

November 18, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate

Dear Chairpersons and Ranking Members,

We commend your action in focusing the attention of the Senate on the critical issue of climate change. Passage of strong climate change legislation will establish the United States of America as a global leader in addressing this great threat, and is the constructive and positive direction that is required to save our blue planet. Your leadership and commitment is precisely what is needed to improve the nation's and world's response to climate change.

As environmental stakeholders and scientists, we write to highlight an aspect of addressing climate change that has been overlooked in the current versions of climate change legislation, namely, the role that coastal and ocean ecosystems play as natural carbon sinks. We feel it is important to recognize their potential in mitigating the effects of climate change.

The Earth's oceans are critically important to the global carbon cycle. Our oceans, and the marine ecosystems they support, are natural carbon sinks. In fact, healthy ocean ecosystems represent the largest active carbon sink on Earth. Scientists recognize that some coastal and marine ecosystems, including tidal marshlands, mangrove ecosystems and seagrass meadows, play a natural role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. The continuing degradation of our oceans and loss of these ecosystems decreases the natural capacity of our oceans to perform these functions. Healthy natural ocean ecosystems are also critical to the livelihoods and food security of millions, and to the conservation of global biodiversity.

We ask Congress to consider following recommendations:

- Support the option for **natural** ocean carbon solutions in climate change legislation.
- Support marine science research that further explores **natural** ocean carbon solutions.

Thank you for considering our views, and for your continued commitment to addressing the threat of climate change.

Sincerely,

Signed by the following sixty-six conservation groups and stakeholders, and one hundred and fifty-eight marine scientists and professionals, together from twenty-eight states and territories and thirty-three countries (Blue Climate Coalition):

Sixty-six marine conservation groups and stakeholders:



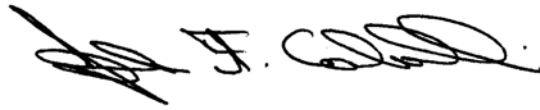
Steven J. Lutz
Executive Director
Blue Climate Solutions
A Project of The Ocean Foundation
Miami, FL



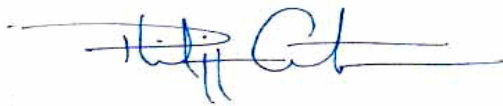
Mark J. Spalding, Ph.D.
President
The Ocean Foundation
Washington, DC



Katie Frohardt
Executive Director
Fauna & Flora International
Washington, DC



John Calvelli
Executive Vice President of Public Affairs
Wildlife Conservation Society
Washington Office
Washington, DC



Philippe Cousteau, Jr.
Co-founder and CEO
EarthEcho International
Washington, DC



Alexandra Cousteau
Founder, President, Executive Producer
Blue Legacy International
Washington, DC

Adam Markham

Adam Markham
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Air - Cool Planet
Portsmouth, NH



Gilles Marini
Actor and supporter of healthy oceans
Studio City, CA



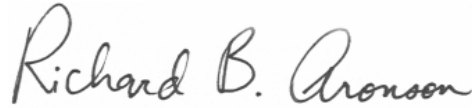
Michael Stocker
Executive Director
Ocean Conservation Research
Forest Knolls, CA



Carl Safina, Ph.D.
President
Blue Ocean Institute
East Norwich, NY



Jed Livingstone
Vice President
NAUI Worldwide
(National Association of Underwater
Instructors)
Tampa, FL



Richard B. Aronson, Ph.D.
President
International Society for Reef Studies
(ISRS)
Montgomery Village, MD

Jean W. Wiener

Jean W. Wiener
Director
Fondation pour la Protection de la
Biodiversite Marine (FoProBiM)
Haiti

Gershon Cohen

Gershon Cohen, Ph.D.
Project Director
Campaign to Safeguard America's
Waters, Earth Island Institute
Haines, AK



