



MENA Oceans

Initiative by Goumbook

**Summit
2025**

Under the Patronage of

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التغير المناخي
والبيئة

In Partnership with



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI



Delivering a regional ocean action agenda

8-11 Oct 2025 | ADNEC | Abu Dhabi, UAE

3RD EDITION

Aligned with the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

Initiative Strategic Partners



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UN OCEAN
CONFERENCE
NICE 2025
FRANCE

“By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the **MENA Oceans Summit** serves as a unique platform that helps **advance our collective understanding and foster regional collaboration** to address the key marine issues pertinent to the MENA region. It's a crucial gathering that supports our ongoing environmental commitments and acknowledges the sea's integral role in the cultural and economic fabric of our region.”

H.E. MS. RAZAN AL MUBARAK
Special Envoy of the UAE Minister of
Foreign Affairs for Nature
IUCN President



MENA Oceans Summit 2025, 3rd Edition

Delivering A Regional Ocean Action Agenda

Convened in partnership with the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and aligned with the **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025**, the **3rd MENA Oceans Summit** connects regional ocean action with global conservation priorities, building on the momentum of the recently concluded **Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) 2025**.

This year, the Summit spotlights the **Middle East Ocean Action Agenda** — a comprehensive blueprint proposed by the MENA Oceans Initiative to identify key indicators, bridge systemic gaps, align diverse stakeholders and mobilise resources to unlock regional collaboration. The Agenda also explores the creation of a **corridor of cooperation** between the **Middle East and North Africa**, anchored in shared priorities for ocean resilience and regenerative blue economies.

The curated programme will engage leading experts, practitioners, and decision-makers to help advance critical thematic interventions for the sustainable management of our oceans and blue economies.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

MENA OCEANS HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL CONSULTATION: GOVERNANCE & POLICY | 8th OCT

Convening of high level **MENA government entities and policy makers**, together with regional entities to align on the **priorities and pathways** that will strengthen delivery of the MENA Ocean Action Agenda and facilitate collaboration between diverse stakeholder groups on critical regional themes.

THEMATIC DEEPDIVE SESSIONS | 9th - 11th OCT

Closed door in-depth workshops focused on strategic themes aligned with **regional marine and coastal priorities**.

Marine Protected Areas | Regenerative Fisheries Majlis | Desalination & Water Management
Regenerative Coastal Tourism | Ecosystem Interconnectivity and Biodiversity Conservation

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Agenda at a Glance, 8-11 October 2025

	Wed 08	Thu 09	Fri 10	Sat 11
08:00				
09:00				
10:00				
11:00			Panel Discussion From decarbonisation to ocean health and biodiversity conservation in the maritime sector	
12:00				
13:00				
14:00		Deepdive Session Regenerative Fisheries Majlis UAE Edit	Deepdive Session MENA Desalination & Water Management Network Working Group	Deepdive Session Mobilising the Ocean Breakthroughs for ecosystem conservation in the MENA region
15:00				
16:00	MENA Oceans High Level Regional Consultation Governance & Policy	Deepdive Session MENA Marine Protected Areas Network Working Group	Deepdive Session MENA Regenerative Coastal Tourism	
17:00				
18:00			Panel Discussion Accelerating partnerships for enhanced conservation in the MENA Seascapes	
19:00				

WHO WILL ATTEND

- Global development & intergovernmental organisations; ocean governance experts
- Industry leaders from blue economy sectors (maritime and shipping, tourism, aquaculture, construction, marine sports, desalination, coastal development, coastal tourism, and more)
- Government, regulators, and policy makers
- Research and academia
- NGOs, civil society, and media
- Technology and innovation fore-runners in ocean science

MENA Oceans Summit 2025, 3rd Edition

Summit Agenda 8-11 October 2025

8 Oct 2025: MENA Oceans High Level Regional Consultation: Governance & Policy

15:30 - 17:00

As part of the MENA Oceans Summit, this **High Level Regional Consultation** aims to convene senior representatives from regional government bodies, inter-governmental organisations and policy makers to explore collaborative mechanisms and thematic priorities that can support and guide national and regional efforts towards sustainable ocean management across our shared seas.

