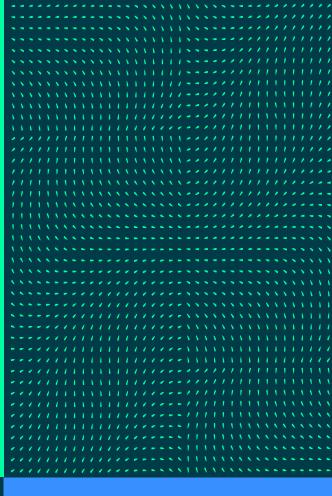


#### **REPORT**

23 January 2023











The Ocean Race, the round-the-world sailing event known as the toughest test of a team in sport, and the Government of Cabo Verde, alongside the Earth Law Center and other policy experts, are redoubling efforts to give the ocean a voice. This crew is also gathering increasing support from countries around the globe for the recognition of the ocean's inherent rights.

Two days before the start of this Summit, the first competing boat arrived in Mindelo, Cabo Verde. They received an incredibly warm welcome from Cabo Verdeans – just as the Government and its Prime Minister, Ulisses Correia e Silva, have welcomed and accompanied The Ocean Race efforts with enthusiasm and commitment.

The crews really appreciated such a hearty welcome, as the first leg of the 2022–23 edition of The Ocean Race (from Alicante, Spain, to Cabo Verde) turned out to be much harder than anyone would have expected. The teams went through some of the toughest experiences one can encounter at sea, with a big storm and hurricane-strength wind gusts as they passed through the Strait of Gibraltar.

But extraordinary crews do not give up. All teams showed outstanding resilience and made it through the Strait and all the way to Cabo Verde, although not entirely unharmed.

They made it through the storm – and will make it through a number of storms in the coming months – because they are competent, they work in strong teams and, above all, because they believed they could make it.

As the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, put it during the summit, "the world faces the perfect storm on multiple fronts". But with the same competency, teamwork, and faith shown by The Ocean Race fleet, we can all make it through this storm, too. We will not be unharmed, as the storm is already brutal and will get even worse for many. So, we need to change course immediately.

But just as the right course is not enough to win The Ocean Race, we will not win this race if we don't move faster: speed is fundamental for success.

We need to move fast, and we need to do it in the right direction. We sailors spend many hours studying the weather to find out which is the best route – and to choose the right course of action before the degradation of the ocean and climate change. We need to know more: we need ocean literacy, and we need better science. That knowledge will allow us to make the right decisions, and led by the right skippers, we will be able to weather the elements.

We should, however, do much more than navigate this storm: we need to preserve the ocean as the powerhouse of this planet. And to do so, it is important that we recognize its inherent rights. Such a perspective will certainly influence decision-making and allow us to achieve a healthier ocean.

Mindelo was the first call in The Ocean Race 2023, but also an important step in the race we must win to protect our ocean and our planet.

> Richard Brisius Chairman, The Ocean Race











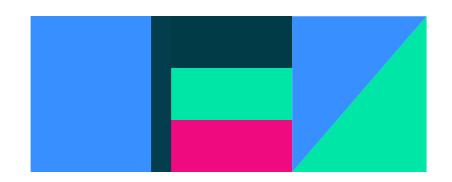
## ABOUT THE OCEAN RACE SUMMITS

The Ocean Race Summits are a key part of The Ocean Race's multi-award winning 'Racing with Purpose' sustainability programme, which explores a range of tangible ways that the event can have a positive impact on the marine environment. The 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, is 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 include a series of draft principles presented in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023.

The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo is the sixth in the series, which started in Genova, Italy (September 2019), with subsequent editions in The Hague, Netherlands (May 2020), Newport, Rhode Island, USA (September 2020), The Ocean Race Summits Europe (June 2021) and Seychelles, and Stockholm, Sweden (June 2022).

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



## THE OCEAN RACE SUMMIT MINDELO KEY TOPICS EXPLORED

- Ocean literacy and data gathering opportunities for better science
- Sustainable finance to contribute to a blue economy
- The potential of Small Island Developing States (or Large Island Ocean States) to lead in ocean action
- A Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights as a key step towards greater accountability and real ocean action

#### THE SUMMIT IN NUMBERS



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#### 1. Science is key, and we can all help.

With only around 7% of the ocean explored, there is still much to discover: resources in marine research are needed to provide decision makers with scientific evidence to guide ocean and climate action.

The Ocean Race participants themselves are doing so by dropping 'drifters' (free-floating buoys that collect ocean and weather data) in relevant locations. They also carry scientific equipment on board to capture measurements of microplastics in the water and data about the impact of climate change on the seas.



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#### 2. Knowledge drives awareness and action.

Ocean literacy and awareness are powerful tools to include the issue on the public agenda and push for greater resource mobilization beyond international public financing.