Jeff Beggins
President & Chief Executive Officer
Seagrass Recovery
Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Alfredo Quarto

Alfredo Quarto
Executive Director
Mangrove Action Project
Port Angeles, WA

Connie Washburn

Connie Washburn
President
Friends of the Everglades
Miami, FL



Dan Pingaro, CEO
Sailors for the Sea
Newport, RI

Marcy Summers

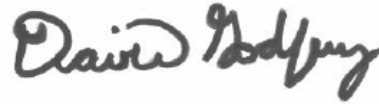
Marcy Summers
Director
**The Alliance for Tompotika
Conservation/ Aliansi Konservasi
Tompotika**
Vashon, WA / Luwuk-Banggai,
Indonesia



Angelo Villagomez
Executive Director
Beautify CNMI
U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands, NMI

Brad Nahill

Brad Nahill
Director & Co-Founder
SEE Turtles
Beaverton, OR



David Godfrey
President
Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Gainesville, FL



Dana Beach
Executive Director
Coastal Conservation League
Charleston, SC



Paul Clark
President
Save Our Seas
Hanalei, HI



Liz Foote
Executive Director
Project S.E.A.-Link
Wailuku, HI

Herb McCormick

Herb McCormick
Watch Captain
Around the Americas/Ocean Watch
Seattle, WA (home port)
Current location: At Sea



Karen Eckert, Ph.D.
Executive Director
**Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle
Conservation Network (WIDECAST)**
Beaufort, NC

William F. Loftus

William F. Loftus, Ph.D.
**Aquatic Research & Communication,
LLC**
Homestead, FL

Fran Bohnsack

Fran Bohnsack
President
Urban Environment League
Miami, FL



Patrick M. Rose
Executive Director
Save the Manatee Club
Maitland, FL



Peter Davis Krahenbuhl
Vice President, Co-founder
Sustainable Travel International
White Salmon, WA

Todd Steiner

Todd Steiner
Executive Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Forest Knolls, CA



Serge Dedina, Ph.D.
Executive Director
WILDCOAST/COSTASALVAJE
Imperial Beach, CA / Ensenada
México

Giovanni Bearzi

Giovanni Bearzi, Ph.D.
President
Tethys Research Institute
Milano
Italy



Paul G. Johnson,
State Programs & Policy Director
REEF RELIEF
Crawfordville, FL

Lewis Regenstein

Lewis Regenstein
President
**The Interfaith Council for the
Protection of Animals and Nature**
Atlanta, GA

Mr. Peter Douglas

Mr. Peter Douglas
Executive Director
**Andros Conservancy and Trust
(ANCAT)**
Fresh Creek, Andros
Bahamas

Mary Toy

Mary Toy
Co-Chair
**Peninsula Citizens for Sustainable
Development**
Placencia
Belize

Sam Fanshawe

Mrs Sam Fanshawe
Director
Marine Conservation Society
Herefordshire
United Kingdom

Austin Bowden-Kerby

Austin Bowden-Kerby. Ph.D.
Director
Corals for Conservation
Just World Partnerships
Sigatoka
Fiji Islands

Louie Psihoyos

Louie Psihoyos
Executive Director
Oceanic Preservation Society
Boulder, CO

Sam Van Leer

Sam Van Leer
Executive Director
Urban Paradise Guild
Miami, FL

Mitchell Roffer

Mitchell Roffer, Ph.D.
President
**Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting
Service Inc.**
Melbourne, FL

Lily Venizelos

Lily Venizelos
Founder and President
**MEDASSET-Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles**
Athens
Greece

Robert Winter

Robert Winter
Executive Director
The Snorkel Bob Foundation
Kihei, HI

Philip Renaud

Philip Renaud
Executive Director
**Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans
Foundation**
Landover, MD

Samantha Whitcraft

Samantha Whitcraft
Director, Conservation Biology and
Research
Oceanic Defense
Orange County, CA

