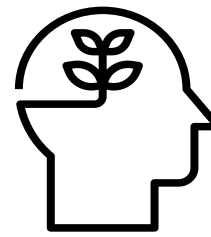
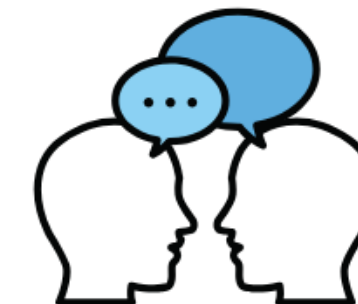




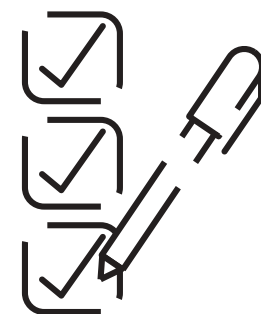
STUDENTS ARE CHALLENGED TO:



Learn about
the ocean

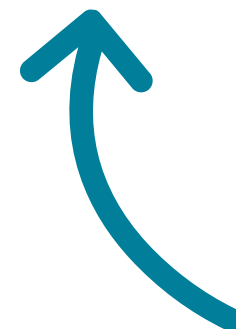


Discuss how to
protect the ocean



Vote TOP 3 benefits of
marine protection

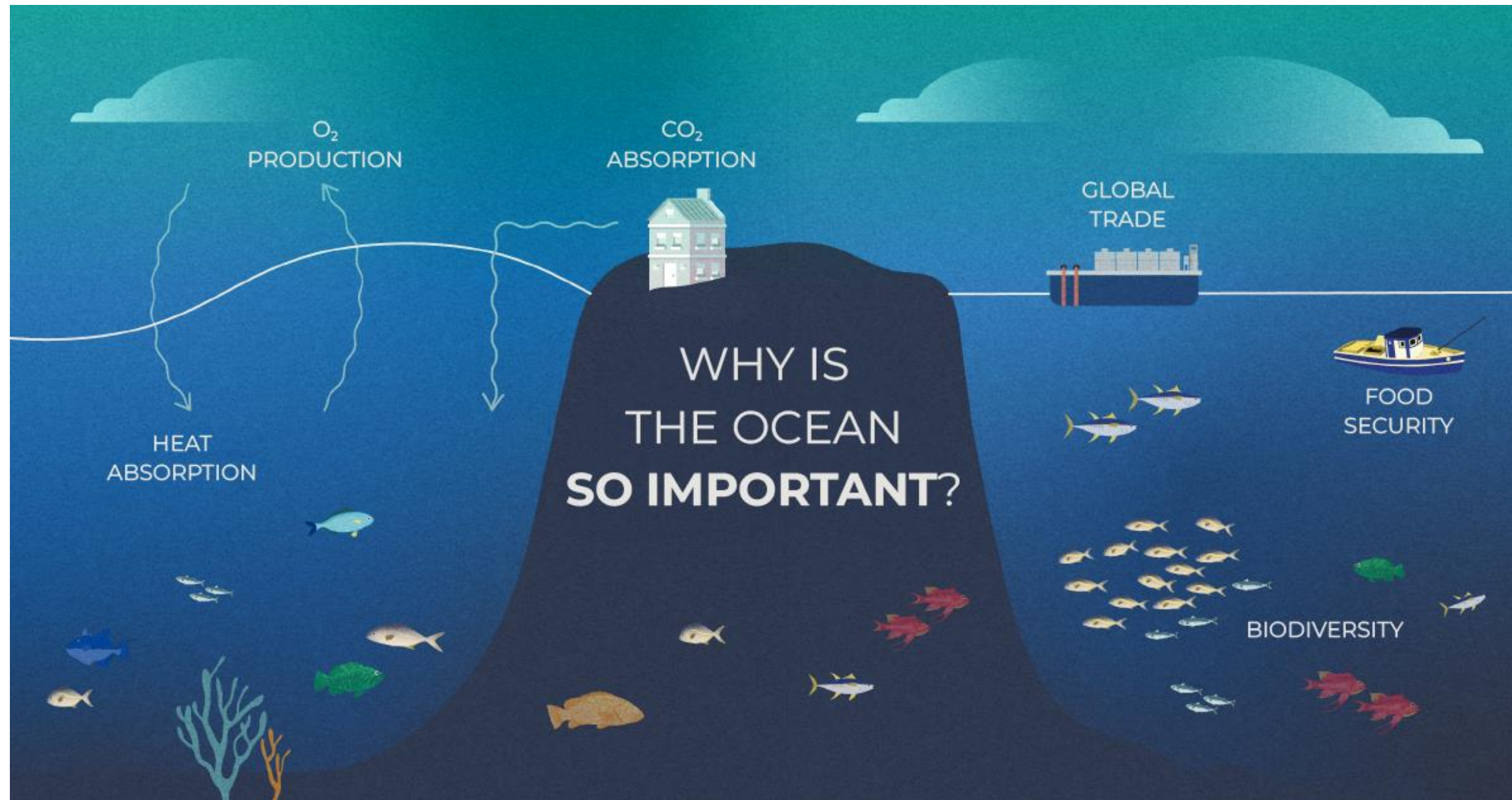
Subscribe the open letter
to the United Nations, to
urge ocean protection



