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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
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الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التغير المناخي
والبيئة



MENA Oceans | Summit 2025

Delivering a regional ocean action agenda

8 - 11 OCT 2025 | ADNEC | ABU DHABI | UAE

In Partnership with



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MENA Oceans Summit 2025, 3rd Edition

The MENA Oceans Summit 2025 will be held under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), in partnership with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Summit is strategically aligned with the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2025, bridging regional priorities with global commitments.

Building on the key outcomes of the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) 2025, the 3rd Edition of the Summit will unveil the Middle East Ocean Action Agenda – a transformative blueprint that identifies short- and long-term priorities and sets out actionable pathways to advance SDG 14.

By fostering closer collaboration across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the Agenda defines a unified direction for ocean and coastal resilience and supports the growth of a regenerative blue economy within one of the world's most strategically significant maritime regions.

The expanded 2025 format will bring together leading experts, practitioners, and decision-makers through high-level panels and thematic deep-dive discussions, designed to facilitate cross-sectoral ocean solutions with lasting impact.



"By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the MENA Oceans Summit serves as a unique platform that helps advance our collective understanding and foster regional collaboration to address the key marine issues pertinent to the MENA region. It's a crucial gathering that supports our ongoing environmental commitments and acknowledges the sea's integral role in the cultural and economic fabric of our region."



H.E. MS. RAZAN AL MUBARAK
Special Envoy of the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs for Nature and IUCN President

MENA Oceans Summit 2025 Agenda

MENA High Level Regional Consultation: Governance & Policy

This high-level consultation will convene **senior representatives from regional government and policymaking bodies and inter-governmental organisations** from across the region, to explore collaborative mechanisms and thematic priorities that can support and guide national and regional efforts towards sustainable ocean management across our shared seas

 **Date:** 8th October

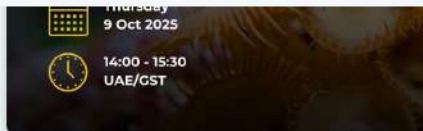
 **Time:** 15:00 - 17:30



The Regenerative Fisheries Majilis - UAE Edit

The first in a regional series, this Deepdive will spotlight traditional fishers, indigenous coastal communities, & government and industry stakeholders to help embed local knowledge, perspectives, & lived experience into blue food policy and governance.

It will honour maritime heritage & the insights of those directly stewarding marine ecosystems, whose daily practices & generational wisdom are vital to shaping a sustainable, inclusive aquatic food future for the MENA region.



 **Date:** 9th October

 **Time:** 14:00 - 15:30

MENA Marine Protected Areas

This Deep Dive Session, convened in partnership with the IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas (WCPA) will enable pathways towards effective marine protected area design, management, and monitoring for the MENA region.

 **Date:** 9th October

 **Time:** 16:00 - 17:30



From decarbonisation to ocean health and biodiversity conservation in the maritime sector

Drawing on the Maritime Decarbonisation to Ocean Health and Biodiversity Roadmap developed by the Initiative in partnership with The UN Climate High Level Champions Team, the UN Foundation and the Sustainable Shipping Initiative. It aims to engage leading stakeholders from the maritime and shipping value chain on sectoral advances and priorities towards the promotion of a climate-smart, sustainable ocean-transport economy.



 **Date:** 10th October

 **Time:** 10:30 - 11:30

MENA Desalination & Water Management Working Group

The Desalination and Water Management sector, a fast-expanding pillar of the MENA blue economy, will be the focus of this Deepdive. Regional experts will explore pathways to embed ocean sustainability across the sector value chain. The session will link sector decarbonisation to improved outcomes for marine health and biodiversity.

 **Date:** 10th October

 **Time:** 14:00 - 15:30



Deep Dive Session: MENA Regenerative Coastal Tourism Working Group

Engaging the hospitality sector & allied marine & coastal tourism industries to initiate the formation of a Regional Working Group tasked with co-developing Regenerative Ocean Health Protocols.

Framed with a view to informing regional policy processes, the session will lay the groundwork for establishing technical standards & best practices that advance climate-resilient, ecosystem-based management across coastal & island destinations.



 **Date:** 10th October

 **Time:** 16:00 - 17:30

Accelerating regional collaboration across the Arabian Sea, Arabian Gulf, Red Sea & the Mediterranean Sea

This high-level panel will initiate a partnership framework led by the MENA Oceans Initiative in collaboration with IUCN's ROWA, Mediterranean, and WCPA programmes to accelerate regional cooperation across the Arabian Sea, Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, and Mediterranean. The session will explore pathways to initiate



Mediterranean. The session will explore pathways to unlock scientific advances and mobilise effective ocean governance for transformative conservation outcomes.



