

Ocean and Climate Change: Strengthening Research-Policy-Implementation Linkages in Asia-Pacific

Co-organized by the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific ([RCC Asia-Pacific](#)) and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)¹

Date and Time: 17 September 2026 | 14:00-15:30 GMT+7 (Bangkok)
Via MS Teams

Background

The ocean regulates the global climate, absorbing 20 to 30 percent of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and most excess heat, while sustaining livelihood and food security in Asia-Pacific region.² However, with ocean heat across the region reaching a new record in 2025, marine heatwaves are seen to affect the entire ocean, threatening local economies, marine ecosystems and low-lying nations exposed to sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification.³ With more nations and populations at stake, it becomes more clear that collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders is important – including bringing together governments, policymakers, implementers, researchers, academia and practitioners together, towards a science- and evidence-backed policies and actions.

The momentum on this front is building. The COP31 Presidency made it evident by putting this as one of the [COP31 Action Agenda](#), “increasing the resilience of vulnerable regions, oceans and seas.”⁴ Most recently, at SB64, the [2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue](#) was held and brought Parties and non-Party stakeholders together to discuss ocean-based priorities in NDCs, means of implementation, and ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies⁵, underscoring the continued need to translate scientific evidence into national and subnational planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

With the continuous growing political recognition and call to action, even more stakeholders and practitioners are making efforts to contribute to the agenda. At the global level, the [UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme \(NWP\)](#), a knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience, already links academia and policy through initiatives such as the [Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative \(LAKI\)](#) and [Universities Partnership Programme \(UPP\)](#), connecting graduate researchers with national and regional partners to address adaptation knowledge gaps. In Asia-Pacific, there is a volume of ocean and coastal research which has the potential to support adaptation and resilience actions, making them backed by science and evidence. This is viewed as an opportunity in the region to put together support and efforts, including strengthening linkage between science and research and climate policy and implementation on critical topics such as ocean and climate change.

Objectives

The webinar aims to create a space to showcase ocean-related research from Asia-Pacific and encourage Parties and stakeholders to continue advancing research- and evidence-based climate policies, with a focus on adaptation and resilience. Specifically, it aims to:

- Two research pitches on oceans and climate change from Asia-Pacific, particularly research relevant to adaptation and resilience planning;

¹ Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR), an intergovernmental network of 22 member countries that supports collaborative regional research, capacity building, and science-policy interactions on air, land, coasts and oceans, among other themes.

² IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

³ WMO State of Climate Report Asia 2025 and State of Climate Report in Pacific 2025.

⁴ COP31 Action Agenda

⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Letter%20from%20COP%2031%20President%20Designate_13April2026.pdf

⁵ UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2026, unfccc.int/event/2026-ocean-and-climate-change-dialogue-part-i-mandated-event

- Facilitate a multi-stakeholder panel dialogue among government, academia, and practitioners on strengthening the use of research and evidence across planning, programming, implementation, and M&E; and
- Contribute reflections and good practices to ongoing processes, including the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and NAP processes, ahead of COP31.

Target Participants

- Audience: UNFCCC National Focal Points and technical representatives, researchers, development partners, academic institutions, and practitioners across Asia-Pacific.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility of Asia-Pacific ocean research relevant to adaptation and resilience planning;
- Strengthened dialogue and entry points for collaboration between researchers, governments, and practitioners; and
- Key messages to inform national planning processes and international discussions on oceans and climate change ahead of COP31.

Draft Agenda

Time	Agenda
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome and housekeeping
14:05 – 14:10	Opening remarks • UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific • APN
14:10 – 14:20	Scene setting: Key Messages from the 2026 Oceans Dialogue and COP31 Vision
14:20 – 14:50	Research Pitches: Climate adaptation and resilience through research and evidence • Blue carbon from science to local action: Engaging communities and policymakers in the Coral Triangle • Climate vulnerability and resilience in Pacific communities, climate mobility, planned relocation, gender and adaptation policy
14:50 – 15:20	Moderated panel discussion (with open discussion) on bridging ocean research, policy and practice • Government representative to describe the utility of research for adaptation/resilience planning, programming, implementation and MEL • Regional partner to share how science can bridge adaptation and resilience gaps and share initiatives to support/facilitate this at regional level • UNFCCC representative (NWP LAKE team) to showcase regional/subregional work on research-policy linkage and present relevant opportunities for academia, researchers, and practitioners Open forum / questions from the audience
15:20 -15:30	Synthesis Thank you and closing