

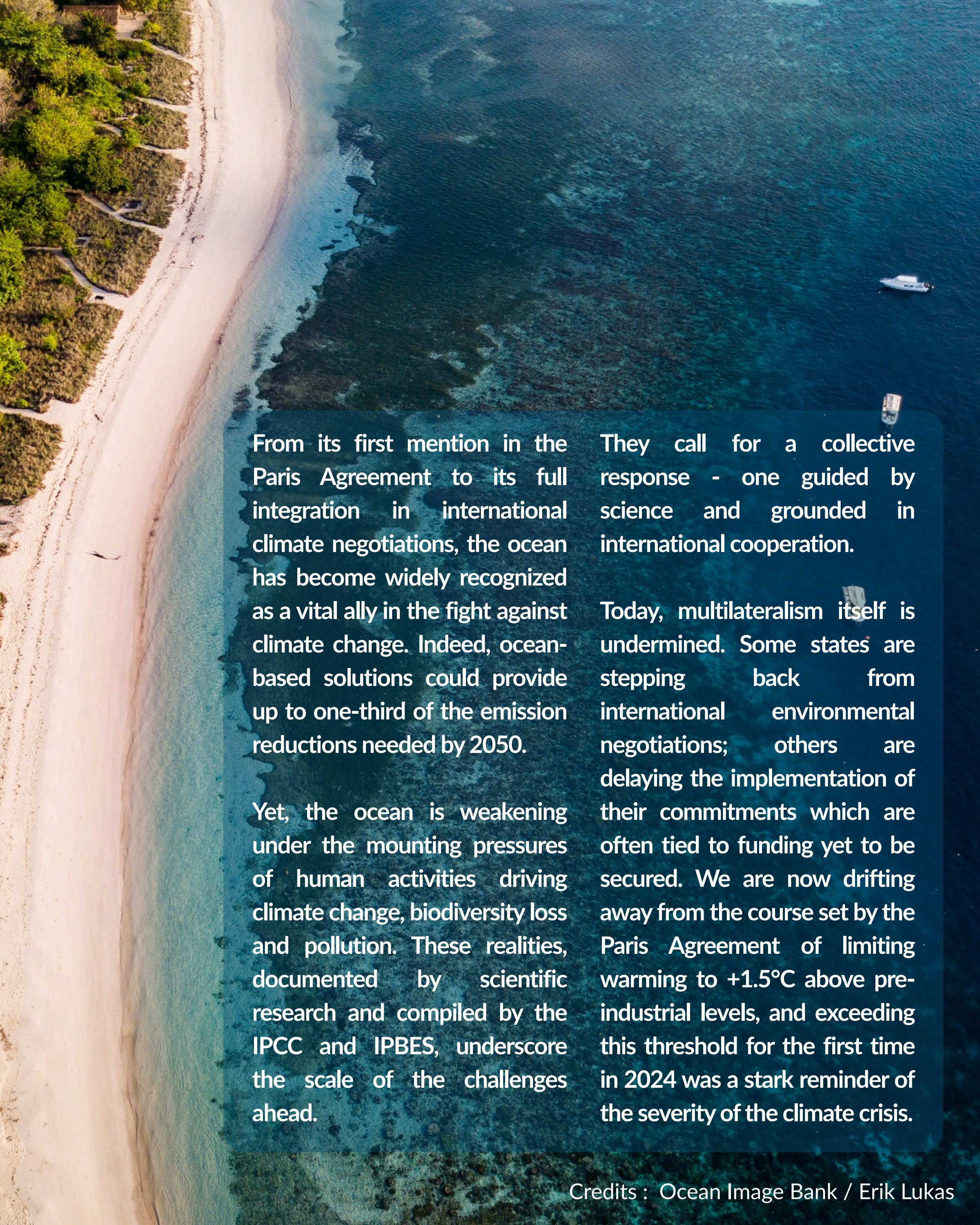


OCEAN & CLIMATE
PLATFORM

OP-ED

From Paris to Belém, the Call of the Ocean

Ten years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, COP30 in Belém (Brasil) could mark a decisive turning point - the moment when promises turn to action. At a time when multilateralism is being challenged, this Conference must embody unity and collective momentum that matches the scale of the ecological emergency.



From its first mention in the Paris Agreement to its full integration in international climate negotiations, the ocean has become widely recognized as a vital ally in the fight against climate change. Indeed, ocean-based solutions could provide up to one-third of the emission reductions needed by 2050.

Yet, the ocean is weakening under the mounting pressures of human activities driving climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These realities, documented by scientific research and compiled by the IPCC and IPBES, underscore the scale of the challenges ahead.

