

AGENDA

Facilitator: **Musonda Mumba**, UN Environment

High level opening segment: Setting the scene

18:00–18:05	Opening remarks Mr. Paul Watkinson, Chair of the SBSTA
18:05–18:10	High-level intervention Minister Carolina Schmidt Zaldivar, President-designate for COP25 (<i>tbd</i>)
18:10–18:25	Keynote findings of IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate Mr. Hans-Otto Pörtner, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
18:25–18:55	Introduction to the technical segment Ms. Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, facilitator of the focal point forum Expert introduction into four themes for the technical segment Theme 1: Governance and Participation Theme 2: Data and methods Theme 3: Restoration and Protection Theme 4: Support (Technology and innovation; finance and funding; capacity building and education) (<i>Moderators of the focus group</i>)
18:55–19:15	Networking break

Technical segment: From knowledge to action in the topic of oceans

19:15–20:30	Parallel focus group discussions: Theme 1: Governance and Participation Theme 2: Data and methods Theme 3: Restoration and Protection Theme 4: Support (Technology and innovation; finance and funding; capacity building and education)
20:30–20:50	Summary of focus group discussions <i>Rapporteurs from each focus group</i>
20:50–20:55	Concluding remarks Ms. Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, facilitator of the focal point forum
20:55–21:00	Closing Mr. Paul Watkinson, Chair of the SBSTA

ADAPTATION OF THE OCEAN, COASTAL AREAS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Closing Knowledge Gaps and Advancing Action

13TH FOCAL POINT FORUM OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER • 18:00 - 21:00

VENUE: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA, (HALL 4) IFEMA

 COP 25 • MADRID, SPAIN

@NWP_UNFCCC

Introduction

Countries seek to protect hard-won development gains from the unfolding impacts of climate change. Much work needs to be done to build climate resilient sustainable development in coastal areas and oceans, underscored by the recent IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)¹. This effort includes scaling up adaptation actions, in line with the Paris Agreement and national adaptation plans.

Knowledge gaps pose a barrier to countries implementing scaled up adaptation action. In the context of climate change-ocean coupling, there are uncertainties and research gaps across bio-physical to social, economic and technical ocean issues. These knowledge gaps, including lack of data and understanding of adaptation options, can hamper actionable adaptation planning and implementation at the regional, national and sub-national level, especially in least developed countries (LDCs) in low-lying areas and small island developing states (SIDS).

There is an increasing recognition of the range of work being undertaken by stakeholders and Parties on ocean- and coastal zone-based adaptation. Momentum is building to fill knowledge gaps and form action partnerships to build resilience of oceans and coastal areas.

A scoping paper collaboratively developed with a group of experts on the adaptation knowledge gaps on the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems has been produced to support adaptation and resilience pathways, to encourage the co-design of actions and mobilize support for implementing actions in 2020 and beyond.

Photo by Lennart Heim , Unsplash.com

¹. IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N. Weyer (eds.)]

Key Findings from the Scoping Paper²

Governance and Participation: 'no more scattered uncoordinated approaches'

The first Marine Regions Forum Meeting (2019) under the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance indicated that a global-regional-national institutional setup is needed, rather than an uncoordinated approach. The need to build a global coordinating mechanism, which interlinks with other levels, is emphasized. Current arrangements are inadequate and a key area of analysis is to identify what knowledge is needed to inform institutional reforms, including lessons learnt from existing initiatives.

The complex nature of climate change poses unique challenges for institutions charged with mitigating, and/or adapting to, its impacts. This is particularly true for institutions at the local level in developing countries. Effective local adaptation requires responsive local governance from local institutions.

Finance and Funding: 'needs long term vision and innovation'

Long-term, consistent financial support is a key gap. The mobilization of national public funding to support integrated policies is often a challenge in many countries. This challenge also includes the awareness and application of innovative financial tools for adaptation.

