

 THE OCEAN RACE
SUMMITS
EUROPE



16 JUNE 2021



 THE OCEAN RACE
#RACINGWITHPURPOSE



“We need a fair rule book for the high seas. Sharper ocean governance is our goal”



Brend Schuil



The Ocean Race is the ultimate test of a team. Fewer people have taken part in the Race than have climbed to the top of Mount Everest. As a sailor in The Ocean Race, you develop a special bond with the ocean; you care for the ocean and you respect the ocean.

It is the purpose of The Ocean Race to unite people to achieve the extraordinary and contribute to a healthier ocean and planet. Indeed, we call our programme 'Racing with Purpose', and The Ocean Race Europe is no different. We want to unite Europe and bring sailors together who have extraordinary ambitions.

I've learnt that truly great achievements are the result of people with great ambition working together in teams and networks towards a clear goal. That goes for sailing and for life.

In sport, we like to play fair and we recognise that we need a fair rule book for the ocean and the high seas. We want to see sharper governance that manages humanity's impact on the ocean. Our planet really needs all of us to place UN SDG14 – Life Below Water – at the top of the global climate and biodiversity agenda. And, if you ask me, the ocean still receives far too little attention from world leaders.

During The Ocean Race Summit Europe on 16 June 2021, we brought together an incredible gathering of people and organisations from around the world who are all driving better ocean protection and governance. Many have worked for years, or even decades, for the ocean.

We want to join forces and explore the idea of a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights, giving this crucial ecosystem the protection and voice it currently lacks. This report outlines the key issues, solutions and takeaways discussed at The Ocean Race Summit Europe. I hope it leaves you feeling better informed of the challenges and opportunities we face – and as energised and motivated as I am.

Richard Brisius, Race Chairman, The Ocean Race

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ABOUT THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS



The Ocean Race Summits bring together the unique perspectives of sailors and the world's key decision-makers to drive solutions and commitments to tackle the issues facing our seas.

Our current series of 12 Summits, taking place across 2019–2023, are helping to drive new and improved policies around the major issues affecting the ocean: lack of governance, lack of protection, and climate change. The outcome will be a catalogue of proposals and actions presented in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023.

This edition, The Ocean Race Summit Europe, is the fourth in the series which started in Genoa, Italy (September 2019), with subsequent editions in The Hague, Netherlands (May 2020) and Newport, Rhode Island, USA (September 2020), in between.

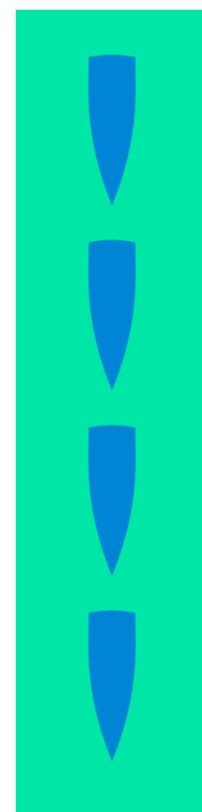
Developed in collaboration with 11th Hour Racing, Premier Partner of The Ocean Race and Founding Partner of the Racing with Purpose sustainability programme, the series will conclude as the 2022–23 edition of The Ocean Race draws to a close.



THE OCEAN RACE



Ainhoa Sanchez



Rafa Galán / The Ocean Race



ABOUT THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS

Leading in to The Ocean Race Summit Europe, Swiss watch manufacturer Ulysse Nardin joined us as the Time to Act Partner of The Ocean Race. We believe time is critical for the regeneration of marine life and of the ocean itself, and that setting specific deadlines for action will promote significant progress. It is Time to Act.

AT A GLANCE

KEY TOPICS EXPLORED



Whether giving the ocean 'rights' could be key to ensuring its future



Examining the European Green Deal through a 'blue lens'



Revamping ocean governance

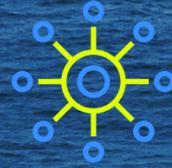


Ocean protection



The nexus of ocean and climate

KEY TERMS



ACTION LABS

Sessions in which participants of the Summits break into groups to find solutions to different issues related to ocean health. The result will be a catalogue of proposals and actions presented in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023



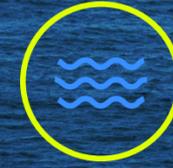
ECOCIDE

The mass damage and destruction of ecosystems – harm to nature which is widespread, severe, or systematic



RELAY4NATURE

An initiative that shines a spotlight on ocean leaders, innovators and advocates through the passing of a baton and the sharing of messages encouraging commitment to the ocean



HYDROSPHERE

All the waters on the Earth's surface, such as lakes, rivers and seas, including water over the Earth's surface, such as clouds



EU GREEN DEAL

A package of measures put forward by the European Union to cut greenhouse gas emissions, invest in research and innovation, and preserve Europe's natural environment



CLIMATE JUSTICE

The acknowledgement that climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations



BLUE CARBON

The carbon stored in marine or coastal ecosystems





THE SUMMIT IN NUMBERS

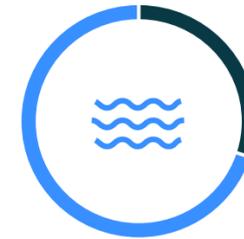
THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS SERIES