 **Date:** 10th October

 **Time:** 18:15 - 19:00



Deep Dive Session: Mobilising the Ocean Breakthroughs through ecosystem connectivity in the MENA region

This Deepdive will align with the Mangrove, Seagrass, and Coral Breakthroughs to spotlight ambitious regional initiatives advancing ecosystem conservation and resilience. Framing a shared roadmap to COP30 and beyond, the session will surface synergies, progress, and strategic opportunities to accelerate nature-positive outcomes across the MENA region.

 **Date:** 11th October

 **Time:** 14:00 - 15:30

"The UAE demonstrates a deep commitment to boosting its coastal ecosystems, which are integral to our national development, food security, and the blue economy. Our strategic location, coupled with our leadership in maritime trade and pioneering conservation efforts, uniquely positions us to drive regional and global ocean action. These waters, teeming with rich marine ecosystems like coral reefs, mangrove forests, and seagrasses, offer safe habitats for marine life. Hosting the third edition of the MENA Oceans Summit 2025 within the IUCN 2025 programme underscores the indispensable role of these ecosystems in fostering the health of our natural world. This summit will enable crucial collaboration and help translate our shared vision into tangible outcomes for a sustainable marine future across the MENA region and beyond, ensuring our oceans remain vibrant for generations to come."



H.E. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak

Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

"The MENA Oceans Summit is a key part of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025. This summit is more than a conference; it is a commitment to shared progress and a testament to the power of collaboration. By uniting policymakers, scientists, and communities from across the MENA region, we are paving the way for inclusive, science-based action towards a sustainable blue economy and a healthier future for all."



H.E. Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaferi

Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, IUCN Councillor for Western Asia and Vice Chair of the Global Council on SDG14

Speakers



H.E. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak



H.E. Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaferi



H.E. Shaikh Fahim Sultan al Mubarak



H.H. Prince Sultan bin Fahd Al Saud

H.E. Hiba Al Shehhi

Dahak

Minister of Climate Change and Environment

UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment



H.E. Hiba Al Shehhi

Assistant Undersecretary for Biodiversity and Marine

UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

H.E. Ahmed Esmaeil Alsayed

Dhaheri

Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, IUCN

Councillor for Western Asia and Vice Chair of the Global Council on SDG14



H.E. Ahmed Esmaeil Alsayed Alhashmi

Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity (TMBS) Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

H.E. Qasim

Qasimi

Co-Founder & Co-CEO Seafood Souq



Laila Mostafa Abdullatif

Director General of Emirates Nature WWF

H.H. Prince Sultan bin Fahd

bin Salman Al Saud

Chairman Saudi Arabian Water Sports & Diving Federation



Tatiana Antonelli Abella
Founder and Managing Director Goumbook



Ashok Adicéam

Managing Director Neptune Mission, Ministry for Europe & Foreign Affairs, Republic of France



Dr Tundi Agardy

Executive Director Sound Seas



Ismail Alaoui

Principal - Global Water Team Roland Berger



Hamdah Alaslai

Head of Marine Life Section UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment



Dr Nedal M. Alouran

Commissioner For Environment and Public Safety Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)



Lubna Al Ameri

Lead - ADNOC Biodiversity Strategy Programs ADNOC



Marina Antonopoulou

Chief Nature Conservation Officer WWF



Mohammed Asfour

Partner Asfour Investment & Management



Chris Gorell Barnes

Founding Partner Ocean 14 Capital



Anuradha Bhattacharya

Director of MENA Oceans Initiative



Ayla Bajwa

Group Senior Vice President – Sustainability



Eng. Natalia Boulad

Programme Manager, Biodiversity & Protected Areas

Goumbook

DP World

IUCN ROYWA



Filippo Carli
Senior Projects' Coordinator
IUCN ROWA



Prof. Ameer A. Eweida
Executive Steering Committee
Member
IUCN World Commission on
Protected Areas



Prof Sergey Dobretsov
Professor at Sultan Qaboos
University
UNESCO Chair in Marine
Biotechnology at Sultan
Qaboos University



Siham Fellahi
Blue Economy Program
Implementation Unit Coordinator
Ministry of Economic and
Finance



Dr Maryam Ficociello
Group Chief Governance Officer
Red Sea Global



Lyle Glowka
Principal
Biodiversity Strategies
International



Dr. Radhoune ben Hamadou
Director- Research and Policy
Development
Earthna



Carl Gustaf Lundin
Advisor
MSC Foundation



Maher Mahjoub
Regional Director
IUCN MED



Prof Nathalie Martial-Braz
Vice Chancellor
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi



Dr Manal Nader
Associate Professor and Director
Institute of the Environment,
University of Balamand



Ahmed Mukhtar
Representative of Food and
Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations to United Arab
Emirates



