



# Seascapes

## A New Future for Marine Conservation

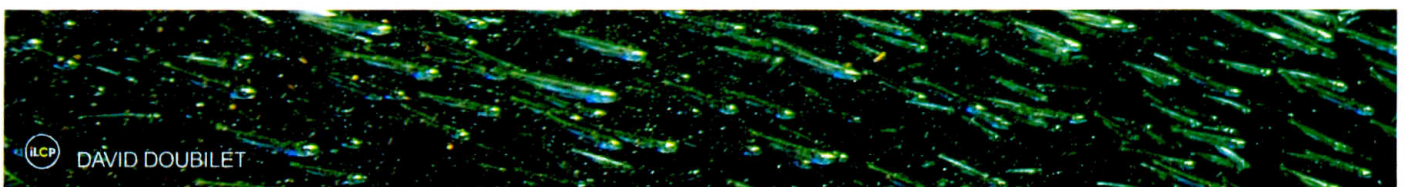
**S** Seascapes are large, multiple-use marine areas, defined scientifically and strategically, in which government authorities, private organizations, and other stakeholders cooperate to conserve the diversity and abundance of marine life and to promote human well-being.

Seascapes typically have high biological diversity, ecological and economic connectivity, and aesthetic and cultural value. They may include government-authorized protected areas that address special management needs. Seascapes provide an opportunity for national governments to create more effective regional management programs by coordinating their efforts.

CI's Seascapes Program advances current marine protected area management regimes by increasing their scale and promoting stakeholder collaboration in governance and management.

Seascapes provide a model that can reinforce and enhance the legal and policy authorities for marine conservation. Successfully addressing the global threats to marine biodiversity will require planning and implementing Seascapes that spread across regions and ecosystems, ensure sustainable resource use, and maintain the ecosystem services and functions upon which we depend.

CI and other organizations are now actively promoting large marine management areas to expand conservation and marine stewardship and to encourage large scale investments at national and international levels.



DAVID DOUBILÉ

*The Seascapes Program builds on a growing trend favoring large, multiple-use marine management regimes. By assisting governments in enhancing stewardship of important ocean places, CI and other stakeholders help ensure continued ecosystem value to people and the future of marine life.”*

- Roger McManus, Vice President of Marine Programs  
Conservation International

## A successful Seascape should have the following:

### **Enabling Legal Framework:**

An enabling framework of laws, conventions, regulations and policies that facilitates marine conservation, including provisions for MPA establishment and appropriate governance structures for managing the marine ecosystem.

### **Adequate Institutions and Capacity:**

An adequate institutional framework, including personnel, infrastructure and equipment, to make the governance structures work effectively and efficiently.

### **Ecosystem-Based Management:**


Seascape-wide management of marine ecosystems, ecosystem services, and species at large scales such as national marine territories or Exclusive Economic Zones, involving comprehensive planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, which use multi-disciplinary scientific information.

### **Private Sector Engagement:**

Major economic activities are compatible with conservation and, wherever possible, have their viability and profitability linked with the sustainable management of the ecosystem.


### **Social and Political Support:**


Marine conservation is socially and politically viable because it is perceived as an integral part of sustainable development and enjoys broad support at all scales from local MPA stakeholders up to national leaders.

 **MPA Networks:** A connected system of MPAs with effective planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and use of multi-disciplinary scientific information successfully conserves biodiversity and productivity

### **Threatened Species Recovery:**

Marine conservation efforts reverse declining population trends for threatened marine species in the Seascape.

 **Human Well-being:** Marine and coastal management have socio-economic and cultural benefits for human communities dependent on marine and coastal resources and ecosystems.

 **Sustainable Financing:** Marine conservation programs are financially self-supportive. This includes the financing of seascape-wide coordination, cooperation and ecological monitoring.

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### **Weblinks**

[www.conservation.org/oceans](http://www.conservation.org/oceans)  
[www.youtube.com/bluetubetv](http://www.youtube.com/bluetubetv)  
<http://marine.conservation.org/portal>

The International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP) is a consortium of professional photographers working to raise conservation awareness through photography. The ILCP has provided the cover image for this publication.

CI Seascapes program thanks ILCP for this important contribution, which is indicated throughout the document with the ILCP logo.



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