OCEAN



THE OCEAN IS VITAL



50% oxygen

25% CO₂ emissions

90% excess heat

99% biosphere

90% traded goods

3 000 000 000

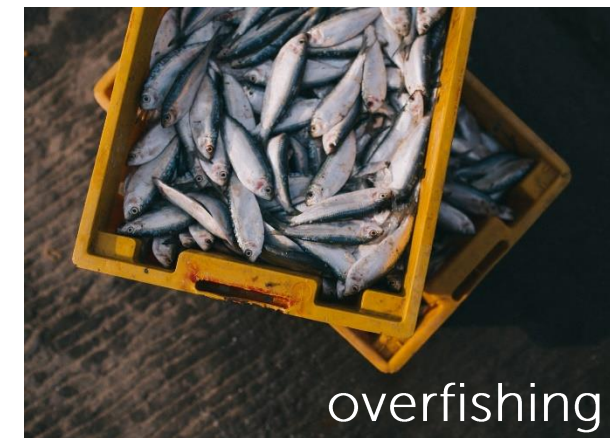
people depend directly
on the ocean

OCEAN CRISIS

The ocean is currently facing:

the **climate crisis** and the **biodiversity crisis**, with species extinction at an unprecedented rate.

Some of the biggest threats to marine ecosystems are:



SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

includes **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** addressing global challenges.



Goal 14: Life Bellow Water

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



30x30 GLOBAL TARGET



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

World Conservation Congress, Hawaii

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature 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.**



HOW MUCH IS PROTECTED?

