

Dubrovnik Manifesto on the Blue Economy

Voluntary Pledge of the Blue Natural Capital Summit 2025
Restoring Nature. Revitalizing Economies. Reimagining Value.

Preamble

We, the participants of the Blue Natural Capital Summit 2025, gathered in Dubrovnik, affirm our collective commitment to advancing a sustainable, inclusive, and regenerative Blue Economy. We recognize the ocean and coastal ecosystems as fundamental to planetary stability, human well-being, and the cultural identity of countless communities.

We are deeply concerned by the accelerating threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, and marine ecosystem degradation, and acknowledge the urgent need to transition from an extractive model to a restorative, nature-positive ocean economy.

At the same time, we recognize the economic potential and strategic advantages of the Blue Economy. It offers a new development paradigm - one that delivers better long-term value, enhances financial stability, and strengthens the resilience of coastal societies.

This transformation enables diversification through:

- Regenerative aquaculture
- Sustainable marine biotechnology
- Clean and quiet maritime transport
- Natural capital investments
- Digital services of ocean data
- Ocean energy
- Eco-tourism rooted in cultural heritage and ecosystem protection

We also acknowledge that the regenerative Blue Economy is aligned with nature-related financial disclosure, which is becoming the global norm. Under the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, over 15,000 large companies in Europe are required to disclose their environmental impacts and dependencies, including on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and resource use, beginning in 2024. These regulatory shifts reinforce the need to align investment flows, development strategies, and governance frameworks with nature-based solutions.

Dubrovnik now steps forward to lead a growing league of cities committed to the Blue Economy - embracing it as a forward-looking strategy to increase the ocean's contribution to GDP, ensure ecological integrity, and unlock new forms of sustainable prosperity.

The Blue Economy posits that economic development and ocean health are not in conflict but must be pursued together. In doing so, Dubrovnik aims to lead by example - upholding its obligations under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and helping to catalyze a global movement toward an ocean-based economic renaissance.

Our Commitments

- Recognize the ocean as a cornerstone of climate stability, food security, economic development, and cultural continuity.
- Affirm the centrality of Blue Natural Capital - including seagrasses, coral reefs, wetlands, and marine species - as living infrastructure that must be restored, protected, and valued.
- Support the development of a Blue Economy grounded in five interdependent pillars:
 - Blue Natural Capital
 - Blue Superfoods (e.g. seaweed, mollusks, and regenerative aquaculture)
 - Marine Genetic Resources
 - Marine Renewable Energy
 - Digital services of ocean data
- Commit to integrating natural capital into municipal and national accounting systems, including through ESG+N frameworks, nature-based financial instruments, and climate-risk disclosures.
- Encourage the decarbonization and modernization of marine and coastal transport, prioritizing clean, quiet, low-impact, and accessible technologies.
- Promote equity and inclusive ocean governance, with leadership from indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth.
- Advance education, ocean literacy, and cultural engagement through schools, media, creative arts, and citizen science.
- Collaborate through a voluntary global platform - sharing innovations, case studies, policy models, and impact metrics between coastal cities and stakeholders.
- Empower cities to act as laboratories of implementation - with Dubrovnik as the inaugural model city, whose clean-tech ecosystem advances sustainable marine mobility and ocean awareness.
- Report and convene annually to assess progress and align with global milestones, including the UN Oceans Conference, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and future global stocktakes.

Conclusion

The Dubrovnik Manifesto on the Blue Economy is not a binding treaty, but a shared moral, strategic, and ecological commitment. While it was launched in Dubrovnik, it belongs to the world.

We call upon cities, regions, states, businesses, cultural leaders, and civil society to endorse this Manifesto, align with its principles, and help usher in a new era of ocean stewardship and sustainable coastal development.

Let Dubrovnik be the lighthouse that guides a global shift - toward an economy that restores nature, revitalizes societies, and reimagines value for future generations.