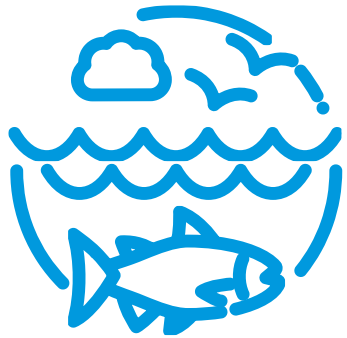
PROTECTION LEVELS

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PROTECTION

BLUE
AZORES



BENEFITS



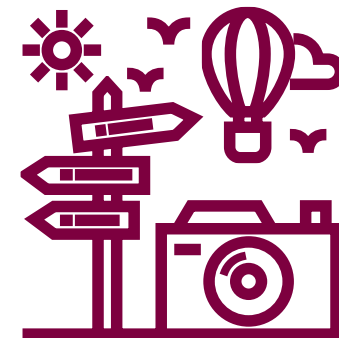
Protection of marine life and biodiversity



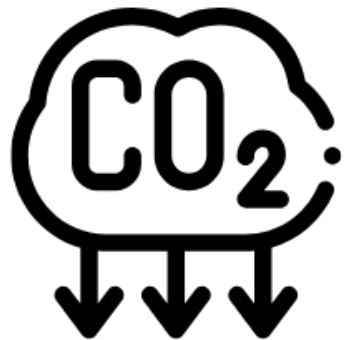
Coastal protection



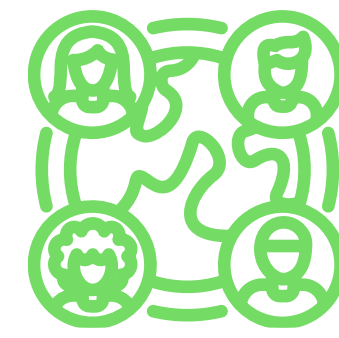
Habitat recovery



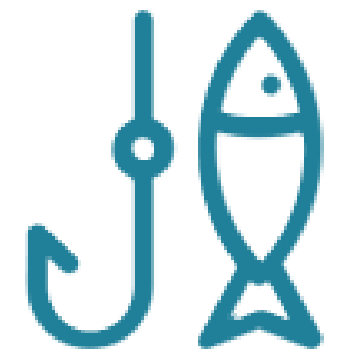
Tourism and local economy



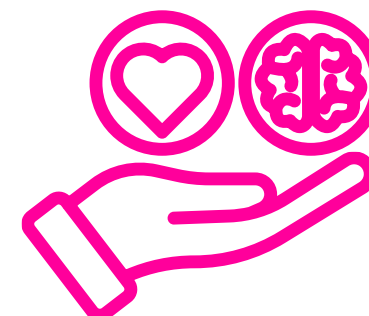
Fight climate change



Preservation of cultural heritage

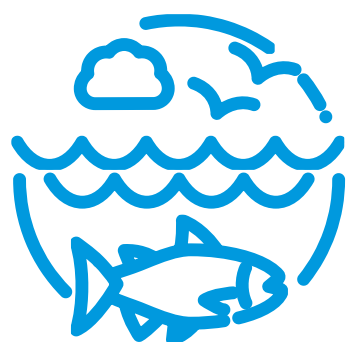


Benefits for fisheries



Health and wellbeing

BENEFITS



Protection of marine life and biodiversity

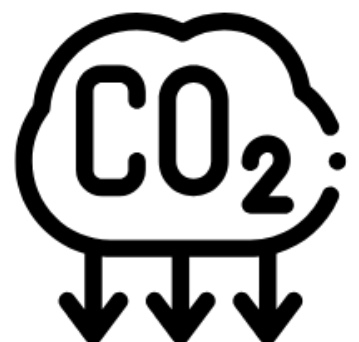
- In MPAs marine life can live, reproduce and thrive.
- The number of fish can increase 4-5 times - individuals growing, getting older and bigger are able to produce more descendants.
- Increase in biodiversity - more diverse species existing inside the MPA.
- With this increase in number, species eventually leave the boundaries of the MPA, migrating to the surrounding areas.



Habitat recovery

- MPAs are crucial to protect and recover habitats critically endangered, some of huge importance for ocean health
coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass meadows
- The habitat recovery will allow the increase of benefits for marine life.

BENEFITS



Fight climate change

- Ocean can store atmospheric CO₂, a gas that contributes to global warming.
- By doing this, it helps to regulate global temperatures and fight climate change.



Benefits for fisheries

- The fish stocks around MPAs improve when species move outside the boundaries of the area.
- The use of more sustainable and less destructive fishing techniques improves the health of the marine ecosystems.



