The UN Atlas of the Oceans supports Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the blueprint for the sustainable development of oceans adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit. Development of the Atlas, a joint project of the UN agencies responsible for matters relating to ocean and coastal issues, began as an initiative of the United Nations Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas with funding from the UN Foundation.

Under FAO's lead, six UN agencies form the core partnership with other UN agencies contributing ocean-related information from their areas of expertise. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also supports the Atlas as do national agencies like the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States.

UNATLAS * OF THE OCEANS

THE GATEWAY TO INFORMATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS

Partners













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The Atlas is developed under the authority of UN-Oceans, the interagency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues within the UN System.

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THE UN ATLAS OF THE OCEANS

is an Internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans. It is designed for policy-makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues and for ocean industry, scientists, students and resource managers who need access to knowledge and facts related to ocean sustainability.



ABOUT THE OCEANS

- How oceans were formed
- How oceans are changing
- Maps and statistics and online databases
- Ocean dynamics
- Physical & chemical properties
- Ocean-atmosphere interface
- Biology
- Ecology
- Coasts & coral reefs
- Monitoring & observing systems
- Research
- Education & training
- International cooperation
- Early explorations

ISSUES

- Climate change
- Economics
- Emergencies
- Food security
- Governance
- Human health
- Pollution & degradation
- Safety
- Sustainable development

USES

- Fisheries & aquaculture
- Recreation & tourism
- Transportation & telecommunication
- Human settlements on the coast
- Offshore oil, gas & mining
- Energy
- Marine biotechnology
- Non-consumptive uses
- Ocean dumping and ship wastes
- Disposal of waste from land

GEOGRAPHY

- Africa
- America
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Europe
- FAO Fishing Areas
- Marine areas
- Oceania
- Pacific Ocean islands