EXTREME E CELEBRATES WORLD OCEAN DAY

*World Ocean Day is a collective time to celebrate our ocean’s role in everyday life, educate on how impactful humans can be on them, and inspire and unite the world to work towards their sustainable management. This year the theme for the United Nations annual day is Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean.*

*What is so important about our oceans and why are they increasingly being impacted? Why is this happening and why are we so vulnerable to these drastic changes with the ocean? What can we do to help stop this? How is Extreme E supporting this need for change?*

*Professor Lucy Woodall, a Marine Conservation Ecologist, who is Principal Scientist for the Nekton Foundation and is Extreme E’s Ocean Expert, tells us more.*

**Extreme E:** **How did your passion for the ocean begin?**

**Professor Lucy Woodall:** I grew up beside the ocean in a small fishing village where I played in beautiful rock pools as if they were my back garden. Since my childhood, I was fascinated with marine life as I searched through the nooks and crannies, and under rocks.

**XE: What is so important about our oceans and why they are in trouble?**

**LW:** The ocean is our dominate force - we are Planet Ocean! The ocean provides food for many, energy for others and influences the weather conditions for all of us.

**XE:** **What role does the ocean play in limiting climate change?**

**LW:** The ocean acts like a huge sponge, absorbing heat from the atmosphere (about 90 per cent of excess heat) and capturing about 25 per cent excess carbon dioxide (a powerful greenhouse gas).

The ocean ecosystem is an important player in the sequestering of carbon and can provide renewable energy, ocean transport. Especially when supported by sails, ocean transport could be useful to reduce carbon emissions. Furthermore, with changes to how we fish and farm the ocean, and what we consider food, more sustainable practices will emerge.

**XE: We have heard that rising sea levels, ocean acidification and ocean temperature records are all on the rise. Why are we seeing such drastic changes in the ocean?**

**LW:** The ocean, although huge, has been impacted by human activities since humans have been on the planet. These activities can have local impacts, such as mineral extractions, or global impacts, like climate change. Many have delayed consequences.

The ocean experiences multi stressors acting on it. As humans we are often slow to notice change because of the time scale involved, and when we do it takes a long time to see positive effects.

**XE: How do you think we can reduce the stress factors on the oceans?**

**LW:** The impacts of climate change, although global, are felt disproportionately by some countries and communities. Therefore, we have to do four things in tandem and increase our efforts now.

We need to:

1) dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions

2) increase protection and support for ecosystems that mitigate against climate change impacts

3) minimise other stressors on the ocean and

4) support the most impacted people with the challenges they live with day-to-day.

Surrounding all these things is the importance to remember those of us with the most privilege have the responsibility on us to do the most.

**XE: Who is most vulnerable to these dramatic ocean changes like rising sea level?**

**LW:** As climate change impacts are multi-faceted, the most vulnerable are those where more than one consequence is acting. For example, in the low-lying country of Maldives, sea level rise is problematic. In addition, sea surface temperature increases are causing coral bleaching and often widespread death of these important systems. Coral reefs dissipate energy from storms, that are increasing in strength and frequency. In Maldives, both climate change induced impacts are increasing and the natural system that can mitigate these impacts are reducing.

**XE: How is Extreme E helping to protect oceans ecosystems?**

**LW:** Extreme E is supporting future ocean health on a number of levels. Obviously, the decarbonising technology and visibility of this to a wide audience is important and on a local level many legacy projects are directly supporting ocean life and communities.

**XE: Looking ahead to Sardinia for the Island X Prix, why is this blue carbon project such an important project to focus on?**

**LW:** Seagrass is thought to be one of the most rapidly declining ecosystems in the world. Extreme E’s blue carbon project supports the conservation of Posidonia oceanica (seagrass), mitigating the detrimental effects of Blue Carbon in Mediterranean waters. In this project we will be working with the MEDSEA Foundation, helping to analyse and replant seagrass along the degraded Sardinian coastline.

Despite only occupying 0.2 per cent of the ocean floor, seagrass stores 10 per cent of the oceans carbon and can capture 30 per cent more from the atmosphere than its tropical rainforest equivalent. Preserving seagrass ecosystems is a vital step in combating the climate crisis.

Ocean habitats are invisible to many. Someone recently described this to be as a *‘blue blanket’* and that is a good analogy. If we could look under the blanket, then we would see the vast habitats that are important for long-term carbon storage. In Sardinia, the main shallow-water ecosystem is seagrass, these immense meadows of seagrass are valuable nurserys for young fish as well as valuable for blue carbon, ‘ocean carbon storage habitats’.

**XE: Finally, what is your favourite marine animal?**

**LW:** My favourite marine animal is the seahorse. I have studied these for many years and am still completed fascinated by them.

Extreme E returns to Sardinia for the Island X Prix, where for the first time, there will be a double-header event, with two rounds in one week (6-7 and 9-10 July 2022). This means double the excitement, double the thrilling wheel-to-wheel action and double the impact Extreme E leaves behind.

