Great Blue Wall

Towards a blue future

Prepared by IUCN
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**Goal and objectives**

The Great Blue Wall is a Western Indian Ocean (WIO)-led, Africa-driven roadmap to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030. It aims at unlocking unprecedented nature-based recovery efforts through the establishment of a transformational movement. Its goal is to dramatically accelerate and upscale ocean conservation actions while enhancing socio-ecological resilience and the development of a regenerative blue economy by catalysing political leadership and financial support.

This will be achieved by spearheading the establishment of a first-of-its-kind connected network of nature-people positive seascapes. This network of seascapes will be connected by a living blue wall that will act as a regional ecological corridor formed by conserved and restored critical blue ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses and corals. While the Great Blue Wall will act as a wall against climate change impacts and biodiversity loss, it will also shelter coastal communities and create the enabling conditions and necessary mechanisms to accelerate the development of regenerative ocean ventures. The Great Blue Wall is an action-focused and action-driven regional response to 3 interconnected crises, i.e. Biodiversity - Climate - Economy with 3 clear objectives to be achieved by 2030.

<table>
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<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Economy</th>
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<td>Effectively and Equitably conserve at least 2 million km² of WIO Seascapes for Nature and People.</td>
<td>Conserve and restore 2 million ha of critical blue ecosystems to achieve net-gain compared to 2020 and sequester 100 million tons of CO₂.</td>
<td>Unlock the development of a regenerative blue economy that directly benefits 70 million people in coastal communities while also delivering conservation outcomes.</td>
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Biodiversity

Nature and People Positive Seascapes
These seascapes, otherwise referred to as Regenerative Seascapes, will be fairly governed and effectively conserved by countries in both national and international waters and will form a network of inclusive and productive (i.e. multiple, sustainable and artisanal uses) large-scale marine protected and conserved areas. They will meet international standards to ensure they deliver both socio-economic and conservation outcomes by promoting regenerative practices and sustainable use of natural resources that benefit local livelihoods.

Why is this important?
As per end of 2021, only 8% of our Oceans are formally protected, and only a small portion are effectively conserved. Yet, our oceans have never been in such a state of degradation despite being the sources of life, resilience and livelihoods for more than 70 million people in the WIO region alone.

Time is of the essence
Science is clear - we need to protect effectively 30% of our oceans by 2030. With a few years left, the need for a clear roadmap and mechanism to achieve this target in a way that works for both nature and people has never been so critical.

Objective
By 2030 - the Great Blue Wall will fairly and effectively protect and conserve 2 million km$^2$ (30% of the WIO) and will advocate and provide support at regional and global levels to achieve complementary results.
In a recent ground breaking paper*, world leaders promoted the adoption of a succinct Nature-Positive Global Goal for Nature. The goal has three measurable objectives: Zero Net Loss of Nature from 2020, Net Positive by 2030, and Full Recovery by 2050. Subsequently, a joint position paper by global leaders entitled the G7 2030 Nature Compact, recognizes that our world must not only become net zero, but also nature positive, for the benefit of both people and the planet, with a focus on promoting sustainable and inclusive development.


Blue Guardians

Local stakeholders, the first of which are indigenous people and local communities, will play a critical leading role in the effective management of the connected network and will be supported in their efforts to sustainably use and benefit from natural resources.

Objective

By 2030, the Great Blue Wall will achieve net-gain of critical blue ecosystems compared to 2020 by conserving and restoring more than 2 million ha of critical ecosystems and will have sequestered more than 100M tons of carbon. It will support other regions engaged in equivalent efforts.
We Can’t Do This Alone

While we need to urgently address the climate change and biodiversity threats faced by our ocean, we need to do so while also supporting the development of local communities. It is therefore of paramount importance to transform our ocean economy into a driver of positive conservation and socio-economic outcomes. In other words, there is today an urgent need and unique opportunity to accelerate the development of a regenerative blue economy.

The graphic below shows clearly that there is a need for more early-stage investment (seed and venture capital), in particular within the "Death Valley". The Great Blue Wall will drive innovation, investment and transformational change within the seascapes and related ecological corridors in order to overcome such a "Death Valley" effect and support the establishment at scale of financially viable conservation enterprises within these areas.

Because the blue economy sector is still nascent, a key challenge that considerably limits the possibility to unlock such potential is the lack of bankable projects. As the development of a blue economy gains traction, there is today a unique opportunity to support such development while making sure it is inclusive, resilient, and becomes a catalyst to achieve SDG 14.

Objective

By 2030, the Great Blue Wall will unlock regenerative livelihood opportunities for 70 million people in the WIO, create 10 million blue jobs and support other regions engaged in equivalent efforts.
Stakeholders

Central Stakeholders and Key Target Beneficiaries

Leads of the GBW: High-Level Champions, Policy Makers and Enablers

Unlock Blue Investments and Accelerate Regenerative Economic Development

Provide Technical and Capacity Support

Provide Technical and Financial Support
A Growing Partnership

Governments

Republic of Kenya

Republic of Seychelles

Ríaltaí na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

UK Government

GOUVERNEMENT
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

GOVERNO DE PORTUGAL

SWEDEN

The Federal Government

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Civil Society

Race to Resilience

Friends of Ocean Action

WWF

Conservation International

MissionBlue

NEKTÓN

WIOMSA

TechnoServe

Cordio

Wetlands International

Oceanhub Africa

James Michel Foundation

BFA Global

IFAW

International Fund for Animal Welfare
People are rising faster than sea level!

Join The Movement!

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