**Ocean sustainability: act before it's too late**

The United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon sounded the alarm over the ‘global emergency facing the oceans’ (<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/political-declaration>). The international ocean community must act now if we are to mitigate and adapt to ocean change ([https://oceanpanel.org/the-agenda/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Foceanpanel.org%2Fthe-agenda%2F__%3B!!NLFGqXoFfo8MMQ!p8s1_WsVKE79zlOBLjGf2sltpV-AfmbWlXkXg0ouGwUZGGEOnqpFB4GEWuA8nY9WeQw35uVoZRxzeZ2g%24&data=05%7C01%7Ccarol.robinson%40uea.ac.uk%7C612cfd59a5bd49727e1f08da924feb87%7Cc65f8795ba3d43518a070865e5d8f090%7C0%7C0%7C637983169198853324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y%2FpzgJFmnR%2FHUMpgmyDPPHp2i%2BPCAk8WFPdGgMC1q6g%3D&reserved=0)).

The time left to respond to this emergency before changes to the oceans become irreversible is running out and the associated costs **to society** are increasing. A coordinated global strategy is urgently needed that is flexible, scalable, responsive to ocean changes and applicable in different contexts

(see E. J. Murphy *et al.*  *Front. Mar. Sci.*[doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.760731](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Fdoi.org%2F10.3389%2Ffmars.2021.760731__%3B!!NLFGqXoFfo8MMQ!p8s1_WsVKE79zlOBLjGf2sltpV-AfmbWlXkXg0ouGwUZGGEOnqpFB4GEWuA8nY9WeQw35uVoZTt7MTbN%24&data=05%7C01%7Ccarol.robinson%40uea.ac.uk%7C612cfd59a5bd49727e1f08da924feb87%7Cc65f8795ba3d43518a070865e5d8f090%7C0%7C0%7C637983169198853324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u9%2FZZCwBvZ6LpiMALvI%2BMOOnxn5IJ4E4MqrzmC4j9eQ%3D&reserved=0); 2021).

International assessments of ocean change and future risks already provide the information we need to rank the risks and identify the actions necessary. As members of the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research Programme, we are coordinating activity for developing such a plan, and invite the community to participate (<https://imber.info/action-plan-for-the-ocean/>). Success will ~~founded on~~ **require** equity, inclusivity and diversity of engagement.

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