

**UNFCCC COP 24**  
**Katowice, Poland**

**Concept Note**  
**Action Event: Oceans and Coastal Zones**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 8 December 2018  
10:00 – 13:00

*Organised by the Global Ocean Forum/ICO; Governments of Sweden, Fiji; IOC/UNESCO; Ocean Pathway; Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal; Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan; FAO; UN Oceans; IUCN; Future Ocean Alliance, others*

## MPGCA Oceans and Coastal Zones: Oceans and Coastal Zones Action Event

### Description

The Oceans and Coastal Zones Action Event highlights the major developments in the Ocean and Coastal Zone Thematic Area in 2018, and provides a vision and directions for the next phase.

### Overall Narrative/Background

The oceans play a central role in regulating climate. They have absorbed around 28 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from human activities and over 90 per cent of the heat produced by human-induced climate change. Oceans sustain coastal and island communities, and those who rely on its bounty to meet their nutritional needs. But while oceans are key to mitigating climate change, a warming planet also places them, and the services they provide, at great risk.

The Ocean and Coastal Zone Thematic Area became one of the seven priorities to be fast-tracked under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action at COP 22 in Marrakech in 2016, to advance the consideration of ocean issues within the climate context. COP 22 saw a strong presence of the ocean community representatives who continued building the momentum and raising awareness on the relevance of ocean-related issues in the climate change realm, including through Oceans Action Day at COP 22. The COP 23 Oceans Action Day focused on action on the ground and showcased lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for replication and upscaling of successful experiences going forward as the Paris Agreement is further implemented. Since that time, strong progress has been achieved in mobilizing UNFCCC state parties to address the oceans and climate nexus at global, regional, and national levels.

**Please find the links to past Ocean Action Days here:**

*Oceans Action Day at COP 21:* <https://bit.ly/2O19RqB>

*Oceans Action Day at COP 22:* <https://bit.ly/2NTzmtz>

*Oceans Action Day at COP 23:* <https://bit.ly/2po7XC5>

## **Objective of the event: Impacts and progress made in 2018**

This Oceans and Coastal Zones Action Event is aimed at:

### **1) Stock-Taking on issues related to Oceans and Coastal Zones and their consideration in the UNFCCC process**

#### **2) Reporting on Major Developments in 2018, e.g.:**

- Progress Report on Oceans and Climate Action COP 24 2018 (ROCA overview of major developments both on the ground and in policy)
- IPCC Reports: 1.5 °C, and Oceans and Cryosphere
- Climate, Oceans, Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Ocean Pathway and Because the Ocean—directions and development of Friends of the Oceans at the UNFCCC among state parties
- Results of the Global Climate Action Summit, California
- Other

#### **3) Providing a Vision and Directions for the Next Phase**

- Consideration of oceans and coastal zones within the UNFCCC
- Mobilizing other parts of the UN system and global and regional initiatives on the oceans and climate nexus.

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