





# OVERVIEW

## 1. International Cooperation

- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC)

## 2. The “Mini 30x30 Challenge”

- The 30x30 global target
- The “Mini 30x30 Challenge”

## 3. Marine Protected Areas

- What are Marine Protected Areas?
- How to create a Marine Protected Areas?
- Which human activities can be regulated?
- Levels of protection
- Benefits of Marine Protected Areas
- How much of the ocean is protected?

## 4. Activities

- In my Marine Protected Area
- Marine Protected Areas from everyone to everyone

## 5. Call to Action

- Vote on TOP 3 Marine Protected Areas' benefits
- Subscribe the open letter to the United Nations



An underwater photograph showing a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, branching, yellowish-brown coral structures. To the left, a dark, rocky reef slope descends. Numerous small, dark fish are swimming in the clear blue water. Sunlight rays penetrate the surface from the top center, creating a bright, hazy effect. The text "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# 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 (UNOC)

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

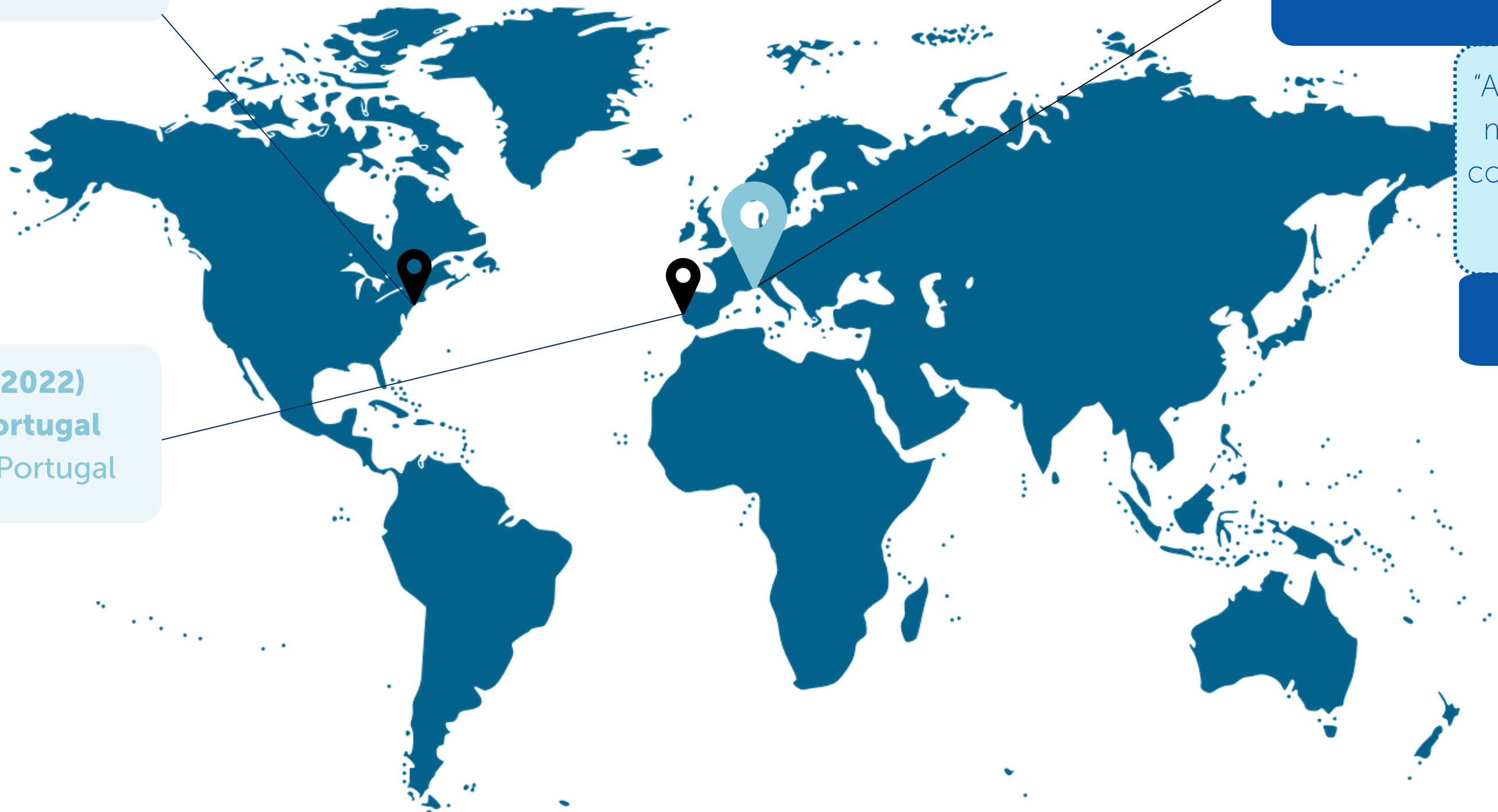
**UNOC3 (June, 2025)**  
**Nice, France**  
Costa Rica and France

