



Technology Executive Committee

05 September 2023

Twenty-seventh meeting

19–21 September and 22 September 2023 (TEC-CTCN Joint session)

Draft key messages and recommendation to Parties on innovative technologies and integrated adaptation solutions in ocean and coastal zones

Cover note

I. Background

1. As per activity 3 of the thematic area Innovation of its rolling workplan for 2019–2022,¹ the TEC in collaboration with the IUCN, Friends of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) and Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) Expert group on Ocean, organized a series of Technology Day events in 2021, and subsequently, co-produced a joint policy brief on ‘innovative approaches for strengthening coastal and ocean adaptation- integrating technology and nature-based solutions’, published in 2022.²
2. 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.
3. At the 58th session of subsidiary bodies (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’.³
4. These draft key messages and recommendations draw upon information contained in the joint policy brief (referred to in paragraph 1 above), complemented with insights from the ocean and climate change dialogue.
5. At TEC 27 the co-leads of the C.4.1 activity group will present the key messages and draft recommendations contained in the annex.

II. Scope of the note

6. The annex to this note contains the draft key messages and recommendations of the TEC to COP 28 and CMA 5 on innovative technologies and integrated adaptation solutions in ocean and coastal zones.

III. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

7. The TEC will be invited to consider and agree on the key messages and recommendations on this topic.

¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/tclear/tec/documents.html>, under ‘Workplans’ section.

² Available at <https://unfccc.int/tclear/coastalzones/>.

³ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue-2023-day-1>.

Annex

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

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,¹ 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.

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

¹ [Link to the summary note, to be inserted].

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.