Specific gaps and needs include: sustainable funding for the long-term financing of adaptation measures; micro-finance to support adaptation by community "local blue enterprises"; and development and implementation of integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation considerations into the insurance industry.

². Adaptation of the Ocean, Coastal Areas and Ecosystems. Scoping Paper on Closing Knowledge Gaps and Advancing Action. Available at <http://bit.ly/NWPoceans>

Technology and Innovation: 'Embrace system thinking, reduce risks & innovate'

Many countries lack national operational ocean forecasting systems and access to such services for forecasting marine-weather extremes to support maritime operational services, blue economy growth, adaptation and resilience building.

Identified gaps and needs include: upgrade marine technological capabilities and expand international cooperation; support local innovation and use of technologies by communities and micro-enterprises; assess risks and uncertainties of technological developments, including risks to local livelihoods; among others.

Data and Methods: 'Unpacking availability and access to data'

Knowledge gaps and needs are vast - from availability and access to data and information, tools and methods for forecasting of marine-weather/climate extremes to knowledge about the adaptive capacity of ecosystems (e.g. mangroves, corals).

But there are two main challenges we face. Firstly, there is a collective lack data on many ocean variables particularly with the granularity needed to make predictive models work well for many regions of the world. Secondly, there is a strong dissymmetry between the limited number of stakeholders that have the means and resources to collect and manage data (including ocean-based industrial players) and the rest of the international community.

Restoration and Protection: 'Build Back Better as a paradigm'

Knowledge gaps around restoration includes the need for both capacity building and improved technical best practices in site and species selection, integrated coastal planning, long-term monitoring and maintenance, coupled with better protection and governance of mature mangrove forests. Mapping loss and distribution of coastal ecosystems is also important as it impedes effective planning, management, and restoration.

Other identified gaps and needs include: offsetting the impact of ocean acidification and the role of mangroves and seagrass which take up carbon dioxide; involvement of indigenous peoples, women and local knowledge in restoration efforts and benefit distribution; among others.

Capacity-building and Education: 'Social Inclusiveness is the new normal'

The greatest knowledge gaps in this domain involves how to translate scientific and technical knowledge into the local context. This includes translating local and traditional knowledge for use by policy makers and creating opportunities for genuine dialogue of all involved.

There is a need to formulate and implement integrated, cross-sectoral and coordinated approaches to the management of marine and coastal areas. Such plans will need to focus on adaptation priorities, fully support the science-policy interface, and integrate the implementation of relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets. For this reason, capacity building needs to expand beyond the technical, and focus on strengthening the public sector, civil society, women's groups, and less formal networks of people.

FOCAL POINT FORUM ON OCEANS: ADVANCING ACTIONS BEYOND 2020

Parties established the Nairobi work programme (NWP) in 2005 as a knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience, thus becoming the longest-standing mechanism for stakeholder engagement under the UNFCCC process. At SBSTA 50 (June 2019), Parties prioritized several thematic areas of engagement including oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems.

In response to this request, at COP 25, the 13th NWP Focal Point Forum will bring together Parties and relevant expert organizations for an interactive event on this theme. Building on the findings from the scoping paper, participants at the Forum will **co-design actions to refine and close the adaptation knowledge gaps to advance actions** beyond COP25, in collaboration with NWP partners.



Photo by Gabriel Diamond, Blueventures.org

NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME METHODOLOGY

The Nairobi work programme thematic work has been guided by a [knowledge-to-action methodology](#), where a number of steps have been taken to **close knowledge gaps on oceans and help scale up adaptation action**. This process is supported by a group of experts.

The Nairobi work programme Knowledge-to-Action methodology



How can your government or organization work with the Nairobi work programme to bridge the knowledge-for-action gap?

- Learn about opportunities for collaboration at the 13th Focal Point Forum
- Share case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources through the Adaptation knowledge portal (<http://bit.ly/NWP-AKP>).

Contact: NWP@unfccc.int