**UNOC2 (2022)**  
**Lisbon, Portugal**  
Kenya and Portugal

"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 “MINI 30x30 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

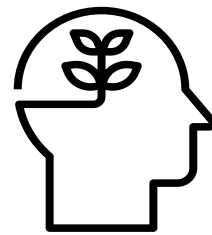


**Delivery** of an open letter to the UN at UNOC3 with the students' opinions

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

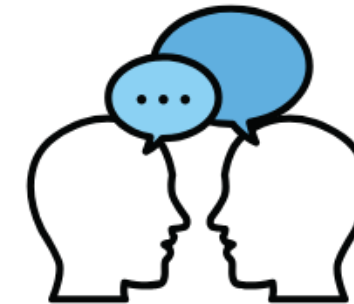


# STUDENTS ARE CHALLENGED TO:



**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

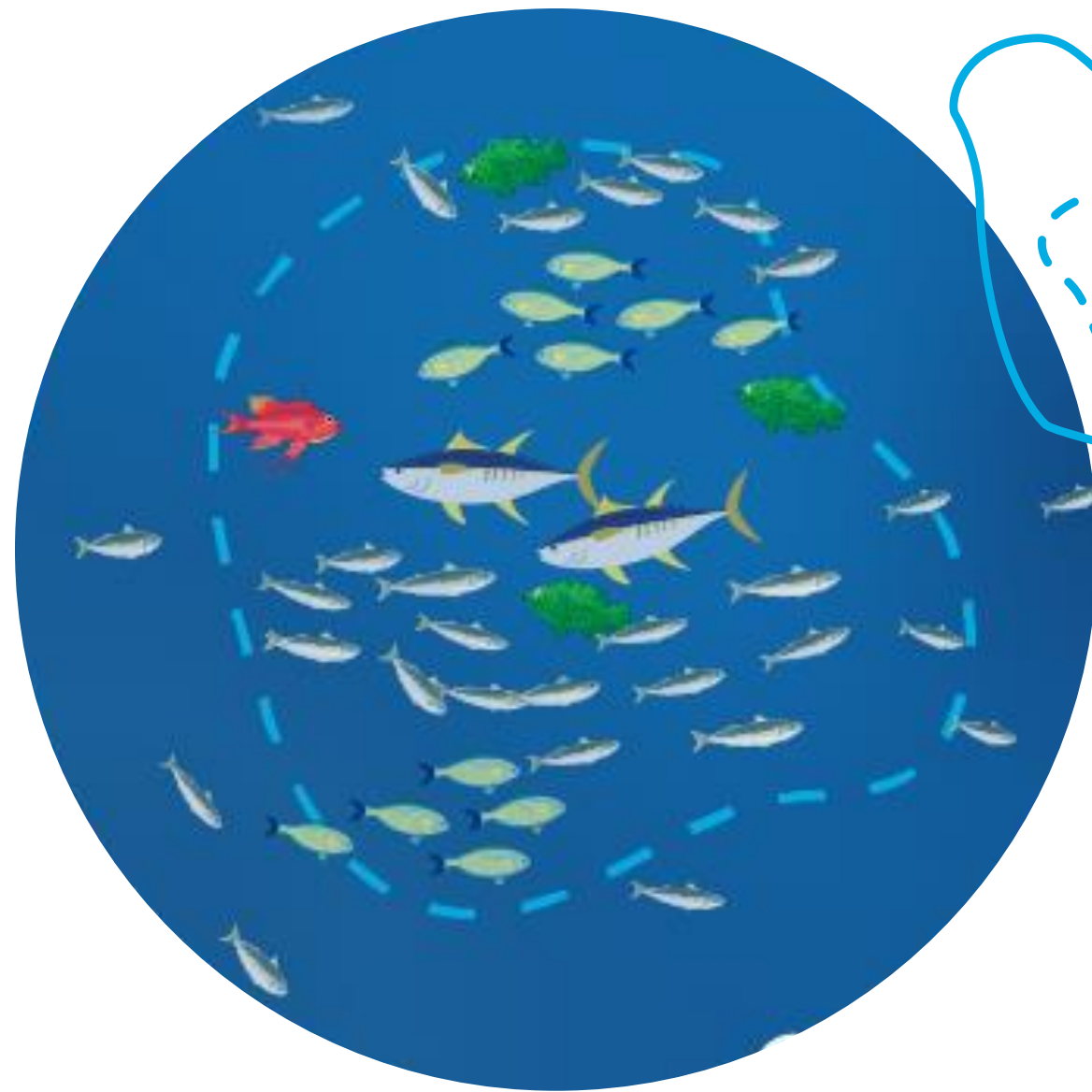


# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS





# WHAT ARE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?



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



# HOW TO CREATE A MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?

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



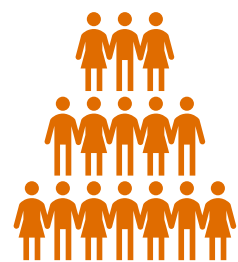
**Science**

**1. Science** to inform the need and the natural values to protect.



**Environment**

**2. All interested parts** need to be involved and recognize the benefits of MPAs: scientists, politicians, fishers, NGOs, tourism operators, businesses, local communities...



**People**

**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.

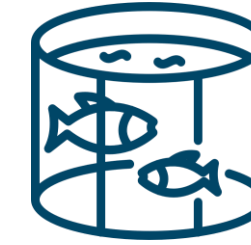
**5. Education and ocean action** must reinforce the importance of MPAs.



