

# THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Emerging from this year's pandemic is renewed solidarity across our planet. In the wake of the effects of climate change, an interdependent global economy, and a growing human population, this solidarity is as important as ever to safeguard our health, livelihoods, infrastructure, and more.

**Thank you for being a longtime member of our community and helping to protect our collective futures by restoring the health of the ocean.** We are thinking of you and we are doing all that we can to support our people and projects around the world.



## Why We Choose Nature-Based Solutions



The Ocean Foundation utilizes nature-based solutions in order for our work to be effective and timely. Nature-based solutions are grounded in the science that a healthy ecosystem will enhance human wellbeing. These long-term solutions are effective, low cost, and replicable.

The Ocean Foundation has been implementing, funding, and advocating for nature-based solutions to best fulfill its mission of reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments.

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## The Benefits of Nature-Based Solutions

### Counter Climate Change

The carbon sequestration and storage benefits in coastal ecosystems surpass those of terrestrial forests, taking excess carbon in the water and storing it in its biomass. Carbon is also emitted when vegetation is destroyed, so protection and conservation keep that carbon from entering the atmosphere.

### Ensure Economic Resilience

Nature-based solutions protect and strengthen food production and security, and jobs in the seafood sector. Higher employment, more innovation, and increased revenues and livelihoods have been linked to the implementation of nature-based solutions.

### Protect Human Health

Coastal conservation and restoration protect communities against waterborne pathogens and contaminants and reduce risk of disease and food spoilage. By protecting our human settlements, it also relieves pressure on emergency response services during extreme weather events.

### Boost Social Equity

According to the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, nature-based solution strategies in wetlands have been observed to "ensure greater gender parity as ocean-based industries expand and improve income opportunities and livelihoods."



## Examples of Nature-Based Solutions



### SeaGrass Grow

Anyone can calculate their carbon footprint and make a donation that we use to plant and protect seagrasses and mangroves, which store excess carbon from the ocean in their biomass. Conservation and restoration also enhance coastal protection against storm surges and floods.



### Mangroves and Ocean Acidification

Through partnership with the U.S. Department of State, we funded a project in Fiji that focuses on the role mangroves play in mitigating ocean acidification. Dr. Katy Soapi, who leads this project, uses the GOA-ON in a Box kit to monitor how the mangrove restoration affects the local chemistry.



#### **Algal Bloom Solutions**

In December, we hosted stakeholders in Florida for a roundtable about Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and solving nutrient pollution from agricultural practices. HABs are present in all 50 states, threatening aquatic ecosystems and contaminating the ocean.



#### **Conservation through Boater Behavior**

A significant amount of seagrass damage is caused by boaters whose propellers gash seagrass beds. The Ocean Foundation offers a toolkit to anyone trying to conserve their local seagrass beds by promoting awareness to move behavior change.



## How Do I Support Nature-Based Solutions?

**Advocate** for policy development, international commitments, and sponsored research with your government representatives. Nature-based solutions with an ocean focus are not as prominently featured in international commitments right now as we need them to be.

**Vote with your dollar** and learn about [the blue economy](#). The private sector needs to prioritize, utilize, and respect nature-based solutions. You are not too small to make a difference; industries listen to changes in consumer behavior.

**Support environmental non-profits.** The Ocean Foundation champions nature-based solutions as the best way to achieve its mission, and when you share our work, donate to us, or utilize our resources, we are helping the world become more resilient together.

**Make a Donation and Join Our Work**



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