Kama Dean

Kama Dean
Executive Director
Pro Peninsula
San Diego, CA



Laura Kasa
Executive Director
Save Our Shores
Santa Cruz, CA



Brian Huse
Executive Director
The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)
San Francisco, CA

Darren Kindleysides

Darren Kindleysides
Director
Australian Marine Conservation Society
Brisbane
Australia

Neca Marcovaldi

Neca Marcovaldi
President
Fundação Pró-TAMAR
Rio Vermelho
Brazil

Stephen Dunbar

Stephen Dunbar, Ph.D.
Director
Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research (ProTECTOR)
Colton, CA

Monica Aureggi

Monica Aureggi, M.Sc.
Director
NAUCRATES
Giulianello di Cori
Italy



Wallace J. Nichols, Ph.D.
Founder & Co-Director
OceanRevolution.org
Davenport, CA

Arthur H. Kopelman

Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph. D.
President
Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island
Long Island, NY

Thomas J. Goreau

Thomas J. Goreau, Ph.D.
President
Global Coral Reef Alliance
Cambridge, MA



Bill Mott
Director
The Ocean Project
Providence, RI

Karl Fellenius

Karl Fellenius, MRM
Vaughani Shores Vanuatu
Pangona Estates, Efate
Port Vila
Vanuatu

Daniel Clark

Dan Clark
President
Cry of the Water
Coral Springs, FL



Mark J. Spalding
St Kitts Foundation
Executive Director
Washington, DC



Ed Tichenor
Director
Palm Beach County Reef Rescue
Boynton Beach, FL



Mike Skuja
Executive Director
**Center for Rural Empowerment and
the Environment (CREE)**
Chicago, IL

Viviana Mourra

Viviana Mourra
**Cartagena's Youth Declaration on
Climate Change Group**
Cartagena
Colombia

Farah Mukhida

Farah Mukhida
Executive Director
Anguilla National Trust
Anguilla
British West Indies

Sue Harris

Sue Harris
**South Coast Citizens for Sustainable
Development**
Belize

One hundred and fifty-eight marine scientists and professionals from thirty-three countries:

(Affiliations are for identification only, and do not imply endorsement by the signers' institutions)

United States of America

(Ninety-six signatories from twenty-eight states and territories)

Alaska

Vera Alexander, Ph.D., Professor and Dean Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Honorary Doctor of Laws from Hokkaido University (for the promotion of international scientific cooperation), Fellow: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Member: The Arctic Institute of North America, Member: Explorers Club, Dedicated institution: Vera Alexander Learning Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (2008), Fairbanks, AK

Gershon Cohen, Ph.D., Project Director, Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters, Earth Island Institute, Haines, AK

Jon Warrenchuk, M.S., Marine Conservation Coordinator, Oceana, Juneau, AK

California

Murat Aydin, Ph.D., Assistant Researcher, Department of Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine, CA

Vicki Buchsbaum Pearse, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz, Fellow: California Academy of Sciences, Lifetime Achievement Award: Western Society of Naturalists, Santa Cruz, CA

Serge Dedina, Ph.D., Executive Director, WiLDCOAST/COSTASALVAjE, Imperial Beach, CA

Paul Detwiler, M.Sci., Instructor, Marine Biology and Oceanography, Mesa College of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Stephen Dunbar, Ph.D., Director, Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research (ProTECTOR), Department of Earth and Biological Sciences, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA

Sylvia Earle, "Her Deepness," M.S. & Ph.D., Duke University, Chief Scientist for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1990-1992), Explorers Club Medal (1996), Time Magazine's first "hero for the planet" (1998), Leader: Sustainable Seas Expeditions (1998-2002), National Women's Hall of Fame (2000), TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Prize (2009), Member: Explorers Club, Leader: Google Ocean Advisory Council, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Author: The World is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One (2009), Oakland, CA

Jeffrey Firestone, Ph.D. Candidate (Weed Ecology), University of California, Davis, CA