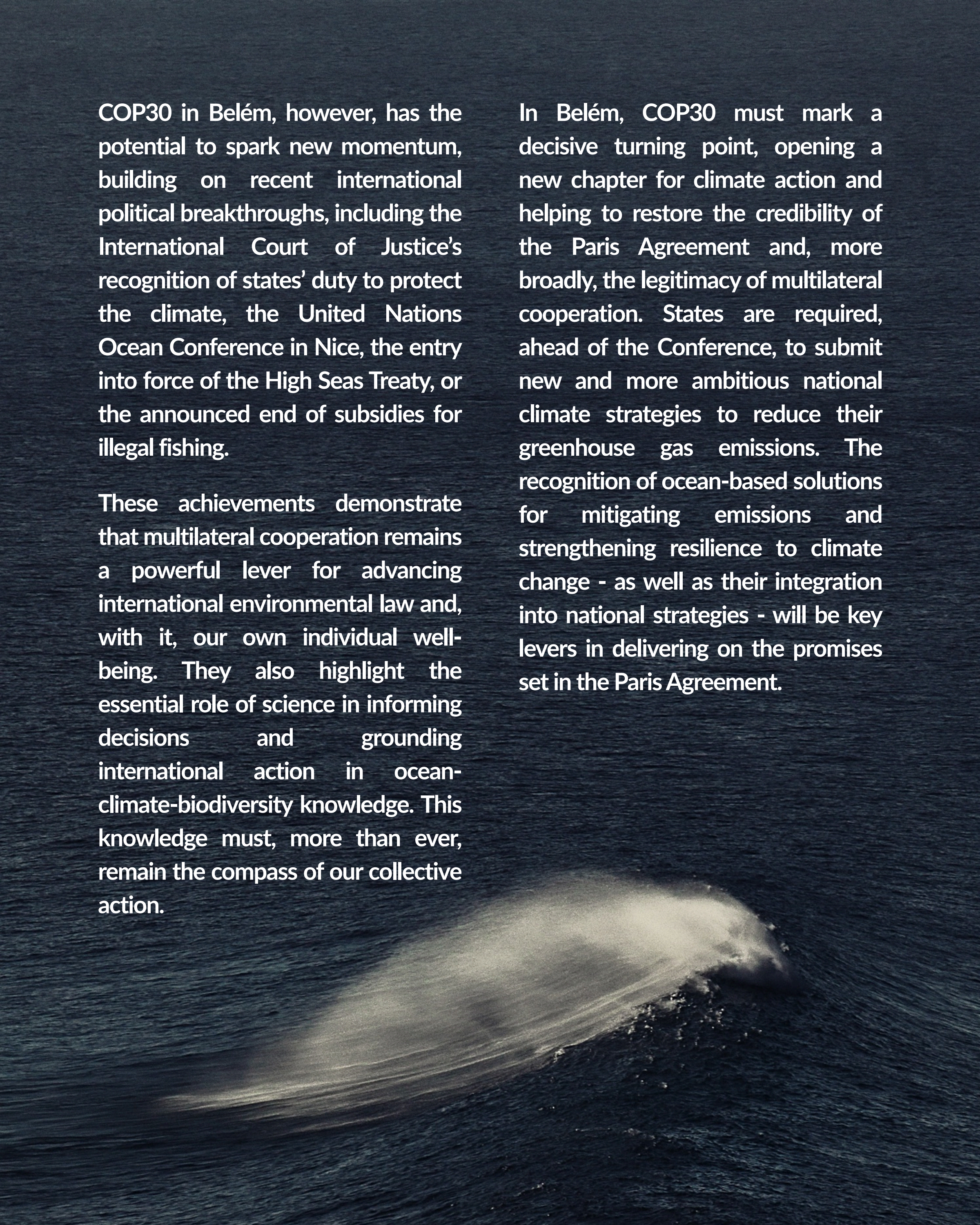
They call for a collective response - one guided by science and grounded in international cooperation.

Today, multilateralism itself is undermined. Some states are stepping back from international environmental negotiations; others are delaying the implementation of their commitments which are often tied to funding yet to be secured. We are now drifting away from the course set by the Paris Agreement of limiting warming to +1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and exceeding this threshold for the first time in 2024 was a stark reminder of the severity of the climate crisis.

COP30 in Belém, however, has the potential to spark new momentum, building on recent international political breakthroughs, including the International Court of Justice's recognition of states' duty to protect the climate, the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, the entry into force of the High Seas Treaty, or the announced end of subsidies for illegal fishing.

These achievements demonstrate that multilateral cooperation remains a powerful lever for advancing international environmental law and, with it, our own individual well-being. They also highlight the essential role of science in informing decisions and grounding international action in ocean-climate-biodiversity knowledge. This knowledge must, more than ever, remain the compass of our collective action.

