



DECLARATION 10th EDITION REGIONAL COASTAL AND MARINE FORUM

Saly

31-03-2022



PRCM
PARTENARIAT REGIONAL POUR LA CONSERVATION
DE LA ZONE COTIERE ET MARINE
EN SAOUDIE ARABIE

DECLARATION OF SALY

We, **Actors and Partners** involved in conservation and participants in the 10th **Regional Coastal and Marine Forum in West Africa** held in Saly (Senegal) from March 29 to April 1, 2022 on the theme " **The health of the oceans, a challenge for the sustainable development of West African coastal countries**" :

- Considering the role of the ocean in the proper functioning of the climate system (oxygen production, CO2 absorption, temperature regulation, ...);
- Concerned by the degradation of the oceans as a result of pollution, maritime activities related to blue growth, overfishing, plastification, destruction of coastal habitats and deep sea ecosystems, acidification, and climate change;
- Concerned about ocean degradation in the West African marine and coastal zone and its consequences on already vulnerable ecosystems and coastal communities;
- Recognizing the efforts and initiatives implemented at local and sub-regional levels for the preservation of ocean ecosystems and the sustainable management of their natural resources;
- Working within the framework of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14 on the oceans and the African Strategy on Oceans and Seas, Horizon 2050;
- Recognizing the role of the Abidjan Convention and the relevance of its Additional Protocols for the protection of West African marine and coastal areas;

Declare our commitment **to work towards the conservation and sustainable management of the oceans and natural resources of the West African coastal and marine area.**

To this end, **WE INVITE** our Governments and the International Community to :

- Develop in this sub-region of West Africa a concerted vision for the blue economy that will support the promotion of national sectoral strategies (fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, marine mining, offshore hydrocarbon exploitation, marine renewable energies, conservation, coastal tourism, etc.) that respect the principles of sustainable ocean management.
- Encourage the states to ratify and domesticate the Additional Protocols of the Abidjan Convention on integrated coastal and marine area management, on pollution from land-based sources and activities, on environmental norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation, and on sustainable mangrove management.

- Conduct initiatives aimed at reducing **ocean plastification** and emphasizing sub-regional approaches such as
 - I. The proclamation of legal standards prohibiting the use of plastic bags,
 - II. Support for innovative initiatives at the community and city levels to process plastic waste, reduce its discharge into the sea and recycle it,
 - III. Cleaning the seabeds in the coastal zone, known for their high productivity and diversity, etc.
- Mobilize the capacities of countries and actors, and utilize the appropriate means and knowledge to collect, monitor, and produce information on the state of the marine environment, the economic and social pressures on the ecosystems, in order to recommend appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of artificialization actions in marine and coastal areas.
- Support coastal communities' initiatives to preserve their sustainable livelihoods and strengthen their socio-ecological resilience against the consequences of climate change and the degradation of the ocean in their marine and coastal areas.
- Strengthen the partnerships and frameworks for dialogue and collaboration to mobilize adequate human, technical and financial resources to address the multiple challenges in the West African coastal and marine zone.
- To support and promote nature-based solutions for the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems while strengthening the capacities of state and non-state actors.

Drawn up in Saly on 31/03/2022,

The participants