Key inputs include:

- the **MENA Ocean Action Agenda** presented by the MENA Oceans Initiative
- the **Situation Analysis in West Asia and Mediterranean** presented by IUCN ROWA and IUCN Center for Mediterranean Co-operation
- The **Neptune Mission**, to be launched for enhanced scientific and research cooperation as a post-UNOC3 outcome

Expected outcomes include:

- Identifying short and long-term intervention areas through an interactive priority mapping exercise
- Best practice sharing by stakeholder entities
- Identifying key stakeholders to enable accelerated transformation at scale
- Understanding key challenges in driving transboundary action
- Developing a roadmap for engaging diverse stakeholder groups in an effort to foster coordinated action

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October 9th - 11th: MENA Oceans Deep Dive Sessions

9 Oct 2025 IUCN Meeting Room 2 - Capital Suite 10

14:00 - 15:30	<p>Deep Dive Session: The Regenerative Fisheries Majlis - UAE Edit Leveraging traditional maritime heritage for a sustainable blue food future</p> <p>Facilitated by: H.E. Sheikh Fahim Al Qasimi, Co-founder - Seafood Souq</p>
16:00 - 17:30	<p>Deep Dive Session: MENA Marine Protected Areas Working Group Towards effective marine protected area design, management and monitoring.</p> <p>Facilitated by: Prof. Ameer Eweida, Executive Committee - IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas; Advisor - MENA Oceans Initiative, Goumbook</p>

10 Oct 2025, IUCN Executive Meeting Room 5

10:30 - 11:30	<p>Panel Discussion: From decarbonisation to ocean health and biodiversity conservation in the maritime sector Drawing on the Maritime Decarbonisation to Ocean Health and Biodiversity Roadmap to map priorities and advances towards a climate-smart, sustainable ocean-transport economy.</p> <p>Moderated by: Ashok Adicéam, Managing Director - Neptune Mission, Ministry for Europe & Foreign Affairs, Republic of France</p> <p>In conversation with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayla Bajwa, Senior Vice President Sustainability, DP World • Lisa Outtier, Chief Sustainability Officer IMEA, CMA-CGM • Prof. Ameer Eweida, Executive Committee, IUCN WCPA; Advisor, MENA Oceans Initiative, Goumbook • Ken Fitzgerald, Board Chair & CEO, Glostén
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Deep Dive Session: MENA Desalination & Water Management Working Group Convening policy experts, providers, and scientists and researchers to embed ocean sustainability across the Desalination and Water Management value chain.</p>
16:00 - 17:30	<p>Deep Dive Session: MENA Regenerative Coastal Tourism Working Group Engaging the marine and coastal tourism sector to co-design the Regenerative Ocean Health Protocol, including best practices and technical guidelines, to inform regional policy and processes.</p>

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October 9th - 11th: MENA Oceans Deep Dive Sessions

10 Oct 2025, IUCN ROWA Pavilion

18:15 - 19:00

Panel Discussion: Accelerating partnerships for enhanced conservation in the MENA Seascapes
Initiating a partnership framework between the MENA Oceans Initiative and IUCN ROWA, IUCN MED, and IUCN WCPA to unlock scientific advances & mobilise effective ocean governance for the region.

Moderated by: **Anuradha Bhattacharya**, Director - MENA Oceans Initiative, Goumbook

In conversation with

- **Tatiana Antoneli Abella**, Founder & MD, Goumbook
- **Prof. Ameer Eweida**, Executive Committee - IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas; Advisor - MENA Oceans Initiative, Goumbook
- **Eng. Natalia Boulad**, Programme Manager, Biodiversity & Protected Areas - IUCN ROWA
- **Maher Mahjoub**, Director - IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation

11 Oct 2025, IUCN Executive Meeting Room 5

14:00 - 15:30

Deep Dive Session: Mobilising the Ocean Breakthroughs in the MENA Region: From Abu Dhabi to Belem and beyond

Charting the roadmap to COP30 and beyond: Aligning with the Mangrove, Seagrass and Coral Breakthroughs for a progress sharing session, identifying synergies in the region, showcasing regional best practices in ecosystem connectivity and engaging key stakeholders on upcoming projects and initiatives.

Opening Address:

Loreley Picourt, Executive Director, Ocean & Climate Platform,

Facilitated by:

Thomas Sberna, Ocean Lead, UN Climate High Level Champions Team
Anuradha Bhattacharya, Director - MENA Oceans Initiative, Goumbook



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