

MINI 30 × 30 A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN

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COORDINATION



PARTNERS



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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 areas are not effectively managed. It is not enough to urge nations to increase the number and size of their MPAs; there is also a pressing need for specific measures to implement established frameworks and to manage existing areas 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 views. Their voices must be taken seriously and given due weight when discussing and making decisions on matters that profoundly 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 impacting the ocean's future.

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 **XXXX** students across **XXX** schools in **XX** countries, through the collaboration of an extensive network of international partners dedicated to ocean literacy. A remarkable number of schools and teachers have given these young changemakers the opportunity to learn more about Marine Protected Areas, discuss the topic with their peers, and participate in a democratic process by voting on the three MPA benefits they consider most important. **Students recognised**

the benefits of Marine Protected Areas in all their dimensions —environmental, social, and economic—in the following descending order:

1. Protection of marine life and biodiversity – XXXX votes
2. Habitat recovery – XXXX votes
3. Health and wellbeing – XXXX votes
4. Fight climate change – XXXX votes
5. Coastal protection – XXXX votes
6. Tourism and local economy – XXXX votes
7. Benefits for fisheries – XXXX votes
8. Preservation of cultural heritage – XXXX votes

XX% of the participating 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.**

We also claim the right to be heard and to have our **collective voice** considered during decision-making processes relating to the ocean.

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!”

The participants,

Countries, schools and number of voting students: