

**Marrakech
Partnership**



**UNFCCC COP 28
Dubai, UAE**

**Concept Note
Implementation Lab
Aquatic Food and Protein Transition**

**10 December 2023
12:30 - 13:30
Lab 2 (Al Jeer)**

**Organized by Madre Brava, UN Global Compact, FAO, Environmental Defense
Fund, SeaBOS**

Aquatic Food and Protein Transition event

Concept Note | Dubai | 10 December 2023, 12:30 - 13:30, Lab 2 (Al Jeer)

Background	<p>Research shows that one way to reduce emissions from the protein sector below current levels is to reduce total production and consumption of terrestrial-based animal proteins. In addition to offering significant climate mitigation, such a shift also improves food security and nutrition, air and water pollution, human health, and animal welfare.</p> <p>Aquatic foods can play a central role in that transformation, providing vital nutrition, reducing carbon footprint, sustaining natural systems and supporting livelihoods and culture. This was why the 2023 UNFCCC Ocean Dialogue selected “fisheries and food security” as one of the two topics for deep-dive discussions, acknowledging the critical role of aquatic food climate solutions. Global demand for aquatic food is expected to double by 2050, yet aquatic food is often ignored in climate policy-making and financing. Like for all food systems, growing demand poses both opportunities and challenges. Thoughtful investments and policies will need to be considered to foster a thriving, regenerative aquatic food sector.</p> <p>Moreover, food systems transformation can be addressed with alternative proteins that can play a role in this transformation by supporting the creation of new protein sources as substitutes to conventional meat products. However, the full potential of plant-based and alternative proteins has yet to be recognized due to a policy, financing, and market environment that encourage the continued consumption of unsustainable proteins.</p>
Description	<p>This event aims to look at the necessary measures to achieve the food systems transformation and the role aquatic foods and alternative proteins can play in this vision.</p> <p>In particular, the event will convene civil society, private sector champions, and policymakers to discuss the necessary actions to elevate the role and importance of these nutrition sources. The event will discuss innovative approaches for alternative proteins and aquatic food systems to contribute to climate, food security, and nutrition, recognizing that a food system transformation exclusively focused on climate benefits will overlook, and even exacerbate, impacts related to biodiversity, water, air, and human health. The event will look holistically both at the state of the aquatic food sector (food derived from aquatic fish, shellfish, plants and algae that are caught or cultivated in freshwater and marine environments) and the alternative protein sector.</p> <p>This event will include a focus on the strategies to advance sustainable and ethical production practices and climate resilient management of these resources, and</p>

	achieve a transition to more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems capable of feeding the world’s population amid changing environmental, social, and climate conditions.
Breakthrough	Ocean Breakthrough (Sector: Aquatic Food) and Nature Based Solutions
Guiding question	What are the public and private sector strategies that can most effectively increase the availability of sustainable aquatic foods in addition to plant-based and alternative proteins to advance food system transformation in line with climate, food security, and human health goals?
Targeted Outcomes	<p>This event will recognize the current challenges to fully unlocking the implementation and adaptation of aquatic food systems and alternative protein sector, and will highlight best practices and innovative options to overcome remaining obstacles to implementation, taking the full value chain approach. The objective is to raise awareness around non-state actor commitments and recent progress on ocean-based climate action, leveraging aquatic food related outcomes from the 2023 UNFCCC Ocean Dialogue, as well as to serve as an input to the Global Stocktake to conclude at COP28 in December 2023.</p> <p>Ocean Breakthrough targeted outcome: By 2030, provide at least US\$ 4 billion per year to support resilient aquatic food systems, that will contribute to healthy, regenerative ecosystems, and sustain the food and nutrition security for 3 billion people.</p> <p>Nature Based Solution Breakthrough targeted outcome: By 2030: healthy alternative proteins, especially from whole foods such as legumes, pulses, soy, beans, and peas, capture 15% of the global meat and seafood market.</p> <p>The event will also launch the COP28 Protein transition Call to Action which asks companies to significantly increase the availability of plant-based and alternative proteins in their protein portfolio by 2030, while improving the environmental and social impacts of remaining animal protein products.</p>
Objectives	<p>Aligned with the COP 28 and High-level Champions narrative, this event will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Position aquatic foods, plant-based, and alternative proteins as part of the broader food systems transformation agenda 2. Discuss key roadblocks to adopting and implementing a food systems transformation agenda in regards to aquatic food and protein transition at scale, including financing challenges; 3. Provide guidance and resources to drive private and public sector action on food systems transition, including corporate commitments, inclusion in NDCs, and policy incentives for shifts in protein production and consumption. 4. Exchange best practices and lessons learned from on-the-ground efforts that countries and companies can replicate elsewhere.