Healy Hamilton, M.S., Ph.D., Director, Center for Applied Biodiversity Informatics, California Academy of Sciences, Chair, Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium Science Committee, San Francisco, CA

Wallace J. Nichols, Ph.D., Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences, Founder & Co-Director, OceanRevolution.org, Davenport, CA

Christopher Papouchis, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate (Environmental Studies), Antioch University, New England, Adjunct Professor of Natural Resources, American River College, Sacramento, CA

Benjamin Pister, Ph.D. (Biology), National Park Service, San Diego, CA

Kevin Raskoff, Ph.D., Biology Department, Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA

Theresa Sinicrope Talley, Ph.D. (Ecology), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA

Todd Steiner M.S. (Biology), Turtle Island Restoration Network, Olema, CA

Bradley Zlotnick, M.D., FACEP, San Diego, CA

District of Columbia

Raymond L. Hayes, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Mark J. Spalding, Ph.D., President, The Ocean Foundation, Washington, DC

Florida

Richard B. Aronson, Ph.D., Department Head, Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, President, International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS), Melbourne, FL

Andrew C. Baker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation (2008), Miami, FL

Daniel D. Benetti, Ph.D., Professor & Director of Aquaculture, Division of Marine Affairs and Policy, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Miami, FL

Laurent Cherubin, Ph.D., Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL

Dorothy Dick, M.A. (Geography, Resource Management and Environmental Policy), St. Petersburg, FL

Kendra Garrett, M.S., Mote Marine Laboratory, Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program, Sarasota, FL

Neil Hammerschlag, Ph.D. Candidate, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Director, South Florida Student Shark Program (SFSSP), Miami, FL

Paul Jones, Ph.D. Candidate, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL

Lisa Konczal, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sociology/Criminology, Barry University, Miami Shores, FL

David Letson, Ph.D. (Economics), Professor, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL

William F. Loftus, Ph.D., Aquatic Research & Communication, LLC, Homestead, FL

Steven J. Lutz, M.A., University of Miami, Executive Director, Blue Climate Solutions, Miami, FL

Laura Macesic, Ph.D. Candidate, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Gary K. Meffe, Ph.D., University of Florida, Editor: Conservation Biology, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Jon A. Moore, Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Mark Mueller, M.S. (Environmental Science & Policy), University of South Florida, Saint Petersburg, FL

Misty Nelson, M.S. Candidate, Graduate Fellow: National Defense Science and Engineering, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, Saint Petersburg, FL

John C. Ogden, Ph.D., Fellow: AAAS, University of South Florida, Saint Petersburg, FL

Howard Prentice, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Mitchell Roffer, Ph.D., President, Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service Inc., Adjunct Faculty, Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL

Patrick M. Rose, CPM Aquatic Biologist, Executive Director, Save the Manatee Club, Maitland, FL

Andy Sherrell, B.S., Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, Fort Pierce, FL

Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D. Candidate, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Miami, FL

Adrienne Simoes Correa, Ph.D., Florida International University, Miami, FL

Shawna Simpson, B.S. (Environmental Studies), Recipient: Outstanding Service to the Environment Award, Aquatic Scientist, FL

Angie Stiles, B.S. (Psychobiology), Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Katie Lee Toth, B.S. (Biology), Biological Scientist (Seagrass Biology), Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), FL

Nancy Voss, Ph.D., Research Professor Emeritus, Director, Marine Invertebrate Museum, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Miami, FL

Samantha Whitcraft, M.A., Director, Conservation Biology and Research, Oceanic Defense, Miami FL

Georgia

Dorinda g. Dallmeyer, J.D., University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Christine Laporte, M.S. Yale Forestry and Environmental Studies, Georgia Coastal Research Council, University of Georgia, Marine Sciences Program, Coordinator: South Atlantic Regional Research Project, Athens, GA