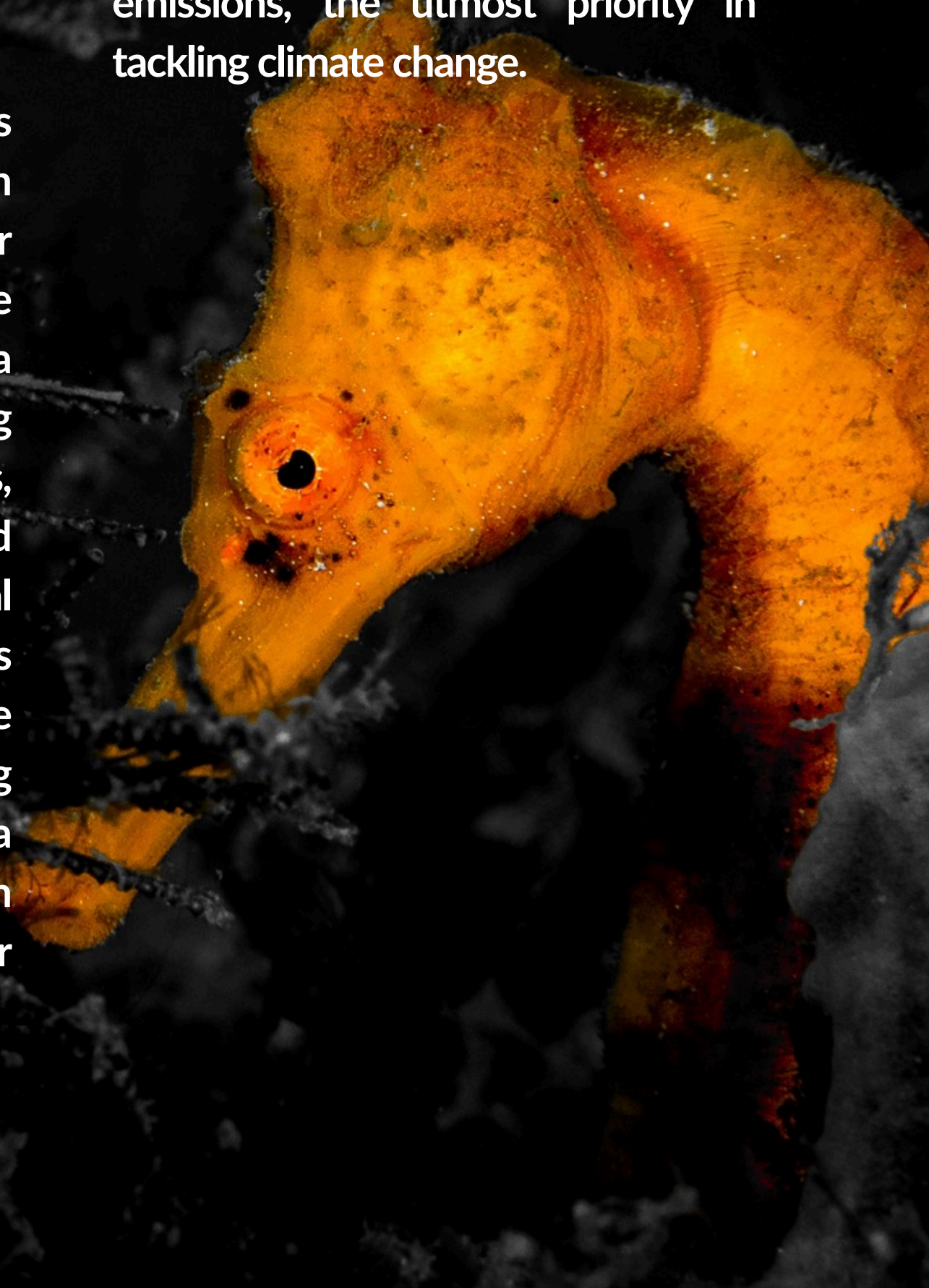
In Belém, COP30 must mark a decisive turning point, opening a new chapter for climate action and helping to restore the credibility of the Paris Agreement and, more broadly, the legitimacy of multilateral cooperation. States are required, ahead of the Conference, to submit new and more ambitious national climate strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The recognition of ocean-based solutions for mitigating emissions and strengthening resilience to climate change - as well as their integration into national strategies - will be key levers in delivering on the promises set in the Paris Agreement.

