

**UN Climate Change COP 28
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

Outcome Document

**“Nature First: From Land to Ocean,
Our Best Ally for Climate Action”**

Organized by the following partners: Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action: action groups on Land Use and Ocean & Coastal Zones, High-Level Climate Champions team, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Ocean & Climate Platform

**9 December 2023, 10.00 AM – 12.30 PM
ARENA 1 (AL HUR), GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION ZONE**

“Nature First: From Land to Ocean, Our Best Ally for Climate Action”

Action Event

Key Messages:

For the first time, the Land Use and Ocean & Coastal Zones groups of the Marrakech Partnership joined forces to host a joint Action Event. By **highlighting the interconnectedness of all ecosystems, from land to ocean, this event participated in building momentum for Nature as our best ally for climate action.** It brought together a great diversity of stakeholders who showcased initiatives and projects led across land, coasts, and ocean, that deliver on climate goals, participate in reversing biodiversity loss, and enhance resilience of ecosystems and people.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation are intertwined crises which need to be faced with urgency and cannot be addressed in silos. Leaders of non-governmental organisations, government representatives, scientists, businesses, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities emphasised this message across the *Hiking*, *Surfing* and *Diving* panel discussions by highlighting the **synergies existing between the goals of the Paris Agreement and other global frameworks** (i.e. the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the High Seas Treaty). Indeed, **adopting holistic and integrated approaches is essential to deliver on these goals and achieve a resilient, net-zero emissions and biodiversity-positive world.**

Additionally, the event underscored **Nature’s role in enhancing resilience and livelihoods for communities and future generations.** The discussions focused on identifying obstacles, levers and tools to enable the effective implementation of land- and ocean-based climate actions, for both mitigation and adaptation purposes. During all three segments, the **urgent need for accessible and scalable finance**, as well as the **importance of collaborative action** was stressed, as discussions underpinned the role of governments, the private sector, and local communities in advancing these solutions on the ground. Indeed, the **collective efforts of all stakeholders – especially Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as custodians of Nature and holders of knowledge – are instrumental to the success of climate action**, which must be guided by the **values of inclusivity and transparency.**

Moreover, the event offered perspectives on **how to catalyse and guide climate action of non-Party stakeholders moving forward.** The **Net-Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework** (under development by the UNFCCC) and the [Ocean Breakthroughs](#) were both highlighted, offering science-based and clear action pathways for civil society organisations and the private sector to deliver on climate and biodiversity goals.

Outcomes:

Outcome 1: *Evidence that for nature to thrive, synergistic and cooperative implementation of global goals is essential, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).*

In her opening remarks, **H.E. Razan Al Mubarak** (UN High-Level Climate Champion) set the scene by recalling that Nature is one singular and interconnected system and must be considered as such by all. From a scientific perspective, **Dr David Obura** (Chair, IPBES) highlighted the interconnection between the climate and biodiversity crises, stating that Nature is a critical part of remaining within the +1.5°C target on the long-term, thus stressing the need for collective and joint efforts under the UNFCCC and CBD fora. Throughout the event, panellists highlighted the need to jointly tackle both crises when developing projects, initiatives, and policies. **Julian Hill-Landolt** (Senior Director, Nature Action & Member of the Extended Leadership Group, WBCSD) emphasised the need for fostering alignment and standardization, as well as filling in the data and information gap for enhanced corporate climate performance and accountability. **Melissa Garvey** (Global Director, Nature Bonds, The Nature Conservancy) mentioned TNC's nature-bond initiative which has allowed countries, through debt refinancing and credit enhancement, to invest into both nature and climate action. **Megan Morikawa** (Global Director of Sustainability, Iberostar Hotels) provided a powerful testimony on how her initial research on coral reef restoration expanded into a large-scale project taking into account climate incentives, leading the hospitality-leader group Iberostar to reduce its environmental and carbon footprint. During the diving segment, **Antonella Battaglini** (CEO, Renewables Grid Initiative) insisted on the need to reconcile climate, Nature, and renewable energy, which deployment to support mitigation efforts cannot be done at the detriment of biodiversity. **Minna Epps** (Ocean Director, IUCN) also emphasised that only healthy and protected marine and coastal ecosystems can support mitigation and adaptation efforts, while delivering co-benefits; a stance supported by **Ana Paula Prates** (Director of the Ocean and Coastal Management Department of the Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, Brazil) in her concluding remarks: *"maintaining a healthy ocean is fundamental for tackling climate change, which is being felt more drastically and rapidly than expected"*.