12
summits in the series throughout 2019-2023

30+
speakers in The Ocean Race Summit Europe

6
main sessions at The Ocean Race Summit Europe

8
Action Labs at The Ocean Race Summit Europe



30%
protection of national waters targeted by the EU by 2030

200
pieces of EU legislation directly related to marine management

50
different pieces of legislation being changed by the EU Green Deal to reach environmental goals



60
Roundtable for Industry companies are "totally behind" the green transition

4.5m
blue economy jobs in the EU

2050
when Europe has committed to climate neutrality



96%
of the Pacific region is made up of water



80%
of Palau's territorial land is protected by its National Marine Sanctuary

\$1m
the value of kelp forests per kilometre of coastline



80%
of seaweed restoration projects are smaller than 100 sqm

SUMMIT SPEAKERS



Danni Washington
Host



Annie Lush
Sailor with Offshore Team Germany



Carl-Henric Svanberg
Chairman, The European Roundtable for Industry



Mumta Ito
Founder, Nature's Rights



Pascal Lamy
President of the Paris Peace Forum, Chair of the EU Mission Starfish 2030



Cillian Lohan
Vice President, European Economic and Social Committee



Emily Pidgeon
Vice President, Ocean Science and Innovation, Conservation International



Teresa Ribera Rodríguez
Fourth Vice President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge



Teresa Vicente Giménez
Professor of Philosophy of Law, Murcia University



Inês Louro
Scientific Coordinator, SeaForester



Justin Worland
Senior Correspondent for Climate Change and the Intersection of Policy, Politics and Society, TIME



Tommy E Remengesau Jr
Former President of the Republic of Palau



Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission



Manu San Félix
Marine Biologist, National Geographic Underwater Photographer and Image Director



Marie Toussaint
Green Member of the European Parliament



Mark Towill
CEO, 11th Hour Racing Team



Valérie Cabanes
International Law Expert and Co-founder of End Ecocide on Earth



Virginijus Sinkevičius
European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission

ACTION LAB SPEAKERS

Amy Schmid
Manager, Natural Climate Solutions Development, Verra

Anna Mortimer
Program Officer, Verra

Anne-Cécile Turner
Sustainability Director, The Ocean Race

Claire Elverum
Manager, Blue Climate Partnerships, Conservation International

David Langlet
Professor of Ocean Governance Law, University of Gothenburg

Elisa Morgera
Director of One Ocean Hub and Professor at the University of Strathclyde

Elisabetta Bonotto
International Partnership for Blue Carbon, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Kevin Green
Senior Director, Rare's Center for Behavior and the Environment

Lucie Guirkinger
Youth Policy Advisory Council, Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Marina Porto
Co-chair YPAC, Sustainable Ocean Alliance

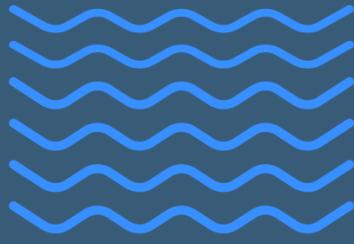
Massimiliano Montini
Professor, Siena University

Michelle Bender
Director, Earth Law Center

Nadine Seleem
Programme Officer, IUCN Green List

Silvia Bagni
Researcher, University of Bologna

OCEAN GOVERNANCE



The EU has already adopted more than 200 pieces of legislation directly related to marine environmental policy and management. However, a study titled 'Marine legislation: The ultimate horrendogram' reveals a huge number of different measures aiming to tackle human activities on the marine environment.

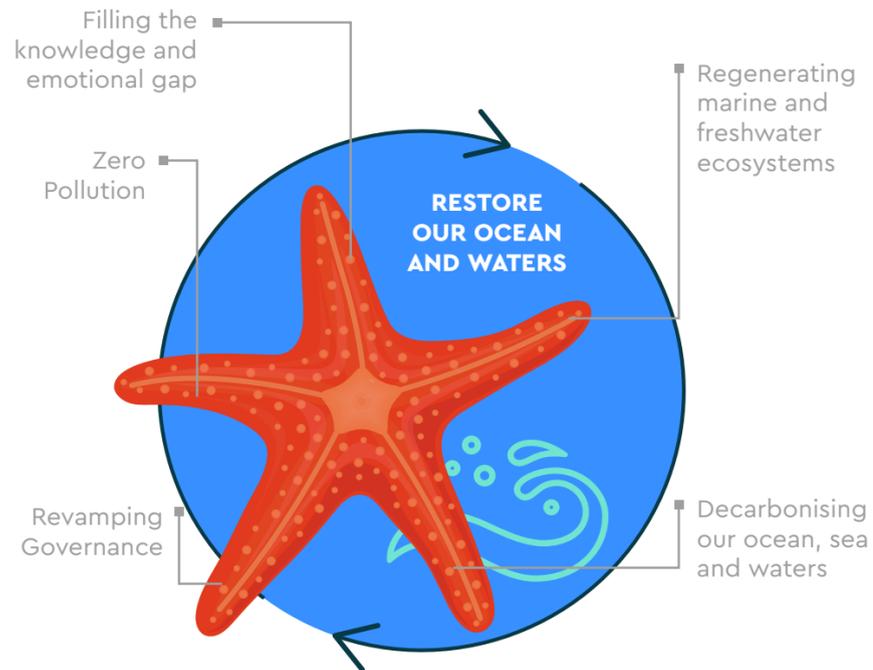
■ CHALLENGE

The compartmentalised, fragmented and uncoordinated approach to governance is not giving the ocean the protection it really needs.