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

UNTIL 2025

BLUE
AZORES



MARINE PROTECTED
AREAS

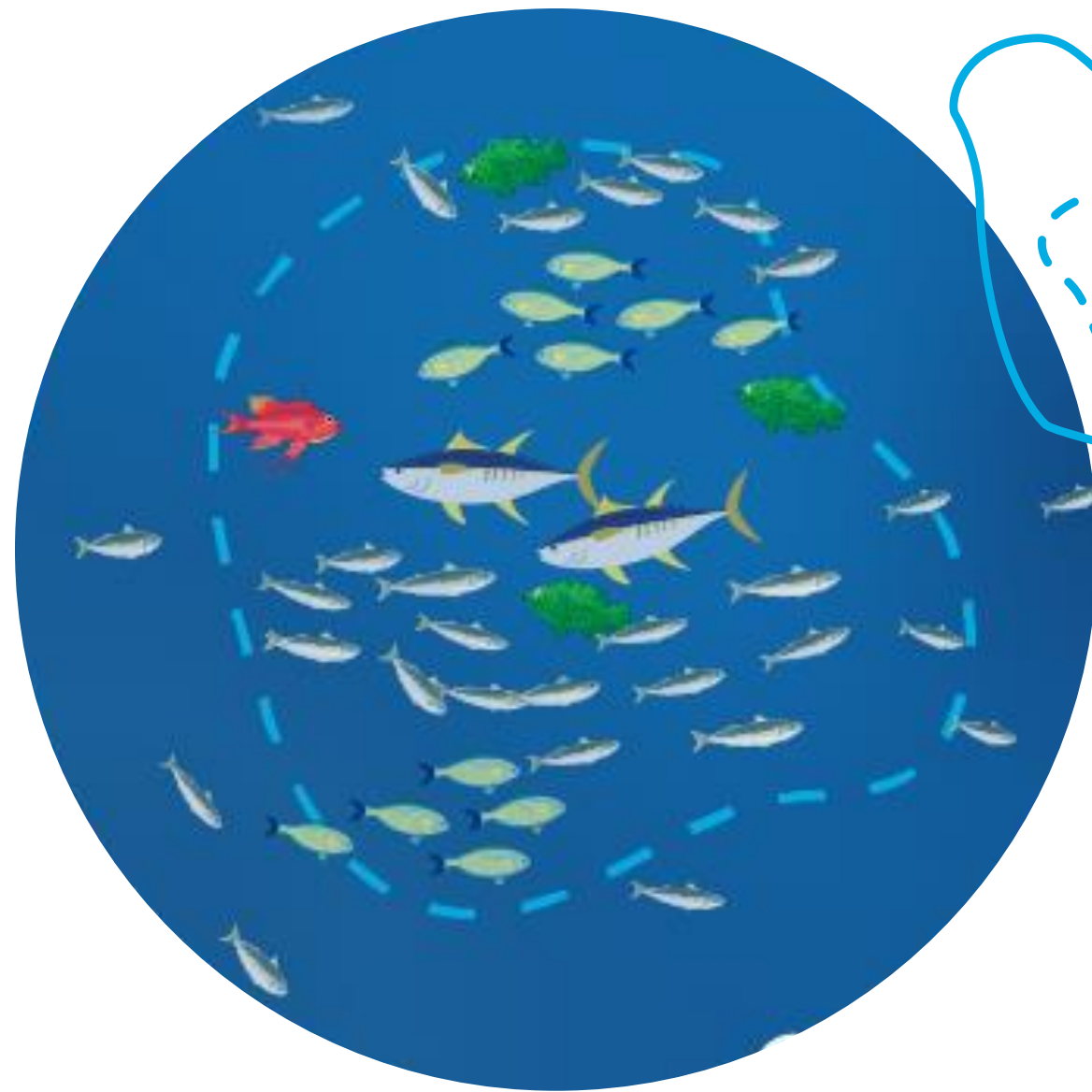
WE ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE 30% TARGET!

Source: MPAtlas

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



WHAT ARE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?

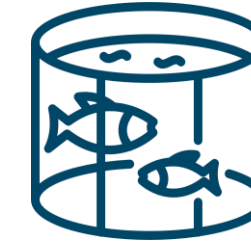


Defined geographical areas below the tideline with rules that limit human activities

WHICH HUMAN ACTIVITIES CAN BE REGULATED?



