

“Diving into the matrix for Ocean conservation and sustainability”

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BE AND THINK INSIDE THE MATRIX FOR THE OCEAN AND THE PLANET SURVIVAL (sustainability)

Life in the universe and in the planet and in the ocean, land and other aquatic ecosystems is connected through a matrix, of interdependence, where everything fusions, what happens there happens here, and what happens here happens there. The matrix is an intelligent web, that holds every life, every organism, and every cause and effect.

We have to think and be into the matrix if we want to solve the planetary/ocean crisis we are facing, we need to feel and recognize our connectiveness, act as a whole. Every part is part of the whole, and the whole is within each part.

Up until now humans haven't had the vision of being part of the whole. Instead, each part has act and thought undependably, trying to win on top of each other.

A Look into the matrix concept will make everyone realize that we need to change our vision of humanity and nature as a whole, where mankind lives in agreement with nature.

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As the latest UNFAO SOFIA report underscores, overfishing continues to escalate, demanding urgent action. To address the crisis, the concept of national ocean matrices emerges as a comprehensive strategy. These matrices would not only impose necessary reductions in fishing efforts and implement sustainable fishing gear limitations but also ensure equitable transitions for affected fishers.

Recognizing the multifaceted nature of the issue, matrices would foster multi-sectoral connectivity. By diverting fishing efforts into alternative blue economy sectors such as ecotourism, habitat restoration, and among others, the matrices aim to provide viable employment opportunities for those impacted by fishing restrictions. This approach acknowledges the necessity of balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic considerations, ensuring that no community of individual is left behind in the transition towards sustainable ocean management.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The ideas proposed already by LetsBeNicetotheOcean are fundamental and I couldn't agree more with them. However, I would like to add the following:

We need to raise the voices and awareness of the role that small-scale fishers (SSF) play in the web/matrix, which is fundamental for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, ocean sustainability and for food security and eradication of poverty.

Up until now we have witnessed that SSF are not included in policy process, they are almost forgotten, unseen, undervalued and under supported by governments and lack of basic needs and economic

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alternatives. Despite of their vital role in providing economic security and nutrition to billions of people around the world, they have little to say in the management and long-term sustainability of the fisheries that they steward.

SSF should be granted with rights to fish in certain assigned geographic areas and not along the coast with no limitations, being accountable for an ecosystem base management approach as they are the steward of their natural habitat.

We need to support best practices and traditional knowledge for ocean sustainability. We need to include traditional knowledge into science and into policy.

All said, we must remember that is crucial to differentiate traditional artisanal from semi-industrial artisanal fleets since their impact on the ecosystem is significantly different. Limitations on catches and bycatch are mandatory.

Governments need to pay special attention with the biodiversity loss incurred within their EEZ due to overfishing, illegal fishing practices, contamination and pollution that are not only devastating habitats but also incurring with the death of migratory species. Ocean Ministers are key to drive this action a success.

Life under water is already confronting tremendous devastation by overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction, climate change effects, and many others. Stocks of fish are diminishing. Therefore, it is imperative that new blue economic sustainable alternatives are develop with SSF, such as ecotourism, so that climate change resilient alternatives are provided for coastal communities.

HOW TO DO IT

Think of a matrix where mother cells, or “sustainable hubs” provide connection to multiple cells, they interconnect, provide information, resources, and act as liaisons with different other mother cells/sustainable hubs, providing harmonic interdependence and guarantee a thriving lively ocean/planetary web or matrix.

We need to have more hubs, that are liaisons, identifying gaps, opportunities for continuously improving actions towards ocean preservation. For this we need to develop horizontal platforms where communication flows bottom up and upside down.

Minister of the Oceans in each country can operate as a worldwide network with more independence and strength than other ministers. Ministers of the Oceans should be the ones integrating an identifying alternative with other economic sectors, providing a horizontal platform of communication, interexchange and catalyzing major changes and actions towards ocean conservation and sustainability.

We must stablish learning networks for capacity building and knowledge sharing.

We must include SSF in policy process, make them accountable in ocean governance.

We must channel funds directly to those in the field, where investment is done easy, smoothly with not much paper work and overhead taken from other bigger entities. Technical support is fundamental.

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Think out of the box is not enough! We need to Be, Feel and Act into the MATRIX for Global Ocean conservation and sustainability, conserving biodiversity, supporting blue economy local base initiatives, while elevating voices of traditional small-scale fishers.

OTHE ASPECTS TO CONSIDER

NATURE AMBASSADORS or REPRESENTATIVES: We need to be the voice of those that cannot express themselves in the human world. Ocean right and justice. Example Whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks, etc rights representatives. These rights should be legally recognized.

RAISING THE SAILS TOGETHER FOR OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY it is a campaign that can connect the entire world from ancestral sailing boats to sailing sport athletes, remembering that man can propel himself with the forces of nature, the wind, without the need for fuel. Example of this is the great traditional sailing that takes place in northern Peru -Pacific tropical sea – where communities have inherited traditional knowledge and practices in sailing and selective fishing using the line and the hook. In addition to being able to carry out local ecotourism activities in their sailing artisanal vessels.

SCIENCE AND PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE should be the basis for policy and decision making

ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC EXCLUSIVE ZONE (EEZ) – identify which fishing arts are compatible with the ecosystem, evaluate and consider closing seasons and areas for fishing due to fish stocks declined, establish real marine protected areas, at the same time transition from fisheries to other equitable, just and sustainable economic alternatives such as community local base ecotourism.

IDENTIFY OTHER SOURCES FOR NUTRITION, that do not put pressure into already devastating stocks. Seaweed production constitute an alternative that could help solve the planetary food security crisis and hunger zero.

GUARDIANS OF THE SEAS representatives, to steward marine ecosystems and support the conservation of migratory species, and have a voice in political processes. Their participation should be seen not only at the national level but also in international spaces and platforms where major commitments and decision for ocean sustainability take place.

All of these already express in the ebook Lets Be Nice to the Ocean area essential for ocean and planetary survival

To save our oceans and save our planet we need to change the way humanity thinks. Man is used to see himself isolated from nature, and sees nature primarily as a means to serve human development.

We need to change the *modus operandum* and make it to living in agreement with nature, respecting and valuing nature as life itself, our fundamental source of life.

No Ocean, No Life, No Us.