■ OPPORTUNITY

More connection between sectors and policies, and an integrated, holistic approach.

Pascal Lamy, President of the Paris Peace Forum and Chair of the EU Mission Starfish 2030, put forward the "comprehensive action plan", Mission Starfish, which has the ambition of regenerating the EU's hydrosphere by 2030 through five components:



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“What we have to do in Europe to regenerate our degraded hydrosphere is like the five legs of a starfish – they have to be there together for the animal to live optimally.”

Pascal Lamy

Lamy also proposed a four-step process to “bring a level of rationality” to ocean governance:



1 Create a new integrated system for ocean governance



2 Deploy external EU instruments for better global governance



3 Develop EU maritime strategic autonomy



4 Create a network of citizen assemblies to participate in the implementation of Mission Starfish

[Watch the full interview with Pascal Lamy here](#)



“Through that co-production of knowledge, that’s how we can develop a shared understanding – a better understanding – of what the ocean needs, what it is, and how it can relate to us.”

Elisa Morgera

During Action Lab 3 'Ocean Rights in Ocean Governance – Potential and Challenges', **Elisa Morgera**, Director of One Ocean Hub and Professor at the University of Strathclyde, explained that the development of an “interconnected” governance structure was important to support the co-production of ocean knowledge through access to research for natural scientists, social scientists, artists and indigenous communities.

Good ocean governance, Morgera argued, is not just a legal issue; she encouraged everyone interested to contribute to a consultation currently taking place with the United Nations for the creation of an “imaginative, powerful and innovative” new international instrument to protect marine biodiversity.



"We need a new vision where humans are part of nature, where humans are part of the web of life, and the better protection of nature means we are also better protecting humans and all other species on the planet."

Massimiliano Montini

Massimiliano Montini, one of the authors of 'Towards an EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Nature', suggested that we need to transform the "general legal culture" that supports an idea that rights for nature are incompatible with human rights.

If we want to make progress on biodiversity protection and climate change, he said, we need a "holistic approach and new paradigm" that protection for nature means protection for humans.

He offered three legal principles to support this approach to governance:



Non-regression of environmental laws



Transforming resilience from a scientific to a legal concept



Giving proper weight to the protection of nature when there are competing interests





HIGH SEAS PERSPECTIVES



Collaboration is the key to addressing global challenges. The Ocean Race teams and sailors, who have seen more of the ocean than most people on the planet, are working with scientists and government leaders on a greater mission for the ocean, driving awareness and understanding of issues and solutions affecting the marine environment.

■ CHALLENGE

Educating people about the role the ocean plays in sustaining life, giving the ocean a voice, and demonstrating the connection between ocean health and the wider wellbeing of the planet.

■ OPPORTUNITY

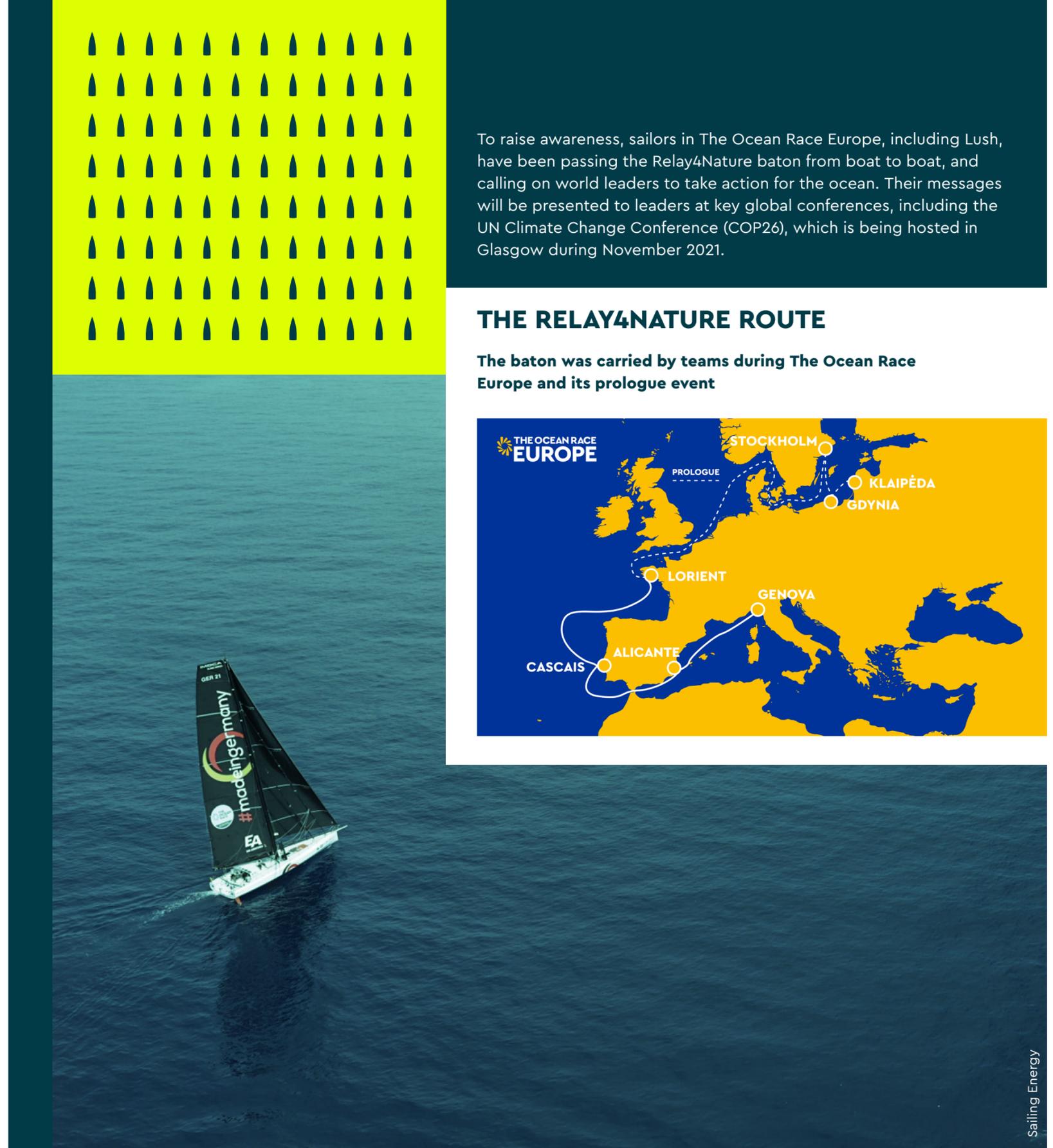
Using the high-profile status of sport to engage a larger proportion of people, and developing tools so that they can take action once inspired.

