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# World Ocean



world  ocean  
network

**PASSPORT**  
Citizen of the Ocean

ISBN 2-9510461-4-6

## ALL OCEANS ARE CONNECTED TO FORM ONE: THE WORLD OCEAN.

The World Ocean is suffering more and more. The earth's environment is affected. Life on earth is threatened.

This is why we, the members of the *World Ocean Network*, have decided to react by creating the status of *Citizen of the Ocean*.

We propose that every one of us contribute to preserving the ocean and to better manage marine resources to offer a viable future for our children.

Each *Citizen of the Ocean* represents the *World Ocean* on earth.

***Acting with the passport of the Citizen of the Ocean is a first step.***

***Caring for the Blue Planet, you can make a difference.***

***Think of the significant difference 6 billion of us can make.***

The *World Ocean Network* includes aquariums, science centres, museums, associations and NGOs as well as educational and environmental organizations throughout the world. These organizations reach 200 million people every year.

The *World Ocean Network* invites you to celebrate *World Ocean Day* on June 8 each year.

This passport, issued by your World Ocean Embassy,  
is numbered:

## WORLD OCEAN DID YOU KNOW?

- That the ocean covers 72% of the earth's surface.
- More than 90% of the planet's living biomass is found in the oceans.
- That half of the world's population, i.e. 3 billion people, lives less than 80 kilometres from the coast. In 30 years, 6 billion people or 3/4 of the world's estimated population in 2035 will live near the water.
- That in the last five years the World Ocean has undergone an unprecedented degradation: pollution, destruction, over-fishing, etc.

### Immediate action required!

**Our future and that of our children depends on the effort that each one of us makes to save the ocean starting now.**

**If more of us act now, we will benefit from the resources of the World Ocean much more and for far longer.**

**This passport encourages us to work in favour of sustainable development with millions of others across the world.**

**THIS PASSPORT SHOWS THAT I HAVE CHOSEN  
TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF THE OCEAN.**

**I have the right to use ocean resources to feed myself.**

***I have the responsibility to conserve ocean resources for  
the benefit of future generations.***

**I have the right to use the ocean and the coastline for  
leisure activities.**

***I have the responsibility to adopt and promote a responsible  
attitude in order to protect the environment.***

**I have the right to be a representative of the ocean on earth.**

***I have the responsibility to make my voice heard every  
time the ocean is threatened.***

**I have the right to ask World Ocean Network members for  
information and help to carry out actions.**

***I have the responsibility to inform the World Ocean  
Network of the actions I undertake.***

**IDENTITY OF THE CITIZEN OF THE OCEAN**

Last name .....

First name .....

Address .....

Country of residence .....

Birth date .....

Passport holder's signature

Photo

Issued by

On

Seal and address  
of the issuing organization

*This document is non-contractual and not to be used as a legal document.*

With this passport, each person choosing to become a “Citizen of the Ocean” can reflect on the impact their lifestyle has on the environment and act in favour of the World Ocean.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- Fill in the identification sheet, then, choose the passport pages that correspond to your age (young people p. 8-17, adults p. 18-27).
- Read the key information that is listed and answer any questions, learn about the suggested actions and activities.
- Research what can be done and take action.
- List the commitments you have made and the activities you have carried out on your passport.
- List local information and complementary ideas to take action (p. 28-29).

After accomplishing 12 actions and activities in at least 4 of the 5 proposed sections, each Citizen can become an “Ambassador of the Ocean”. Having your passport validated by a Participating centre enables you to regularly receive information about *World Ocean Network* activities and entitles you to apply for support from the participating Centre for projects in favour of the ocean (Information on participating centres, p. 30).

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

#### YOUNG PEOPLE



Key information



Questions



Ideas for actions



Individual youth actions



Classroom/group activities

#### ADULTS



Key information



Ideas for actions



Individual actions



Group activities

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### THE WORLD OCEAN AND US

The ocean plays an important role in the life on our planet. Its balance affects our environment. Its resources are vital to us.