# 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...



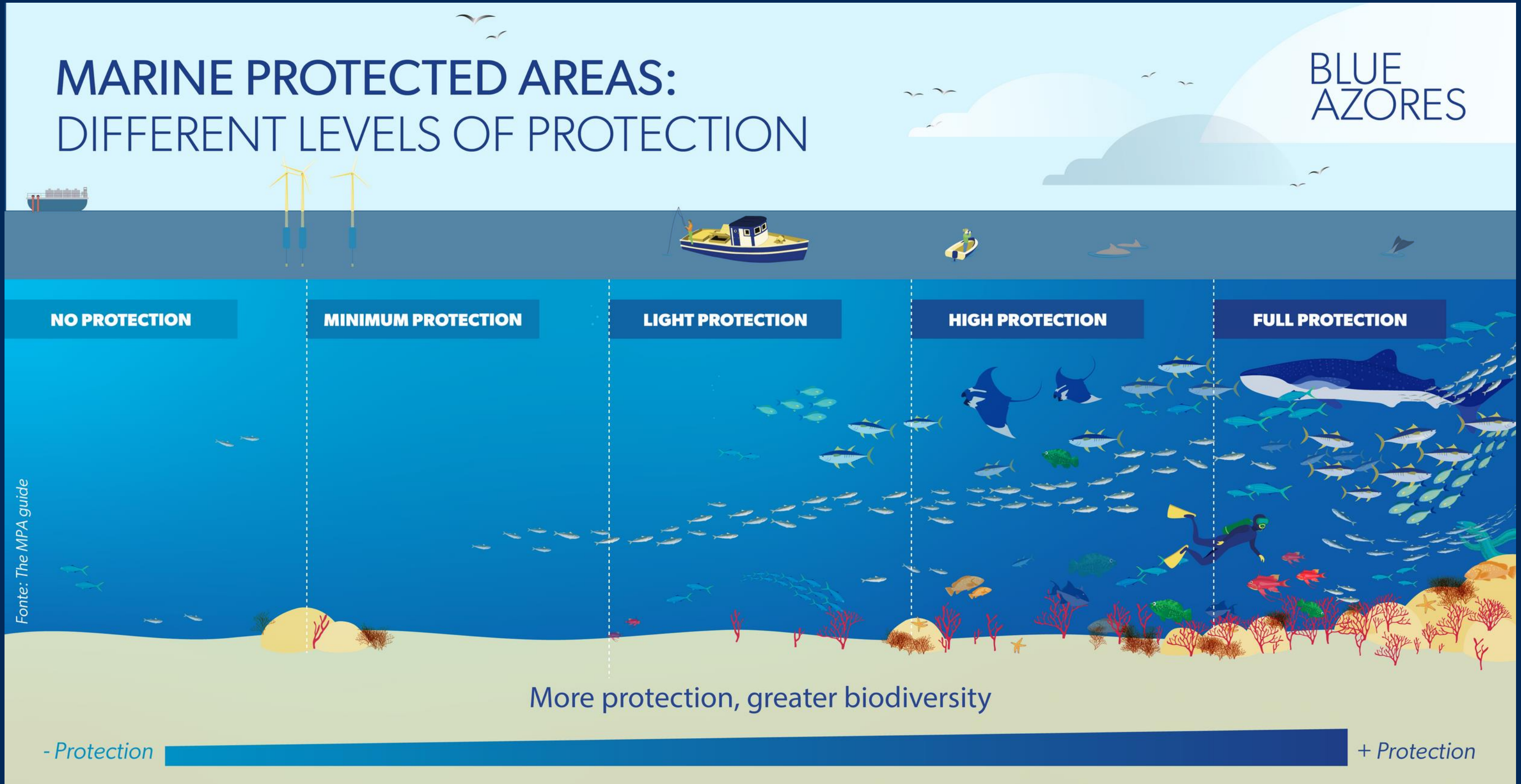
**Non-extractive activities**



# PROTECTION LEVELS

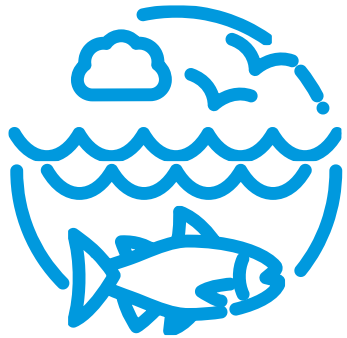
## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PROTECTION

BLUE  
AZORES





# BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



**Protection of marine life and biodiversity**



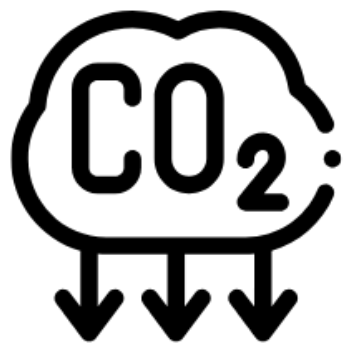
**Coastal protection**



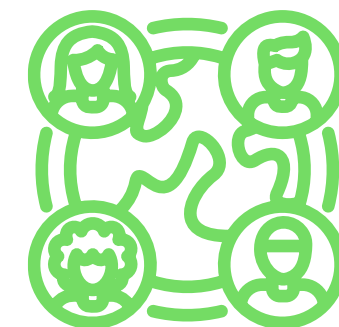
**Habitat recovery**



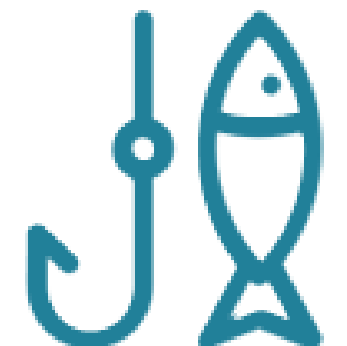
**Tourism and local economy**



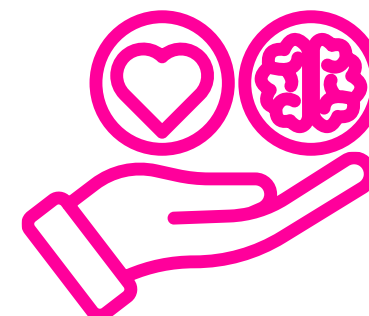
**Fight climate change**



**Preservation of cultural heritage**



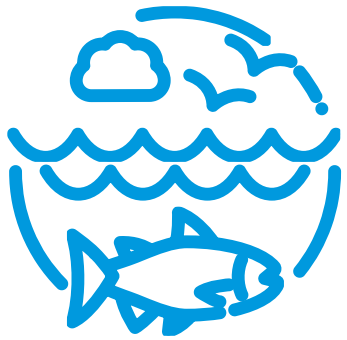
**Benefits for fisheries**



**Health and wellbeing**



# BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



## 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

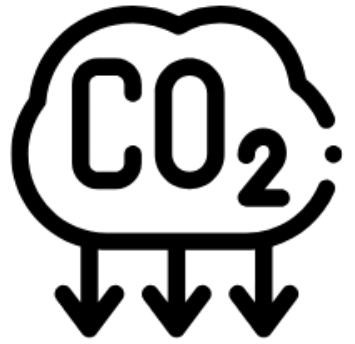
- MPAs are crucial to protect and recover habitats critically endangered, some of huge importance for ocean health

e.g.: coral reefs, salt marshes, mangrove forests and seagrass meadows

- The habitat recovery will allow the increase of benefits for marine life.