Outcome 2: *Showcasing scalable and transferable practices, enhancing our understanding of the interconnectedness and solutions that land use and ocean ecosystems (e.g., protecting mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrasses; hybrid solutions for coastal adaptation and resilience) can provide in addressing climate change while transitioning to sustainable production systems.*

The Land Use x Ocean Action Event aimed at showcasing concrete actions that address climate change while supporting the transition of entire systems, with the potential to be scaled-up and transferable. During the Hiking segment, **Julian Hill-Landolt** (Senior Director, Nature Action & Member of the Extended Leadership Group, WBCSD) presented the work led by WBCSD to provide high level guidance for any company from any sector to take action and be accountable for their commitments. He also outlined the importance of the Net-Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework that will support non-State actors in their decarbonisation journey. **Jennifer Corpuz** (Director for Policy, NiaTero) emphasised that projects can only be successful if IPLCs are recognised and included as stakeholders at all scales, particularly highlighting the 30 by 30 target. This message also resonated during **Ayadi Mishra's** (Youth Representative to the UN Decade of Restoration Advisory Board) intervention, who stated that humanity and nature are not separate, and must be seen as one to tackle climate change. Illustrating this, panellist of the Surfing Segment **Abdou Karim Sall** (Blue Carbon Community Leader, AGIRE) offered insights on his experience

in Senegal, where he works with communities to protect the ecosystems, restore local resources, and sustainably develop fishing practices. His work led to the creation of 15 marine protected areas in the Sine-Saloum region. **Moafanua Tolusina Pouli** (Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa) brought attention to the work led in Samoa to raise awareness among communities on how activities on land can impact coastal and marine ecosystems (i.e. pollution, waste), building on a ridge-to-reef approach. Furthermore, **Dr. Meriwether Wilson** and **Prof. Sandy Tudhope**, Edinburgh Ocean Leaders, offered another crucial perspective by stressing the importance of building capacity between early career professionals as they unveiled the 2024 cohort of Edinburgh Ocean Leaders. Finally, **Manuel Barange** (Assistant Director-General and Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) presented FAO's Blue Transformation Initiative. FAO is leading 25 projects worldwide building on this approach, to adapt fisheries and secure the livelihoods of local communities and food security. Panellists of the Diving segment also stressed the interconnection between the targets set by the Ocean Breakthroughs, especially between renewable energy deployment, fisheries, and marine conservation, as one cannot be achieved at the detriment of another. **Antonella Battaglini** (Renewables Grid Initiative) mentioned on this occasion the Global Initiative for Nature, Grids, and Renewables (GINGR) launched with IUCN.

Outcome 3: Evaluating progress on commitments made, including in climate finance for sustainable landscapes and seascapes. The latter involves a thorough examination of the financial resources allocated to initiatives aimed at preserving and restoring natural environments on both land and in the ocean.