### QUESTIONS *(answers page 17)*







**How much of the planet is covered by ocean?**

- A ☐ 67%
- B ☐ 72%
- C ☐ 77%

**Which one of these products contains elements from the sea?**

- A ☐ Toothpaste
- B ☐ Paper
- C ☐ Silk shirt

### A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS

-  I read books about the sea, I watch movies about fish and sea animals, and I go to exhibits.
-  I tell my friends what I have discovered.
-  I write a poem or make a drawing about the beauty of the sea or a river. I show it to my family and my class.
-  I visit a fisherman or sea professional and ask him/her what the ocean represents for him/her. I ask questions to learn more.
-  I participate in an environmental protection action.
-  Every year I participate in World Ocean Day (on June 8).

WHAT I PROMISE TO DO,  
WHAT I HAVE DONE

STAMP FROM  
ISSUING CENTRE

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATIC CHANGE

Our automobiles and factories produce carbon dioxide which is released into the atmosphere. The climate changes, the planet heats up and the sea level rises.

### QUESTIONS *(answers page 17)*


**One of the causes of global warming is:**

- A ☐ Automobile pollution
- B ☐ The disappearance of certain animal species
- C ☐ Melting ice in the Alps


**Which regions in the world consume the most energy per person?**


- A ☐ United States and Europe
- B ☐ China
- C ☐ Africa


### A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS


 I walk or cycle whenever I can or I use public transportation.

 I always turn out the lights when I leave an empty room.

 I look for ways to save energy in my house.

 I organize car-pooling with my neighbours and friends (if we go to the same school for example).

 I learn about a pollution problem and tell my friends, parents and teachers so that they will alert decision makers (an elected official, a mayor for example).

 I participate in an environmental protection action.

WHAT I PROMISE TO DO,  
WHAT I HAVE DONE

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ISSUING CENTRE

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### WASTE POLLUTION

A lot of our waste, even when we dump it far from the sea, ends up in the ocean. Each year up to four tonnes of waste is found on each kilometre of coastline.

### QUESTIONS *(answers page 17)*

**What is one of the consequences of waste in the ocean?**

- A ☐ A rise in water levels
- B ☐ Dead turtles and birds
- C ☐ Changes in marine currents

**What is the life span of a plastic bottle in the sea?**

- A ☐ 1 century
- B ☐ 2.5 centuries
- C ☐ 4.5 centuries

### A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS



I throw my waste in an appropriate area.



I take a knapsack or basket to do shopping; I try not to take disposable plastic bags.



I ask people that I know to make the same effort.



I organize a recycling system at home.



I collect used batteries and put them in a collection area.



I help to clean up a site: beach, forest etc.

**WHAT I PROMISE TO DO,  
WHAT I HAVE DONE**

**STAMP FROM  
ISSUING CENTRE**

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### **THREATS TO MARINE LIFE**

Of the 126 mammal species that live in the ocean, 88 are endangered species.

### **QUESTIONS** *(answers page 17)*


**What percentage of the planet's living biomass is found in the ocean?**


- A ☐ 25 %
- B ☐ 70 %
- C ☐ 90 %


**Why is it important to protect marine animal species?**


- A ☐ To absorb waste
- B ☐ To protect the food chain
- C ☐ To regulate the ocean's temperature

### **A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS**

 When I walk along the beach, along a waterway or in nature I try not to disturb animals.

 I don't buy souvenirs that are made from animals: seashells, starfish, seahorses, etc.

 I write a report on protecting the ocean and nature.  
I ask my friends, parents and classmates to read it.

 I visit an exhibition or I participate in an excursion to learn more about water or the ocean. I bring my family, friends or classmates.

**WHAT I PROMISE TO DO,  
WHAT I HAVE DONE**

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## YOUNG PEOPLE

### OUR LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND THE OCEAN

The coast offers many opportunities to relax and have fun: swimming, fishing, strolling, nautical activities, etc. These activities will be threatened if we don't respect nature.

### QUESTIONS *(answers page 17)*


**What can we do to protect the coastline?**


- A ☐ Install water treatment facilities
- B ☐ Plant parasols
- C ☐ Avoid using windsurfing boards


**What are the economic activities that most benefit the coastline?**


- A ☐ Tourism
- B ☐ Mining industry
- C ☐ Animal husbandry


### A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS


 I learn to know and respect the environment in which I play.

 I don't bother animals or move the stones under which they live. I respect the plants that anchor soil (especially on dunes), I do not pick them.