"Out of sight, out of mind." The vastness and isolated nature of much of the ocean can be to its detriment when it comes to its protection, says **Annie Lush**. According to the Olympic sailor and member of Offshore Team Germany, which won in the IMOCA60 class, people who are generally aware of the plight of the rainforest and other land issues may not have the same knowledge of ocean threats as "not many get to go out into the ocean, so it's easy to ignore".



"We have to find a way to give the ocean a voice - everything that's fundamental to our lives needs a voice. The ocean is a living ecosystem and we have to stand up for it."

Annie Lush



To raise awareness, sailors in The Ocean Race Europe, including Lush, have been passing the Relay4Nature baton from boat to boat, and calling on world leaders to take action for the ocean. Their messages will be presented to leaders at key global conferences, including the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), which is being hosted in Glasgow during November 2021.

THE RELAY4NATURE ROUTE

The baton was carried by teams during The Ocean Race Europe and its prologue event





"The Sustainability Toolbox is a suite of how-to guides, case studies, and templates. The goal is to create a framework for any organisation that wants to try and build out a sustainability programme."

Mark Towill



As well as promoting Relay4Nature, sailors are also contributing to furthering the understanding of our ocean by measuring microplastics in the water and variables that demonstrate the impact of climate change on the seas, including carbon dioxide levels, through scientific equipment carried on their boats.

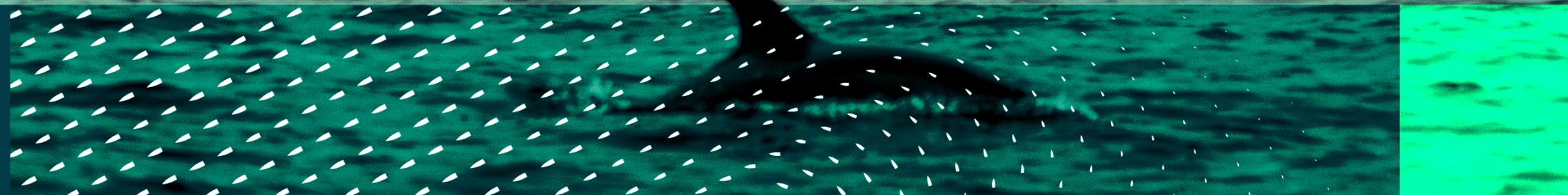
Inspiration is the catalyst for practical action. The Ocean Race has developed a learning programme to engage children in ocean health and the SDGs, while Mark Towill, CEO of 11th Hour Racing Team, one of the participating teams in the IMOCA60 class at The Ocean Race Summit Europe, used the session to launch the Sustainability Toolbox. The eight-part Toolbox has resources to help organisations no matter what stage they are at in their sustainability journeys and has been endorsed by more than 100 companies. The eight-part Toolbox has resources to help organisations no matter what stage they're at in their sustainability journeys.

[Watch the full High Seas Perspectives session here](#)





OCEAN PROTECTION



A relatively small percentage of the ocean is recognised as territory of nation states, and even when countries have ownership over an area of water, protecting it can be a complex endeavour. Government leaders have to find solutions to better manage national waters sustainably, as well as protecting unregulated high seas that are facing severe threats from overfishing, pollution and other harmful activities.

