

*Meeting our international commitments to protect & manage
the ocean's resources:*

The Opportunity of the Commonwealth Blue Charter

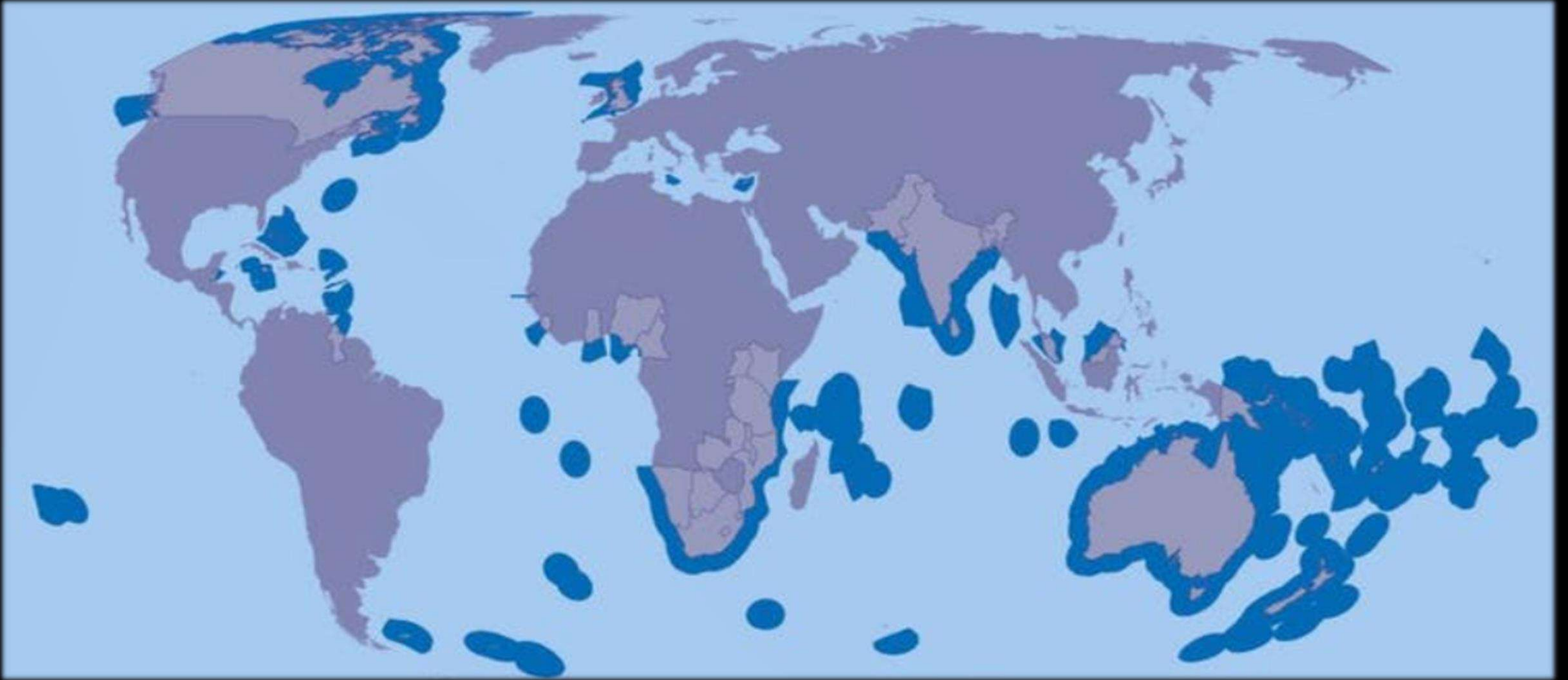
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Coastal Futures
(#CoastalFutures19)
24 Jan. 2019

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Commonwealth marine waters



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The Commonwealth
Blue Charter

The Commonwealth and the Ocean



53 Countries



46 have a marine coastline



1/3 of world's marine waters within national jurisdiction

32 Commonwealth member countries have **42%** of world's coral reefs



Australia and Belize

host the world's two largest barrier reefs

8 of 20 world's largest marine protected areas are in Commonwealth waters



Marae Moana The Cook Islands

World's largest designated marine managed area

World's 1st agreement was signed between Mauritius and Seychelles to co-manage their shared outer continental shelf.



Saya de Malha Bank

(included in this agreement)
hosts the world's largest offshore seagrass meadow.



