

2023



Green Guardians

GREENPEACE

SHARING OUR GRATITUDE

Dear Green Guardian,

It's that time again when we take a step back to consider the events of the last year, the things that we're grateful for, and the things that we're hopeful for. I can speak with certainty when I say that I and everyone else here at Greenpeace deeply values your support. Thank you for taking action with us for a greener and more peaceful planet.

Years ago, in my early days working for Greenpeace, I recall being struck by the power and ambition of this global movement when the "Defending the Oceans" campaign was launched. We put together a plan to protect and preserve our oceans from existing threats and for the future by setting aside swathes of the global oceans from exploitation. It was a beautiful and lofty goal, and this year, after two decades of tireless efforts, research expeditions and reports, petitions signed, rallies attended, and calls to action made, we achieved a significant milestone in March when the United Nations agreed to a historic Global Ocean Treaty.

I hope you will enjoy reading the personal accounts by long time Greenpeacers in this report on their involvement in our oceans' work and what this victory means to them, as much as I did. Lagi Toribau, Interim Executive Director, remembers where he was when the first idea of a Global Ocean Treaty was devised when he worked with the Australia Pacific office in the early 2000s; Sarah King, Head of Oceans and Plastics, shares her account of starting off as an intern with the US office's Oceans team to illustrate the need for marine reserves, and why she's hopeful this treaty will be ratified into action; and Dominique Bruce, long-term volunteer and retired school-teacher shared her recent experience sailing on board the *Arctic Sunrise*, what inspired her service and her most cherished moments spent out on the deep blue.

I am sending you and your loved ones my warmest wishes for the holiday season and the year ahead.



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A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU

We're so grateful to have you as a valued member of our Green Guardians community—a group of our most committed and generous supporters. Thank you for everything you do to protect our planet. As a token of our appreciation, we would like to offer you a beautiful 2024 Greenpeace wall calendar! If you would like to receive one, please email us at supporter.ca@greenpeace.org, or give us a call, at **1-800-320-7183 (toll-free)**.



With appreciation,



Sana Fazal

Supporter Care Manager



The Path to a Historic Agreement through the eyes of Greenpeaceers

In March 2023, after nearly two decades of negotiations, governments finally secured a Global Ocean Treaty at the United Nations—a potential game-changer for marine biodiversity.

The Global Ocean Treaty opens the door to the creation of a worldwide network of ocean sanctuaries, areas where ecosystems and marine life can be given space to recover and thrive, keeping the ultimate goal of 30% protection of the world's oceans by 2030 target alive. Without the Treaty, there would be no legal route to protecting large areas of international waters in ocean sanctuaries. The Treaty also creates the mechanisms for more sustainable and equitable governance of areas of the global oceans outside the jurisdiction of any one country.

We need healthy oceans. They help combat climate change by locking away carbon and they provide food security and livelihoods for more than 3 billion people, the vast majority of whom are in the so-called Global South.

As of now, over 70 countries have signed the Treaty. Governments now need to ratify the Treaty by turning it into law so that it can come into effect. Fortunately, the momentum towards a brighter future for marine life on our blue planet is gaining. This Treaty is the biggest conservation victory on record, and it's also a sign that in a divided world, people can triumph over geopolitics and work together to protect nature for the benefit of all beings.

One thing is for certain: this historic win wouldn't have been possible without years of relentless effort. Research, scientific reports, lobbying and negotiating at local and global levels, dramatic and creative actions, petitions that garnered the support of over 5.5 million people from around the globe—this people-powered victory showcased what Greenpeace does best and what's required to change the world for the better. Together, we created a movement that will protect our oceans and the billions of people and incredible species who depend on them for generations to come.



Concerned citizens gathered outside the United Nations Headquarters where governments were negotiating a Global Ocean Treaty in New York City, in 2022



Lagi Toribau, *Interim Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada*

“ I remember where I was when the idea of a Global Ocean Treaty was born. ”

In the early 2000s, I was working with the Greenpeace Australia Pacific office, as part of a global team taking on the fishing industry. We were focused on the tuna industries in the Western and Central Pacific, specifically on the last remaining healthy tuna fisheries in the world. It was an issue entangled with politics, trade and dark industry practices.