■ CHALLENGE

Only 7% of the world's oceans are designated as Marine Protected Areas. In Europe, less than 1% of Marine Protected Areas are totally off-limits to fishing.

■ OPPORTUNITY

The development of stronger laws and policies to protect the ocean, such as the 30×30 vision that aims to protect at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

Tommy E Remengesau Jr, the former President of the Republic of Palau, takes a practical standpoint: if you want to protect the ocean, you must make it "part of the law of the land".

Palau, which Remengesau describes as a "small island setting and a large ocean state", has done just that with its National Marine



"We've made traditional culture and values the law of the land. The environment and the ocean is not our inheritance to enjoy alone, but we are borrowing it from our future children."

Tommy E Remengesau Jr

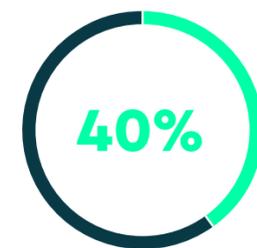
30×30
the ambition to protect 30% of the world's ocean by 2030



Yann Riou



Shutterstock



increase in Marine Protected Areas in the last 10 years

Sanctuary, which "fully protects" 80% of the island's territorial waters. Conservation, he explains, is part of Palau's intrinsic identity and values. As a culture, it deeply understands the "intertwined and interdependent relationship" between the vast ocean, the coral reefs and the land.

As a result of that interconnectedness, all life on Earth depends on the good health of the ocean to survive. That, Remengesau adds, is the value of enshrining tradition and cultural values into law.

Following the goals of the 30×30 movement, **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, explained his "ambitious goal" of protecting 30% of EU seas by 2030, with 12% already achieved.

Away from Europe, Sinkevičius explained that he and **Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, Fourth Vice President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, were working on an "unprecedented" policy with other nations, including New Zealand and the US, to establish Marine Protected Areas in East Antarctica.



"We are working hard because we know that our economy, welfare and prosperity depends on the health of the ocean."

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez

Rodríguez floated the concept of a 'New Blue Deal' to work alongside the Green Deal as most of the problems facing the ocean come from inland. While the blue economy is crucial for many European countries, it is responsible for a lot of pollution. Rodríguez called on those working in the blue economy to "think in a greener way".

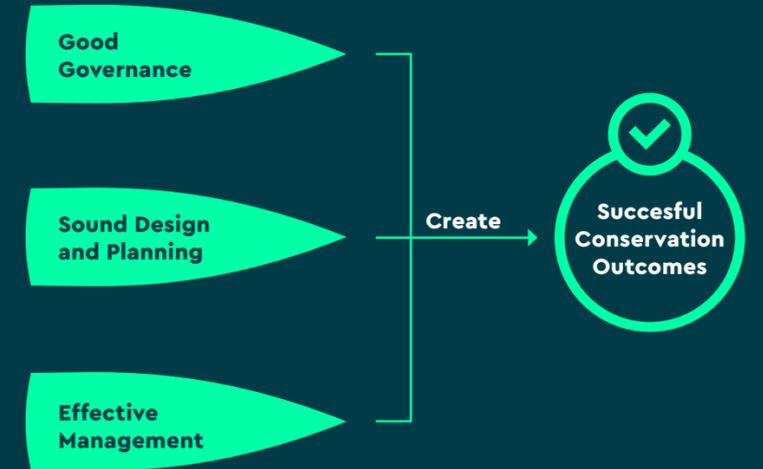
During Action Lab 7, 'What is an Effective Marine Protected Area?', **Nadine Seleem**, Programme Officer for the IUCN Green List, explained that while the number of Marine Protected Areas had "increased by 40%" over the past decade, ocean biodiversity is "still in peril and declining".

For Seleem, there is an "effectiveness" gap, with the quantity of areas not correlating with increased quality in terms of level of protection. Less than 20% of Marine Protected Areas have conducted assessments, and Seleem suggested that the IUCN Green List – which validates success through good governance, sound design and planning, and effective management – could help close the gap.



"We need a suitable mechanism to strengthen and validate conservation outcomes, more peer-to-peer exchanges, and to facilitate collaboration and investment."

Nadine Seleem



Watch the full Ocean Protection session [here](#)



20% or less Marine Protected Areas have assessments conducted

Jeremie Lecaudey



Many of us have different ways of showing reverence for the seas by applying our own skills and knowledge to the mission of ocean protection. But one particular action that could solidify true respect for the ocean is ocean rights itself. Our human society provides a plethora of inalienable rights to individuals and communities, but there's still much work to be done in this arena when it comes to nature and the ocean.

■ CHALLENGE

Current environmental law operates in isolation to other major laws and policies, such as economy, agriculture and energy, while nature and the ocean is often perceived as an object.

■ OPPORTUNITY

To establish rights for nature – fundamental rights that work across all levels of law and key policy sectors.

According to **Mumta Ito**, the Founder of Nature's Rights, current environmental law is "too human-centred" and takes a "reductionist approach". Conversely, Nature's Rights takes a "relational, ecosystemic and precautionary approach" that recognises the relationship between nature and the rest of the world.

