

YACHT CLUB COSTA SMERALDA



A MARINE ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A code of ethics to disseminate marine
preservation principles and actions

CHARTA SMERALDA

With the contribution of
One Ocean Forum's Scientific Committee



YACHT CLUB COSTA SMERALDA
1967 - 2017

CHARTA SMERALDA

1. PREAMBLE

WHY

The ocean has a crucial and positive impact on planet Earth: it regulates the climate, creates conditions for human life, shapes societies and communities and provides vital benefits to human health, both physical and mental. The ocean covers three-quarters of the Earth's surface, contains 97% of the Earth's water, and represents 99% of the living space on the planet by volume. Moreover, we live in an urban, coastal world. Forty per cent of the world's population lives within 100 kilometers of the coast. Globally, the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at \$3 trillion per year or about 5% of global GDP. In addition, the existence and cultural value of marine resources, which cannot easily be measured or quantified, historically shapes human societies. However, the ocean is under threat and this value is declining. Climate change, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity, marine pollution and

overexploitation of living and non-living resources are just some of the examples of emerging issues that have to be dealt with urgently. Ocean issues are multi-dimensional and are affecting all of us. We need new technical solutions, societal transformation and new collaborations and partnerships. Science alone cannot drive the much-needed changes. Solutions and actions should be science-proof but should also be put forward by decision-makers and shared, implemented and accepted by all segments of society. All of us need to do our part. We are all stewards of the ocean and the planet. We must continue to explore. We must continue to study what we do not yet understand and protect the resources we have for future generations.

WHAT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved by the United Nations in 2015, together with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG14: Life below water aims to promote conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources as part of its global commitment.

As priority areas, SDG14 identifies the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution; the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; the reduction of

the impact of ocean acidification including, through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels; the regulation of harvesting and the end of overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices; the conservation of at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; the increase in scientific knowledge and the further development of research capacity. In accordance with these priorities, four action points ("pressing issues") have been identified:

- MARINE LITTER AND POLLUTION

Marine debris from natural sources, such as floating vegetation or volcanic ash deposits, is commonplace in the ocean. Unfortunately, man-made debris has increased substantially in the past hundred years. Marine debris, or litter, from non-natural sources is usually defined as any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. Recently microplastics and microbeads, fragments of less than 5 mm, have been increasingly detected in significant quantities in marine and freshwater environments, and there are growing concerns about the potential effects on the health of the ocean and organisms living in it, and so also on people. This happens on top of other categories of pollutant, including eutrophication and toxins. One Ocean Forum aims to understand the part played by pollution in the ocean and see how we can improve understanding of its impact, but also raise public awareness.

- GLOBAL AND CLIMATE CHANGES

Covering about 75% of the Earth's surface, the world's ocean has a two-way relationship with weather and climate. The ocean influences the weather on a local to global scale, while changes in climate can fundamentally alter many properties of the ocean. Ocean surface temperatures increased around the world during the 20th century. These warmer ocean surface temperatures will lead to stronger and even more frequent hurricanes and precipitation events, producing unprecedented coastal flooding. And the potential for even worse flooding is on the horizon. Climate change has caused sea levels to rise and boosted high tides, which are regularly overtopping streets and other low-lying areas that

had long existed in relatively dry harmony with nearby waterfronts. Equally alarming is how the ocean has become more acidic over the past few decades because of increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which dissolves in the water with negative consequences for marine species such as corals and molluscs. Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that these changes will have serious consequences for marine species, ecosystems and the services they are providing. One Ocean Forum will work to help research, industry and society improve their understanding of the impact of their actions on the climate, the ocean and also our well-being.

- BLUE TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION

Established maritime activities, such as the construction and maintenance of ships, the transportation of offshore gas and oil, fishing, shipping, trade, as well aquaculture, and renewable energy, all contribute to the maritime economy. One of the main challenges in bringing technological and societal innovation to the economy and leveraging the results of scientific research in maritime industries is the implementation of new technologies. The use of satellites, 'smart ships', food tracking systems to raise awareness among consumers on where their food comes from, unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles (UAVs, drones, gliders), the exploration and exploitation of marine organisms to develop new products, and enhanced public scientific awareness, can help us explore new possibilities for society, nature and industry.

