WITH THE FIFTH LARGEST MARINE ESTATE IN THE WORLD, THE UK AND ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ARE CUSTODIAN TO THE LARGEST CORAL ATOLL ON EARTH, GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT POPULATIONS OF ALBATROSS, WHALES AND TURTLES, AND AS MANY AS A QUARTER OF THE PENGUINS ON THE PLANET.

Through the actions of successive governments, the UK has demonstrated global leadership in ocean conservation. We call on the UK to reaffirm this leadership by working with the governments of the Overseas Territories to deliver on Blue Belt pledges to:

- Establish a 500,000 km² fully protected Marine Protected Area around the South Sandwich Islands in 2018
- Deliver on the commitment to establish a fully protected Marine Protected Area in at least 50% of Ascension Island’s waters in 2019
- Support the establishment of a locally-led marine protection regime throughout the waters of Tristan da Cunha by 2020
- Strengthen the development of the locally-led marine protection regime throughout the waters of St Helena

We also call on the UK to remain a leading force within those international bodies concerned with greater protection of the Polar Regions, the UN process for establishing Marine Protected Areas on the High Seas, and within the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

www.greatbritishoceans.org