One of the key elements of Nature's Rights is to recognise 'ecocide' as a crime to prevent further damage and to "restore the ecological balances we've destroyed". **Valérie Cabanes**, an International Law Expert and Co-founder of End Ecocide on Earth, suggested that drafting ecocide into international law would accelerate the divestment in fossil fuels, reduce industrial fishing and stop mining.



"I feel that Nature's Rights is the next evolutionary step in environmental law."

Mumta Ito



Martin Keruzore



Sailing Energy

Cillian Lohan, who, as Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee, commissioned the 'Towards an EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Nature' study partially authored by Ito, said it was "irrational" to undermine nature by denying its rights because it is "completely locked in with society and the economy".

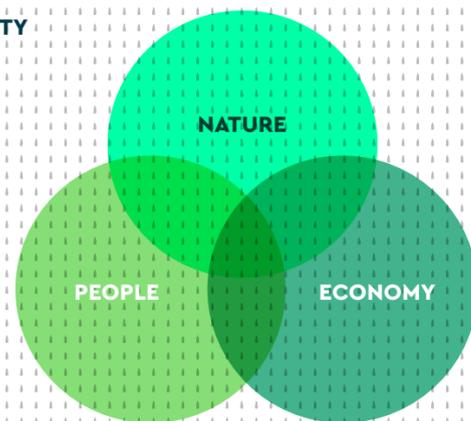
Ito continued the conversation during Action Lab 1 'Towards an EU Charter for the Fundamental Rights of Nature – How it Can Be Used



"The rights-based approach is a very practical way to achieve systemic change. Changing the system by establishing a new set of rights is something we so urgently need."

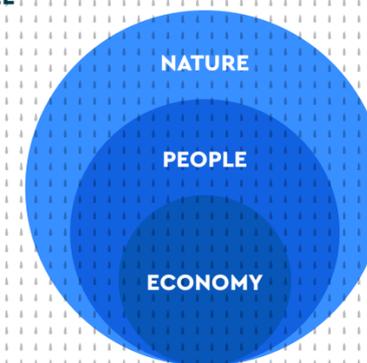
Cillian Lohan

CURRENT SUSTAINABILITY MODEL



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RIGHTS OF NATURE MODEL



to Set a New Benchmark for Ocean Governance', by asking the question: "How can we widen our circle of care and acknowledge we are one species on an interconnected world?"

Silvia Bagni, Researcher at the University of Bologna, explained that, because politicians put forward legislation, it was up to civilians (or voters) to put pressure on elected officials to protect nature through law by adapting the way we live.

She said there are two approaches: to push for the charter to be introduced into treaties, which would be more effective and legally-binding but harder to realise, or to adopt it as a convention, which is not legally-binding but recognised by all member states.

Developing a 'Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights' was the key theme of Action Lab 2 'Transforming our Relationship with the Ocean – Changing Values and Addressing Fragmentation by using an Earth-Centred Approach'.

Anne-Cécile Turner, Sustainability Director for The Ocean Race, suggested that the event could play a "modest role" in the development of the document by using the unifying power of sport to expand the conversation beyond ocean health and governance experts.

[Watch the full Ocean Rights session here](#)



"We can work towards the rights of nature in many different ways, and we have a political umbrella like the Green Deal, which is changing 50 pieces of legislation to reach our environmental goals."

Marie Toussaint

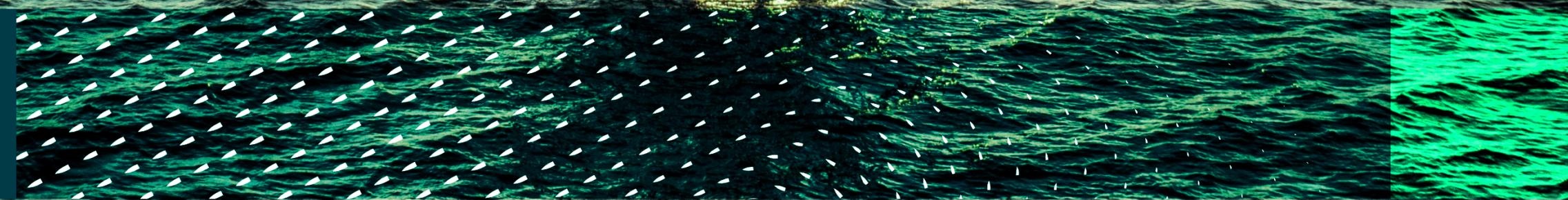
OCEAN RIGHTS

Martin Keruzore



Andre Carmo

OCEAN AND CLIMATE





"It's very easy for human beings to destroy nature and really difficult to restore what has been destroyed."

Manu San Félix, Marine Biologist, National Geographic Underwater Photographer and Image Director

The ocean is our climate hero. Unique biodiversity and coastal marine ecosystems play a key role in mitigating climate change. Nature has the solutions – we just need to understand how to live together, in harmony. Restoration and regenerative practices are the key.

■ CHALLENGE

The destruction of key habitats and marine biodiversity is hampering the ocean's unique ability to help limit climate change. In turn, climate change is increasing ocean acidification and hinders its ability to support marine life.

■ OPPORTUNITY

Harnessing the ocean's nature-based solutions to climate change through blue carbon projects – the cultivation and protection of marine habitats like seagrass, kelp forests, mangroves and salt marshes.