Hawai'i

Elisha M. Wood-Charlson, Ph.D., Department of Oceanography, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Manoa, HI

Illinois

John Cheeseman, Ph.D., Department of Plant Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

Michelle M. Croissier, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

Indiana

Reuben Goforth, Ph.D. (Natural Resources), Assistant Professor of Aquatic Community Ecology, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, West Lafayette, IN

Iowa

Ehsan Kayal, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Dennis V. Lavrov, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Maryland

John R. Cannon, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Ruth Kelty, Ph.D., Washington College, Chestertown, MD

Massachusetts

Thomas J. Goreau, Ph.D., President, Global Coral Reef Alliance, President, Biorock S.A., Coordinator, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Partnership in New Technologies for Small Island Developing States, Cambridge, MA

Les Kaufman, Ph.D., Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation (1990), Conservation International, Boston University Marine Program, Boston University, Boston, MA

Eric John Olson, Ph.D. (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Senior Lecturer in Ecology, Sustainable International Development Program, Heller School of Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Daniel Sher, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Chisholm lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA

Robert D Stevenson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

David W. Tapley, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Salem State College Salem, MA

Michigan

Aviva Glaser, M.S./M.P.H Candidate, Conservation Biology and Environmental Health Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Minnesota

Anne Wakeford Berry, M.S. (Marine Biology), M.A. (Marine Affairs and Policy), Independent Consultant, MN

Mississippi

Chet F. Rakocinski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Coastal Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

New Jersey

Marian Glenn, Ph.D., Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Michael F. Gross, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Academic Program Development, Professor of Biology, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ

Judith S. Weis, Ph.D., Fellow: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Chair: Biology Section of AAAS (2000), President: American Institute of Biological Sciences (2001), Board member: EPA Science Advisory Board, Author: Salt Marshes - A Natural and Unnatural History (2009), Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

New York

Nancy Jacobson, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

Brian Keel, Ph.D., Consultant (Climate Change Plant Ecology), Shushan, NY

Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph. D., President, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island, Long Island, NY

Gerald P. Rasmussen, M.S. (Wildlife Ecology), Certified Wildlife Biologist, Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cortland, NY

Carl Safina, Ph.D, President, Blue Ocean Institute, Member: Explorers Club, Recipient: Pew Scholar's Award in Conservation and the Environment, Senior Fellow of the World Wildlife Fund, East Norwich, NY

North Carolina

Karen Eckert, Ph.D., Executive Director , WIDECAST: Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network, UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honor for Environmental Achievement (1994), Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation (1996), Beaufort, NC

Sheril Kirshenbaum, M.Sc., Duke University, Host: 'The Intersection' on Discover Blogs, Durham, NC

TyAnn Lee, M.A. Candidate, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC

Alina M. Szmant, Ph.D., Coral Reef Research Group, UNCW-Center for Marine Science, Member: Tektite II (the first all-female aquanaut team) (1970), Recipient: U.S. Department of Interior Conservation Service Award, Wilmington, NC

Carmen Yeung, M.A. Candidate, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC

Oregon

Dr. Mark Hixon, Ph.D., National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Fulbright Senior Scholar, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Professor, Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Pennsylvania

Stanley Shostak, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, PA

Puerto Rico

María Vega-Rodríguez, M.S., Department of Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, Mayaguez, PR

Rhode Island

Kara Johnson, M.Phil., Brown University, Providence, RI

Texas

Eric Madrid, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Recipient: Botanical Society of America Moseley Award (2008), Recipient: Annals of Botany Graduate Prize (2008), Galveston, TX

Kimberly Reich, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sea Turtle and Fisheries Ecology Research Lab & Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University at Galveston, U Galveston, TX

United States Virgin Islands

Nasseer Idrisi, Ph.D., Center for Marine and Environmental Studies, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI

Christine Settar, M.S., University of the Virgin Islands, Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, Sea Grant Marine Outreach Program, USVI