	<p>Solutions, partnerships, and resources that will be showcased during the roundtable include (non-exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Ocean Stewardship Coalition ● Scene setting on the need for a protein transition and priority strategies: Madre Brava ● Industry perspective: Consumer Goods Forum, Thai Union, Lidl ● Producers perspective? ● Government rep: Denmark ● Civil society: ARE or Good Food Institute ● Global Seaweed Coalition representative ● Climate finance representative (German Velasques (GCF Director, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation)(tbc), Dr. Ariane Hildebrandt, Director General of the Department for Global Health, Equity, Digitalization, and Food Security; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation at BMZ (bilateral funder on aquatic food systems) - alternatively, a representative from the Gambia GCF project)
<p><i>What are the nexus areas that your event will highlight (e.g. food/transport; energy/education; water/peace and recovery; oceans and coastal zones/ youth; land use/capacity building, etc.)</i></p>	<p>food, oceans and coastal zones, land use, social inclusion / gender</p>
<p><i>What are the concrete examples of progress that you will be showcasing in the deep dive and how it will add value to the discussions about promoting forward looking solutions in the context of the Global Stocktake (GST).</i></p>	<p>This event is strategically designed to bring together a diverse and inclusive group of speakers, aiming to showcase concrete examples of implementations and novel innovations in the realm of aquatic food sustainability. Our focus is on creating tangible, people-centered progress, which will be demonstrated through the sharing of practical experiences, success stories, and the implementation measures from the private sector that have expanded profits while reducing emissions.</p> <p>The event will launch new findings that shine a light on quantifying adaptation funding gaps within the aquatic food sector. It will also highlight the mitigation potential of achieving a protein transition for even a small segment of the global market, underscoring the economic and environmental benefits of novel alternative protein technologies.</p> <p>Success stories will illuminate alternative livelihood solutions for fisheries and aquaculture-dependent communities in climate and disaster risk-prone areas, with a special focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the least developed countries. The event will also introduce practical tools for communities and</p>

	<p>local/national governments to enhance adaptation planning and fortify resilience in the aquatic food sector.</p> <p>Highlighting the role of innovative, low-environmental impact solutions, we will explore how the private sector is advancing sustainability along the aquatic food value chain. These solutions include the adoption of renewable energy and the production of sustainable feed, serving as examples of actionable climate stewardship.</p> <p>Finally, this event will forge connections between the Global Stocktake (GST) process and various climate instruments and frameworks, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and outcomes from annual ocean dialogues. By aligning these processes, we position the GST as a powerful catalyst for transformation, setting the stage for real and enduring change toward a more sustainable aquatic food system.</p>
*Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National governments ● Financial institutions ● UN and related entities ● Corporate champions ● NGOs and other international organizations ● Local communities ● Scientific institutes ● Private sector ● Youth
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UN Global Compact ● SeaBOS ● FAO ● Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) / Aquatic Blue Food Coalition ● Madre Brava ● Consumer Goods Forum

Draft Agenda 60 min

Timing	Session Description	Speaker suggestions (Name, Title, Organisation)	Additional notes/form at tips
12:30 - 12:35	High Level Opening remarks	<p>Peter Thomson, Special Envoy for the Ocean</p> <p>Moderator: Vincent Doumeizel, UN Global Compact and Lloyd's Register Foundation</p>	Keynote
12:35 - 13:10	Roundtable (6 speakers x 5 min each + buffer time)	<p>1. 12:35-12:40</p> <p>Madre Brava - Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi Scene setting - Why we need a protein transition and more sustainable production to achieve food system transformation</p> <p>2. 12:40-12:45</p> <p>Thai Union - Adam Brennan How companies can help transform the food system through sustainable seafood production + finance perspective</p> <p>3. 12:45-12:50</p> <p>Government of Norway or Denmark (back up)</p> <p>Bubacarr Zaidi Jallow (Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia) The Gambia is the beneficiary of a Green Climate Fund project focused on fisheries. Could you tell us how climate finance is supporting the transformation of the aquatic food system and making dependent communities more resilient to climate change in your country?</p> <p>4. 12:50-12:55</p> <p>Small Holder (aquaculturist) - Suzanne Njeri, Association of Women in Fisheries Kenya (AWFBEK)</p>	Roundtable

		<p>Potential framing: From your experience as a small-scale aquaculturist and entrepreneur, how can the private and public sector best support advancement of sustainable aquaculture production by smallholders ?</p> <p>5. 12:55-13:00</p> <p>Small scale fisheries representative - Gabriel Muswali</p> <p>Eastern Africa Platform for Non State Actors in fisheries and aquaculture</p> <p>Framing: what challenges do you see for small scale fisheries to engage in the transformation of aquatic food systems to make them more climate resilient?</p> <p>6. 13:00-13:05</p> <p>Consumer Good Forum -Sharon Blight</p> <p>How can we create a demand signal for a food system transformation and protein transition and use a health framing to achieve this?</p> <p>7. 13:05-13:10</p> <p>Aquatic Blue Food Coalition - Dr. Michelle Tigchelaar of Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions</p> <p><i>5 min buffer time</i></p>	
13:15-13:25	Q&A with the audience	Moderated by Vincent Doumeizel	Q&A
13:25-13:30	Closing Remarks	H.E. Razan Al Mubarak / Gonzalo Munoz	Keynote