- OCEAN LITERACY

Marine problems are rooted in individual behaviour choices and, therefore, centralised policies for marine protection should encompass all the causes of the issues, including the behaviour of the public. There is a need to empower citizens, economic players and stakeholders with technical, cognitive, social, civic and scientific skills, enhancing both the understanding of their influence on the ocean, and the ocean's influence on their lives and activities. These skills will improve society's ability to understand the importance of the ocean and seas for their well-being. The ultimate goal of ocean literacy is to enable citizens to make responsible decisions concerning marine-related issues, and to increase the acceptance of marine policies to accelerate their implementation. One Ocean Forum facilitates the way all the above-mentioned issues are communicated to the general public by increasing societal engagement through a series of workshops, campaigns and the use of public media.

WHO (Target)

The Charta Smeralda speaks to:

- **INDIVIDUALS WHO LOVE THE OCEAN AND SPEND TIME ON THE WATER BOTH FOR LEISURE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- **ORGANISATIONS THAT PROMOTE AND SUPPORT ANY MARINE ACTIVITY (SUCH AS YACHT CLUBS, MARINAS, ETC.)**
- **COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

These targets will be engaged as a “primary activation group” in order to work as a driver to reach the largest possible audience.

Nevertheless, we commit to circulate, promote and share The Charta Smeralda with other organisations involved in any type of marine activity and/or having interdependencies between the ocean and its activities.

2. PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

This section focuses on the HOW, and aims to identify a set of principles and commitments that individuals and organisations can recognise, share and commit to through individual and collective actions and behaviour. The document speaks to both individuals and organisations.

INDIVIDUALS

As individuals, we commit to protect the ocean, seas and coastal areas where we live, reducing our impact and avoiding any risk to the environment.

PREVENT COASTAL AND MARITIME POLLUTION

We commit to adopting environmentally friendly products for boat cleaning and maintenance (e.g. paints, detergents); ensuring the adoption of spill-proof fuelling procedures; avoiding black water (e.g. wastewaters from toilette) and grey water (e.g. water from on-board sinks, showers and boat cleaning) discharges; preventing any waste from entering waterways. In case of fuel or oil-spills, we commit to being prepared to manage any risk of damage and minimise the consequences for the environment.

PRESERVE WATER RESOURCES

We commit to preserving water, monitoring water usage and looking for opportunities to minimise water consumption, especially when cleaning our boats (e.g. when possible using rainwater tanks or water-saving butts).

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CARBON FOOTPRINT, AND ADOPT RENEWABLE ENERGY

We commit to reducing our energy consumption through responsible behaviour, and adopting good maintenance practices that increase the efficiency of

our boats. We commit to learning about our carbon emissions, and adopting solutions to reduce them, using renewable sources when available as preferred energy options to power our boats, and switching to biofuels as an alternative to conventional ones, when available and technically possible.

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MINIMISE THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PROMOTE REUSE AND FAVOUR RECYCLING

We commit to adopting behaviour that minimises the use of natural resources, to preventing waste generation through the adoption of sustainable consumption, promoting the reuse of goods and packaging when feasible, and favouring recycling practices (paper, glass, aluminium, plastics, wood, etc.) when separate collection of waste is available.

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ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

We commit to reducing and eliminating single-use plastics (e.g. plastic bottles, grocery bags, plastic wrap, disposable cutlery, straws, coffee-cups) and substituting them with alternative and more sustainable solutions (e.g. refillable bottles).

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PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL AND MARITIME HABITATS

We commit to protecting and preserving natural and maritime habitats and wildlife. We avoid damaging the ecosystem by using proper anchoring techniques. We behave respectfully when sailing and boating to ensure there is no disturbance to maritime wildlife and marine biodiversity (e.g. fisheries, birds, mammals). We observe and respect responsible and sustainable fishing practices. We commit to not purchasing any item made from endangered species (e.g. coral, shells).

We acknowledge biofouling risks and commit to incorporating biofouling management practices to limit or avoid marine pest fouling that could impact on the marine environment and human health.