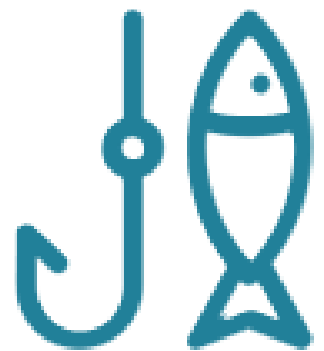


# BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



## **Fight climate change**

- Ocean can store atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, 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.

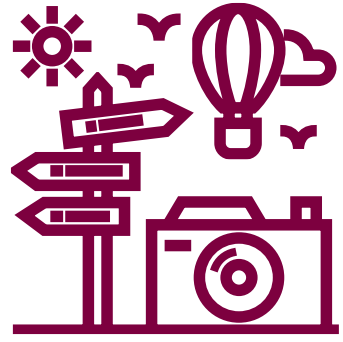


## **Coastal protection**

- When habitats like mangroves, salt marches 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 OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



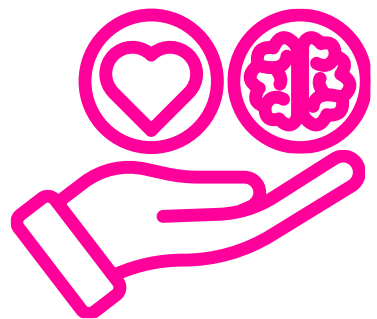
## **Tourism and local economy**

- 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 MARINE PROTECTED AREA

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a diverse coral reef. Several bright orange fish, likely Surge wrasse, are swimming among the various types of coral. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the overall scene is well-lit, highlighting the textures of the coral and the colors of the fish.

**Goal:** understand the rules and results of different levels of protection and the benefits the respective benefits for fisheries.

**How?** different groups of students will have their own Marine Protected Area (MPA) and, in some cases, rules to follow when fishing. After a few rounds of fishing each group will compare how many fish are left inside each MPA. Some questions that can be discussed are:

- | 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







# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS 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?



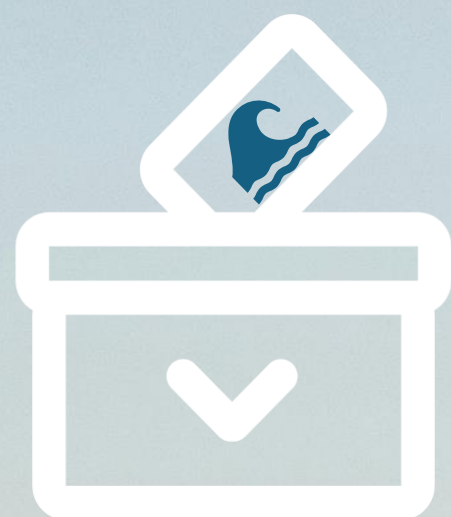
An underwater photograph of a mangrove forest. The water is clear and blue-green. Numerous dark, woody mangrove roots rise from the seabed, creating a complex network. Several small, silver fish with yellowish-orange fins are swimming in the water. The overall scene is serene and highlights the importance of marine ecosystems.

