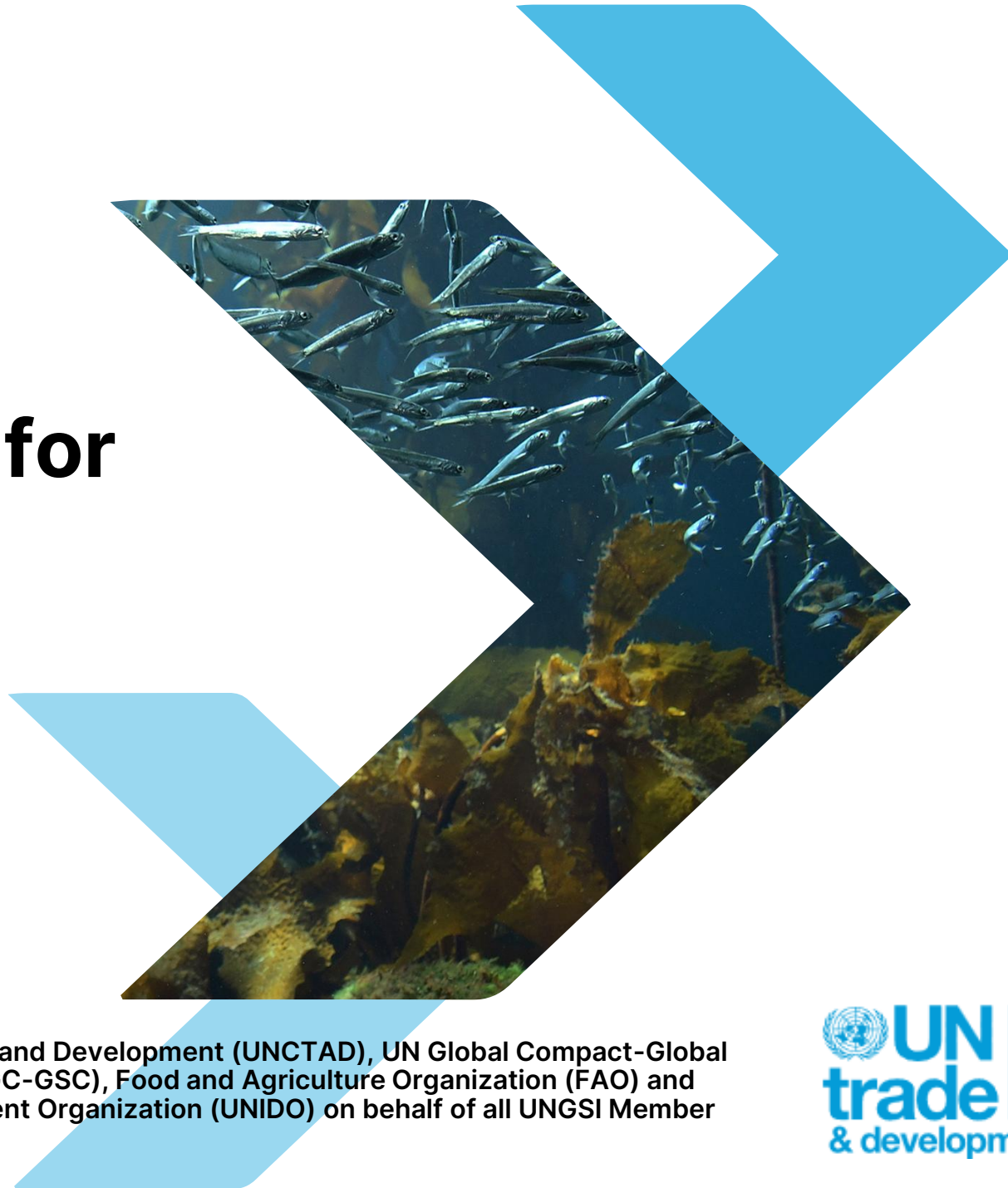


Seaweed and aquatic foods – blue solutions for climate resilience

19 November 2025

9:30-10:30 AM

Blue Zone, Thematic Room



➤ Why algae aquaculture?

- Seaweed production reached **36.3 million tonnes** (wet weight) in 2022, accounting for **over 50% of global marine aquaculture by volume** (FAO, 2025).
- Trade in seaweed is also growing fast, **increasing by 77% from \$2.2 to \$3.9 billion between 2012 and 2022**. Of this about 67% came from seaweed derivatives (UN Comtrade, 2025).
- Algae require no freshwater or land and offer a climate-resilient food source with low environmental impact.
- Seaweed farming supports carbon absorption, biodiversity regeneration, & marine pollution and ocean acidification mitigation.
- It also creates inclusive jobs, **especially for women, youth, and small-scale producers**, in coastal communities but remains underregulated and underfinanced.