**ENDS**

**To learn more about Extreme E, visit -** [**www.Extreme-E.com**](http://www.extreme-e.com)

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Extreme E:**

Now in its second season, Extreme E is a radical off-road racing series, founded by the same team behind Formula E, which showcases electric SUVs and futuristic technologies in some of the world’s most remote and challenging environments.

This five-event global voyage utilises its sporting platform for the purpose of promoting electrification, environment and equality. The series’ goal is to highlight the impact of climate change in some of the world’s most endangered environments, promote the adoption of electric vehicles to pave the way for a lower carbon future, and provide a world-first gender-equal motorsport platform.

The first sport to ever be built out of a social purpose, Extreme E aims to minimise environmental impact while maximising awareness, racing in places that have already been damaged or affected by climate change or human interference and taking fans deep into the heart of the most pressing issues facing our planet’s future.

Not only that, but Extreme E is also helping the car industry to develop future-facing technology using racing as a platform for road innovation, which accelerates change ten-fold.

Season 2 Calendar:

NEOM, Saudi Arabia
19-20 February 2022
Sardinia, Italy
06-07 July 2022
Sardinia, Italy
09-10 July 2022
Antofagasta, Chile
24-25 September 2022
Punta del Este, Uruguay
26-27 November 2022

**About Continental Tires: Founding Partner and Official Tire Partner**
Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent, and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation.

The tyres business area has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tyre manufacturers with more than 56,000 employees and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special-purpose vehicles as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in research and development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the tyres business area includes services for the tyre trade and fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tyres.

Continental has developed a new high-performance tyre for Extreme E Season 2, redesigned to include the use of more sustainable materials. Each of the 30 tyres that Continental has supplied to all ten Extreme E teams now contains recycled polyester made from approximately 60 PET bottles.  In total, around a third of each second-generation CrossContact Extreme E tyre consists of recycled and renewable raw materials.

**About AFC Energy:**
Extreme E embarked on a world-first collaboration with AFC Energy, whose pioneering hydrogen fuel cell technology enables the Championship’s race fleet to be charged using zero-emission energy. Extreme E is the first event organiser to utilise hydrogen fuel cell power generators for charging, and the decision supports the series’ goal of being sustainable and creating minimal local impact on the environments in which it races.

AFC Energy has engineered a bespoke H-PowerTM fuel cell system for Extreme E, which has been designed with a clear specification and a focus on sustainable innovation. It offers a completely sustainable fuel production process, using water and sun to generate hydrogen power which is then used to charge all the ODYSSEY 21 e-SUVs off the grid. Not only does this process emit zero greenhouse emissions, but its only by-product is water, which is utilised elsewhere on-site.

**About CBMM: Founding Supplier**
CBMM | Niobium is a founding supplier of Extreme E and the Championship’s official Niobium Technology Supplier and Chassis Technology Supplier.

Critical to the automotive sector, niobium produces stronger, lighter and more sustainable cars with better energy efficiency. Its technologies are already widely applied in different areas, including light-weighting, safety, emissions reduction and electronics that will help lead to a sustainable sector transformation. Key applications of niobium in the Mobility sector include chassis, brakes and exhaust systems, drivetrains, batteries and EV charging stations and any number of ancillary components. Its qualities mean materials can be made lighter, stronger, more robust and more reliable – all while being more sustainable than other materials.

CBMM offers technical innovation to customers around the globe through a team of over 2,000 highly trained, dedicated professionals providing cutting-edge niobium products and technology to over 400 clients in around 40 countries.

**About LuisaViaRoma: Official Fashion Partner**
Defined by the Financial Times as “a haven for directional fashion,”[LUISAVIAROMA.COM](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furl6.mailanyone.net%2Fv1%2F%3Fm%3D1l40NA-00039a-3X%26i%3D57e1b682%26c%3D195AVmsnACejGQbj8XWTN7evBrvKJ1dnbRSlGauikIN1jvOJqayL11c08sfz5q1cceT_kfGhbO_Pgdul_vKgCHKD7IRSCNz5N1nGW9IZudTMsArXH_4RgkZJ_1yUJ1LCnfuAdJA1-KMInD6ZezFTWMgr389RpxOBDTwby2-m0iGBYpmPZjv9wwqhM1MxBH243uOw61cdEjXAR5FWvZyEV-xrW9U-ZTO-2PYSpSwfH4s&data=04%7C01%7CCarla.Corbet%40mpacreative.com%7C0caf6dd47e0f4a1eab8908d8c127765b%7C3891b9e18f6b4fe3a38ee5305dc2823a%7C1%7C0%7C637471722513203463%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jOWRp6eyKk%2BAXQzlhUUINtGvz6Jil8elRhPIOfB8uOY%3D&reserved=0) is the top online luxury fashion destination with 5,000,000 visitors per month and worldwide shipping. With each new season, the website presents the collections of more than 600 established designers and young emerging talents.

**About Zenith: Official Timekeeper and Founding Partner**
Zenith exists to inspire individuals to pursue their dreams and make them come true – against all odds. Since its establishment in 1865, Zenith became the first watch manufacture in the modern sense of the term, and its watches have accompanied extraordinary figures that dreamt big and strived to achieve the impossible – from Louis Blériot’s history-making flight across the English Channel to Felix Baumgartner’s record-setting stratospheric free-fall jump. Zenith is also highlighting visionary and trailblazing women – past and present – by celebrating their accomplishments and creating in 2020 its first-ever collection dedicated entirely to them, Defy Midnight.