Virginia

Russell P. Burke, Ph.D. Candidate, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary
Sarah Carr, Ph.D. (Marine Sciences), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Knauss Marine Policy Fellow (2005), Marine Ecosystem-Based Management Coordinator, NatureServe, Arlington, VA

Meredith Ferdie Muth, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia,
Malcolm Hill, Ph.D., University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Washington

Meggen Chadsey, B.A., Cornell University, Ph.D, Microbiology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Marcy Summers, M.S., Director, The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation, Past recipient: Maine Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, Switzer Environmental Fellowship and Leadership Awards, Vashon, WA

Wisconsin

Jonathan L. Temte, M.D./Ph.D., Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, Wisconsin

International

(Sixty-two signatories from thirty-two countries)

Australia

Maria Fernanda Adame, Ph.D., University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Hans Hoegh-Guldberg, Cand. Polit. (University of Copenhagen). Hans & Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg, Economic Strategies Pty Ltd, Applied ecological and cultural economics, Obero, Australia

Lucy Hurrey, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia

Matt Lybolt, M.S. (Biological Oceanography), Ph.D. Candidate, University of Queensland, Australia

Justin Marshall, D.Phil., Professor of Marine Biology and Neurobiology, The University of Queensland, President: Australian Coral Reef Society, St Lucia, Australia

Jillian Ooi, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Malaya, Malaysia, and the University of Western Australia, School of Plant Biology/School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Western Australia, Crawley, Australia

Paola Rachello-Dolmen, Ph.D. Candidate (Marine Palaeoecology), La Centre for Marine Studies and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Townsville, Australia

Bangladesh

Md. Sherazul Islam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Jessore Science and Technology University, Jessore, Bangladesh

Belize

Julianne Stockbridge, B.Sc. Biology, The Nature Conservancy - Belize Program, Belmopan City, Belize

Brazil

Daphne Wrobel Goldberg, D.V.M., M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate, Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Cameroon

Moudingo Jean-Hude, M.Sc. (Biodiversity and Forest Productions/ Mangrove Restorationiste), Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve, Cameroon

Canada

William Allison, M.Sc., M.B.A., Independent Consultant, Canada

Ambrose, John, Ph.D. (Retired), University of Guelph Arboretum and Toronto Zoo, Toronto, Canada

Julie L. Nielsen, M.Sc. (Environmental Science), Metro Vancouver Regional Government, Member: National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Vancouver, Canada

Colette Wabnitz, Ph.D. Candidate, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Canada

Elizabeth M. De Santo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marine Affairs, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada

Colombia

Viviana Mourra, B.Sc. (Environmental Science), M.A. (Environmental Security and Peace), United Nations University for Peace, Fundación Ecoprogreso, Cartagena, Colombia

Denmark

Erik Kristensen, Ph.D. (Marine Ecology & Microbial Ecology), Institute of Biology, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Katrina Povidisa, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Matthieu Delefosse, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Fiji Islands

Austin Bowden-Kerby, Ph.D., Director, Corals for Conservation, Just World Partnerships, Sigatoka, Fiji Islands

Finland

Camilla Gustafsson, Ph.D. Candidate, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

Eriika Melkas, LL.D., Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland

Germany

Jessica Gross, M.Sc. Candidate, August University Göttingen, Germany

Steffen Hengherr, Dipl. Biol., Ph.D. Candidate, Universität Stuttgart, Biological Institute Department of Zoology, Stuttgart, Germany

Sybill Jaschinski, Ph.D., IfM-GEOMAR, Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences, Kiel, Germany

Frank Veit, PhD, NABU Germany - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Germany

Manfred Verhaagh, Ph.D., Chief conservator, State Museum of Natural History Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany

Greece

Eugenia Apostolaki, Ph.D., Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), Greece Heraklio-Crete, Greece