The Blue Charter in the News

(www.CommonwealthBlueCharter.org)



The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth

“Shared ocean, shared

= MENU

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Search

Hon Thérèse Coffey, UK MP and Under-Secretary (Conservative Party)



The Commonwealth

The Blue Charter is so important, not only for Commonwealth countries, but for the entire world.



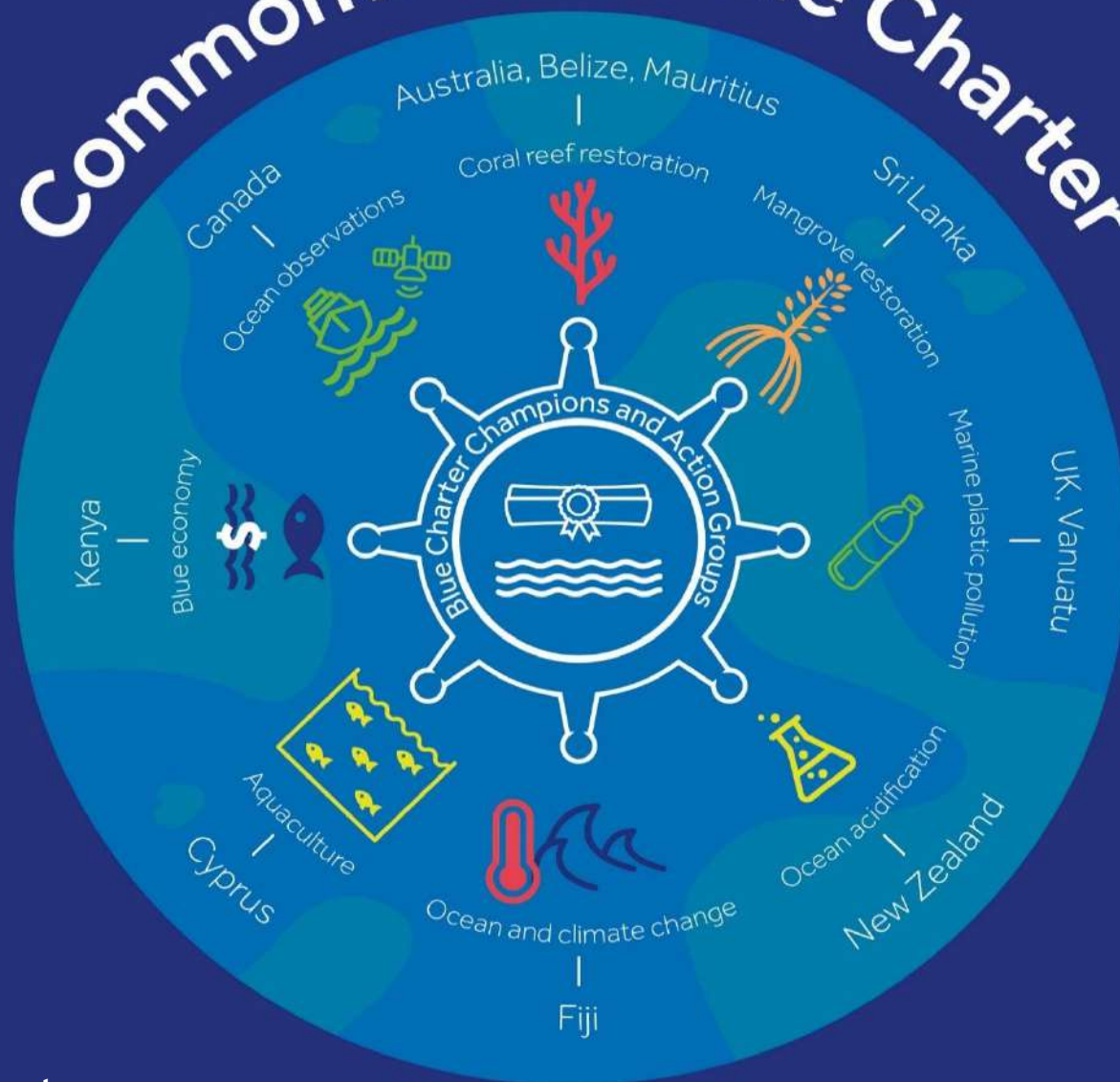
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- *Highlighting* the value of the many global commitments...
 - *Recognising that much more work still needs to be done...*
1. *Agree* to cooperate with one another...
 2. *Commit* to taking a principled, science-based approach consistent with the Charter of the Commonwealth...
 3. *Invite* Commonwealth member countries to come forward as **Commonwealth Blue Charter Champions**, to lead or engage with Action Groups...
- *Mandate* a Commonwealth Blue Charter plan of action focussed around Action Groups...