In Europe, there are two main blue carbon ecosystems: the seagrasses of the Mediterranean – some of the "most carbon rich seagrasses anywhere in the world" – and the salt marshes of Germany and parts of Scandinavia.

These ecosystems "should be part of the global approach" to addressing climate change, in the view of **Emily Pidgeon**, Vice President, Ocean Science and Innovation, Conservation International.

Pidgeon added that the Paris Climate Agreement and Green Deal provided "really strong opportunities" for the EU to promote blue carbon, although the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems "isn't integrated" in either policy.

"For hundreds of years now on the coast of Europe, people have learned to use these ecosystems as green infrastructure. That learning is really important for the entire world in understanding the role of blue carbon ecosystems for both mitigation and adaptation."

Emily Pidgeon



Sailing Energy



"The Ocean Race is investing in blue carbon ecosystems and looking at being climate positive. The race is balancing its greenhouse gases through a fantastic mangrove project in Madagascar."

Danni Washington

Pidgeon, Elisabetta Bonotto (the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO), and **Claire Elverum** (Manager for Blue Climate Partnerships at Conservation International), explored how The International Partnership for Blue Carbon and Blue Carbon Initiative are bringing organisations, governments and scientists together to leverage the ocean and marine ecosystems to combat climate change.

Amy Schmid and **Anna Mortimer** of Verra hosted Action Lab 4 'Unlocking Blue Carbon Finance in Europe Through Certification', and described how their Blue Carbon Working Group (2020) discovered opportunities and challenges for organisations to offset their emissions through the acquisition of blue carbon credits.

Opportunities included the "high-demand" for blue carbon credits generally and the associated non-carbon benefits of projects, such as coastal resilience. However, challenges include the technical complexity of blue carbon projects and the "lack of data" due to difficulty with on-the-ground measurement.

[Watch the full Ocean and Climate session here](#)

BLUE CARBON SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Seaweed forests
Disappearing all over the globe but crucial to mitigating climate change and alleviating loss of biodiversity. 80% of all seaweed restoration projects are less than 100 m2 and last less than two years

Kelp forests
Much more efficient at sequestering carbon than land forests, and help to alleviate coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Worth \$1m per kilometre of coastline

Mangroves
Capable of storing four times the CO2 of forests on land

Posidonia
One of the most important carbon sinks and habitat for hundreds of species



Sam Greenfield

A JUST TRANSITION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

As we work together to address the climate crisis, there are many elements of transformative action needed to reach a just transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy.

■ CHALLENGE

As we try to achieve global decarbonisation goals, we must pay attention to the lives and livelihoods of billions of people who live in communities dependent on marine biodiversity and overall ocean health.

■ OPPORTUNITY

Political leaders and policy-makers focusing on how this transition impacts vulnerable groups of people, and making the most of our unique opportunity to accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon future that benefits everyone.



“Engage with local communities. If you’re talking about communities facing environmental justice concerns, you need to understand what is going on on the ground.”

Justin Worland

In 2019, TIME magazine journalist **Justin Worland** went to Fiji, and found himself in a deserted town left behind by people fleeing from the rising sea levels. Worland, the publication's Senior Correspondent for Climate Change and the Intersection of Policy, Politics and Society, is familiar with this scene as part of his job crafting compelling storytelling that connects key audiences with major issues.

For generations those people “lived in harmony with the oceans”, but because of activities in the Global North, such as fossil fuel burning, totally out of their control, their way of life is under threat. It’s a prime example, said Worland, of climate injustice hitting ocean communities.

David Parker, New Zealand's Minister for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, echoed Worland's sentiments. The Pacific region in which New Zealand is located is 96% water, and fishing pressure and land-based pollution originating in the Global North is wiping out important species like the Antipodean albatross.

96%

of the Pacific region is water



2050

Europe will be climate neutral



'Making a commitment on behalf of the EU, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, pledged to set out a "new approach for a sustainable blue economy".'

Von der Leyen pledged to focus the EU's "diplomatic energy" on protecting the ocean by proposing to establish two new "large-scale" Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean – equivalent to three million square kilometres.

The blue economy provides 4.5 million jobs in the EU alone (energy production, tourism, transport and trade), and von der Leyen stressed that a sustainable future for all sectors was dependent on a healthy ocean that was protected from climate change impacts and resource plundering.

Industry, as well as governments, has a crucial role to play. **Carl-Henric Svanberg**, Chairman of The European Roundtable for Industry that represents 60 of Europe's biggest companies, said that giving the ocean legal rights was "absolutely key" and made assurances that big European business would "go forward in harmony with the planet while being competitive".

Watch the full A Just Transition for People and Planet session [here](#)

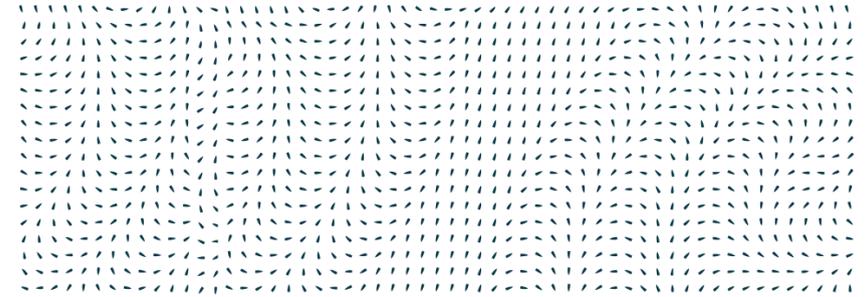


"Europe has committed to reach climate neutrality by 2050. It is our historic duty to reduce emissions and pollution, to bring us back into balance with the limits of our planet."