Greenpeace was one of the first organizations to focus on this issue, and we worked hard to raise awareness of the beauty of the oceans while investigating fisheries participating in illegal overfishing practices. In doing so, we revealed human rights abuses, the lack of trade regulations, and how fisheries were acting as a cover for the political struggles for control of the oceans. It was full-on.

We launched this work from the Pacific Greenpeace offices, including one that was operating in my home country of Fiji, but we knew we couldn't protect the oceans without the support and collaboration of other Greenpeace offices. So we mobilized a global network, and together we applied pressure on governments and industries, and amplified the voices of the communities dependent on healthy oceans.

I was onboard Greenpeace's *MY Esperanza* as part of a ship tour, sailing in the South Pacific. During this time at sea, we assessed and identified the legality of the fishing vessels we came across and were able to pinpoint "pirate hotspots" in the high seas.

We soon realized that vessels were illegally fishing in different countries' waters. But due to the lack of enforcement at sea, the illegal operators could flee to international pockets of waters—the high seas—to avoid enforcement. We decided to take matters into our own hands.

Given there are little to no rules or regulations in place to protect the high seas, we could declare these areas as "closed", according to Greenpeace. From then on, whenever we encountered a ship in the high seas, we would demand that they leave the area because the high seas were marine reserves or ocean sanctuaries. We weren't going to be held back by the lack of, or limitations of, international law.

This sparked the idea for the Global Ocean Treaty: a wild concept being discussed internally. Working closely with our lawyers and other partners, a global agreement was drafted that coincided with the release of our [Marine Reserves Report](#) in 2006, which mapped out areas that needed to be protected.

That was over 20 years ago, and Greenpeace has been campaigning to make that draft agreement a reality ever since. To be able to see this come to life is incredible, because this win demonstrates the level of long-term commitment Greenpeace provides in order to protect the environment. And I'm so grateful for all of the supporters who have stuck with us throughout this journey.

Your support has allowed us to explore the oceans, uncover the harmful practices of the tuna industry, raise awareness about the impacts of marine habitat loss, and lobby governments. Together, we were able to bring what some deemed an outlandish idea to life. We made it happen.

I believe we can create a world that puts people and the environment over profit and industry interest. It'll take time and patience, but we will continue to invest the same long-term commitment in all of our work—just as we have with our Oceans campaign—and we will change the world.



Lagi Toribau, on the bow of the Greenpeace ship, *MY Esperanza*, during the Pacific leg of the 2006 global expedition.

© Alex Hofford / Greenpeace



Lagi Toribau was part of a Greenpeace crew that reported a Taiwanese fishing vessel (M), for illegal shark finning within Palau waters, a Pacific island nation, in 2011.

© Alex Hofford / Greenpeace



Sarah King, Head of Oceans and Plastics Campaign, Greenpeace Canada

“The day the Global Ocean Treaty was agreed was one of the best days of my career.”

It was an enormous milestone, one that Greenpeace has been working on for such a long time. And we wouldn't be where we are today without our supporters, many of whom have been here from the start!

When I joined the organization as an intern on the Greenpeace USA Oceans team in 2006, we had just begun a ship tour around the world called “Defending our Oceans”, aimed at highlighting the threats to marine life and what the magical ecosystems have to offer. The goal of the tour was to illustrate the need for greater protection and promote our call for a global network of marine reserves. So little of the high seas were protected in any meaningful way then, and this is still true today.

At the time, we were calling for at least 40% of the oceans to be protected in a network of marine reserves, and the other 60% to be managed sustainably and equitably in order to safeguard marine biodiversity and the rights, food security and livelihoods of coastal peoples. We worked with scientists to come up with this figure, gathering data and overlaying maps of species' migration routes, biodiversity hotspots, vulnerable ecosystems, and where destructive industries were operating. The result was a map of proposed protected areas that were connected together, reflecting the interconnectedness of the oceans themselves. And while it felt like an ambitious ask at the time, governments slowly took notice.