Throughout the event, panellists insisted on the need to urgently scale up and increase investments in Nature, at all levels. **Melissa Garvey** (TNC) built on the example of Governments limited in resources because of important sovereign debts – especially in climate vulnerable countries, to underscore the value of tools such as debt-related financial instruments, or the collaboration with development banks, to unlock resources for climate and nature. **Jennifer Corpuz** (NiaTero) pointed out that while the role of IPLCs is more and more acknowledged, there is still a lack of resources available for them to invest into their communities (i.e. into their governance mechanisms, education, or into carbon or biodiversity markets as an incentive). During the Surfing segment, **Megan Morikawa** (Iberostar) emphasised the role played by the private sector in catalysing and accelerating land- or ocean-based action by investing into projects, which in turn can have positive effects on their own activities (i.e. increased sustainability of their value chain). Regarding ocean finance, **Minna Epps** (IUCN) and **Anna Lindstedt** (Ambassador for the Ocean, Sweden) deplored that Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) - Life below water, remains the least funded of all SDGs. Reflecting on ways to close the finance gap in the aquatic food sector – especially for adaptation, **Manuel Barange** (FAO) called on Governments to include aquatic food-related and marine conservation measures into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), setting it as a priority and thus sending a positive signal to investors. In addition, **Minna Epps** (IUCN) underscored the need to identify metrics and build trust to accelerate investments. As a conclusion, panellists of the Diving segment highlighted that the Ocean Breakthroughs now provide precise science-based financial targets for each sector that must drive investments.

Content:

Events were required to feature collective progress on mitigation (2030 breakthroughs), adaptation and resilience (SAA outcomes) and means of implementation. Please outline below how this featured in your session.

To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep the 1.5°C target alive, priority must be given to drastically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across sectors. This message was carried throughout the event which recalled the need for all actors, across land use and ocean sectors, to engage in efforts towards net-zero and nature-positive activities. The event highlighted initiatives focusing on advancing mitigation outcomes, enhancing adaptation and resilience efforts, increasing financial flows for land and nature solutions, as well as addressing barriers and challenges related to technology access and capacity. Examples of corporate accountability, ways to refinance national debts to unlock resources to drive nature conservation and climate objectives, and enabling indigenous governance systems are helping to deliver on the SAA aim to protect, restore, and sustainably manage millions of hectares of natural resources, securing rights of indigenous and local communities, halting land conversion by eliminating commodity-driven deforestation from investment portfolios and increasing climate finance to Nature-based solutions. Moreover, the event also put forward the potential of Nature in mitigating climate change, by highlighting [the Ocean Breakthroughs](#) which cover five key ocean sectors where accelerated action and investments could deliver up to 35 percent GHG emissions reduction according to a [recent research led by the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy](#). Furthermore, the event featured multiple examples of progress and actions taken to adapt to climate change and its impacts, as well as to enhance resilience. Discussions covered the Aquatic Food Breakthrough, a sector in which adaptation is a priority because of the intrinsic nature of food security and climate change. Discussions also highlighted the important progress made on the Mangrove and Coral Breakthroughs, which will support the achievement of the overarching Marine Conservation Breakthrough. Moreover, discussions across all panels helped to identify what is needed to effectively implement land- and ocean-based solutions. Panellists alerted to the lack of financial resources and stressed the importance of capacity-building, as well as the necessity to develop science-based metrics and assessment criteria.

Diversity & Inclusion:

Event organisers were requested to ensure events were inclusive of age, gender, geography, and represented a spectrum of stakeholders across all levels of government and sectors. Please share below the number of speakers represented in each group at this event.

Youth <i>No of Speakers under 35</i>	Geography <i>Number of Speakers from developing countries</i>	Gender Number of female speakers	Indigenous Peoples Number of speakers from Indigenous groups	Stakeholder Type Business, Finance, Subnational, Government Rep., IP, NGO
4 / 21 total speakers	7 / 21 total speakers	13 / 21 total speakers	3 / 21 total speakers	Business: 3 / 21 total speakers Finance: 2 / 21 total speakers Subnational: X / X total speakers Government Rep.: 2

				/ 21 total speakers NGO: 10 / 21 total speakers
19%	33%	62%	14.3%	

Audience - Please share the number of guests who attended your session:

On-site: approx. 150 pax.

Online: unknown.

Materials & Assets from the session:

- Link to concept note: [available here](#)
- Link to photos / Slides or any other materials from the session
 - [Ocean Action Events at COP28 - Programme](#)
 - Article: [Nature First: From Land to Ocean, Our Best Ally for Climate Action](#), IISD
 - [Photos by IISD](#) (credits: Photo by IISD/ENB | Angeles Estrada Vigil)
 - [Live Illustrations](#) by Housatonic (credits: © Housatonic)