

# Good Will Address



Why is it important to care for the social role of women and men, why is it important to strive for gender equality and equal treatment of women and men in all spheres of life, at home, at work, in our free time? And why is this important in our efforts to restore healthy marine and freshwater ecosystems and a healthy ocean?

Humans have changed life on Earth in unprecedented ways and now reach into even remote corners on the land and in the sea. As a species, we have shown great ingenuity, innovation and capacity to cooperate in our long history in Africa and out of Africa. That explains a lot of how we were able to occupy even difficult natural environments and overcome big threatening fauna, disease, long distances and unfavourable living conditions.

The great efforts of hundreds of researchers collaborating around the world to assess the state of the planet now tell us that we have done so in a way that produce so much waste that the land and the ocean and as many as one million out of estimated 8 million other species of life on the Planet are now suffering from poor health or are even threatened by extinction.

These reports are from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

They show that half of the oxygen we breathe comes from plants in the ocean, that the ocean stabilises the climate, produces food and offers many other services that are essential to us, even when we do not live next to the sea.

They also show that when our plastic and other waste, the changes we make to the running of rivers, to our coasts, to the forests and agricultural and urban lands curtail the living space of countless plants and animals.

When we do think only about short-term gains without considering the longer-term effects, we are tearing apart the tissue of life. That is a direct threat to our own way of living with one another and with other organisms around us.

Conversely, when we treat all humans, women and men, equitably and with respect, we are also in a better position to treat our life-support systems in nature with care and respect.

When girls and boys have equal rights to education, schooling, health services and access to scientific knowledge, cultural goods and learning support, they – YOU – are in a better position to work with better knowledge and more responsibly than past generations.

Mundus maris – Sciences and Arts for Sustainability is an international non-profit association with a strong team in Nigeria. We work to provide easy access to scientific and relevant indigenous knowledge and encourage artistic expression about the sea in order to promote its restoration, conservation and sustainable use. We contribute to efforts from local to global to further the study, understanding and respect of aquatic ecosystems and associated biological and cultural diversity.

This is why each year, for World Oceans Day, we invite your people from anywhere to reflect and work on the UN motto for the ocean, last year it was stopping plastic pollution of the ocean, this year it's all about equality and equity of women and girls and how we are all connected to the ocean.

We would love to see you all actively engaged for a healthy ocean, for becoming the next generation of ocean scientists and practitioners who take responsibility for ocean stewardship and equity for girls and boys, women and men and living respectfully together. The ocean needs YOU.

Let's turn our ingenuity and cooperation to becoming committed stewards for good lives in our respective communities, for the Ocean and for life all around us. With your determined action and such cooperation, there is HOPE. Together we can!

Happy World Ocean Day – let's make every day World Ocean Day.

# Gender and the ocean

The ocean gifts us oxygen, regulates climate and is home to countless creatures. Human actions influence ocean health - impacting some more than others. What do we see through a **gender** lens?



## LIVES

Women and children are

**14\***

more likely to die or get injured in natural disasters due to unequal access to resources.

Climate change hits hard on the coast.

Knowledge of ocean rhythms and species is often passed down both matrilineal and patrilineal lines.

Women constitute half of the workforce, yet earn

**64%**

of men's wages in aquaculture and have less access to decision-making positions.



## SCIENCE & POLICY

## GENDER EQUALITY

is key to sustainability.

Only together can we protect Earth's ultimate source of life.

**24%**

of parliamentarians and

**38%**

of marine scientists are women.

Women have proven capabilities as **leaders and conservationists**.



**2%**

of the 1.2 million seafarers are female.

## FISHERIES



## MARITIME

Let the ocean be the great unifier

Sources: UN Women, UNEP & GWA, WWF, UNESCO (more on ocean.makesense.org)  
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