Commonwealth Blue Charter



Seychelles
for
**Marine
protected
areas**



Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance (CCOA)

UK – Vanuatu led Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group

- The CCOA calls on Commonwealth countries to pledge action on plastic pollution
- Seeks to work with and complement other initiatives for cooperation on the global issue of protecting the world's oceans
- 24 members, with up to £10m in Aid funding available to assist them to achieve their commitments under CCOA

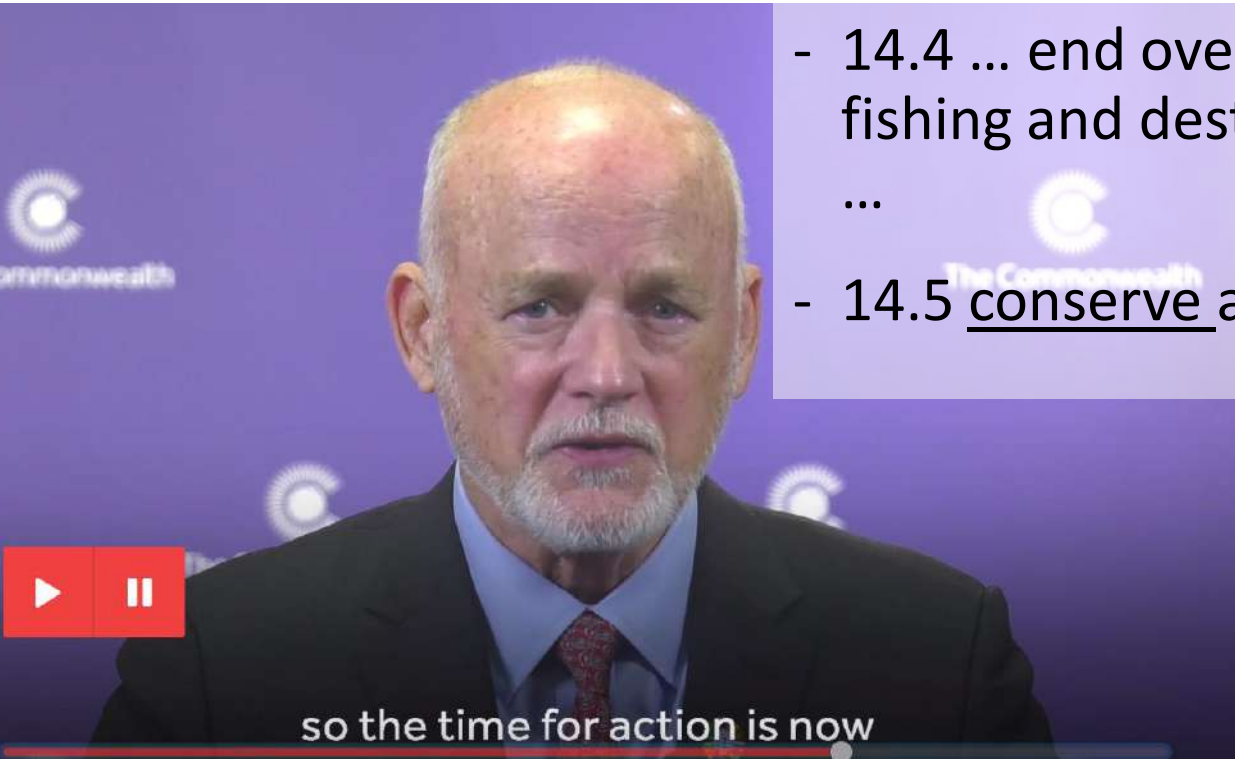


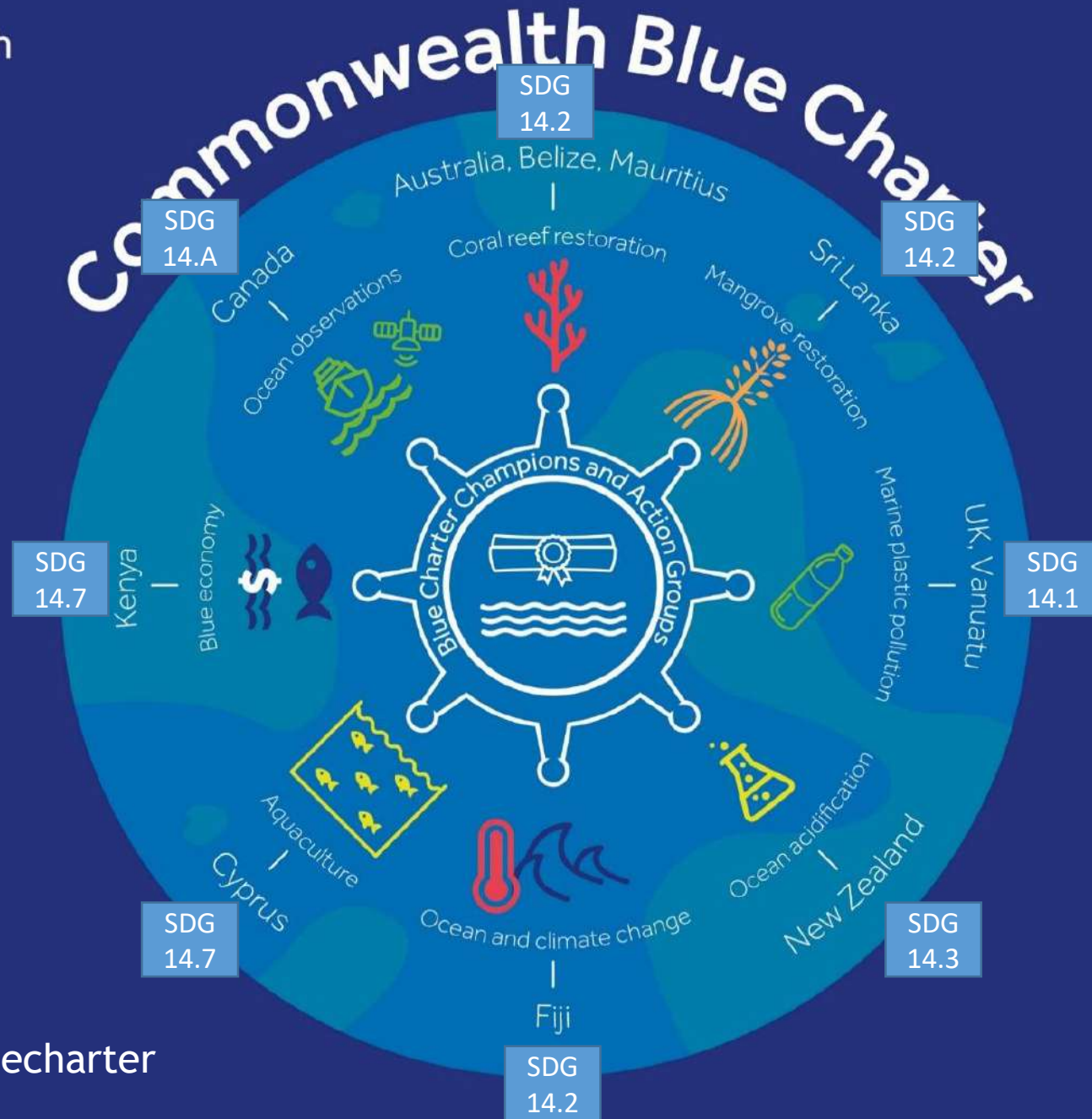


SDG 14. Life below water

Three of ten targets due 2020:

- 14.2 sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems ... and take action for their restoration ...
- 14.4 ... end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices ...restore fish stocks ...
- 14.5 conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas...





Obstacles along the way...



The Commonwealth
Blue Charter

Ailments...

1. Thinking we knew the answer without confirming the problem.
2. Taking the road well travelled (i.e. the previous approach).
3. When the going got tough, sending it to Committee.

Cures...

1. Listen to those experiencing the problems.
2. Pause, arrange and show your hand after having had time to think, not before. (Discretion is the better part of valour?)
3. Take responsibility, esp. when receiving criticism.

A Glance Ahead

1. The work is not over yet; indeed, it has only just begun...
2. The Working Groups exist in order to achieve results, which will require flexibility and learning. It will also require secure multi-year funding. ('Results-based management' should not become mere box-ticking.)
3. Operationalising the link between high level aspirations and on-the-water implementation (the 'wasp waist', 'middle-out') will be *the ocean governance issue* for many years to come.

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Questions?

Discussion!

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