UNGSI : Scope and leadership

- This plan is led by the **UN Global Seaweed Initiative (UNGSI)**, with support from UNCTAD, FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO-IOC, and UNGC-GSC.
- It targets **both marine and inland algae aquaculture**, for food and non-food value chains across local, regional, and global levels.
- The initiative promotes seaweed as a climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly, and inclusive solution to food system transformation.

The **United Nations Global Seaweed Initiative (UNGSI)** is a collaborative platform that brings together Member States, UN entities, research institutions, industry stakeholders, and civil society to accelerate the safe, sustainable, and inclusive development of the global seaweed sector.

Seaweed offers climate, environmental, and socio-economic benefits - from capturing carbon and restoring ecosystems to creating livelihoods and sustainable products. It can provide alternatives to fossil-based plastics, reduce livestock methane emissions, improve food security, and regenerate marine ecosystems.

First presented at the [3rd United Nations Ocean Conference](#), following a [recommendation](#) from the [5th United Nations Ocean Forum](#), the Initiative aims to become the leading global platform for policy coordination, capacity building, and advocacy for the seaweed sector, ensuring its potential is fully realized for the benefit of people and the planet.

UNGSI is aligned with the [Paris Agreement](#) (Articles 2.1 (a), 2.1 (b), 2.1 (c), 7 and 10), and supports the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), with contributions to SDGs on zero hunger ([SDG 2](#)), gender equality ([SDG 5](#)), decent work and economic growth ([SDG 8](#)), industry, innovation and infrastructure ([SDG 9](#)), reduced inequalities ([SDG 10](#)), climate action ([SDG 13](#)), life below water ([SDG 14](#)) and life on land ([SDG 15](#)).

The Initiative will be formally launched at the [UN General Assembly](#) in September 2025.



➤ UNGSI timeline – from ocean action to COP30



March 2025

5th UN Ocean Forum (UNCTAD)

- Seaweed framed as both a climate and development solution
- Call for a UN-wide Task Force on Seaweed

June 2025

3rd UN Ocean Conference

- Announcement of the UNGSI
- Commitments from Member States (Madagascar, Indonesia and France) and UN agencies

September 2025

UNGA 80

- Official launch of the UNGSI
- Interest from over 4 additional Member States (tbc)

November 2025

COP30

- UNGSI showcases seaweed's role in carbon, climate mitigation, and adaptation and presents and acceleration Plan

➤ Key outputs of the acceleration plan

1. Improve global seaweed data

→ Strengthen FAO/UNCTAD/UNIDO stats on production & trade

2. Double global seaweed output by 2030

→ Support pluriculture, climate-resilient production, and promote community-based models

3. Map trade regulations and standards

→ Develop a harmonized database on seaweed-related rules and norms

4. Mainstream algae in climate policy

→ Include algae in NDCs, NBSAPs, and national action plans

5. Map industrial seaweed species and establish genebanks

→ Secure seaweed aquaculture production (biosecurity) and national resources

6. Develop Codex Alimentarius guidelines for algae in food safety

→ Compile risks, contaminants, and nutrition data

7. Assess seaweed value chains and quality infrastructure

→ Identify gaps in certification, testing, and compliance

8. Launch global innovation & accelerator program

→ Support R&D, piloting, upscaling of algae-based solutions

9. Build education, training & trade capacity

→ Technical support to producers, youth, and institutions

10. Unlock blue finance for SMEs and producers

→ Develop blended finance models and de-risk investment

➤ 2035 impact pathways



Mobilise finance: Scale public–private funds, genebanks, and infrastructure for new markets like pharmaceuticals, packaging small-holders, processors and downstream innovation.



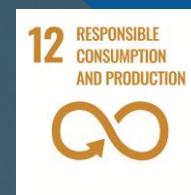
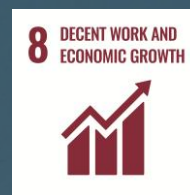
Uptake of climate-smart practices: Expand disease-resistant seaweeds (climate and disease -resistant seaweeds), integrated regenerative aquaculture, and methane-reducing additives.



Inclusive governance: Integrate algae into NDCs, NBSAPs, and ensure local voices shape policy and trade.

➤ Conclusion – Why this plan matters

- The plan also contributes to **global agendas** such as the global stocktake, 20230 climate solutions and the SDGs.



- Seaweed is a **proven solution for food, climate, and economic transformation** - but still overlooked.
- This plan **provides a roadmap** to scale algae aquaculture globally, with inclusion, sustainability, and climate resilience at its core.
- With **coordinated investment, regulation, and empowerment**, algae aquaculture can become a flagship model for transforming food systems by 2035.



Thank you

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 **UN**
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