

UNFCCC COP 26, 2021, Glasgow, UK

UN-Oceans Side Event

Ocean Action = Climate Action: UN-Oceans contribution to strengthening national efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change

16:45-18:00

Thursday, 11 November

South Downs (Multimedia Studio 1)

DRAFT Agenda

10mins	Opening remarks	<p>Ambassador Waldemar Coutts (Chair), Director for Environment and Oceans of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile (in-person)</p> <p>Mr. Lewis Pugh, UN Patron of the Oceans</p> <p>Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations Legal Counsel and UN-Oceans Focal Point (pre-recorded video)</p>
60mins	3 x 20min Panel discussions	<p>Advancing understanding and support</p> <p>Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment Dr. Essam Yasin Mohammed, Member of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process and Global Lead for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability, World Fish. (virtual)</p> <p>The UN Ocean Decade: Science partnerships in support of climate change action Mr. Ariel Troisi, IOC Chair (virtual)</p> <p>Addressing capacity and technology transfer issues as well as priority areas for adaptation action and Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Island Developing States Mr. Crispin D'Auvergne, Programme Director - Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, OECS Commission (in-person)</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Strengthening mitigation</p> <p>Protecting the ocean and marine biodiversity from shipping activities, including CO2 reduction from ships Mr. Roel Hoenders, Head, Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency Section, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (virtual)</p> <p>The role of cetaceans in ecosystems, including their direct and indirect roles in carbon sequestration Prof Colin Galbraith, CMS COP-appointed Scientific Councillor on Climate Change (in-person)</p> <p>Blue carbon mitigation potential and restoration actions on the ground Dr. Lemhaba Ould Yarba, Science Officer at the Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania), a UNESCO marine World Heritage Marine site (in-person)</p>

		<p>Q&A</p> <p>Building resilience</p> <p>Aquatic food production systems Mr. Manuel Barange, Director of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (virtual)</p> <p>Marine services and early warning systems for hazard mitigation in Fiji Mr. Terry Atalifo, Permanent Representative of Fiji to WMO and also the Vice-President of WMO Region Five (WMO RA-V) (in-person)</p> <p>Blue carbon as a nature-based solution for resilience Prof Catherine Lovelock, University of Queensland (virtual)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
5mins	Closing remarks	<p>Ambassador Waldemar Coutts (Chair) Director for Environment and Oceans of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile (in-person)</p>

Organizers

UN-Oceans members: IAEA, IMO, IOC-UNESCO, FAO, UNCTAD, UN/DOALOS, UNEP-CMS, UNESCO, UNFCCC, WMO

Background

As highlighted during the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue,¹ understanding where ocean-based mitigation and adaptation solutions can be strengthened, replicated and upscaled is critical to the implementation and achievement of the Paris Agreement.

The ocean is the primary regulator of the global climate. Increasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere are causing anthropogenic climate change, with long lasting impacts on the ocean (warming, acidification and deoxygenation), ice sheets and global sea level as well as on marine and coastal ecosystems, with associated impacts for billions of people in communities that depend on the ocean and its ecosystems, such as for livelihoods and food security.

This side event will showcase efforts that nations are taking, with the support of the UN, to enhance ocean-based mitigation and adaptation efforts for ecosystems and societies to address the current and future impacts and risks of climate change. Innovations include protecting blue carbon ecosystems through nature-based solutions, supporting climate adaptation measures through hazards mitigation, evidence-based risk and vulnerability assessments, adaptive aquatic food production systems, and the promotion of low carbon/blue economies. The importance of science, technological innovation, and effective capacity development in guiding and informing these strategies will also be addressed.

UN-Oceans

¹ <https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue>

“UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, within existing resources, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.”

This side event is carried out in the context of the UN-Oceans Voluntary Commitment registered at the Ocean Conference in 2017, under which the members of UN-Oceans committed to “provide information on ocean-related international regulatory and policy frameworks to the widest number of stakeholders also to ensure that they are aware of the legal instruments and policy outcomes which are relevant to SDG 14 and other ocean-related goals and targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”