 I don't throw waste into nature; I look for a bin or keep it until I find a bin later.

 I plant a tree.

 I take a discovery walk along a river, lake or by the sea with family, friends or classmates.

 I participate in an activity during World Ocean Day or World Environment Day.

WHAT I PROMISE TO DO,  
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**i WASTE POLLUTION**



Winds and river water carry everything to the sea. 75% of the waste found in the sea is plastic. More than 80% of the waste found in the sea is due to our land-based activities.



**💡 A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES**



 Throw wastes in the appropriate place.  ☐ Please tick



 When shopping take a basket or carton with you, try not to use disposable plastic bags.  ☐ Please tick

 Try to buy bulk products or products with minimal packaging.  ☐ Please tick

 Organize recycling at home, at your workplace and in your neighbourhood.  ☐ Please tick

 Collect old batteries and place them in a designated container. Do the same for other pollutants.  ☐ Please tick



 When there is a pollution problem help clean or organize cleaning a site. Alert the relevant authorities.  ☐ Please tick



 Organize an informative action regarding the ocean at your workplace or with a group of friends and family.  ☐ Please tick



## THREATS TO AQUATIC OR MARINE HABITATS



The balance of aquatic and marine habitats is threatened by the consequences of destructive or polluting human activities. Humid habitats like swamps are subject to irreversible degradation. Half of the mangroves have disappeared and 27% of coral reefs have been destroyed.



## A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

 Get to know and respect rivers, lakes, swamps or the coastline of my region.  ☐ Please tick

 Don't dump pollutants, for example used motor oil, into the water or on the ground. Take it to a place where it is collected and then recycled.  ☐ Please tick

 Buy preferably products (for the house, garden or car) that are environment-friendly and safe for human health.  ☐ Please tick

 Participate in actions to protect fragile marine areas: coastlines, coral reefs, mangroves and support the extension of protected marine areas.  ☐ Please tick



 Learn about and collect information regarding water pollution problems and alert the relevant authorities.  ☐ Please tick



 Provide support to environmental protection and sustainable development organizations.  ☐ Please tick



## FISHING AND FISH PRODUCT CONSUMPTION



75% of commercial fish stocks are fully exploited or over-fished. If things keep going that way, in 30 years time, no wild fish will be taken from the sea any more.



## A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

 Do not fish or buy fish that are too small; they won't be able to develop or reproduce.  ☐ Please tick

 Ask for information about the source of fish and seafood. Diversify your purchases and do not buy over-fished species.  ☐ Please tick

 Discover and share new fish and seafood recipes; learn to prepare species that are not usually consumed.  ☐ Please tick

 Ask a fisherman or a specialist in fish, shellfish and crustacean aquaculture or a fishmonger about marine resources.  ☐ Please tick

 Visit an exhibition or participate in an excursion to learn more about water or the ocean. Bring your family, friends or colleagues.  ☐ Please tick

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND  
CLIMATIC CHANGES**

The sharp rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide causes an increase in surface water temperature and a rise in water levels. This threatens the balance of the ocean and the lifestyle of millions of people throughout the world.

**A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

Use the most energy efficient form of transportation: bicycle, bus, car-pooling, etc.

☐

Please tick



Try to buy local or seasonal products rather than products that have been imported from a long distance.

☐

Please tick



Do not leave electrical appliances on standby.

☐

Please tick



Find out about renewable energy sources and how you can use them.

☐

Please tick



Try to convince friends and professional colleagues to do the same.

☐

Please tick



Install so called "low-consumption" light bulbs at home and at the workplace.

☐

Please tick



Learn about and collect information regarding environmental or pollution problems and alert the relevant authorities.



☐



Please tick



## WHAT ABOUT REGULATIONS?



There are regulations for fishing, maritime transportation and commerce, as well as for leisure activities. They are not always respected and the consequences are serious: over-fishing of resources, pollution of every kind, economic and social difficulties for people who make a living from the sea and those who live along inland waterways.