Mining, prospecting, exploiting



Aquaculture



Dredging and dumping



Anchoring



Fishing

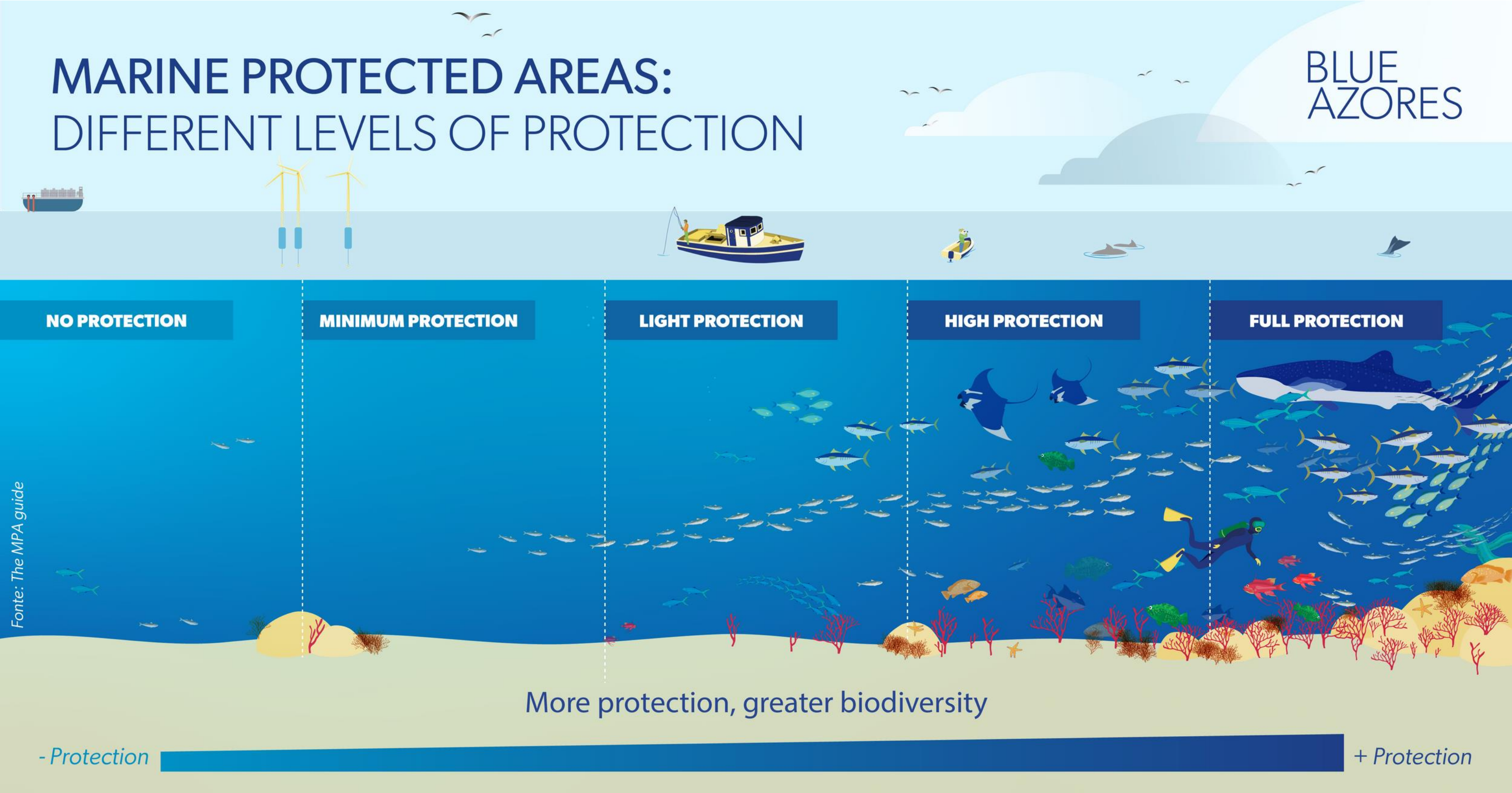


Infrastructures for:
aquaculture, tourism, renewable
energy , artificial reefs, ports, marinas...

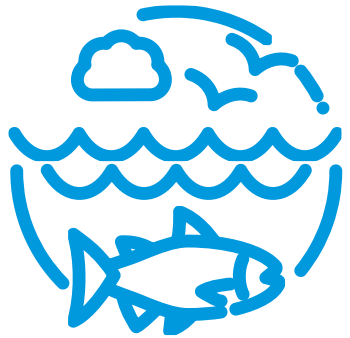


Non-extractive activities

PROTECTION LEVELS



BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Protection of marine life and biodiversity



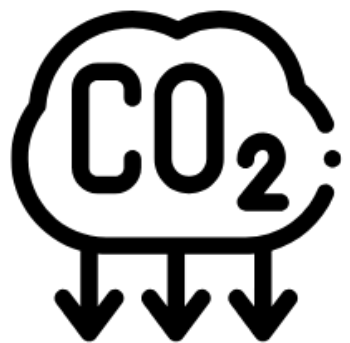
Coastal protection



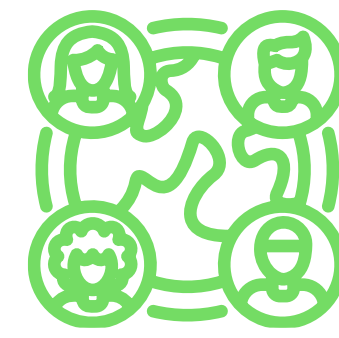
Habitat recovery



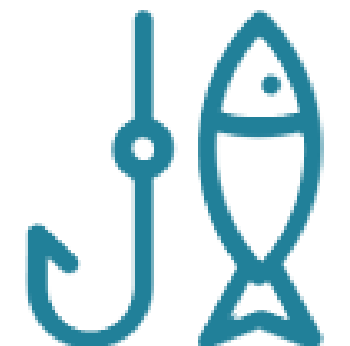
Tourism and local economy



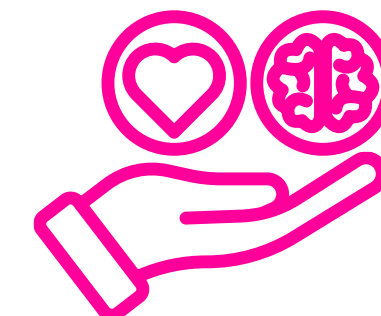
Fight climate change



Preservation of cultural heritage

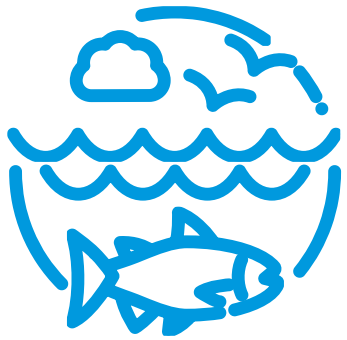


Benefits for fisheries



Health and wellbeing

BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Protection of marine life and biodiversity

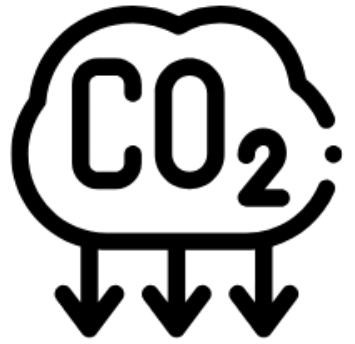
- Marine life can live, reproduce and thrive.
- There is an increase in the diversity of species and habitats.
- The number of fish can increase 4-5 times - individuals grow, get older and bigger and produce more descendants.
- With this increase in number, individuals can move from Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), to the surrounding areas.



Habitat recovery

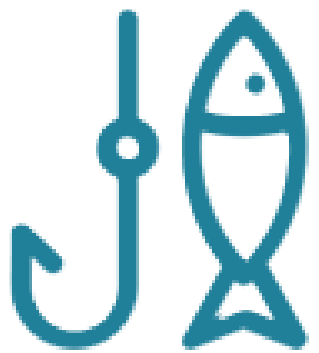
- MPAs are crucial for protecting and recovering habitats critically endangered, some of which are of huge importance for ocean health and fighting climate change.
e.g.: coral reefs, salt marshes, mangrove forests and seagrass meadows
- Habitat protection and recovery will benefit marine life.

BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Fight climate change

- The ocean water and marine ecosystems store atmospheric CO₂, a gas that contributes to global warming.
- This helps regulating global temperatures and fighting climate change.



Benefits for fisheries

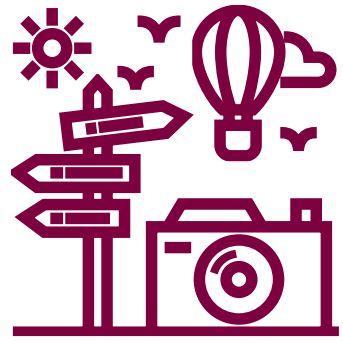
- The fish stocks around MPAs improve when fish move outside the boundaries of the protected area.
- The use of more sustainable and less destructive fishing techniques improves the health of marine ecosystems.



Coastal protection

- When marine habitats like mangroves, salt marshes 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



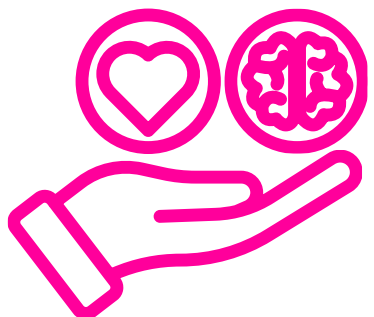
Tourism and local economy

- A healthy ocean attracts visitors who enjoy 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 is key to improving human health and wellbeing.
- The ocean contains important medicinal value, provides spiritual and mental wellbeing, and opportunities for leisure activities.