Ursula von der Leyen

4.5m

jobs in the EU are part of the blue economy



Marina Porto and **Lucie Guirking**, of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance Youth Policy Action Coalition, continued the conversation in Action Lab 5 'A Just Transition for All', and explored three areas of concern when attempting to attain justice:



Inclusive and transparent policymaking, particularly around stakeholder engagement, data transparency, involvement of civil society, a lack of systems thinking, and human-centric approaches



Equality and human rights regarding poverty, equality, weak legislation, knowing when to engage, respect and acceptance, and awareness



Marine pollution, mainly focused on overproduction, overconsumption, the production of plastic, and lack of waste facilities

Martin Keruzore/Mirpuri Foundation Race Team/The Ocean Race



During Action Lab 8 'Designing Community-Led Conservation Solutions with Behavioural Insights', **Kevin Green**, Senior Director of Rare's Center for Behavior and the Environment, explored how we're motivated to change the way we behave through emotions, taking the lead from others, and context-dependent situations.

Green explained how just environmental solutions could be designed through a design thinking model in which we frame ("what do I want my audience to do?") and, crucially, empathise ("what is their experience?") before we map, ideate, prototype, test, launch and assess a solution.

EUROPEAN CITY COMMITMENTS

Teams competing in The Ocean Race Europe and the Prologue event, stopped-off or sailed past some of the continent's most important and under threat ecosystems. During the Summit, Mayors and important local politicians demonstrated actions and commitments they were taking to conserve and protect these areas.

[Watch the full European City Commitments session here](#)



Fabrice Loher, President of Lorient Agglomération:
 "We are organising an ecosystem in our territory to equip ourselves with clean hydrogen production capacities so that Lorient Agglomération becomes a reference point in the future in that area."

Miguel Pinto Luz, Deputy Mayor of Cascais:
 "For many years we have invested in identifying, protecting and monitoring the environmental capital of our coast."

Marco Bucci, Mayor of Genova:
 "We are committed to increasing the number of Blue Flags – areas where the seawater is particularly clean. We are fully committed in 2025 to have the full city of Genova with public transportation without emitting CO₂ anymore."



Carolina Pascual, Regional Ministry of Innovation, Universities, Science and Digital Society, Valencian region:
 "Our community is one of four in which the Ministry of Science has approved four projects eligible for European Funds. One of them is about sustainability and the marine environment and we will launch it this year."

Vytautas Grubliauskas, Mayor of Klaipėda:
 "A team of transport professionals, scientists and business representatives has created a very innovative electric bus answer. Powered by electricity from renewable sources, each bus saves almost 70 tonnes of carbon emissions per year."

Anna König Jerlmyr, Municipal Commissioner for Finance, Stockholm:
 "Stockholm is investing €900m in updating its wastewater treatment plant to become one of the world's largest state-of-the-art membrane technology systems."

YOUTH CALL-TO-ACTION

Young people from around the world used the Summit as a platform to reveal what they want world leaders to do to protect nature and the ocean.

Watch the full Youth Call-to-Action session [here](#)

**"Our world leaders have no choice – they must bring in laws and policies to protect our oceans."
Alicia, Ireland**

**"I demand that world leaders strengthen their Paris Agreement targets and reinforce climate commitments."
Lucie, France**

**"Although some policies seem unpopular at first, they are necessary and should be undertaken to give us a chance of surviving."
Marina, Brazil**

**"If world leaders included indigenous people in dialogue about climate change, we would be able to find better solutions for those in need."
Diwigdi, Panama**

**"Make sure governments are taking action on a local level to prevent trash and waste entering the waterways."
Fidan, USA**

**"I want world leaders to stop talking about it. Act and react."
Ylva, Sweden**

**"Not only must we preserve the nature that's left, we must restore and reintroduce habitats."
Mark, USA**

**"If all world leaders took action for coastal and marine habitats, we would be preserving the health and resilience of marine ecosystems."
Pauline, Kenya**

TAKEAWAYS



An interconnected and holistic governance structure is the best approach to protect the ocean



Protecting the ocean - including the currently unregulated high seas - has to be part of law and legislation



The ocean requires fundamental rights that work across all levels of law and key policy sectors



Blue carbon solutions can leverage the ocean as a tool for climate protection and mitigation



Engaging local communities is crucial to achieving a just transition

[Watch the full Summit here](#)



"I want you all to stay positive because the future is bright. There are solutions - but now is really the time to act."
Richard Brisius,
Race Chairman, The Ocean Race

Thank you to our speakers,
attendees and partners for
contributing to The Ocean Race
Summit Europe. The next edition
of The Ocean Race Summits
will take place in Auckland,
New Zealand on 1st October 2021.

Ainhoa Sanchez

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