Over one hundred thousand school children became Champions for the Sea in Cabo Verde through The Ocean Race curriculum-based Education Programme. The programme was available online and delivered in workshops at the Race Villages.



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### 3. Sustainable blue finance is a positive change maker.

Ocean states are developing innovative solutions such as blue bonds or marine spatial planning that allow for sustainable investments and more targeted action.

Cabo Verde's first-ever blue bond was launched during The Ocean Race Summit. Issued through Cabo Verde's Blu-X sustainable finance platform, the blue bond will supply affordable loans to microentrepreneurs and start-ups in coastal communities, emphasizing financial inclusion.





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#### 4. Sustainable financial solidarity is an imperative.

Developing island states have contributed little to climate change and ocean degradation, but are extremely vulnerable to its effects, and they need compensations not to pay the toll while undermining their own development.

Growing a thriving blue economy in countries like Cabo Verde will require substantial investments: concessional financing, debt relief and other instruments like an SDG Stimulus Package are good ways of leveling the playing field.



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#### 5. A developed ethical framework for the relationship between humankind and the ocean enables action.

International agreements for ocean action are important, and greater accountability is essential to make progress. A Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights could change the current mindset and increase accountability.

The Ocean Race Summit gathered momentum among different stakeholders around such a Declaration and positioned Cabo Verde as a global champion of ocean rights.





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## **ANTONIO GUTERRES**United Nations Secretary-General

"Ending the ocean emergency is a race we must win, and working as one, it is a race we can win"



## **ULISSES CORREIA E SILVA**Prime Minister of Cabo Verde

"In Cabo Verde, the sea used to be a symbol of emigration and longing. Today, it represents tourism, desalinated water, blue economy, underwater fibre optic cable links, clean energy, biotechnology, aquaculture, the canning industry for export, a skills centre, and nautical events such as The Ocean Race."

"The ocean supports the air we breathe, the food we consume, the cultures and identities that define us, the jobs and prosperity that sustain us, the regulation of weather and climate, and billions of animals, plants and microorganisms that call the ocean home. The ocean is life and livelihoods, and it is in trouble." United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened his keynote speech at The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo by depicting a dire situation: "Humanity has been waging a senseless and self-defeating war on nature. The ocean is on the front lines of the battle."

Guterres commended The Ocean Race for limiting the race's carbon footprint and found it inspiring to learn that participating boats carry equipment to gather scientific data, which will contribute to the goals of the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

In his speech, the UN chief outlined the ways where action is of the essence to end the ocean emergency. First, Guterres said, maritime industries need to become sustainable to guarantee a strong seafood industry into the future and prevent marine pollution. Second, developing

countries – and especially small island states such as Cabo Verde – need to be supported, as they face the worst impacts of ocean degradation. And third, climate change mitigation is key for liveable oceans and a liveable planet. "Now is time to deliver" on climate promises," Guterres asserted, urging the international community to become "the champions the ocean needs." Fourth, "Together with international financial institutions and the private sector, developed countries must provide financial and technical assistance to help major emerging economies transition to renewable energy."

The commitments made at high-level conferences over the last 12 months are positive, the UN Secretary-General said, "but the race is far from over. We need to make 2023 a year of super action so we can end the ocean emergency once and for all."

"Let's end the ocean emergency and preserve this precious blue gift for our children and grandchildren," Guterres concluded. "In Cabo Verde, the sea used to be a symbol of emigration and longing," the island nation's Prime Minister, Ulisses Correia e Silva, recalled during the opening of The Ocean Summit. "Today, it represents tourism, desalinated water, blue economy, underwater fibre optic cable links, clean energy, biotechnology, aquaculture, the canning industry for export, a skills centre, and nautical events such as The Ocean Race."

All that blue potential coming from the ocean is now threat, the Prime Minister argued, due to a global climate and environmental crisis already undermining Cabo Verde's social and economic development. But addressing that crisis is a shared duty: "It is the responsibility of all countries in the world, with a greater share of it for those with the largest share of liability in producing climate change and pollution," Correia e Silva added.

Multilateralism within the United Nations, the Prime Minister emphasized, is the best approach to achieve sustainable global solutions that leave no country behind: "together we can be stronger".

In that regard, he highlighted the joint initiative between his country, the Principality of Monaco, and The Ocean Race to push a global agenda on the principles of the ocean's

rights. The final goal of this effort is the adoption of a Universal Declaration of the Ocean's Rights by 2030. "We share a strong commitment to the cause of conservation and sustainable use of the seas and the ocean," he insisted.

Cabo Verde has adopted a blue economy policy with an investment plan and is working to increase its marine protected areas. But Correia e Silva contended that any adaptation and mitigation strategies in the face of climate change "needs financing with dimension and consistency over time to produce structural transformations".

In any case, he pointed to his country's capacity to resist to challenges. "Resilience is the word that best describes Cabo Verde," he said, underscoring the nation's capacity to transform difficult environmental, economic, and social realities, with faith, work, and ambition for development. "Resilience that sharpens our sense of opportunity," the Prime Minister noted, inviting attendees to join efforts and take a path "that denies the idea of fatality and gives us strength and confidence to build a future of sustainable development".









"For too long, the ocean was kept silent and taken for granted. It is now much better integrated in the international debate, and we must always include it in our political discussions"

**ALBERT II Prince of Monaco** 

"To change the system, we need to change the way we think. We cannot continue with this mindset of exploitation: we need to recognize the right of the ocean to exist. We owe the ocean respect, so we should really be talking about ocean rights, change our mindset and respect our Mother Ocean"

Former Deputy Prime Minister, and former Minister for the **Environment of Sweden and** Co-Chair of the WEF Friends of Ocean Action.

"We will not be able to reach our objectives of zero emissions if we do not take into account the role of oceans as climate regulators and carbon sinks"

**ANTONIO COSTA Prime Minister of Portugal** 

"The recognition of Ocean Rights, the blue economy, blue bonds, and marine spatial planning show us how much we can do, and give us a compass for the journey ahead of us"

**DANNY FAURE** 

Former President of the Seychelles, founder of the **Danny Faure Foundation** 

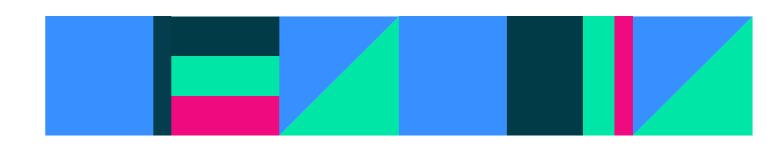


#### OCEAN SCIENCE AND LITERACY

To protect, we need to know. There is international consensus that greater scientific evidence is required, because getting to know the status and needs of the ocean is the only way we have to give it a voice. Therefore, greater knowledge and awareness are needed, and this can only be achieved with closer cooperation among all actors involved.

In the metaphor used by **Björn Fiedler**, GEOMAR Scientific Coordinator of the Ocean Science Centre in Mindelo, where this Summit took place, the ocean is like the world's battery. Being the centerpiece of the global carbon cycle, it takes up close to 25% of our carbon emissions, and almost 90% of the heat we produce with those emissions. "The battery helps us slow down global warming, but we are charging it with heat and CO<sup>2</sup>", Fielder illustrated. "And to assess which is the current level of the battery, we need to do more research," he advocated.

Cabo Verde wants to be at the frontline of ocean research, according to **Abraão Vicente**, Minister of the Sea. "If we have access to the right data, we can promote concrete actions", Vicente said. Professor **Corrine Almeida**, director of the WASCAL Master Programme in Climate Change and Marine Sciences, echoed this demand for better knowledge: "we need systematic data gathering at different levels and in different fields, so that we can base our decisions on facts," Almeida demanded.



In Fielder's view, training workshops are valuable, but long-term sustained efforts, like more graduate and undergraduate programmes on ocean science are still necessary in regions like West Africa. "In the 20 smallest sub-Saharan African countries there are only six fully operational research vessels: how are countries going to protect the ocean if they cannot go out there and study it?", he asked.

With only over 7% of the oceans explored, there is still so much to discover, as **Ana Agostinho**, advisor of the Mirpuri Foundation, described: "In a 2019 expedition in Cabo Verde with experts from several countries, we identified several new marine species, and even a new genus", she recalled. "It opened the door to the opportunities that such an amazing country holds."

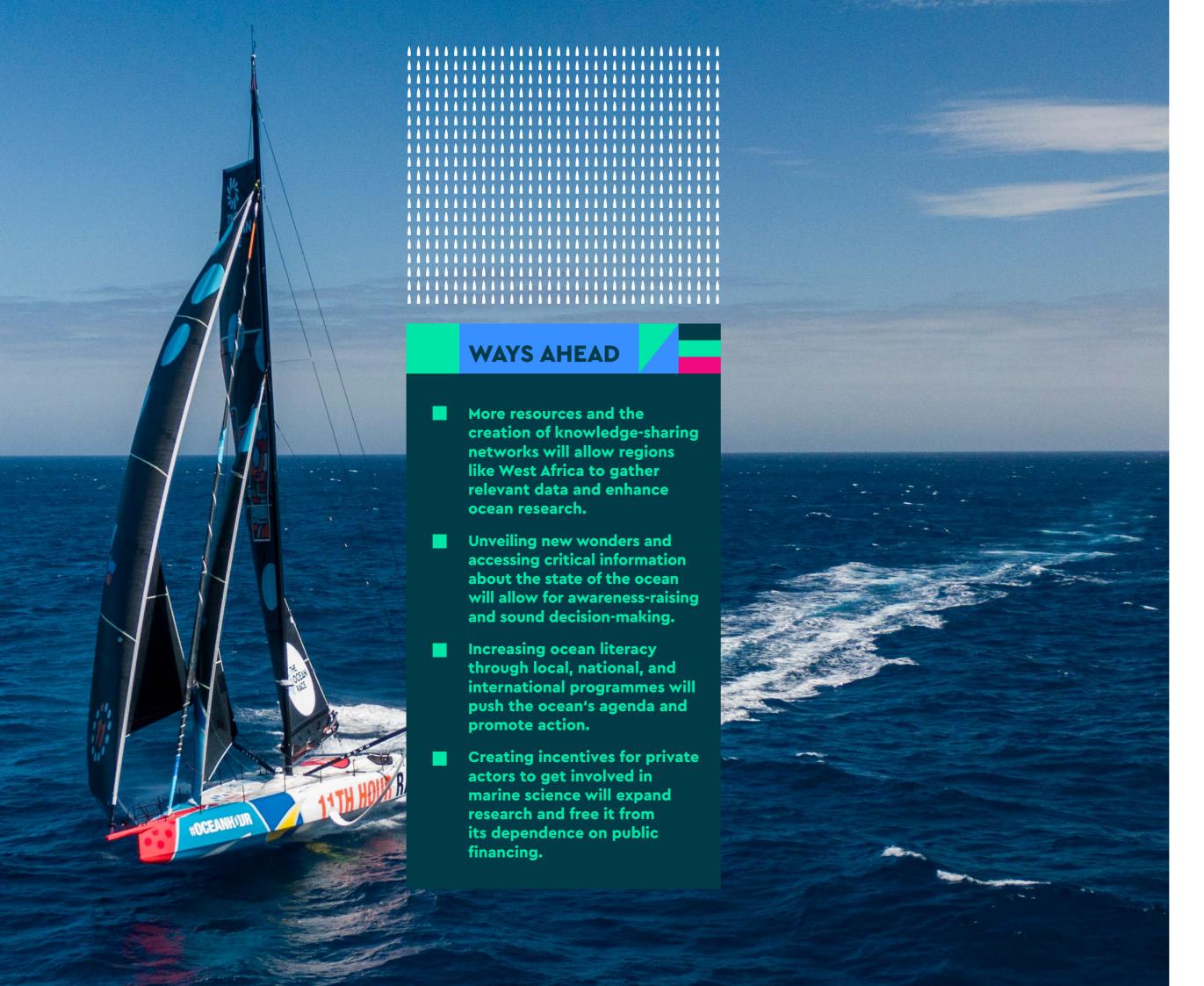
However, the need for new knowledge goes beyond gathering ocean-related data, founder of Cabo Verdean NGO Biosfera **Tommy Melo** stressed: "we need to identify our gaps in terms of sustainability in places like Cabo Verde and empower communities to use resources in a sustainable way." Ocean literacy is therefore to play a key role, and both Cabo Verde and The Ocean Race are contributing to it with activities at schools, science fairs, workshops and campaigns.

Research cannot only rely on these contributions, though nor just be based on public financing. "We really need to involve the private sector," Correia said. Getting private actors to invest not only in the blue economy, but also in marine research, is paramount to build scientific capacities and get access to the state-of-the-art technology that will give us the information on which route to follow.

Speakers agreed that international cooperation and knowledge-sharing needs to be enhanced. "It is key to have access to the data all international research centres are producing," Minister Vicente noted. "And all of us – governments, NGOs, the academia, private actors – need to understand each other's role and work together", he emphasized.

"To have scientists teaming up with civil society, for example with The Ocean Race sailors is a very good idea, as it helps in the hard task of getting data from the ocean. Participating boats contribute to reduce the knowledge gap in regions like West Africa by, for example, measuring CO2 levels"

Björn Fiedler, GEOMAR Scientific Coordinator of the Ocean Science Centre Mindelo



#### **WENDY SCHMIDT**

"There is no time for turning our backs to the challenges that human industrial activity has presented to the health of the ocean"

he Ocean is the largest living system we know on Earth and its mysteries, capacities and limitations are guickly becoming front and setter for the human community. As we heard in this Ocean Summit in Mindelo, there is no time for turning our backs to the challenges that human industrial activity has presented to the health of the ocean.

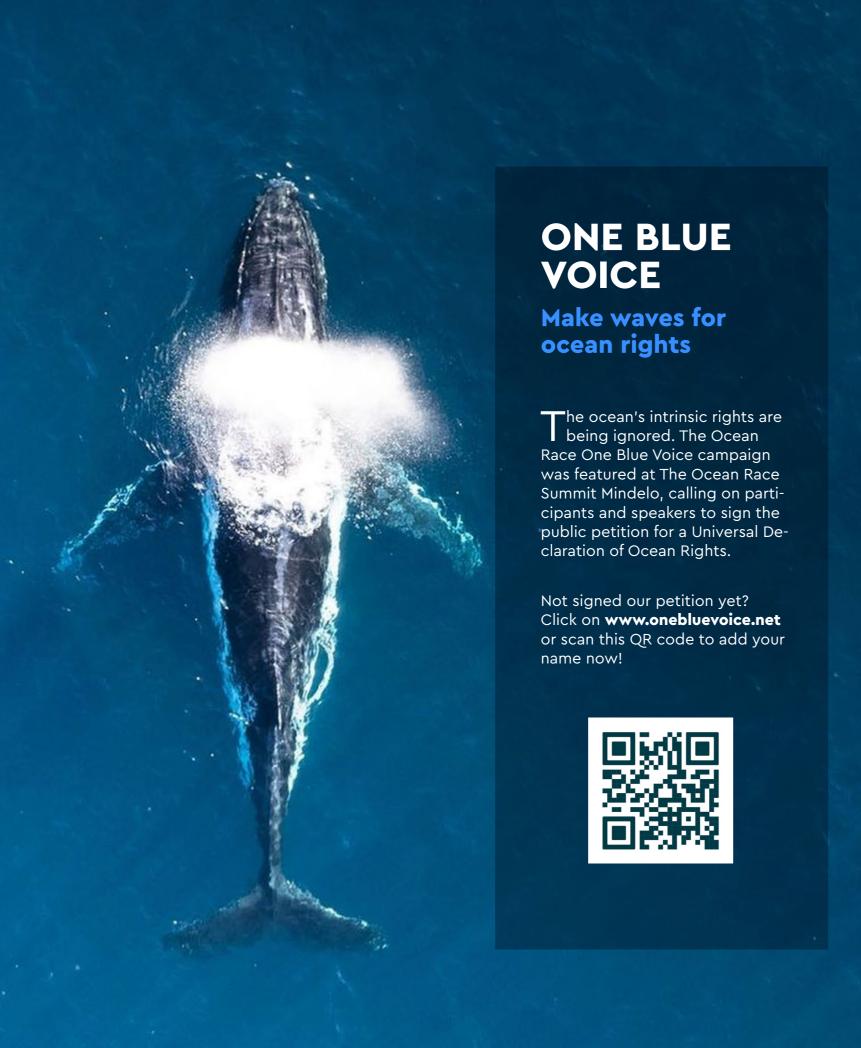
The sailing teams competing in The Ocean Race have committed themselves to a healthier future for the world's ocean. They are working to address the impact of the maritime industry, and are serving as citizen scientists during their journey, collecting samples and gathering other important scientific data.

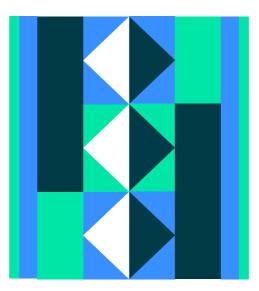
With this and other initiatives, we are rapidly accumulating knowledge and generating new understandings of the under-sea world that has been so long hidden from us.

Policymakers and those who manage ocean resources will have a wealth of better data to guide decisionmaking. It is going to take all of us, wherever we live, to shift public perception to recognize the ocean as our most precious global resource.

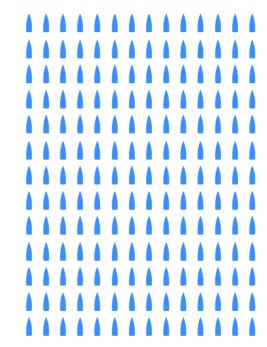
**WENDY SCHMIDT** 

Wendy Schmidt, philanthropist, President of The Schmidt Family Foundation and co-founder of 11th Hour Racing









#### SUSTAINABLE OCEAN FINANCE

Structural changes to protect the ocean and mitigate climate change call for the mobilization of enormous amounts of resources. Specifically, developing countries should be financially supported to ensure that they can develop sustainably, but international aid and public funds are clearly not enough to implement the profound transformations the current situation demands.

Ensuring the health of our ocean is paramount for our welfare and development. As Valerie Hickey, Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy at the World Bank put it: "we need to unlock the power of Mother Ocean to help us" in creating a world without poverty.

In a world where more than 828 million people are hungry, the ocean can provide for more food and more jobs. But these opportunities are directly under threat if we fail to act on time: overfishing and global warming are undermining developing countries' possibilities to benefit from the ocean's potential for food security and economic growth.

"We need to put this issue in the public agenda and raise awareness, both nationally and internationally", advocated Olavo Avelino Garcia Correia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Cabo Verde. "To develop a blue economy, countries like ours need big amounts of funding", he added.

How can that be achieved? Hickey pointed out Island States – which she preferred to call LIONs (Large Island Ocean States) like Cabo Verde as "incubators of innovative solutions." Seychelles, for example, was one of the first to develop sovereign 'blue bonds' aimed at attracting private investment to finance the local transition to sustainable fisheries.

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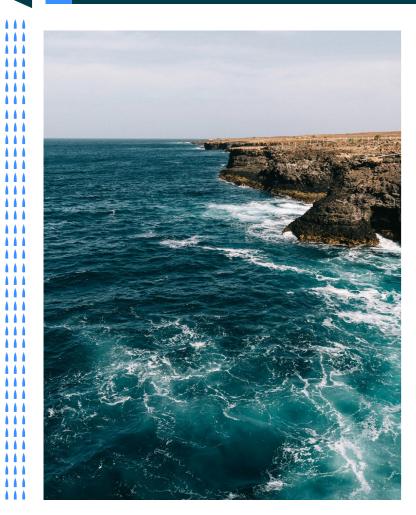
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#### The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo was the platform to launch Cabo Verde's first blue bond

The bond was launched on Cabo Verde's Blu-X sustainable finance platform, a regional platform for listing and trading sustainable and inclusive financial instruments. The issuance will raise domestic, regional, and global investment in Cabo Verde's rising ocean economy while divesting capital from industries responsible for sea-level rise, pollution, and other transgressions against ocean rights.

In brief, the winds of sustainable finance are filling the sails of a local blue economy heeling towards global ocean rights.



he Cabo Verde Stock Exchange, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners, has launched Blu-X, a platform where blue, green, social and sustainable financing converge. "We list and trade sustainable financial instruments", in the words of Miguel Monteiro, Chairman & CEO of the Stock Exchange.

The platform has already issued five bonds totalling 35 million USD and mobilizing 50 dollars in sustainable finance for every euro invested in setting it up. It has recently issued its first blue bond, with which "we try to incentivise de use of resources for marine economic activities that lead to outcomes aligned with the Ocean Rights principles," explained Christopher Lilyblad, from UNDP.

According to Monteiro, the criteria to label activities as blue has been set transparently, and they are now aiming at expanding the platform to the West African region. But referring back to data gathering and science, Valerie Hickey argued that "robust metrics that are responsive to change" are needed to show if those investments are making things better.

eveloping "blue financing", or ways to fund projects that respect and promote the Ocean Rights is an important step, but it is equally important "to 'blue' finance in general", according to Hickey. "How do we make sure that all the other trillions in financing that are not 'blue' are not undermining the ocean?", she asked.

In the view of the Cabo Verdean Minister of Finance, the ocean needs to be protected with a strong legal framework while calling for solidarity to preserve it as a public good belonging to the whole of humankind. "We need to put the ocean at the service of the future", Garcia Correia concluded.

"We need financial instruments that promote the independence of countries like Cabo Verde in moving beyond international aid in their quest for financing a blue economy"

**Christopher Lilyblad, UNDP Development Economist for Cabo Verde** 

#### **WAYS AHEAD**

- Structural transformations hold the key to unlocking the blue economy's potential to contribute to food security, job creation and sustainable development without further damaging the ocean and climate.
- Island states are developing innovative solutions, such as blue bonds and other sustainable finance instruments, which other countries can learn from.
- On top of promoting sustainable investments, the ocean needs a strong legal framework for protection and minimize activities and investments that contribute to its degradation.



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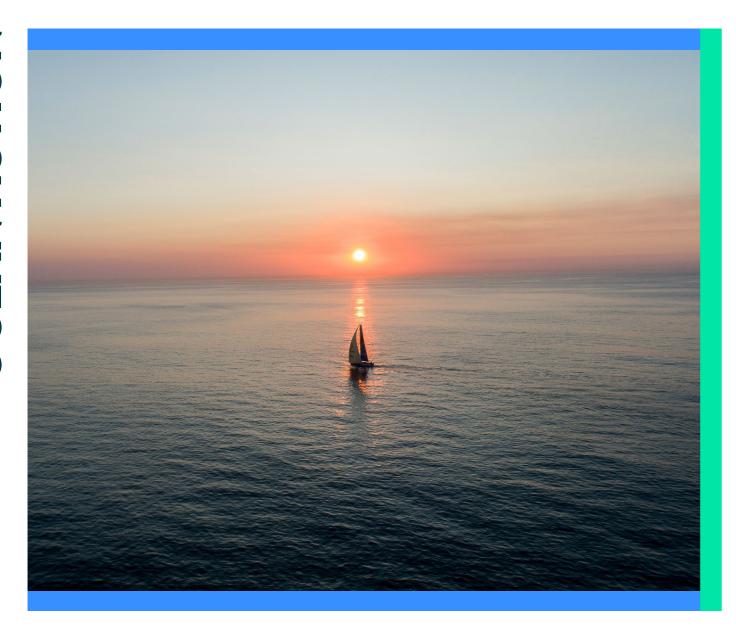
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ohan Strid, Ocean Policy and The Ocean Race Summits Director at The Ocean Race, wrapped up the event highlghting the three words that were mentioned as the key takeaways: action, action, action. Commitments and agreements are important, participants agreed, but only count if they are followed by meaningful results, which is not often the case. There are things that work, but the clock is ticking and accountability is of the essence: a new ethical framework for the relation between humankind and the ocean is needed. A global process towards a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights could help boost real action.

former Swedish Minister for the Environment and Member of the European Parliament Isabella Lövin was asked for her advice to decision-makers around the world. "My advice is that we need to wake up", she answered. "If we think that we will make progress by doing the same things we did in the last 30 years, we are deceiving ourselves", she added.

Lövin insisted on how the ocean "is not getting any healthier," and how marine ecosystems are being put under extreme pressure, as countries keep on missing their objectives and deadlines to protect them. The Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde, Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, agreed and pointed out how an island state like his is paying a huge toll for an overexploitation and global warming to which it has contributed very little. "If the current trends continue, we will see the sea level rise by two meters, and that will directly affect 60% of our population," he argued.

The list of issues and threats the ocean is facing is almost endless, from overfishing to acidification and from plastic pollution to coastal degradation. But the Cabo Verdean minister insisted on not focusing only on the doom and gloom, and pointed out some areas in which action is being taken, like Marine Protected Areas. "They play a key role in protecting our waters and creating an enabling environment for research, development and innovation", he stressed, with his government having committed to protecting 30% of its oceanic surface by 2030.

Commitments, Lövin admitted, are important. "But we cannot sit back and be satisfied just because we agreed to protect the ocean", she insisted, "we need money and science, but we also need supervision and accountability". Both politicians agreed that

a global and binding legal instrument is paramount to achieve such accountability.

In this regard, Lövin welcomed the proposal for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights as a way to start changing everybody's mindset and move from recurrent talks and commitments (such as those to end harmful fisheries' subsidies) into mobilizing resources for the real implementation of agreements.

Action to protect the ocean needs to be global, "but it always starts at home, where your roots are", said Débora Carvalho, First Lady of Cabo Verde and self-defined activist for cleaning and preserving nature. "If you love something, you clean it and take care of it: we need to clean and take care of the ocean". The First Lady asserted that there are no excuses to refrain from acting: "Here in Cabo Verde we keep on saying that we are a small country, but if you consider all our surface - 99% of which is ocean - we are as big as France. We are not as small as we say: we just need to find our own way". Minister Carvalho Silva agreed that everyone can contribute: "let us just plan together with all stakeholders, mobilize resources and work towards very concrete objectives".

"You do not protect the ocean with good will or a strong narrative but mobilizing resources: action takes effort and money"

Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Minister of Agriculture and Environment Cabo Verde

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#### **WAYS AHEAD**

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- Nations who have contributed most to global warming and ocean degradation should compensate Small Island States like Cabo Verde, who are highly vulnerable to their consequences.
- The creation and expansion of marine protected areas is a positive instrument to preserve the ocean and promote research and sustainable ocean-related economic activities.
- Stronger accountability mechanisms will help to turn international agreements into real action and resource mobilization.
- A Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights will push for a shift in the current mindset and for moving from commitments to real implementation.

# SPORTS AND SUSTAINABILITY: ACHIEVING THE UNACHIEVABLE

Climate change is the most significant challenge for our generation, and we can all take inspiration from athletes and champions who are used to enduring the most difficult situations. Sailors, surfers and divers are first-hand witnesses of the degradation of the ocean, and therefore eager to join the front-line in the fight against marine pollution and climate change.

undreds of thousands of tourists visit
Cabo Verde every year, with many of
them attracted by its dazzling beaches, its
stunning sea and its potential for practicing water sports, among other attractions.
Before the pandemic, tourism accounted
for more than a quarter of its GDP. "Water sports support many families," asserted
Hawaii-born windsurfing world champion
Josh Angulo, who now runs a windsurfing
school in Cabo Verde. Thus, protecting the
ocean is also key to ensuring social and economic development in the country.

"And that is why we want to diversify the tourism sector to make it more resilient", explained Carlo Jorge Duarte Santos, Minister of Tourism and Transport, "but always guided by sustainability principles which, beyond a practical need, is also an ethical imperative". On top of promoting different forms of ecotourism, the Cabo Verde government is working with hotels and other touristic operators to reduce plastics, introduce electric cars and boost renewable energies in the industry.

It is not an easy task, but the fight to mitigate climate change requires "the sailors' resilience", as suggested by Mariana Lobato, competing in this year's edition of The Ocean Race with Team Biotherm. "We always have a choice", Lobato argued. "For example, with plastics: sometimes it is easier to buy a plastic bottle than to bring your own, but let us not go the easy way: there is always another option", she insisted.

Those who practice water sports experience first-hand the challenges that seas are facing. "It is terrible to see how turtles get tangled in plastic nets", remarked Mitu Monteiro, kitesurf world wave champion. Monteiro leads another surfing school in the Sal island, and is also pushing for climate action. "We kitesurfers work with the wind, so we are trying to use it even more by introducing renewable wind energy in our school".

Boris Hermann, the skipper of The Ocean Race's participant Team Malizia, also enjoys sailing while respecting the planet. "Using the infinite wind to propel our boat is such a beautiful feeling", he illustrates. "We also have solar panels, a desalination system...". He described that Team Malizia works with

CABO VERDE / MINDELO 23

academic institutions on educational campaigns for children and, like all participating teams, they also carry a minilab onboard that helps gather valuable information to continue assessing the state of the ocean throughout the race's route.

Team Malizia attracted media attention in 2019, when they sailed Swedish climate

activist Greta Thunberg from Plymouth in the United Kingdom to the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York. Since then, Hermman and Team Malizia, race not only for victory, but also to push for climate action, as stated in their boat's sails. "This is the race we must win", Hermann concluded, paraphrasing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



"We have asked too much from the ocean, and now it is asking for our help".

**Boris Hermann,** Team Malizia Skipper.

#### **WAYS AHEAD**

- Protecting the ocean is a way of protecting water sports and tourism and thus, promoting jobs and social and economic development in many vulnerable countries.
- Putting sustainability at the core of tourism is a win-win for island states, as it protects the core assets of a thriving economic sector while safeguarding other industries too.
- Sailing, surfing and other water sports can contribute in many different ways, from promoting ocean literacy and research to advocating for change.





#### THE MINDELO DECLARATION

#### 23 January 2023

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At The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo, Cabo Verde, on January 23rd 2023, over 300 representatives of government, science, NGOs, sailing teams, businesses and other national and international institutions gathered for a discussion on ocean health and concluded in the following declaration;

**Expressing gratitude** for the presence and key note addresses of the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva, former President of the Seychelles Danny Faure, and former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden Isabella Lövin;

**Thanking** the GEOMAR Helmholtz-Centre for Ocean Research and Imar for hosting, and The Ocean Race for organising, The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo;

**Acknowledging** the unique knowledge and expertise provided by the speakers and panellists at The Ocean Race Summit Mindelo;

**Recognising** the unique status of the Ocean for all life on Earth, stressing that there will be no healthy planet without a healthy ocean;

**Reinforcing** the need for immediate action, by all actors and in all sectors, to protect and restore the health and wellbeing of the Ocean;

**Stressing** the need for an ever increasing effort in gathering scientific data about the Ocean, welcoming the unique efforts of the data gathering made by the sailors taking part in The Ocean Race;

**Desiring** to promote mutual interest through cooperation in the field of marine education, particularly in ocean protection and preservation;

The Summit endorsed <u>the Mindelo Declaration</u>, urging all nations of the planet to recognise the inherent rights and intrinsic value of the ocean, and to support a future decision on a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights.

**Stressing** the importance of Ocean literacy programmes aimed for youth, the general public and decision makers in politics and business, welcoming educational efforts from sports and other institutions;

**Recognising** the role of sport in general and ocean racing in particular in working towards restoring a balanced relationship between people and the Ocean;

**Recognising** the Ocean provides fifty percent of the world's oxygen, sequesters carbon dioxide and regulates climate, and is a source of food and livelihood, providing jobs and socioeconomic support for billions of people, and that many of the present economic activities and practices related to the Ocean is unsustainable;

**Underlining** that the inclusion and respect for diverse values, knowledge and practises, including many Oceanic and Indigenous peoples worldviews, such as those of Cabo Verde, can advance equity, justice and sustainability in the blue economy while preserving the health of ocean;

**Stressing** that the Ocean has the inherent right to exist, thrive, and regenerate its vital cycles, to integral health, diversity, and restoration and is revered by many as a source of spiritual and cultural sustenance with whom we have responsibilities to respect and care for;

**Underlining** the need for a shared vision of the interconnected relationship humankind has with the Ocean and close cooperation across global society at large including national and local governments, non governmental and sport organisations, faith based organisations, foundations, and the private sector;

**Welcoming** and supporting the call to action towards a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights and the global movement to advance a developed ethical and moral foundation for the relation between humankind and the ocean;

**Urging** upon all nations of the planet to recognise the inherent rights and intrinsic value of the ocean, and to support a future decision on a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights; and

**Requesting** the United Nations to include this declaration in the preparations and agenda for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and in the Summit of the Future 2024.

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#### #THE OCEAN RACE

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