Over time, our campaign work ramped up and took many forms. From briefings shared in the halls of the UN, to public pressure on major seafood brands and supermarket chains to stop sourcing fish from proposed marine reserves, and visits to federal Ministers' offices urging them to support a strong Treaty, we were relentless in our goal to secure greater protection for the oceans. The tides began

to really turn in the Treaty's favour when support for the call for 30% of ocean protection by 2030 grew.

Fast forward to today, and I'm filled with hope by the number of countries that have signed the Treaty, the strong measures included, and the knowledge that governments appear motivated to move forward.

But the work isn't over. We're urging these countries to ratify this agreement by the summer of 2025, and encouraging them to work together to develop protected area proposals. It's imperative that these protected areas are in place by 2030. Ocean life is under immense pressure and it urgently needs to build resilience and recover in light of the climate crisis. We need thriving, not just surviving, oceans.

All of the oceans campaign work that you've supported over the years has directly or indirectly led to this victory. Whether it was helping us convince corporations, big players in the fishing industry or governments to recognize that areas of the oceans must be closed for business or urging major seafood companies to clean up their supply chains, all of this work has paved the way for this historic Treaty.

As 2023 draws to a close, we're in a very different place than we were at the beginning of the year in terms of the future outlook for marine biodiversity.

This Treaty also set a real precedent—there is now a growing consensus that we need to do more for biodiversity, and the Ocean Treaty demonstrates what public pressure can achieve. When voices call for change in chorus, positive momentum is inevitable, and I'm convinced that this important milestone will create a knock-on effect.



Sarah King stands with two Greenpeace activists dressed as sharks, in front of Clover Leaf Seafoods' Canadian headquarters in Markham, ON, in 2011.



Sarah King holds a “Protect the Oceans” banner next to an activist dressed as a humpback whale, while delivering a petition and letter to Canadian Fisheries and Oceans Minister Joyce Murray's office in Vancouver, BC, in 2022.

A Long-Time Supporter Sails the *Arctic Sunrise*



Meet Dominique Bruce, a long-time Greenpeace Canada volunteer and retired elementary school teacher based in Toronto, Ontario. Dominique has just returned from an excursion on the Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* to campaign for

the Global Ocean Treaty. We sat down with her to find out about her time and what motivates her to volunteer for Greenpeace:

Q: What's motivated your support for Greenpeace for all these years, and how did you become a volunteer?

A: I've been a Greenpeace supporter for over 35 years and a volunteer for the last eight. I became a Greenpeace donor because I align with Greenpeace's values of protecting nature, promoting peaceful, nonviolent interventions, and not being beholden to any governments or corporations. I was first inspired to become a volunteer after reading about the creative non-violent initiatives of Greenpeace in supporter magazines.

Q: Why did you apply to join the Greenpeace ship, the *Arctic Sunrise*, on its Global Ocean Treaty campaign?

A: I've always admired and been inspired by the work of the Greenpeace ships. Being retired, I finally had enough free time for the full-time commitment required to sail. So it was a dream come true when there was an opportunity to apply!

Q: How long were you on the *Arctic Sunrise* ship, and where did you sail to?

A: I was onboard for six weeks for the campaign's leg along the coast of California, USA. In August of this year, I joined in Ensenada, Mexico, where the ship was in port for some maintenance and crew change. For our leg of the ship tour, we sailed to ports in San Diego, Long Beach and Morro Bay, USA. At each stop, Greenpeace USA had planned events to educate people about the importance of the Global Ocean Treaty and the need for marine sanctuaries, and to amplify the work of local Indigenous communities.

Q: Can you describe some of your favourite moments on the *Arctic Sunrise*?

A: One that will stick with me forever was an evening where we were all stargazing on the helideck and listening to fellow crew member Uncle Sol, a Hawaiian elder, explain how the traditional Hawaiian people use stars to navigate around the Pacific Ocean. Another special moment was when the actress and feminist Lily Tomlin joined us as a keynote speaker at a media event, which helped us amplify the need to ratify the Global Ocean Treaty. And then, of course, there were the incredible wildlife sightings of sea otters, dolphins and even a humpback whale.