# PROTECT THE OCEAN'S FUTURE




## 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.

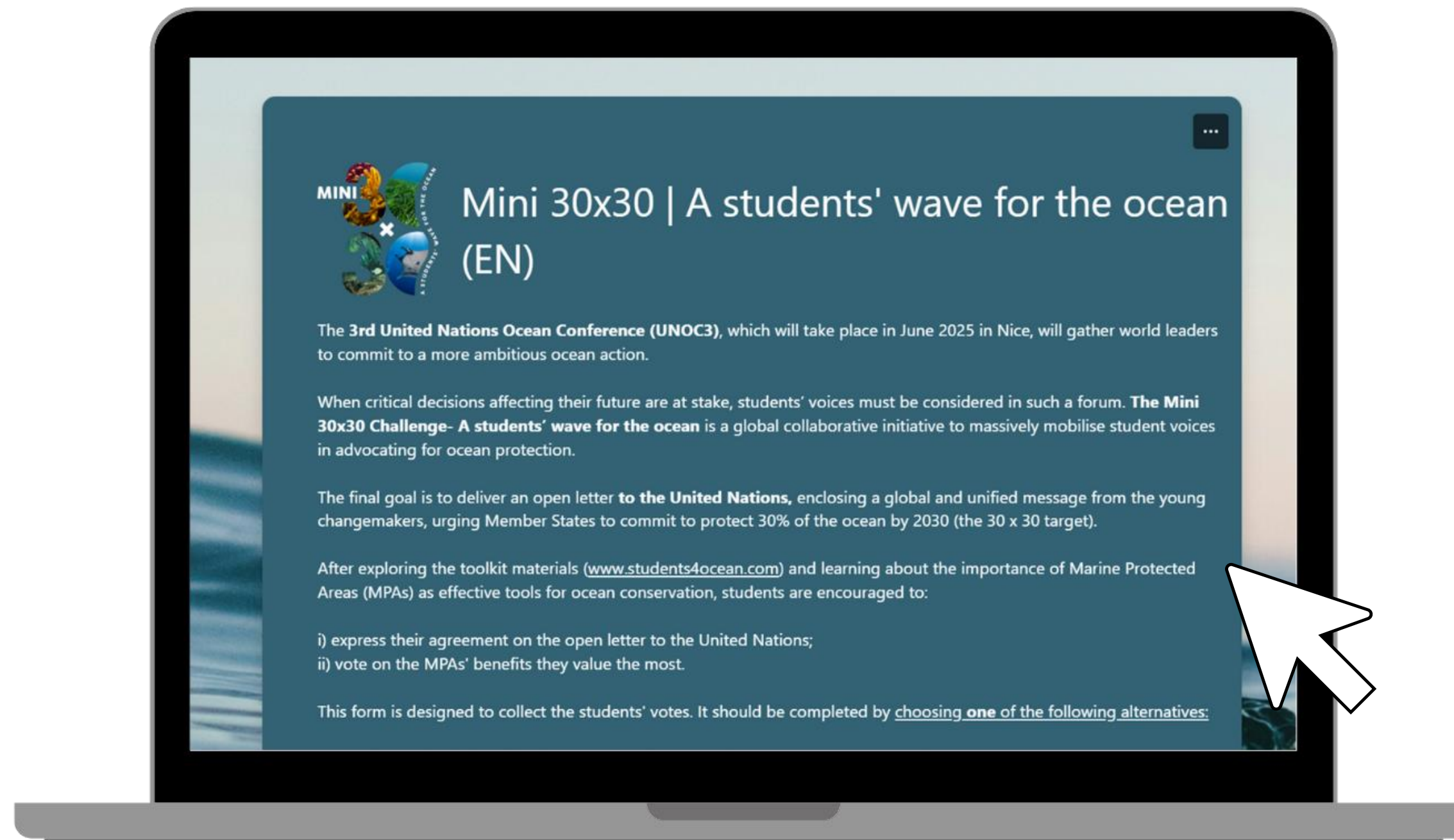
**Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** are one of the strongest and most effective tools for ocean conservation. However, only 8% of the global ocean is currently under some sort of protection, and an even smaller percentage, 2.9%, is highly or fully protected. Moreover, while MPA coverage is increasing, 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 30x30**  Mini 30x30 | A students' wave for the ocean (EN)

The **3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**, which will take place in June 2025 in Nice, will gather world leaders to commit to a more ambitious ocean action.

When critical decisions affecting their future are at stake, students' voices must be considered in such a forum. **The Mini 30x30 Challenge- A students' wave for the ocean** is a global collaborative initiative to massively mobilise student voices in advocating for ocean protection.

The final goal is to deliver an open letter **to the United Nations**, enclosing a global and unified message from the young changemakers, urging Member States to commit to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (the 30 x 30 target).

After exploring the toolkit materials ([www.students4ocean.com](http://www.students4ocean.com)) and learning about the importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as effective tools for ocean conservation, students are encouraged to:

- i) express their agreement on the open letter to the United Nations;
- ii) vote on the MPAs' benefits they value the most.

This form is designed to collect the students' votes. It should be completed by choosing one of the following alternatives:



The background of the image is a photograph of ocean waves under a soft, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The water is a deep blue-green, and the sky is a pale orange and yellow. The waves are rolling in from the left, with white foam visible on the crests.

MINI 30  
30x  
A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN