

Ocean Oases

Returns on investing in a global system of
marine protected areas



Photo Laurent Ballesta

Oceans are being stripped of their capital assets. Already, three quarters of the world's fish stocks are fully or over-exploited and destructive practices such as deep sea bottom trawling continue. Add poor coastal development, marine pest invasions and global warming, and it is clear that urgent action is needed. A global system of marine protected areas can preserve unique and commercially important species and habitats in all the world's oceans. It is our insurance policy for the future, and it requires your investment.

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A plague on the oceans

Outside national jurisdiction, the high seas are a legal vacuum. The more we know about the state of marine resources, the more alarming the news becomes.

Overfishing, illegal fishing and climate change - our oceans will soon be empty if we do not find clear laws and rules. Millions of businesses and billions of people are at risk.

Marine protected areas - a proven solution

Marine protected areas help fish stocks to rebound, and improve local livelihoods; they attract tourism and boost commerce in general.

Existing marine protected areas cover less than one percent of seas and oceans, and there is not a single one on the high seas, which make up 64% of the world's oceans.

The World Conservation Union is mobilizing its members and partners to develop a roadmap for the future. It will use cutting-edge scientific data and expertise to, for the first time, set conservation priorities for the high seas.

A sound investment in the oceans' health

As a global leader in marine conservation, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) works in partnerships with governments, private sector, scientific, non-governmental organizations and its

10,000 scientists and experts to bring about a global system of marine protected areas. The World Commission on Protected Areas of IUCN continues to set the global standard for Marine Protected Areas and provides its technical expertise on their management worldwide.

A global system of marine protected areas will help to:

- sustainably manage fisheries
- sustainably finance marine protected areas and insure their related benefits
- understand and incorporate risk into planning processes
- inform on innovative and integrated management tools and mechanisms
- improve livelihoods, and therefore investment climate in developing countries
- identify potential commercial benefits from marine resources in the future

How you can get involved

- Financial or IT (database, mapping) support for the updated and expanded edition of our roadmap for investment in marine conservation;
- Explore opportunities for establishing marine reserves or for investing in marine-based biodiversity offsets of your company's operational impacts

Benefits to business

- Healthy oceans which provide for a sustainable and secure business environment
- Improved livelihoods and commercial opportunities
- Easy access to state-of-the-art knowledge about the marine environment, beneficial to company business planning

The World Conservation Union

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