



# GREAT BRITISH OCEANS

## Statement of support for the creation of marine reserves in the UK Overseas Territories of the Pitcairn Islands, Ascension Island, and the South Sandwich Islands

The UK has the fifth largest area of ocean in the world under its jurisdiction when its Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are taken into account. Over 94% of the UK's unique biodiversity is found in the UKOTs, which support a large number of rare and threatened species and habitats found nowhere else on Earth. It makes good economic and environmental sense for the UK to work with its Territories to establish effective networks of marine protected areas throughout all waters under UK jurisdiction.

We the undersigned are calling on the British government to protect over 1.75 million km<sup>2</sup> of the world's oceans by creating large-scale and fully-protected marine reserves in three of the UKOTs – the Pitcairn Islands, Ascension Island, and the South Sandwich Islands.

### Pitcairn Islands (834,000km<sup>2</sup>)

With unanimous support from the local community and Pitcairn Island Council, a marine reserve in Pitcairn would offer protection to some of the most pristine waters and coral reefs on earth, providing international recognition and connecting this Territory to global marine science and tourism.

### Ascension Island (443,000km<sup>2</sup>)

A green turtle mecca and one of the last remaining hotspots for Atlantic megafauna such as tuna, marlin and shark. Ascension's waters offer a rare opportunity for large-scale marine protection in the tropical Atlantic.

### South Sandwich Islands (530,000 km<sup>2</sup>)

Uninhabited by humans, the volcanic South Sandwich Islands host huge concentrations of wildlife, including vast penguin colonies and significant whale populations.

The UK Government can fully protect these areas from all extractive and damaging activity today. This would make a globally significant contribution to ocean conservation, leaving a historic legacy for people and wildlife at very little cost.



1. A Focus on Nature
2. A Rocha UK
3. Army Ornithological Society
4. BIAZA
5. Birdlife International
6. Blue Marine Foundation
7. Blue Shark Conservation and Photography
8. Blue Ventures
9. Chagos Conservation Trust
10. Coral Restoration Foundation Europe
11. Coral Restoration Foundation International
12. Environmental Investigation Agency
13. Fauna and Flora International
14. Fin Fighters UK
15. Fish Fight
16. Galapagos Conservation Trust
17. Greenpeace UK
18. International National Trusts
19. International Union for the Conservation of Nature
20. Linnean Society
21. Marine Conservation Institute
22. Marine Conservation Society
23. Marinet
24. Mission Blue
25. National Geographic Society
26. National Marine Aquarium
27. New Economics Foundation
28. Oceana
29. Oceans 5
30. Pangea
31. Pew Charitable Trusts
32. Plymouth University Marine Institute
33. Project Seahorse
34. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
35. Selfridges Project Ocean
36. Shark and Coral Conservation Trust
37. Shark Trust
38. The Blackfish
39. The Deep
40. The Waitt Foundation
41. The Waitt Institute
42. Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
43. World Animal Protection
44. Zoological Society of London

Gillian Anderson, Actress ~ Professor Martin J. Attrill, Marine Institute, Plymouth University ~ Dr Mark Avery, Writer, wildlife expert and conservationist ~ Professor Jonathan Baillie, Director of Conservation, Zoological Society of London ~ Helena Bonham Carter, Actress ~ Dr Arlo Brady, Managing Director, Freuds ~ Colin Chester, Ascension Island Fishing Charter ~ Julie Christie, Actress ~ Jack Clarke, Director and Co-founder, Sole Share ~ Charles Clover, Writer ~ Dr Courtney Couch, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Hawaii University ~ David Curnick, University College London ~ Dr Andrew Davies, School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University ~ Professor Terry Dawson, University of Dundee ~ George Duffield, Film maker & philanthropist ~ Dr Nick Dulvy, Canada Research Chair in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Simon Fraser University ~ Dr Sylvia Earle, Mission Blue ~ Professor Graham Edgar, University of Tasmania ~ Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Writer and broadcaster ~ Dr Lucy Gilliam, eXXpedition ~ Dr Matthew Gollock, Zoological Society of London ~ Dr Nicholas Graham, James Cook University ~ Dr Al Harris, Director, Blue Ventures ~ Dr Nicholas Hill, Zoological Society of London ~ Robert Irving, Sea-Scope ~ Louise Johnson, Wave Action/ WiSe Scheme ~ Dr Tony Juniper, Campaigner, writer, sustainability adviser and environmentalist ~ Dr Elin Kelsey, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University ~ Dr Kirsty Kemp, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London ~ Dr Heather Koldewey, Head of Global Programmes, Zoological Society of London ~ Professor Dan Laffoley, Vice Chair, World Commission on Protected Areas ~ Dr Tom Letessier, Zoological Society of London, Chagos Consortium ~ Dr Carl Lundin, Director, IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme ~ Stewart McPherson, Naturalist and explorer ~ Professor Jessica Meeuwig, University of Western Australia ~ George Monbiot, Writer ~ Dr Mark Mulligan, Kings College London ~ Professor Ken Norris, Director of Science, Zoological Society of London ~ Professor Elliott Norse, Marine Conservation Institute ~ Tamsin Omond, Environmental activist ~ Chris Packham, Naturalist and TV presenter ~ Dr Daniel Pauly, University of British Columbia ~ Anne Pitcher, Managing Director, Selfridges ~ Jonathan Porritt, Environmentalist and writer ~ Dr Jurgenne Primavera, Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation ~ Lewis Pugh, Ocean advocate, maritime lawyer and pioneer swimmer ~ Peter Raines MBE, Coral Restoration International ~ Professor Callum Roberts, University of York ~ Professor Alex Rogers, Oxford University ~ Nicky Rohl, Fishlove ~ Paul Rose, Explorer and BBC presenter ~ Dr Enric Sala, National Geographic ~ Greta Scacchi, Actress ~ Professor Charles Sheppard, University of Warwick ~ Colin Speedie, Wave Action/ WiSe Scheme ~ Nigel Stansfield, Vice President & Chief Innovations Officer, Interface Inc. ~ Sam Stone, Sea Urchins Magazine ~ Dr Michelle Taylor, Oxford University ~ David Tickler, University of Western Australia ~ Professor Amanda Vincent, University of British Columbia ~ Zoe Wanamaker, Actress ~ Wieste van der Werf, Founder, The Black Fish ~ Alannah Weston, Deputy Chairman, Selfridges Group ~ Elisabeth Whitebread, Ocean Optimism ~ Dr Elizabeth Widman, University of Warwick/Chagos Conservation Trust ~ Olivia Williams, Actress ~ Dr Elizabeth Wood, Marine Conservation Society ~ Professor Rosie Woodroffe, Senior Research Fellow, Zoological Society of London ~ Dr Chris Yesson, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London