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ADOPT SUSTAINABLE, ETHICAL, AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR

We commit to respecting laws, reporting violations

of environmental regulations or incidents to the authorities, avoiding unethical behaviour and acting responsibly on shore and during boating and sailing.

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PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MARINE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

We commit to playing an active role in searching and promoting the development of innovative solutions to reduce our environmental impact on the ocean, seas and coastal areas and to increase the sustainability of our behaviour. We commit to promoting these solutions among individuals who love the ocean and spend time at sea both for leisure and professional activities and to informing other organisations about the availability and benefits of these opportunities.

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COLLABORATE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS

We commit to collaborating with other individuals and organisations (e.g. local authorities, business communities, NGOs and society in general), and participating in other initiatives and programs aiming at protecting the ocean and marine habitats in order to maximise our positive impact.

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SUPPORT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

We commit to supporting the advancement of scientific knowledge about the ocean, seas and coastal areas, providing access and sharing data and information collected during boating and sailing around the world. We agree to support the Paris Climate Agreement, ensuring that the nations of the world keep their commitments to curb emissions and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, cleaner energy economy.

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EDUCATE AND INVOLVE NEW GENERATIONS

We commit to transmitting to new generations the values and principles of the protection of the ocean, seas and coastal areas. We commit to actively participating in education programs and campaigns (e.g. beach clean-up initiatives or programs against single-use plastics) that involve the younger generation and positively inspire them with responsible behaviour.

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PROMOTE AWARENESS, COMMUNICATE AND SPREAD THE CHARTA SMERALDA

We acknowledge that by subscribing to The Charta Smeralda we become ambassadors for the protection of the ocean, seas and coastal areas and

we commit to promoting awareness about the preservation of marine habitat and wildlife.

We also commit to spreading The Charta Smeralda, its inspiring principles and values among our families and friends, sailors and organisations.

ORGANISATION

We commit to managing our organisation and its operations sustainably, reducing our environmental impact and avoiding any risk to the environment.

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MANAGE THE ORGANISATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES

We commit to managing our organisation in accordance with sustainable development principles, and to respecting international, national and local environmental protection regulations, guidelines and codes of conduct.

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ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN TO MINIMISE IMPACT

We commit to adopting an environmental policy and to implementing an environmental plan with regard to the strategic and operational activities of our organisation, aiming at minimising our environmental impact (e.g. prevent pollution, minimise natural resources consumption, manage risks). This includes all the operations and processes on shore (management of facilities, management of events, purchasing of goods and services, etc.) and all marine activities (regattas, boat cleaning and maintenance, etc.).

In order to strengthen our commitment, we shall consider the adoption of specific environmental management tools (e.g. environmental management systems, environmental guidelines, eco-labels) which provide support and facilitate the adoption of our environmental policy and the implementation of our environmental plan.

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

We commit to being an accountable and transparent organisation in all our operations and actions. We also commit to assessing, measuring and monitoring our environmental impact with regard to our operations and to make this information accessible to our stakeholders.

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FAVOUR BEHAVIOUR THAT REDUCES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

We commit to promoting the adoption of behaviour that favours the reduction of the environmental impact of our associates and clients in marine and inland activities. In this regard, we commit to adopting and making available the best technologies and the most innovative solutions to minimise environmental impact (e.g. boat cleaning and maintenance, wastewater pump-out services to collect and treat black and grey water from boats, waste management).

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COLLABORATE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS

We acknowledge the importance of collaborating with other organisations and we commit to sharing ideas, innovative solutions and best practices with our stakeholders and partners.

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SUPPORT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

We acknowledge the importance of the scientific community in providing scientific evidence for the protection of the ocean, the seas and the coastal

environment. We commit to promoting their activities and initiatives, and to supporting them with data and information gathering.

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EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE AND INVOLVE NEW GENERATIONS

We acknowledge the importance of ocean literacy and we commit to contributing to educating and informing our associates and clients about the importance of the protection of the marine environment. More specifically, we commit to engaging the younger generation with dedicated educational programs and campaigns.

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PROMOTE AWARENESS, COMMUNICATE AND SPREAD THE CHARTA SMERALDA

We commit to promoting awareness, communicating and spreading The Charta Smeralda and its principles among our associates, clients, partners and any other organisation we collaborate with.