Lisa Outtier
Chief Sustainability Officer IMEA
CMA CGM Group



Daniela Picco
Executive Director
MSC Foundation



Loreley Picourt
Executive Director
Ocean & Climate Platform



David Ramos
Senior Manager, Sustainability -
MENAT
HSBC





Juan Antonio Romero
Senior Executive Adviser on
Environment, Conservation and
Research of the Dubai Reef
Project
Department of Economy and
Tourism Dubai



Thomas Sberna
Ocean Lead
UN Climate High Level
Champions Team



Dr Hany El Shaer
Regional Director
IUCN ROWA



Obaid Ali Humaid Al Shamsi
Head of Marine Biodiversity
Section
UAE Ministry of Climate Change
and Environment



Sarah Shaw
CEO
National CSR Fund (Majra)



Dr Taila Sherrard
Head of Commercial and Strategy
Acteon



Dr Corrado Sommariva
Founder and CEO
Sustainable Water Power
Consultants



Prof Martin Visbeck
Chief Executive Officer
OceanQuest



Dr Heidi Weiskel
Acting Head - Global Ocean Team
IUCN

MENA OCEANS SUMMIT 2025 AGENDA

Who will attend

- ✔ Global development, intergovernmental organisations, ocean governance experts
- ✔ Industry leaders from the blue economy (maritime and shipping, tourism, aquaculture, construction, marine sports, desalination, coastal development, coastal tourism and more)
- ✔ Government, regulators and policy makers
- ✔ Research and academia
- ✔ NGOs, civil society and media
- ✔ Technology and innovation fore-runners in ocean science

MENA Oceans Summit: Convening for Impact

The **MENA Oceans Summit** is the Initiative's flagship convening, a key regional platform for advancing dialogue and fostering dynamic partnerships to deliver transformative solutions for **ocean and coastal resilience, sustainable blue economy pathways, and transboundary governance.**

Since its inception in 2023, the Summit has helped shape the **long-term agenda for regional collaboration** by:

- bridging silos and convening **diverse ocean-linked stakeholders** from across the region, including policymakers, industry leaders and financiers, research and academia, youth and community;
- laying the foundations of the **MENA Oceans Network**, thereby catalysing continued strategic engagement through **thematic working groups**;
- amplifying **regional representation on global platforms**, including COP28, COP29, and the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3);
- initiating **targeted programmes** focused on developing regionally relevant ecosystem and sector specific mobilisation roadmaps and insight papers
- launching the **first regional outlook review** through the Regenerative Blue Economies for Coastal Resilience Programme



Impact in Numbers:



Streams of Engagement



ENGAGEMENT **Blue Economy**

Billions of people depend on healthy oceans for their livelihoods, food security, health, and recreation. Under the Blue Economy stream, the focus lies on developing sustainable pathways for integrated development of sustainable ocean sectors, while prioritizing ocean health and marine resources management.



ENGAGEMENT **Blue Governance**

Policy and marine governance play a key role in fostering accountability amongst countries to ensure successful multilateral partnerships. This stream brings together leaders to discuss strengthening governance for an ocean conservation plan within and beyond national jurisdictions; promoting and facilitating joint



ENGAGEMENT **Blue Science**

Advancing research and scientific innovations helps tackle the impact of climate change and anthropogenic activities on marine and coastal ecosystems. Under the Research and Science stream we discuss key challenges like biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean plastic pollution, dead zones, and food insecurity as



ENGAGEMENT **Blue Collective**

Engaging youth and communities through impact-driven awareness and educational sessions will prompt collective clean ocean action for ocean health. Take part in a curated masterclass, expand your knowledge by attending a Climate Fresk workshop – a gamified way to uncover the challenges, interlinkages, and

This includes innovative Blue Finance schemes and strategies for mitigating the effects of unsustainable practices.

scientific research; and establishing strict frameworks for blue economies.

well as the outcomes of evidence-based innovative projects to address them.

solutions related to climate change -, or join us for a movie screening and a fireside chat with an inspiring clean oceans advocate!

Download insight papers from MENA Oceans Summit 2024



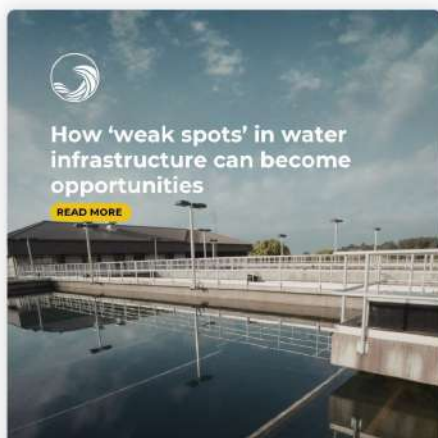
Sustainable Maritime Decarbonisation for Healthy Oceans



Young professionals for our oceans: Deep Dive outcomes and recommendations

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