

# verbatim



© AFP/Getty Images

**“The sea, the great unifier, is man’s only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat.”**

Oceanographer Jacques Yves Cousteau

**“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth, when it is quite clearly Ocean.”**

attributed to Arthur C Clarke

**“[My son] died in the sea with 81 young people who were all fishermen and all from our village.... From our forefathers, all our families are fishermen. The men used to go and fish, the women used to buy and sell their products.”**

Yayi Bayam Diouf, leader of a Senegalese women’s development group working to stem migration. Mrs Diouf says poverty resulting from the declining fish stocks is the major reason why young people are prepared to risk drowning in the Atlantic Ocean to reach Europe.

**“Aquatic ecosystems continue to be heavily degraded, putting many ecosystem services at risk, including the sustainability of food supplies and biodiversity. (...) Total marine catches are being sustained only by fishing ever further offshore and deeper into the oceans, and progressively lower on the food chain.”**

UNEP GEO-4 report

**“The [new IPCC] report has put a spotlight on a threat to the marine environment that the world has hardly yet realised. The threat is immense as it can fundamentally alter the life of the seas, reducing the productivity of the oceans, while reinforcing global warming.”**

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

**“When I was a small boy this island was big. As I grew older the island got smaller. The island has broken and it is now in two pieces. Now the sea is eating the island away very quickly; the islands are growing smaller and smaller.”**

An islander from Carteret in Papua New Guinea quoted in a Friends of the Earth documentary.

**“Donors must take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emission. Climate change will inundate parts of Bangladesh, make millions homeless and increase food deficit in the country.”**

C.S. Karim, environment and agriculture adviser to the interim Bangladesh government

# numbers

**1/3**

Proportion of Africa’s existing coastline which could be swallowed up by rising water levels brought on by global warming – *UNEP projections*

**61**

Percentage of coral reef areas in the Caribbean which are under threat from pollution and overfishing

**35,000**

Number of ship-borne tourists to the Antarctic in 2006-07 – there were 5,000 in 1992-93

**80**

Percentage of marine pollution originating from land-based activities

**6 billion**

Projected coastal population by 2025

**38 million**

Number of people who rely on fisheries for direct employment. Most are in Asia and the Pacific (87% of world total)

**86**

Percentage of sewage which goes untreated into rivers and oceans in Latin America and the Caribbean

**6**

Factor by which the exploitation of West Africa’s fish resources by EU, Russian and Asian fleets increased between the 1960s and 1990s

*Unless otherwise indicated, all facts are from UNEP’s GEO-4: Global Environment Outlook: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/index.asp>*