THE MINI 30x30 Challenge



THE “MINI 30x30 CHALLENGE”



Students from all around the world advocate for ocean action




Delivery of an open letter with students' calling on the UN to take bold action









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



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

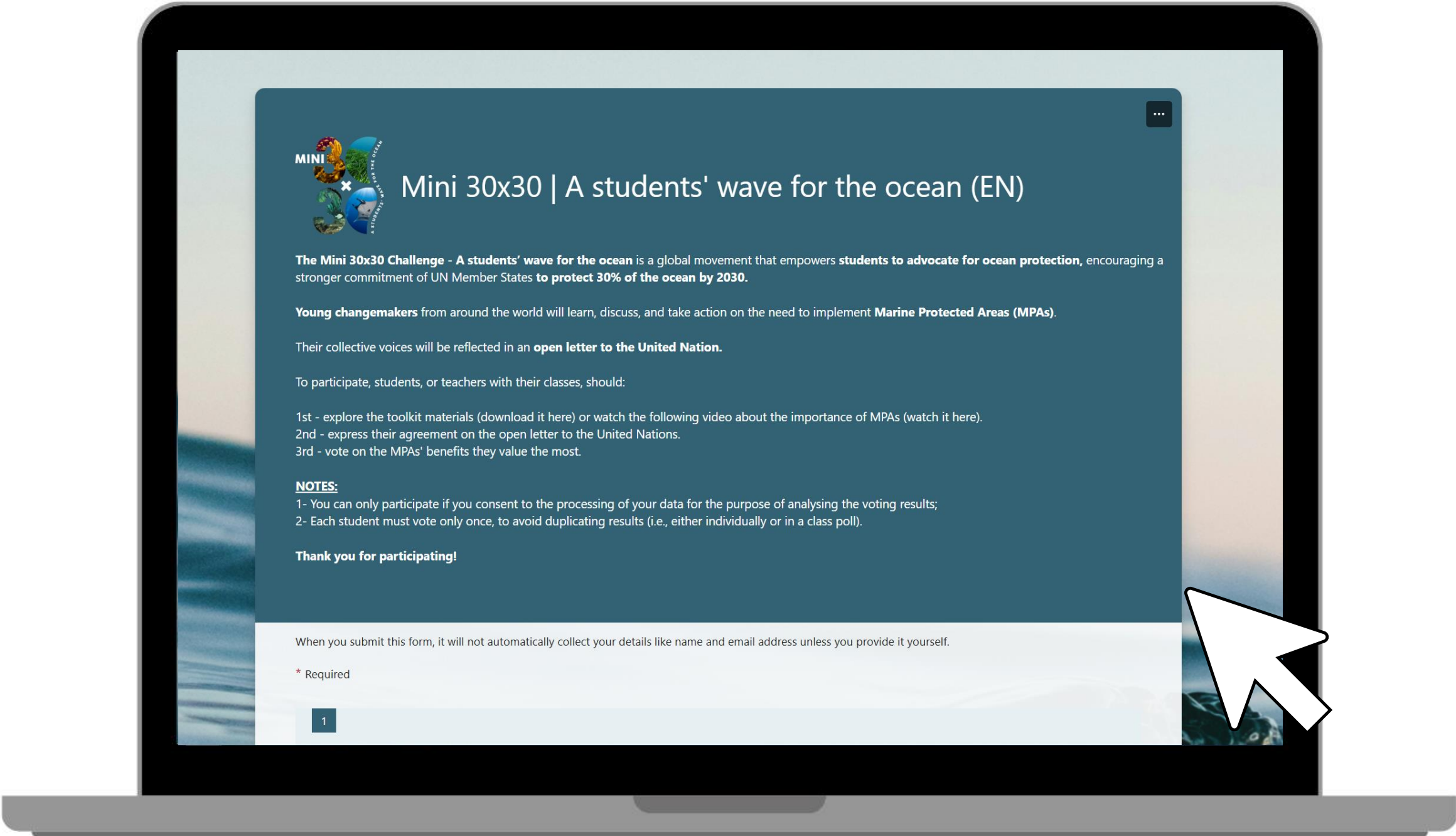
The **MINI 30X30 CHALLENGE – A STUDENTS' WAVE FOR THE OCEAN** is a global collaborative initiative that created a powerful mobilisation of students worldwide, focusing on the critical 30x30 global target - protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

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 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.

PARTICIPATION FORM



Can students' voices be heard by world leaders?

World leaders meet in forums to make decisions about the future of the planet:



United Nations Conference focused on **ocean** conservation.

UNOC3 – June 2025, France



United Nations Conference of the Parties focusing on **climate**.