Coastal protection

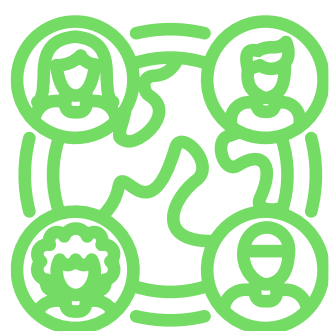
- When habitats like mangroves and reefs are protected, they act more efficiently as barriers, protecting coastal areas from storms, flooding, erosion and currents (which are more frequent due to climate change)

BENEFITS



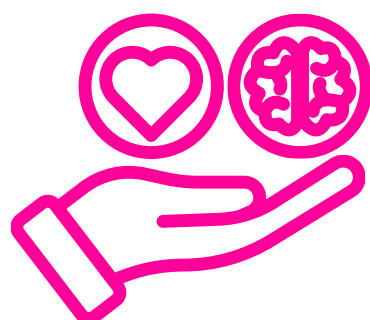
Tourism and local economy

- A healthy ocean attracts visitors who enjoy environment beauty and activities like diving, surf and whale watching.
- Sustainable tourism creates job opportunities and higher income for local businesses and communities.



Preservation of cultural heritage

- Many MPAs include areas of cultural and historical significance to local communities, preserving traditional practices.



Health and wellbeing

- Nature in general is key to better human health and wellbeing.
- The ocean contains important medicinal value, provides spiritual and mental wellbeing, and opportunities for leisure activities.

HOW MUCH OF THE OCEAN IS PROTECTED?

BLUE
AZORES

ONLY
2,9% OF THE OCEAN ARE FULLY OR
HIGHLY PROTECTED AREAS

UNTIL 2025



MARINE PROTECTED
AREAS

WE ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE 30% TARGET!

Source: MPAAtlas

ACTIVITY 1

In my Marine Protected Area



IN MY MPA

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a coral reef with several bright orange fish swimming among the coral structures.

Goal: understand how the different levels of MPAs work and the benefits for fisheries of more protection and good management.

How: different groups of students will have their own MPA and rules to follow when fishing inside their area. After a few rounds of fishing each group will compare how many fish are left inside each MPA:

- | Which group has the most fish left on their sheet?
- | And for which groups did the number of fish on the auction containers improve?
- | What do these results mean regarding the level of protection of MPAs?

ACTIVITY 2

Marine Protected Areas from Everyone to Everyone



MPAs FROM EVERYONE TO EVERYONE



Goal: take the role of different stakeholders and understand the implementation process of an MPA.

How: students will be attributed character cards with their role and the arguments they must present during a debate about the implementation of an MPA. After the debate, students can discuss:

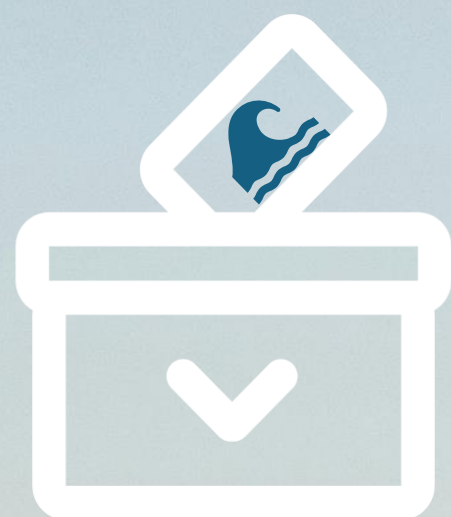
- | What compromises were necessary to implement the MPA?
- | What challenges did they face in reaching a decision?
- | How can different sectors work together to ensure the success of an MPA?
- | How do MPAs contribute to broader environmental goals such as biodiversity conservation and climate resilience?

An underwater photograph of a mangrove forest. The water is clear and blue-green. Numerous dark, woody mangrove roots rise from the seabed, creating a complex network. Several small, silver fish with yellow-tipped tails are swimming in the water. The scene is illuminated by natural light filtering down from the surface.

PROTECT THE OCEAN'S TOMORROW












WITH YOUR ACTION TODAY!



VOTE

ON THE TOP3 MPAs BENEFITS

 **TOP3 MPAs BENEFITS**

- ☐  Protection of marine life and biodiversity
- ☐  Habitat recovery
- ☐  Fight climate change
- ☐  Benefits for fisheries
- ☐  Coastal protection
- ☐  Tourism and local economy
- ☐  Preservation of cultural heritage
- ☐  Health and wellbeing