Q: What advice would you give others who are interested in supporting Greenpeace?

A: Everyone is needed in our work to create a green, sustainable and just future. I encourage everyone to support Greenpeace in whatever capacity they can. Each contribution is so valuable and necessary for our movement to protect the planet and to mitigate the climate crisis.



The *Arctic Sunrise* crew poses in their immersion suits during a safety drill (Greenpeace volunteer Dominique Bruce, far right).

© Dominique Bruce



As of a crew member aboard the *Arctic Sunrise*, Dominique Bruce helped maintain the action boats to ensure they were ready for the next campaign.

© Dominique Bruce

Advancing research on the influence of the Oil and Gas Industry in Canada

Thanks to support from the Greenpeace Canada Education Fund (GCEF), Greenpeace Canada has been able to increase its capacity to conduct research, investigations, and education about the influence of oil, gas, and industry associations on the national climate discourse and policy-making process in Canada. Nola Poirer, a full-time researcher and writer, joined Greenpeace in September 2022 and has since been working to advance research on the influence of the oil and gas industry in Canada.

Here are two notable highlights:

So Sue Me Report

Earlier this year, Greenpeace produced a report on greenwashing by Canada's big banks. This report, entitled [So Sue Me](#), assessed the discrepancies between what banks say they are doing to minimize climate change and how much they are enabling the biggest contributor to climate change: the fossil fuel industry.

Competition Bureau Complaint

The Pathways Alliance, a coalition of the six largest oil sands companies in Canada comprising 95% of tar sands production, has been running a well-funded advertising campaign claiming its members are taking action toward "net zero" while they continue to expand production and greenhouse gas emissions. Following our investigative work, Greenpeace and co-applicants from the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and Environmental Defence delivered an in-depth [complaint](#) to the Competition Bureau of Canada regarding Pathways Alliance's "Let's Clear the Air" advertising campaign, supported by over forty pages of research. The report also assessed the lobbying activities of the Pathways Alliance and found it lobbied the government 162 times in 2022, or three out of every five working days.

Our complaint was accepted, and the Bureau has launched an inquiry. Over 130 news outlets picked up the story, starting a conversation about corporate greenwashing in Canada. Through Greenpeace's research and investigative work, we continue to expose and push back against big industries that harm the planet.

Launched in 2020, GCEF seeks to deepen our collective understanding of the environmental, climate, and energy issues affecting people living in Canada and around the world. GCEF does this by focusing on research, education, and the effective dissemination of findings to the public.

GCEF is a charity that can issue charitable tax receipts. You can learn more about GCEF by visiting www.gcef.ca.



BECAUSE OF YOU

From the very beginning, Greenpeace has been driven by passionate, caring people who are willing to give their time and resources to protect our planet. Every donation, petition signature, and placard sign at rallies maintains the wave of change that we're building.

Greenpeace supporters are made up of people from many different walks of life, and that makes us stronger. None of our work is possible without our supporters, and again and again it is People Power—your power—that brings about change. Dey Brownlee is one such supporter who has contributed to Greenpeace campaigns in a number of ways over the years, most recently by making a gift in her Will.



Dey Brownlee
Green Guardian

"As a supporter of Greenpeace for almost 40 years, I have seen the highs and lows of their continued attempts to make our planet a better place for humanity and animals who all share it together.

No matter the disappointments or failures, Greenpeace has never given up, and as a result, they have achieved hard-won successes over the years, such as the Global Ocean Treaty and their denouncement of deep-sea mining. Their resilience, tenacity and love for the world makes it a much better place for all of us and is their own proud testament to life.

Because of this, I have gladly donated monthly to Greenpeace and have left a monetary legacy to them in my Will. I am a proud lifelong member of Greenpeace."

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GREEN GUARDIAN



Green Guardians

The Green Guardians are an international community of Greenpeace supporters who have gone above and beyond to ensure the planet is protected.

Thank you for being one of them! We couldn't do it without you.

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