COP30 – November 2025, Brazil



UN Ocean Decade Conference focused on the priorities for the implementation SDG14.

Students' voices must be heard in such forums!



UNOC 3

COP30

March 2025

June 2025

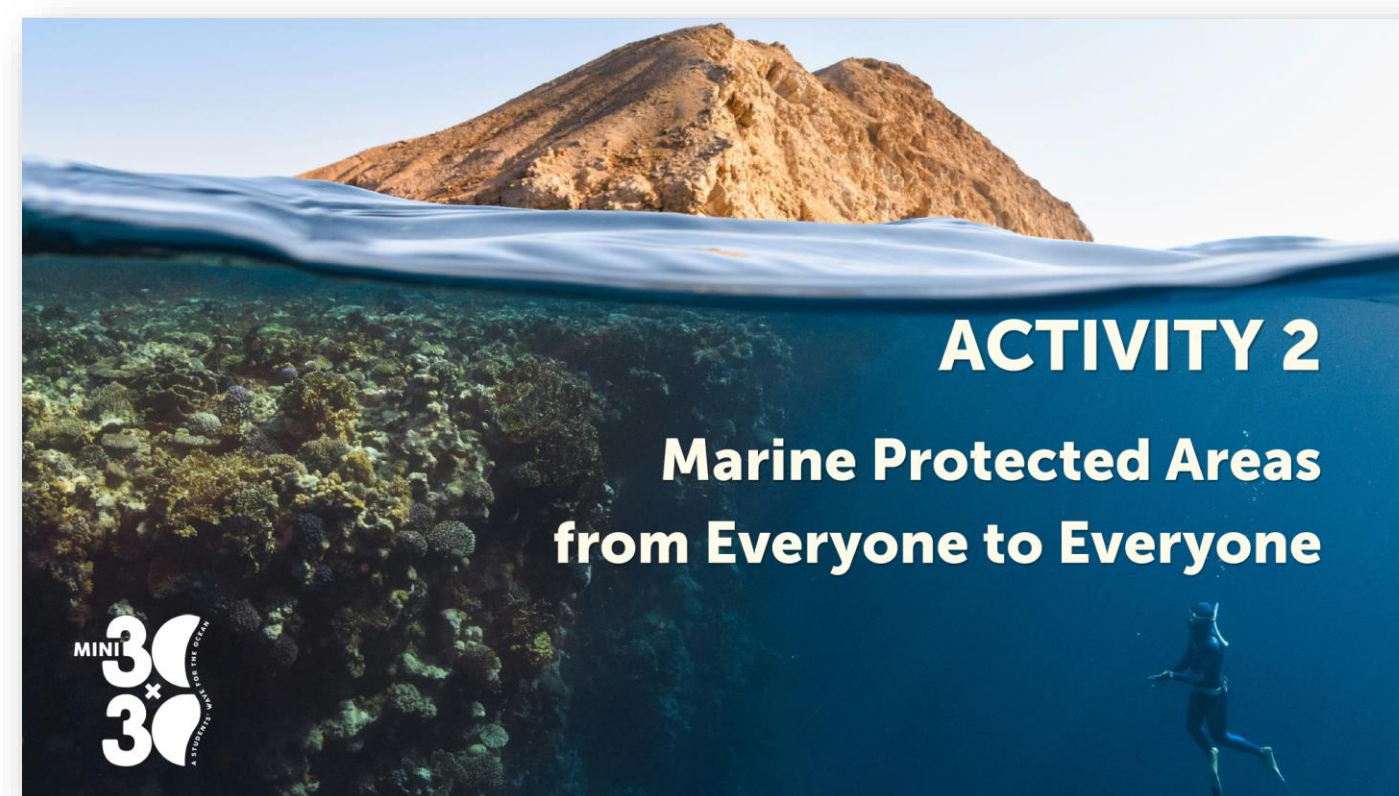
November 2025

**Begginig of the
Mini 30x30
Challenge**

9355 students | 301 schools | 27 countries
Delivery of an open letter to the United Nations

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

Suggested activities for a deeper understanding of the importance of Marine Protected Areas



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 lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the marine life.

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

How? different groups of students will have their own Marine Protected Area (MPA) and rules. 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?
- | 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?



**PROTECT THE OCEAN'S FUTURE
WITH YOUR ACTION TODAY!**