

Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, 2026

COP 31 Presidency Segment on the Ocean

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As the COP 31 Presidency, Türkiye is pleased to join this segment. This is an important opportunity to listen, exchange views, and build a shared understanding.

We see this Dialogue as an important bridge. It links UNFCCC discussions with practical action. It can also help shape concrete outcomes for COP 31.

Now it is time to translate ocean climate ambition into implementation. Following yesterday's formal presentation of the COP31 Action Agenda framework, COP31 is being shaped as a COP of the Future, with implementation at its core.

Our focus is to connect political ambition with practical delivery, strengthen existing initiatives, and close implementation gaps.

In this context, the Action Agenda can help turn the ocean-climate nexus into practical cooperation on the road to COP31, especially **on ecosystem resilience, ocean observation, coastal adaptation, regional cooperation, finance, technology and capacity-building.**

As the incoming COP31 Presidency, Türkiye's approach to the ocean and seas agenda is guided by **implementation, complementarity and inclusive cooperation.** COP31 is being shaped as an Implementation COP, with a strong focus on closing the gap between **multilateral commitments and real-world delivery.**

Türkiye brings a **regionally grounded perspective** to this agenda. This perspective also allows us to approach ocean action through its direct relevance for **livelihoods, coastal economies, food security, tourism, ports, trade and local resilience.**

As a country connected to the seas, Türkiye has direct experience with the **pressures facing regional and semi-enclosed seas.** These include **warming waters, biodiversity loss, marine pollution, coastal erosion, tourism pressures, maritime activities, fisheries-related vulnerabilities and growing climate risks** for coastal settlements.

This perspective can contribute to the global ocean-climate agenda by showing how shared sea basins can become practical spaces for cooperation **on climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, data-sharing, early warning, sustainable ocean planning and investment-ready action**. It also helps link global climate priorities with regional implementation and the needs of coastal communities.

We see coasts, seas and oceans as an integral part of climate action. They are affected by climate change, but they also offer powerful solutions for adaptation, resilience and sustainable development. Under COP31, **we will support implementation-oriented partnerships on coastal and marine ecosystems, blue carbon ecosystems, ocean observation, early warning and regional seas cooperation**.

Türkiye also sees an important role for regional institutions. The establishment of the Climate Change Regional Activity Centre, CC/RAC, in Istanbul creates a new opportunity to strengthen cooperation on climate adaptation and resilience across the Mediterranean. Closer coordination among regional organizations and initiatives can help connect local action, regional priorities and global climate processes in a practical and implementation-oriented way.

A focused Action Agenda can also help build momentum around existing initiatives that already have **political relevance, technical maturity and implementation potential**. This is particularly important for ensuring continuity with the broader Global Climate Action Agenda and with the ocean-related work advanced through previous COP processes. In this regard, ongoing efforts such as the Blue NDC Challenge and discussions around the Blue Package provide useful examples of how ocean priorities can be connected with national climate ambition, implementation pathways and practical delivery.

Particular attention should also be given to coastal wetlands, seagrass meadows and other blue carbon ecosystems, which provide important adaptation benefits, support biodiversity and contribute to climate resilience in vulnerable coastal regions.

Ocean observing, data systems and early warning are another practical area where COP31 can help generate momentum. Stronger observation systems, shared data and modelling capacity can improve **climate risk assessment, support sustainable ocean planning, inform national strategies and help coastal communities prepare for climate impacts**.

Finance will be essential for turning ocean and seas priorities into practical implementation. Many countries and coastal communities already have clear needs and promising ideas, but they require stronger access to finance, capacity-building and partnerships to move from planning to delivery.

Under COP31, the Ocean and Seas Action Agenda can help draw attention to this need and support cooperation among Parties, financial institutions, development partners and other stakeholders to advance credible and practical ocean-climate actions.



The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue has an important role in the way of COP 31 process. It provides a space for Parties and observers to **share experience, identify practical barriers, and clarify where cooperation, finance, data, capacity-building and institutional support** are most needed. These exchanges can help inform the road to COP31 by showing where ocean-climate action is ready to move further into implementation.

In this sense, dialogue, negotiations and the Action Agenda can reinforce one another. Dialogue can help identify needs and areas of convergence. The formal process can provide the space for Parties to consider ocean-related issues within the existing climate architecture. The Action Agenda can support practical cooperation, visibility and delivery through partnerships, initiatives and finance-ready implementation pathways.

Looking towards Antalya, our aim is to keep the ocean and seas agenda **practical, inclusive and implementation-oriented**. COP31 can help connect **existing initiatives, regional priorities, finance, science and partnerships around concrete ocean-climate actions** that are ready to move forward.

In this process, we give great importance to the collaboration with our partner Australia. Australia's work on **mainstreaming the ocean-climate nexus, supporting consultation efforts**, and helping make ocean-climate commitments **practical, scalable and investable** provides an important contribution to the road to COP31. Türkiye and Australia will continue to work in close coordination so that the Action Agenda and the formal process remain coherent and mutually supportive.

The Pacific perspective will also be central to this agenda. Pacific countries have long demonstrated leadership in bringing **the ocean, climate ambition, resilience, justice and community priorities together**. The role of the Ocean Envoy, the Pacific Partnership and the Pre-COP process can provide valuable guidance for ensuring that the ocean and seas agenda reflects the realities of **climate-vulnerable and ocean-dependent communities**.

These contributions will help strengthen a shared and inclusive pathway towards Antalya.

On the road to Antalya, our focus will be on **listening carefully, building convergence, strengthening partnerships and supporting practical outcomes that can contribute to the global climate response.**