

# The 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough

Mobilizing State and non-State actors worldwide to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated global approach to seagrass conservation at an impactful scale, aligned with international climate-related commitments

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## Importance of Seagrass

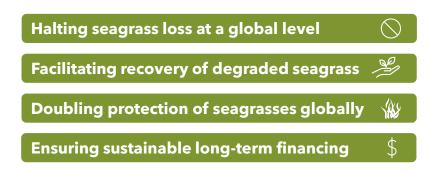
Seagrasses are among the world's most productive natural habitats, providing a plethora of highly valuable ecosystem services. They support biodiversity with food and habitat; improve water quality by filtering, cycling and storing nutrients and pollutants; protect coastal areas by attenuating wave energy; and support marine-based economic sectors, such as tourism and fisheries, including by providing critical nursery habitat to 20% of the world's biggest fisheries.

# Climate Change and Nature-Based Solutions

Seagrasses play a key role in climate change **mitigation** through their highly effective carbon sequestration and storage capacity (whilst covering only 0.1% of the ocean floor, seagrass sediments store up to 18% of oceanic carbon, constituting one of the planet's most efficient carbon stores), and in climate change **adaptation** through protection against sea-level rise and flooding. Seagrasses also buffer ocean acidification, thus contributing to the resilience of vulnerable species and ecosystems, such as coral reefs.



Building on the UNFCCC's <u>Ocean Breakthroughs</u>, the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough provides a framework for State and non-State actors to work together towards the shared ambition of securing the conservation of 150,000 km<sup>2</sup> of seagrass globally by mobilizing USD 1.2 billion by 2030\* through collective action on:





#### Ecosystem Services under Threat

Despite their importance, seagrasses continue to be undervalued, under-protected and overlooked in decision-making. They have been declining globally since the 1930s, and around 7% of this habitat is lost globally every year. Only 26% of globally recorded seagrass meadows currently fall within Marine Protected Areas, compared with 40% of coral reefs and 43% of mangroves.

\*Ambition shall be revisited in the first strategic planning workshop of the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough in 2024



### 10 Guiding Principles\* of the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough

The initiative's guiding principles embody an unwavering dedication to preserving, restoring and sustainably managing seagrass ecosystems:







#### How to Join the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough • Commit to the 10 Guiding Principles

These serve as guardrails to ensure meaningful and successful interventions

#### Commit to action

Pledge to an *entry action* that propels the Breakthrough's strategy:

- Setting and achieving ambitious, yet attainable conservation goals

- Joining the proactive coalition through science-based projects aligned with the Breakthrough's objectives

- Creating the enabling conditions for seagrass conservation to take place
- Catalyzing funding, where possible, to attract capital for seagrass conservation

# For more information, please contact the CMS Office - Abu Dhabi

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