

MINI30x30

A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN

Open Letter to the United Nations

COORDINATION



PARTNERS



EDUCAÇÃO, CIÊNCIA
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Decade of the United Nations
for Science and Sustainable
Development



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, **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.

The **MINI 30X30 CHALLENGE** mobilised **XXXXX** students across **XXXX** schools and **XXXX** countries through the collaboration of an extensive network of international partners dedicated to ocean literacy. An impressive number of schools and teachers gave these young changemakers the opportunity to learn more about Marine Protected Areas, to discuss the topic with their peers and to participate in a democratic process by voting on the three MPAs benefits they find most important.

The three benefits that the students considered most important were:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

XXX students agreed with the following appeal:

We here claim our future based on a healthy ocean and a sustainable planet, and urgently call upon all Member States of the United Nations to consider our appeal and to take bold and immediate action to commit to effective national, regional, and global efforts and push for concrete decisions on the 30x30 target, through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas.

(To be included: 1 sentence relating to the most voted benefits as crucial and urgent)

We also claim the right to be heard and to have our collective voice considered in the conclusions of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference.

The time for ocean action is now. By committing to the 30x30 target, you are securing a future for all of us and for generations to come.

Protect the ocean, shape our future!