With innovation as its guiding star, Zenith features exceptional in-house developed and manufactured movements in all its watches. Since the creation of the El Primero in 1969, the world’s first automatic chronograph calibre, Zenith has gone on to master fractions of the second with the Chronomaster Sport and its 1/10th of a second precision and the DEFY 21 with a precision of 1/100th of a second.

**About Allianz: Founding Partner and Official Insurance Partner**
The Allianz Group is one of the world's leading insurers and asset managers with more than 100 million private and corporate customers in more than 70 countries. Allianz customers benefit from a broad range of personal and corporate insurance services, ranging from property, life and health insurance to assistance services to credit insurance and global business insurance. Allianz is one of the world’s largest investors, managing around 790 billion euros on behalf of its insurance customers. Furthermore, our asset managers PIMCO and Allianz Global Investors manage 1.7 trillion euros of third-party assets.

**About Vodafone Business: Official Technology and Communication Partner**

With expertise in connectivity, global scale and the leading IoT platform, Vodafone Business is a leading technology communications company helping organisations succeed in a digital world and keeping society connected. Vodafone’s purpose is to connect for a better future, enabling an inclusive and sustainable digital society, and many of its solutions have sustainability and inclusivity embedded.

Unique in its scale as the largest pan-European and African technology communications company, Vodafone transforms the way we live and work through its innovation, technology, connectivity, platforms, products and services. Vodafone operates mobile and fixed networks in 21 countries, and partners with mobile networks in 52 more. As of 31 December 2021, they had over 300m mobile customers, more than 28m fixed broadband customers and over 22m TV customers.

This collaboration will see Vodafone Business leading innovations and capabilities such as 5G, MPN, IOT and MEC, integrated into Extreme E’s global operations and will include full involvement in the purpose- driven elements of the series, with special prominence on Extreme E’s Legacy Programmes and the Science Laboratory on board the St Helena. Through its IOT solutions, Vodafone Business is helping sustainability efforts, including agriculture, forestation and decarbonisation of energy grids.

Find out more on <http://www.Vodafone.com/business> and follow Vodafone on its social media channels:

Twitter: @VodafoneGroup

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/vodafone](http://www.linkedin.com/company/vodafone)

**About Neat Burger: Official Plant-based Partner**
Neat Burger is the first of its kind – the planet-friendly, plant-based, full-flavoured game-changer the world has been waiting for. The world’s first plant-based sustainable burger chain, Neat Burger offers a menu that appeals to not only those who follow plant-based diets, but anyone, meat-eaters included, who wants to eat delicious meat-free dishes that are more sustainable, healthier and ethical.

The brand is backed by seven-time FIA Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton, in collaboration with hospitality organisation The Cream Group and investors, as well as UNICEF Ambassador and early backer of Beyond Meat Tommaso Chiabra. Neat Burger opened its first site in September 2019, just off Regent Street in London, and its second and third dine-in outlets at Camden Market and Soho in 2020. Plans for global expansion across Europe, the US and Middle East are already in place.

**About EY: Official Innovation Partner**
EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, strategy, transaction and consulting services. The insights and quality services they deliver help build trust and confidence in capital markets and in economies the world over. EY develops outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, they play a critical role in building a better working world for their people, for their clients and for their communities.

EY originally joined the Championship to help Extreme E achieve its commitment of minimizing the overall footprint whilst creating a positive legacy. In collaborating with Extreme E, EY has become a vital part of creating an Environment Impact Assessment framework which further drives the championship in the direction of positive change. Whilst Extreme E strives to race without leaving a trace, the framework provided by EY has allowed the championship to minimize its environmental impact across each race location. Both prior and post-racing impact assessments have allowed Extreme E to strategically plan their actions within these areas.

**About INTERprotección: Official Insurance Broker**
INTERprotección is composed of a group of Mexican insurance, reinsurance and surety bond brokerage companies. With global presence and recognition, INTERprotección has more than 40 years of experience in management and comprehensive risk consulting in the Mexican market. Its business model is focused on bringing the client to the forefront and offering them the best service through innovative and disruptive products, more recently with its new brand [inter.mx](https://inter.mx/), its insurance digital platform that is transforming the insurtech game.

**About Enel X Way: Official Smart Charging Partner**Enel X Way is the Enel Group's new global business line entirely dedicated to electric mobility. Currently, Enel X Way manages approximately 320,000 charging points, both directly and through interoperability agreements in place worldwide1. As a global platform for e-mobility, the company is focused on developing flexible charging technologies and solutions to improve the customer experience by supporting the electrification of transport for consumers, businesses, cities and public administrationsFind out more on <https://enelxway.it/en/home> and follow Enel X Way on its social media channels:LinkedIn: Enel X Way

Twitter: @enelxway

Instagram: @enelxway

Facebook: @enelxway

1 Public and private charging points, including points of interoperability.

