

Agenda item 4(c)iii- Innovative ocean climate solutions

Highlights from 2023 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

Draft key messages and recommendations to Parties on innovative technologies and integrated adaptation solutions in oceans and coastal zones

Technology Executive Committee, 27th meeting and TEC-CTCN Joint session
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Background

In 2022, the TEC in collaboration with the IUCN, Friends of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) and Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) Expert group on Ocean published a joint policy brief on ‘innovative approaches for strengthening coastal and ocean adaptation- integrating technology and nature-based solutions’.

As per activity C.4 of the rolling workplan for 2023–2027, the TEC is to promote innovative technology solutions related to nature and ecosystems, including by participation in the UNFCCC ocean and climate change dialogue.

At the SB 58 (June 2023) and building on its previous work on innovative technological and ecosystem-based approaches to strengthening ocean and coastal adaptation, the TEC participated in the UNFCCC ocean and climate change dialogue, and shared insights from the work of the Technology Mechanism on ‘coastal ecosystem restoration including blue carbon’.

The C.4.1 activity group has prepared draft key messages and recommendations, drawing upon information contained in the abovementioned joint policy brief, complemented with insights from the 2023 ocean and climate change dialogue.



2023 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

Coastal ecosystem restoration including blue carbon | Fisheries and food security

TEC contributions

- Taking a glance at **climate action, ocean and technology**, through insights from NDCs and UNFCCC instruments
- Presenting a snapshot of **Technology Mechanism's work on ocean**:
 - ✓ **TEC policy insights** on ocean technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - ✓ **CTCN technical assistance** to protect mangroves through Ecosystem based adaptation solutions in Solomon Islands
- **Moderating discussions on coastal ecosystem restoration including blue carbon**
 - ✓ Strengthening **recognition of coastal ecosystems as assets**, and improving processes to protect and restore them
 - ✓ Further **including blue carbon ecosystems** (i.e., mangroves, seagrass and saltmarshes, among others) as part of climate change **mitigation strategies**

> For more information on the ocean and climate change dialogue, see:
<https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue-2023-day-1>

What is next

- An informal summary report from the 2023 ocean and climate change dialogue to be presented by the dialogue's co-facilitators at COP28
- The TEC to continue engaging with relevant partners to find potential areas for collaboration (from 2024 onwards)



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1. Drawing on the joint policy brief on innovative approaches to strengthening coastal and ocean adaptation, and its participation in the ocean and climate change dialogue, **the TEC highlights the following:**

- a) Innovative climate adaptation approaches that **integrate both technology and nature-based solutions** offer the potential to be more robust, comprehensive and cost-effective than either type of solution alone;
- b) Despite the pressing adaptation needs of coastal and island communities, **knowledge, capacity, and financing gaps and challenges prevent the widespread implementation and mainstreaming** of integrated ocean-climate solutions. To overcome these challenges, there is a need to:
 - (i) Co-produce **localized solutions** that combine scientific, local and Indigenous knowledge, engage diverse stakeholders, and distribute benefits equitably across and within communities;
 - (ii) Collaborate on **transdisciplinary research** and encourage **mutual learning** through long-term monitoring and evaluation programmes;
 - (iii) Address **barriers to accessing financing**, including perceptions of and risks associated with innovative and nature-based approaches;
 - (iv) Foster **enabling policy and regulatory frameworks** in national climate strategies, local planning and regulations, and international standards;
 - (v) Build **cross-sectoral partnerships** to exchange knowledge and ideas, develop innovative technologies, and bolster the business case for integrated adaptation solutions;
- c) The **UNFCCC process** presents opportunities to strengthen ocean-based climate action, including through relevant **work programmes and constituted bodies** and the ocean and climate change dialogue. In addition, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 present opportunities to promote **coherence of action within the United Nations**.



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2. To accelerate the implementation and scale-up of innovative technologies and integrated climate solutions for ocean ecosystems and coastal zones, the **TEC recommends that:**

- a) **Parties and stakeholders address the needs** identified in paragraph X above;
- b) **Policymakers embed such solutions in climate-related policies and sectors** (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, tourism, water security and disaster risk management); translate national policies into **localized action**; strengthen the **governance and technical capacity** of relevant institutions; and set policies that **prioritize the most vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems**;
- c) Public and private **finance institutions strengthen enabling conditions** by facilitating investment in such solutions; engage early on in **risk reduction**; **commercialize** promising integrated adaptation approaches; and improve **accessibility to sustainable finance**;
- d) **Non-governmental and community-based organizations** actively pursue meaningful **participation of and leadership by local communities** and vulnerable groups, including youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, at all stages of adaptation interventions; develop and **cultivate partnerships** with one another as well as with other stakeholders; and provide **resources for informing evidence-based targets** for integrated adaptation solutions and their monitoring;
- e) **Academia and research** institutes help to build a **robust evidence base** on the effectiveness, viability and multiple benefits of integrated adaptation approaches; and **enhance collaboration** between researchers, academia and local stakeholders in this regard;
- f) **Practitioners** engage in **cross-sectoral exchange** of knowledge through communities of practice and innovative partnerships; and meaningfully engage diverse local stakeholders in integrated adaptation solutions;
- g) The **TEC** and the **CTCN** take advantage of the identified **opportunities under the UNFCCC** and promote coherence with other **United Nations processes** to strengthen **ocean-based climate action**.



Thank you!



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