

# **If geographers become Ocean racers**



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**The Ocean Race fleet in the 2022- 23 edition, for the first time ever made a stop in Cabo Verde at the end of the 1,900 nautical mile opening leg from Alicante, Spain. The Cabo Verde Republic is a member of the Alliance of 39 Small Island States (AOSIS)**

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**Port of Mindelo, island of Sao Vicente, Cabo Verde Archipelago**

**14th Edition of the Ocean Race 2022—23: “ The most ambitious and comprehensive science programme created by a sporting event, by carrying specialist equipment on board to measure a range of variables, and collect vital data, through the 60.000 km route—through some of the most remote parts, of the planet, seldom reached by scientific vessels” .**

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THE OCEAN RACE  
SUMMITS  
CABO VERDE  
MUSEUM DE ARTE



ANTÓNIO  
GUTERRES  
SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
UNITED NATIONS



**Mr Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General:**

**“Cabo Verde is on the frontline of the existential crisis generated by the climate change. Sea level rise and biodiversity and ecosystem loss pose existential threats to this archipelago, like to many other archipelagos. We are in the fight of our lives. And, unfortunately, we are losing. The consequences will be devastating. Several parts of our planet will be uninhabitable, particularly in Africa. And for many, this is a death sentence...Ending the ocean emergency is a race we must win. And, by working as one—seeking new partnerships among researchers, governments and the private sector, it is a race we can win...”**

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**Mr Wavel Ramkalawan,  
Seychelles President  
at the World Government  
Summit in Dubai:**

**“While the oceans  
threaten to sink  
our coralline islands  
and make our populated  
granitic ones uninhabitable,  
my people also depend on it  
for their livelihood  
and nourishment,  
with our culture and identity  
intrinsically tied to  
its vibrancy and health...”**



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**Seychelles:  
Climate change adaptation:  
coastal protection**

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**63.2**  
Million

SIDS have a combined population of **63.2 million** people and a combined annual GDP of ~ **USD 600 billion**.<sup>1</sup>

Tourism comprises up to **70%** of total GDP in SIDS.<sup>1</sup>

**27** SIDS are classified as Middle Income Countries (Lower and Upper); and **5** are Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).<sup>2</sup>

**>60%**

Caribbean and Pacific SIDS import **more than 60%** of their food, with half importing over **80%**.<sup>1</sup>

SIDS import **>USD 5 billion** of food annually.<sup>1</sup>

The top 5 food imports are processed foods, wheat, corn, meat and dairy, valuing **>USD 1 billion** annually.<sup>1</sup>

**1/3**

Caribbean SIDS average **33%** obesity rates, with at least **twice** as many obese women as men.<sup>1</sup>

**70%** of adults in Pacific SIDS are overweight or obese and **77%** of deaths are attributable to NCDs.<sup>1</sup>

Childhood stunting rates are **>20%** in the five poorest SIDS<sup>1</sup>

**17%**

SIDS experience the largest annual losses due to damage from natural disasters relative to GDP at **17%**.<sup>1</sup>

Women comprise **52%** of the agricultural workforce in SIDS.<sup>1</sup>

In Pacific SIDS, the fishing industry contributes up to **10%** of total GDP.<sup>4</sup>

**Our vision: There could be a completely new format of Ocean racing with geographers as co—sailors, under the auspices of UN (UNESCO), and in collaboration with a variety of willing partners. Ocean racing around Small Island States, and possibly around other small geographically remote islands exposed to devastating effects of climate change**

**“UN climate change ambassadors on the High Seas”?**

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A large white motorboat is docked at a wooden pier in the foreground. The background shows a marina filled with many other boats and a city skyline with several modern buildings under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

In the age of an epic global battle with climate change, and at the same time changing face of off shore racing, could there emerge a new format of sporting—cum—expedition events? With two pronged mission: fulfilling challenging sporting goals, and assisting geographers—aiming for in situ research on the faraway islands—on board?

We thank you.  
Dr Tatjana Vujic Tubic  
Milan Tubic

Southampton: Ocean Village Marina