## A FEW IDEAS FOR ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES



 Adopt a respectful attitude towards the environment near the water, along the coast and at sea and comply with existing rules.  ☐ Please tick



 Don't buy souvenirs that are made from animals: seashells, starfish, seahorses, etc. Don't buy unregulated, potentially threatened or endangered species being sold as food, medicinal products or souvenirs.  ☐ Please tick

 Encourage people who enjoy the sea not to throw their waste into the water.  ☐ Please tick

 Pay attention to information on shipwrecks involving oil tankers and toxic products. Help clean polluted areas.  ☐ Please tick

 Sign petitions against ocean pollution, environmental and human rights violations.  ☐ Please tick

 Support an environmental defence association, sustainable development educational organization or international conservation body.  ☐ Please tick

 Help organize an activity for World Ocean Day (on June 8 each year).  ☐ Please tick

**LOCAL INFORMATION AND  
NEW IDEAS TO TAKE ACTION**

**COMMITMENTS,  
COMPLETED ACTIVITIES**

**STAMP FROM  
ISSUING CENTRE**



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**The attendees at the second international meeting "Acting together for the future of the Blue Planet" held at NAUSICAA in Boulogne-sur-Mer in November 2002 voted to create this Passport:**

ACCOR France  
ACQUARIO DI GENOVA Italy  
AGENCE DE L'EAU ARTOIS-PICARDIE France  
AIR FRANCE MAGAZINE France  
APECAM – ONDACE Cameroon  
AQPERE Canada  
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ECSITE (European Network of

Science Museums)  
ESPACE NATUREL RÉGIONAL France  
EUAC (European Association of Aquarium Curators)  
FESTIVAL MONDIAL DE L'IMAGE SOUS-MARINE D'ANTIBES France  
FONDATION MAROCAINE POUR LA NATURE ET L'HOMME Morocco  
FONDATION POUR L'ÉDUCATION A L'ENVIRONNEMENT France  
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GROUPE ORNITHOLOGIQUE NORD France  
ICM UK  
IFREMER France  
INSTITUT Océanographique France / Monaco  
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL GROUP  
FRENCH POLYNESIA French Polynesia  
INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE Senegal  
JOHN SHEDD AQUARIUM USA  
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LITHUANIAN SEA MUSEUM Lithuania  
LIVING RAIN FOREST UK  
LONDON AQUARIUM UK  
LONGITUDE 181 France  
MAGAZINE "PLONGEURS INTERNATIONAL" France  
MAREIS France  
MARINE AQUARIUM COUNCIL (MAC) USA

MÉMORIAL DE CAEN France  
MINISTÈRE DE LA CONSTRUCTION Vietnam  
MITI MUSEUM French Polynesia  
MUSEE Océanographique DE MONACO Monaco  
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM UK  
NAUSICAA - FRENCH NATIONAL SEA CENTRE France  
NEW YORK AQUARIUM USA  
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UNION DES CONSERVATEURS D'AQUARIUMS France  
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VANCOUVER AQUARIUM Canada  
WWF France / UK / Europe  
17° SUD, COMMUNICATION ET ENVIRONNEMENT French Polynesia

**European aquariums, museums and zoos joined together to adapt the passport and distribute it in Europe with support from the European Commission/DG Research as part of the OCEANICS project: [www.theoceanicsproject.org](http://www.theoceanicsproject.org)**

ACQUARIO DI GENOVA Italy  
CHESTER ZOO - THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY UK  
CITTÀ DELLA SCIENZA Italy  
ECSITE (European Network of Science Museums)  
EUAC (European Association of Aquarium Curators)  
INSTITUT Océanographique France / Monaco  
INSTITUT ROYAL DES SCIENCES NATURELLES DE BELGIQUE Belgium

LITHUANIAN SEA MUSEUM Lithuania  
MUSÉE Océanographique DE MONACO Monaco  
MUSEON Netherlands  
NAUSICAA - CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA MER France  
NORDSØMUSEET Denmark  
OCEANARIO DE LISBOA Portugal

**The list of organizations distributing the passport is on the Internet site: [www.worldoceannetwork.org](http://www.worldoceannetwork.org)**

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**Issued on the occasion of**

**With our partners**

The first edition of this passport was produced with the support of the Carrefour International Foundation.

## **THE WORLD OCEAN NETWORK'S ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY**

**Global Forum for Oceans, Coasts and Islands**  
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