India

Eganathan Palanisami, Ph.D. (Botany), Recipient: Brandis Prize for Mangrove Silviculture, Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India

Dhiren M. Pania, Ph.D. (Mangrove Botany), University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India

Patel Rohitkumar Mangalbhay, Ph.D. Candidate, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Gujarat, India

Italy

Monica Aureggi, M.Sc., Director, Naucrates, Giulianello di Cori, Italy

Giovanni Bearzi, Ph.D., Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, President, Tethys Research Institute, Milano, Italy

Carlo Cerrano, Ph.D., DIPTERIS -Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

Paolo Guidetti, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Technologies, Laboratory of Zoology and Marine Biology (DiSTeBA), University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

Francesca Zardin, M.Sc. (Natural Science), Marine Bioacustician, Interdisciplinary Center of Bioacoustic and Environmental Research (CIBRA), University of Pavia, Italy

Japan

Soha Shabaka, Ph.D. (Seagrass Ecology and Biology), Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Malaysia

Harinder Rai Singh, Ph.D. (Coastal & Marine Ecology), University Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

Allison Perry, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow (Climate Change and Marine Systems & Coral Reefs), WorldFish Center, Malaysia

Mexico

Joaquin Rodrigo Garza-Pérez, Ph.D. (Marine Science), Professor-Researcher, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico

Steven L. Swartz, Ph.D. (Marine Science), Laguna San Ignacio Ecosystem Science Program, Adjunct Professor, Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, La Paz, Mexico

Brigitta I. van Tussenbroek, Ph.D., Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Namibia

Anja van der Plas, B.Sc (Hons), Senior Scientist (& Climate change representative), Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources (MFMR), National Marine Information & Research Centre, Swakopmund, Namibia

New Zealand

Lorna Deppe, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Roger Grace, Ph.D., Marine Biological Consultant (specialist in marine conservation and marine reserves), Marine Photographer, Recipient: Queen's Service Medal for public service (2005), New Zealand

Martin C. Hingston, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Auckland, School of Biological Science, Auckland

Norway

Franz Uiblein, Ph.D., Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway

Helene Amundsen, Ph.D. Candidate, Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Portugal

Marta Nogueira, Ph.D. (Marine Sciences), Researcher, Department of Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity, National Institute for Biological Resources (INRB/L-IPIMAR), Portugal

South Africa

Anusha Rajkaran, PhD Candidate (Mangrove Ecology), Botany Department, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Spain

Carmen Amaro, Ph.D., Aquatic pathogens of importance in Public Health, Department of Microbiology and Ecology, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

Rafel Coma, Research Scientist, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

Marcel Clusa Ferrand, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Sweden

Maricela de la Torre-Castro, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Natural Resource Management, Stockholm University, Presentation award: Ecosystem Goods and Services from Seagrasses (International Seagrass Biology Workshop, Australia), Stockholm, Sweden

The Netherlands

Tim Wijgerde, Ph.D. Candidate (accepted for 2010 program), Wageningen University, Founder & Editor: coralscience.org, Wageningen, The Netherlands

United Kingdom

Stacey DeAmicis, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, United Kingdom

Mark Huxham, Ph.D., School of Life Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University, Recipient: Aviva/Earthwatch Award for Climate Change Research (2005), Edinburgh, United Kingdom

David Moss, B.A., D.Phil., D.Sc., School of Mathematics, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Vanuatu

Karl Fellenius, B.Sc., MRM, Vaughani Shores Vanuatu, Pangona Estates, Efate, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Venezuela

Joaquin Buitrago, Research Professor, EDIMAR, Margarita Marine Research Station, Member: Marine Turtle Specialist Group/ Species Survival Commission / The world Conservation Union. Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Alicia Villamizar, Ph.D., Departamento de Estudios Ambientales, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Baruta, Venezuela

CC: Members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Contact: Steven J. Lutz, Blue Climate Solutions, steven.lutz@blueclimatesolutions.org