

Leaders must deliver 'strong' ocean treaties: Greenpeace

June 30 2022



Countries are debating a proposal to designate 30 percent of Earth's land area and oceans as protected zones by 2030.

Governments must adopt strong, enforceable treaties to protect oceans affected by global warming, overfishing and rampant pollution, Greenpeace activists said while staging a protest Thursday at the UN

Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

"Our leaders are failing to deliver on their promise to protect the oceans," said Laura Meller, lead for the environmental group's protect the oceans campaign.

"We need a strong global ocean treaty that really changes how we look at the ocean and puts protection over profit," she said on the margins of the five-day meeting, which ends Friday.

Draft treaties slated for completion this year must "create a network of ocean sanctuaries that allows marine life to heal".

The Lisbon conference—attended by [government officials](#), experts and advocates from 140 countries—is not a negotiating forum.

But it will help set the oceans agenda at two critical summits later this year—the COP27 UN climate talks in November, hosted by Egypt, followed by the long-delayed COP15 UN biodiversity negotiations, recently moved from China to Canada.

At the heart of the COP15 draft treaty is a provision to designate 30 percent of Earth's [land area](#) and oceans as protected zones by 2030.

Currently, under eight percent of oceans have protected status.



'Our leaders are failing to deliver,' Greenpeace activist Laura Melle said at the UN Ocean Conference.

The United States, European Union nations, Mexico, Canada, Japan and India are among 100 nations to have endorsed the so-called 30-by-30 target. China, Russia, Indonesia and Brazil have yet to do so.

In August, nations will also try to finalize a separate treaty—decades in the making—governing the exploitation of [marine life](#) in the [high seas](#) beyond areas of national jurisdiction known as "exclusive economic zones".

Greenpeace activists sought to mount a banner showing a dead shark with the inscription "Killed by Political Action" at the conference site,

but were stopped and escorted off the premises.

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Citation: Leaders must deliver 'strong' ocean treaties: Greenpeace (2022, June 30) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-06-leaders-strong-ocean-treaties-greenpeace.html>

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