



# The State of Our Ocean

## Annual report 2019 - Factsheet

The World Economic Forum sets the agenda for the rest of the year, and often has a lot of competing issues fighting for attention. In this midst, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) launches its inaugural *State of Our Ocean* Annual Report. Those in the most vulnerable positions, such as small island states or poorer coastal regions have been noticing this change for years. It is now time to take action to reverse this decline. Nishan Degnarain, editor of the inaugural *State of Our Ocean Report* gathers scientific knowledge from Professor Doug McCauley of the University of California in Santa Barbara and interviews from SOA Community Voices to define a framework for 2019 ocean priorities. The report will be an annual assessment of the health of our ocean, and by releasing it at the start of the year, SOA hopes it will be able to— not only diagnose the challenges facing our ocean— but set a direction for government and business leaders to take common action.

### Key findings

Yet, we have an uphill struggle. The *State of Our Ocean* Annual Report reveals several important themes:

- **Low business support.** Of the 17 SDGs, Life Underwater (SDG14) is the least supported by major businesses, as PWC reported in a recent survey.
- **Change is visible from space.** The report is full of shocking statistics that we have all become used to, and facts, such as major changes to the biology, chemistry and physics of every major ocean basin. *The State of Our Ocean Report* identifies the impact, using the latest satellite imagery to identify changes that are even visible from space.
- **Low support for current leaders.** In the inaugural report, the SOA community were asked to give a grade to current efforts to address the oceans, both internationally as well as in their own countries. Internationally, SOA members awarded a Grade C to global efforts. However, within their own countries, SOA members were even more critical, awarding a Grade D.

These are far from resounding support for the efforts leaders are putting in to turnaround the state of our oceans.

### Top 10 ocean priorities for 2019

**Policy attention:** raise attention of the ocean in global policy debates.

**Ocean tech solutions:** Cultivate technological innovation and spur investment in the ocean technology sector.

**Partnerships:** Develop new multi-stakeholder partnerships, and engage business leaders in recruiting global talent.

**BBNJ negotiations:** Ensure progress on BBNJ negotiations in 2019 to ensure ocean life is protected in the high seas.

**Ecotourism:** Set global ecotourism standards for coastal and ocean-based tourism.

**Seabed mining:** Propose a moratorium on seabed mining license allocations until sufficient science has been conducted.

**Marine protected areas:** Increase marine protected areas to cover 20% of our ocean.

**Startup supply chains:** Ensure sustainable ocean startups comprise at least 5% of the supply chain of major enterprises.

**Funding:** Ensure sufficient multilateral funding, transparent spending and effective disbursement of capital directed towards ocean sustainability.

**Address inequality:** Address inequality around the world, especially between between OECD and SIDS.

View details in report on pages 36-37

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