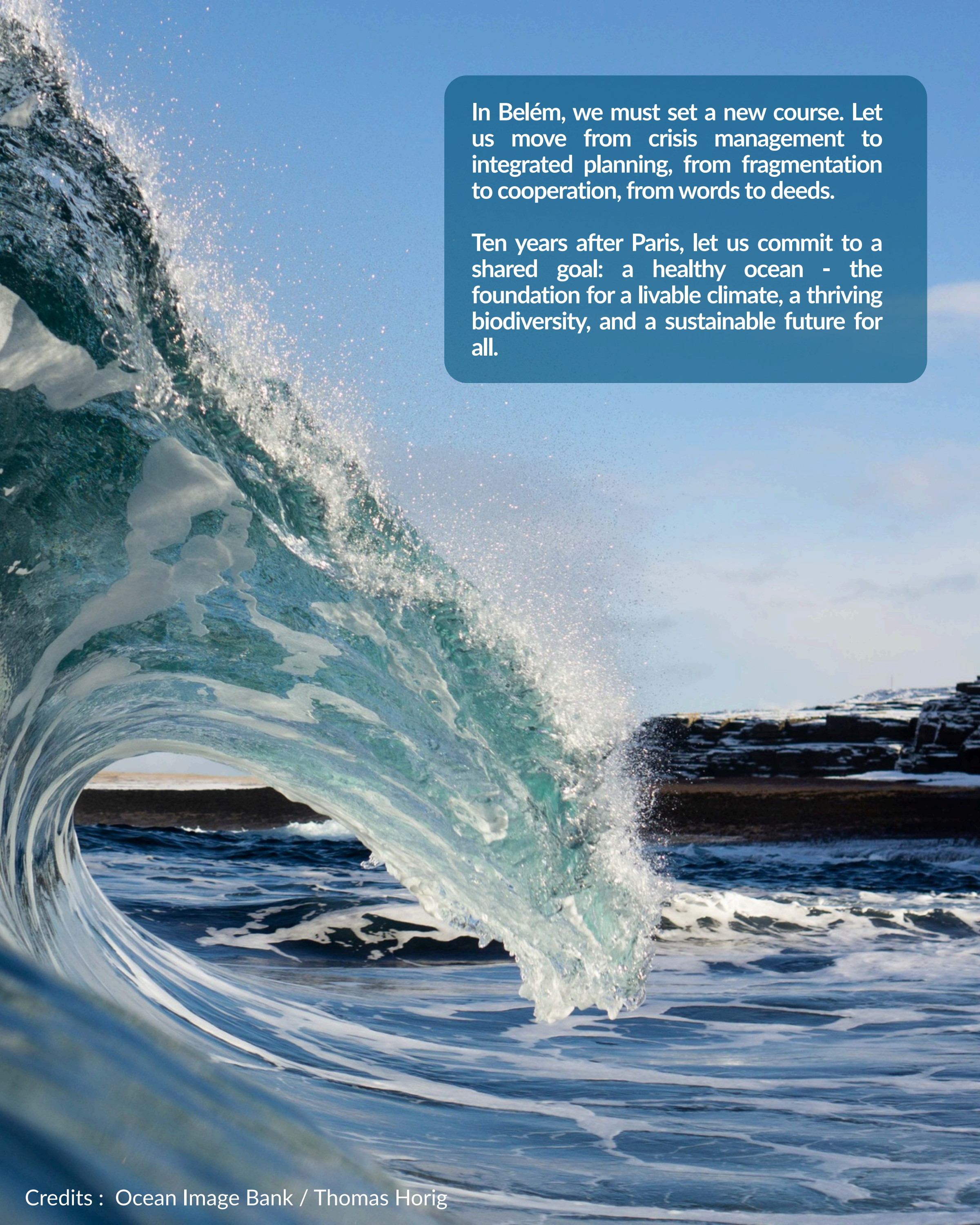


After ten years of negotiations, the Paris Agreement's rulebook is now complete. The COPs - beginning with COP30 - must now move beyond talk and become genuine engines of implementation for national climate strategies, in particular by promoting synergies and cooperation between stakeholders and across all scales.

COPs must also serve as opportunities to strengthen synergies between the major international conventions on climate and biodiversity. Breaking out of a siloed approach will involve aligning the conventions' agendas, harmonising their objectives, and connecting their financial mechanisms. The ocean can serve as the blue thread weaving these conventions together, strengthening their coherence and driving a coordinated, credible global action that delivers tangible co-benefits for both nature and people.

The Paris Agreement succeeded in sparking an unprecedented mobilisation of non-state actors in support of the climate transition. The success of future COPs will hinge in part on their capacity to sustain and amplify this momentum, turning that collective energy into a driving force for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the utmost priority in tackling climate change.





In Belém, we must set a new course. Let us move from crisis management to integrated planning, from fragmentation to cooperation, from words to deeds.

Ten years after Paris, let us commit to a shared goal: a healthy ocean - the foundation for a livable climate, a thriving biodiversity, and a sustainable future for all.

SIGNATORIES

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