

OCEAN LITERACY IN SCHOOL CURRICULA

- **Panel Advocates for Ocean and Climate Literacy: The United Nations High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession has recommended the integration of ocean literacy into school curricula, alongside preparing teachers to address these topics.**
- **Drawing on its experience with the "Educating for a Blue Generation" programme, Oceano Azul Foundation has been an active member of this UN panel.**

The [report by the UN High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession](#) underscores the importance of incorporating ocean and climate literacy into education for sustainable development. This panel, of which Oceano Azul Foundation is a member, emphasises the need to equip teachers with the necessary training, professional development, and high-quality educational resources to teach these topics effectively.

Oceano Azul Foundation's involvement, as a civil society organisation committed to promoting a healthy ocean, was informed by its knowledge and experience gained through implementing the **"Educating for a Blue Generation" educational programme** since 2018. Jointly promoted with Oceanário de Lisboa, in collaboration with the Portuguese Ministry of Education via the Directorate-General for Education, and support by various municipalities, the programme focuses on preparing teachers to address the themes of ocean sustainability in their classrooms.

The Foundation's contributions ensured that the panel's recommendations called for integrating ocean and climate literacy into curricula while preparing teachers to comprehensively address these themes across all educational stages. Furthermore, it championed a cross-disciplinary approach to these topics throughout the educational journey of children and young people.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasised the critical role of teachers, stating: "Teachers are fundamental in unlocking the greatest resource of any nation: the minds of its people. However, today we face a dramatic shortage of teachers worldwide and millions of

educators who lack the support, skills, and ongoing training needed to meet the demands of rapidly changing education systems."

Recognising the strategic role of **teachers** in transforming attitudes and behaviours, Oceano Azul Foundation has, for over five years, supported the development and empowerment of these irreplaceable **agents of change** within classrooms, acknowledging their essential contributions. The Foundation continues to express gratitude for their daily dedication to the vital mission of protecting the ocean.

Acknowledging the importance of incorporating ocean literacy into education and the national curriculum's Essential Learning Goals, **Portugal's Ministry of Education**, which also contributed recommendations to the High-Level Panel discussions, established a working group in 2023. This group seeks to **extend the *Educating for a Blue Generation* programme to all schools nationwide**, with Oceano Azul Foundation participating in this initiative.

The **United Nations (UN) High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession** was established in 2023, following the 2022 *Transforming Education* summit, with the objective of fostering a clear vision and building political momentum to implement tangible actions that enhance, dignify, and support the teaching profession. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education – the Panel has produced evidence-based recommendations to develop an education system supported by professionally trained, qualified, and well-supported teachers.

About the Oceano Azul Foundation

Oceano Azul Foundation was established in 2017, with the aim of contributing to a healthier and more productive ocean. Under the motto "From the ocean's point of view", the Foundation works with three key concepts: blue generation, blue natural capital, and blue network. With a science-based approach, the Foundation's model for change integrates these concepts into the projects it develops in various areas such as literacy, conservation, sustainable fishing, awareness campaigns, blue economy, and capacity building, notably working with governments, foundations, civil society organisations, the UN, and the EU to advance the international ocean agenda. More information at oceanozulfoundation.org



OCEANO AZUL
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About the Educating for a Blue Generation Programme

This pilot programme, promoted by Oceano Azul Foundation and the Oceanário de Lisboa, in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Education, focuses on preparing teachers as key agents in transforming education, providing them with skills, tools, and strategies that allow them to incorporate ocean-related themes into the primary school curriculum. Since 2018, it has trained over 1300 teachers in various municipalities on the mainland and across all the islands of the Azores, and has increasingly engaged students from the blue generation, more aware of their interdependence with the ocean, in active citizenship for its protection.

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