

RISE UP

a blue call to action

PRESS STATEMENT
NEW YORK, 4TH FEBRUARY 2020

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Civil society's Blue Call to Action for the ocean in 2020

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Tomorrow, February 5TH, members of civil society and philanthropic organisations will hand over "RISE UP- A Blue Call to Action" to Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"**RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action**", is a joint call to urge governments and corporations to take bold action to safeguard the ocean at the next **UN Ocean Conference in Portugal from 2-6 June 2020**.

In May 2019, the Oceano Azul Foundation partnered together with Ocean Unite and Oak Foundation to bring together a representatives of fisherfolk, Indigenous peoples, ocean conservation organizations and foundations, to agree on common priorities and solutions needed to tackle the ocean crisis and raise the level of ambition for action.

During the preparatory meeting of the UN Ocean Conference, **Tiago Pitta e Cunha, CEO of Oceano Azul Foundation** said, *"We have delayed for too long to take the decisions which are needed to address the ocean crisis, just as we did with climate change. We need to agree on concrete actions and now is the time to push tirelessly for such actions."*

Karen Sack, President and CEO of Ocean Unite said, *"This is the first time that civil society, philanthropic, Indigenous and fisher groups have come together in this way in the Ocean space, and we are absolutely clear about what needs to be done for the ocean to recover. Science is telling us we need to do much more to ensure a healthy ocean for future generations, and governments and businesses need to act. Our ocean is essential to all life on Earth. We must supercharge ocean protection without delay."*

The ocean's ability to give life is being compromised, with already huge impacts on the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples, small-scale fishers and coastal communities, leaving millions of people vulnerable and in poverty. The global response by governments and businesses has fallen far short of the scale of this ocean crisis.

With a number of key meetings taking place this year, including the UN Ocean Conference, as well as several Sustainable Development Goal target deadlines coming to a head, "**RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action**", sees 2020 as a huge opportunity for the global community to come together and raise the level of ambition. The choices the world makes this year are critical to set the ocean on a course to recovery by 2030.

2020 is the year for a strong, united wave of action to tackle the ocean crisis. This is the moment to commit to a Blue Call to Action and RISE UP.

If UN accredited press would like to attend the handover to the Secretary-General of the United Nations please contact press contacts below.

See riseupfortheocean.org for more information and follow [#RiseUp4TheOcean](https://twitter.com/RiseUp4TheOcean).

RISE UP | A BLUE CALL TO ACTION IS POWERED BY

Oceano Azul Foundation

Ocean Unite

Oak Foundation

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Marine Conservation Institute

High Seas Alliance

Oceana

Natural Resources Defence Council

Waitt Institute

The Nature Conservancy

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Conservation International

Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Waitt Foundation

Rare

Seas At Risk

Wildlife Conservation Society

Oceanário de Lisboa

Monterey Bay Aquarium

World Forum for Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers

WWF Ocean Practice

Ocean Conservancy

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

Monaco Blue Initiative

Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation

Indigenous and Conserved Communities Area (ICCA) Consortium

BACKGROUND

Our ocean is in deep crisis. Multiple stressors are eroding the ocean's ability to function as our life support system, and so defending its capacity to produce oxygen, sequester carbon and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people is vital. At most, we have 10 years to stay below the 1.5°C heating threshold and avoid the existential risks to nature and people that crossing it will bring.

Currently, there is a globally agreed SDG14 framework, the inescapable science of the IPCC's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and a rising wave of citizen engagement.

"RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action" sets out the targets below.

The group asks civil society and philanthropic organizations to join their **Blue Call to Action** to urge governments and businesses to **RISE UP** and:

- ⇒ Restore ocean life
- ⇒ Invest immediately in a net-zero carbon emissions future
- ⇒ Speed the transition to a circular and sustainable economy
- ⇒ Empower and support coastal people
- ⇒ Unite for stronger global ocean governance
- ⇒ Protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030

These objectives are vital to tackle the ocean crisis. The group is focused on and prioritizes what the ocean needs to recover, not what is politically palatable.

More for information or interview requests please contact

Sophie Hulme

sophie@communicationsinc.co.uk

Tel: +447973712869

Maria João Soares

mjsoares@jlma.pt

Tel: +351 914 237 487