SUBSCRIBE

THE OPEN LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS



OPEN LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS

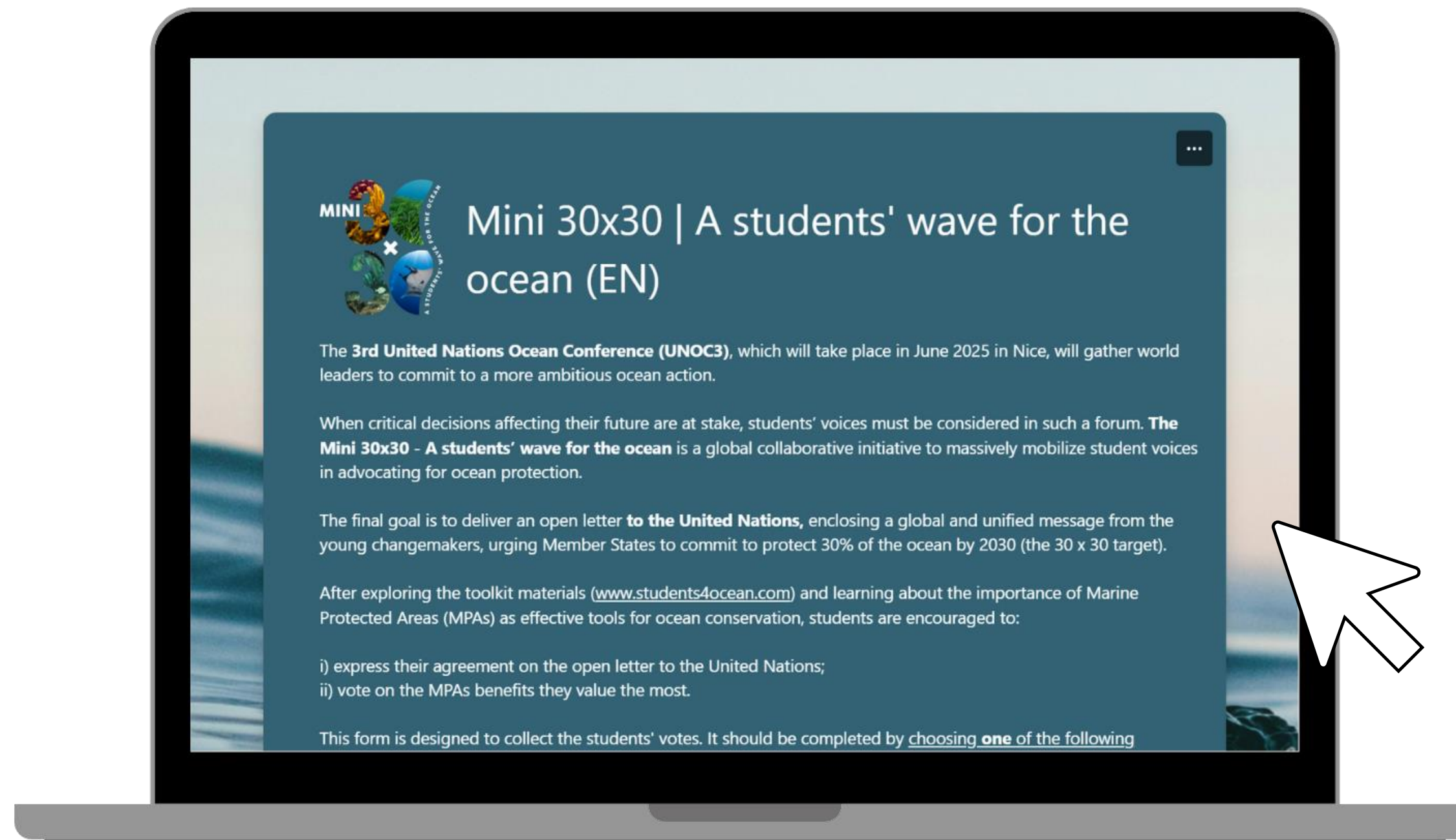
The **MINI 30X30 CHALLENGE – A STUDENTS’ WAVE FOR THE OCEAN** is a global collaborative initiative that created a powerful mobilisation of students worldwide, focusing on the critical 30x30 global target - protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are one of the strongest and most effective tools for ocean conservation. However, only 8% of the global ocean is currently under some sort of protection, and an even smaller percentage, 2.9%, is highly or fully protected. Moreover, while MPA coverage is increasing, some MPAs are not effectively managed. It is not enough to urge nations to increase the number and area of their MPAs, there is also a pressing need for specific measures to implement established frameworks and to manage existing MPAs more effectively.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, children have the right to freely express their own views, and such expressions must be taken seriously and given due value when discussing and making decisions on matters that deeply affect them and their future. **Every child’s future depends on a healthy ocean**, and their concerns and opinions must be considered when world leaders make critical decisions affecting the future of the ocean.

Through this initiative and with this letter, **the students are showing their commitment and urging UN Member States to achieve the critical 30x30 target** within the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, moving towards a healthier ocean and a better future.

PARTICIPATION FORM



MINI 30
30x
A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN