

## **Blue Zone Side Event – Concept Note**

### **“Leading by Doing - Three Years of progress and Meaningful Action Towards 30x30”**

**Thursday 12 June, 12h15-13h30, Room 4**

#### **I. RATIONALE**

Three years ago, at UNOC2 in Lisbon, a diverse group of countries and organizations hosted a side event to advance discussions on the challenges and successes of implementing MPAs worldwide. The event highlighted key strategies to secure stakeholders’ buy-in, fostering engagement, and ensuring effective long-term management of MPAs.

Three years later, a similar group of partners will reconvene in Nice to assess progress, share lessons learned and present successful models for MPA establishment and management. This event will not only track advancement but also set the stage for bold new commitments. With an eye toward achieving SDG14 and the 30x30 target, participants will announce ambitious actions to expand MPAs, reinforcing global efforts to protect our ocean for future generations.

#### **II. DEEP-DIVE - CASE STUDIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **Case studies:**

- a. Azores MPA Network (RAMPA) - Blue Azores Programme | Portugal
- b. Rapa Nui - Easter Island MPA | Chile
- c. Palau National Marine Sanctuary | Palau
- d. IUCN Greenlist of Protected and Conserved Areas | IUCN

##### **Announcements:**

- a. Government of Portugal – Gorringe
- b. Government of the Solomon Islands - Temotu MPA
- c. Government of Samoa – The Samoa Ocean Strategy
- d. Government of the Federated States of Micronesia - Blue Prosperity Micronesia

#### **III. FORMAT**

The session will feature two segments. In the first segment, panelists will present the above case studies and discuss the challenges, successes and lessons learned of implementing MPAs in various forms and showcase necessary elements required to ensure stakeholders’ buy-in, engagement and support in the establishment and effective management of MPAs. In the second segment, panelists will look ahead and make announcements of new, ambitious actions towards the establishment of further MPAs to advance SDG14 and reach the 30x30 target.

#### **IV. PARTNERS**

Governments: Portugal, Solomon Islands, Chile, Palau.

Civil Society: Oceano Azul Foundation, Waitt Institute, National Geographic – Pristine Seas, IUCN, Blue Nature Alliance, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

#### **V. HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION**

Expected participation of members of Government of the Member States involved, including at the level of HoS/G.

## VI. CONNECTION WITH THEMES OF OCEAN PANELS

The side event would be connected with several themes of the Ocean Panels, including but not limited to the Ocean Panel on "*Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems*" and the Ocean Panel on "*Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind*".

## VII. CONNECTION WITH VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS AND SDG14

Announcements are expected to be made, which will feed into the list of Voluntary Commitments and support the implementation of Goal 14, including target 14.5. Additionally, the event will share outcomes and implementation of Commitment #OceanAction47372 (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/classify-30-national-maritime-space-marine-protected-areas-mpas-2030>) and Commitment #OceanAction40649 (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/palau-national-marine-sanctuary>)

## VIII. AGENDA

### 12:15 - 12:20 | Welcome & "From the Ocean's Point of View" Video

**Moderator:** Rita Zaghloul, Director, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

Welcome and Video Introduction

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### 12:20 - 12:30 | Opening Remarks

**Emanuel Gonçalves**, Chief Scientist and Board Member, Oceano Azul Foundation

Setting the context for the event by presenting an overview of the progress in the past 3 years (since UNOC2), as well as the importance of achieving the 30x30 target globally.

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### 12:30 - 13:00 | High-Level Panel: 30x30 Success Case Studies

**Topic:** Achieving 30x30: Successes, challenges and lessons learned from those already there.

\*All speakers will be called to the Stage Table by the moderator and invited to present their case study in a 5-7 minute intervention at a time.

#### Case Studies:

1. Blue Azores  
**H.E José Manuel Bolieiro**, President of the Regional Government of Azores
2. Rapa Nui - Easter Island MPA.  
**H. E Heraldo Muñoz**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy for the Ocean, Chile
3. Palau National Marine Sanctuary  
**H.E Steven Victor**, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Palau
4. IUCN Greenlist of Protected and Conserved Areas.  
**Grethel Aguilar**, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

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### 13:00 – 13:20 | Announcements Segment

**Moderator:** Rita Zaghloul, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

\*All speakers will be called to the Stage Table by the moderator and invited to deliver a 3-5 minute intervention highlighting key announcements.

1. Portugal - Gorringe MPA  
**H.E Maria da Graça Carvalho**, Minister for Environment and Energy, Portugal

2. Solomon Islands - Temotu MPA  
**H.E Peter Shannel Agovaka**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands
3. Samoa – The Samoa Ocean Strategy  
**H. E Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster**, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa
4. Federated States of Micronesia – Blue Prosperity Micronesia  
**H.E Wesley W. Simina**, President of the Federated States of Micronesia

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**13:20 - 13:30 | Closing Remarks**

**Speaker:** Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue

Focus on the importance of global collaboration.