Marrakech Partnership

UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland

Outcome Document
Action Event: Oceans

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 8 December 2018
10:00 – 13:00

Organised by the *Global Ocean Forum/ICO; Governments of Sweden, Fiji; IOC/UNESCO; Ocean Pathway; Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal; Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan; FAO; UN Oceans; IUCN; Future Ocean Alliance; and other partners*

Marrakech Partnership | Global Climate Action

Section 1 – Outcomes of the Action Event at COP 24

Key Messages

Over 200 participants participated in the Marrakech Partnership Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event on December 8, 2018 (10:00-13:00), and heard presentations from 18 speakers, including UN Special Envoys and Champions, ambassadors and representatives from governments and civil society. The Marrakech Partnership Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event was aimed at stock-taking on issues related to Ocean and Coastal Zones and their consideration in the UNFCCC process. The event reported on major developments for the Ocean and Coastal Zones thematic area in 2018, such as the IPCCC Reports on 1.5° C and on Oceans and Cryosphere; provided an overview of the development of the Friends of the Oceans at the UNFCCC among state parties; and showcased efforts/initiatives to address the ocean and climate nexus at global, regional, national, and subnational levels. Evoking the major questions posed in the Talanoa Dialogue—Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? the event provided a vision and direction for the next phase, including consideration of oceans and coastal zones within the UNFCCC, as well as mobilizing other parts of the UN system and global and regional initiatives on the oceans and climate nexus.

The Marrakech Partnership Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event, as well as several other linked ocean events on December 10, 2018, comprising together the Oceans Action Day at COP 24, are summarized in a report by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, see (https://bit.ly/2Mf6Zmt)

Impacts and progress showcased

The key outcome of the Event was a greater commitment to include oceans on the UNFCCC agenda and the climate change negotiations, with many high-level delegates underscoring the importance of concurrently addressing threats to the ocean and the impacts of climate change.

1. Impacts or high-impact levers that the Action Event addressed

The Action event addressed impacts and high-impact levers, highlighting, in particular, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, a landmark report with far reaching implications for all climate change action and with special relevance to oceans and coasts. The report demonstrates that the predicted impacts of climate change are coming much earlier than expected, reaching a warming of 1.5°C as early as 2030 and no later than 2052, posing immediate threats to peoples and ecosystems around the world, especially in 183 coastal countries and SIDS. The report shows a marked difference between keeping a 1.5°C global warming scenario versus a 2°C global warming scenario. Under a 1.5°C scenario, displacement of millions of people due to sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and other seriously adverse effects may be avoided. Limiting warming to 1.5°C instead of 2°C would reduce

the impacts of rising sea levels, lower the likelihood of an ice-free Arctic, and limit coral-reef decline alongside many other negative consequences of increased temperatures.

The ROCA report on *Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2018* (https://bit.ly/2C0pF65) a report following up on the Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016 to 2021, highlighted issues and goals for the ocean as an inter-related "package" of issues that must be addressed at all levels of policy--the central role of oceans in climate and associated science policy issues; the central role of NDCs; mitigation; adaptation; blue economy; population displacement; financing oceans and climate; and capacity development.

The Progress Report underscored both the "bad news" and the "good news" related to the oceans and climate nexus. Among the "bad news:"

--Ocean temperatures in 2017 were the third warmest on record, behind 2015 and 2016, contributing, inter alia, to the intensification and destruction of storms, with unprecedented consequences in 2017 and 2018
--At the current rate of emissions, most tropical coral reef ecosystems are unlikely to survive, causing irreversible damage to ecosystems and peoples
--Arctic sea ice continues to shrink with ensuing flooding and sea level rise consequences
--In 2018, researchers found that the AMOC (the ocean circulation system which regulates climate in countries with an Atlantic coast) is the weakest that it has ever been in the last 1,600 years
--At the current rate of CO_2 emissions, the mean surface pH is predicted to decrease by another 0.3 to 0.4 units, the equivalent to a 100-150% increase in acidity, with significant impacts on marine resources and peoples using these resources
--Adaptation efforts must address the issues 50% of the human population in coastal zones is experiencing, including loss of life and livelihoods, and billions of dollars of damage to buildings, harbors, and other infrastructure
--Sea level rise is expected to be as much as four times the global average for the world's 52 small island states. Increasing levels of vulnerability means trillions of dollars in annual income losses, and for low-lying small island states the prospects of possible submergence and population displacement
--18.8 million people in 135 countries were displaced due to environmental disasters in 2018
--Climate change under a high emissions scenario is projected to reduce fish catch globally by 6% and by 30% in tropical regions, threatening the nutrition needs of 1.4 billion people dependent on fish for their nutritional needs

Some "good news" highlighted:

--The International Maritime Organization (IMO) committed to reducing annual GHG emissions by 50% by 2050, compared to 2008 levels, as well as to reaching peak emissions as soon as possible. This is a very significant development since projections suggest that with no action, 2050 shipping emissions could increase by up to 300% from 2008 levels under high demand scenarios.
--The Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm opened in September 2018, becoming the world's largest operational wind farm at a total capacity of 659 megawatts

--The MRP Map (Mangrove Restoration Potential) shows that restoration of lost mangroves worldwide could lead to the storage of an extra 69 million tonnes (0.069 gigatonnes) of carbon in aboveground biomass and would also help to avoid further emissions of some 0.296 gigatonnes of soil carbon. Such numbers convert to the equivalent of annual emissions from 25 million US homes in sequestration and 117 million homes in avoided emissions
--The Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has continued its efforts specifically geared towards building energy independence across Small Island Developing States, surpassing its ambitious goal of developing 100 MW of solar PV and 20 MW of wind power and raising USD 500 million
--The June 2018 Our Ocean Conference in Bali, Indonesia, resulted in 48 tangible and measurable commitments specifically regarding the blue economy.
--The European Union has maintained its 250E million investment into an All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance that seeks to support over 1000 Atlantic research teams from the Arctic to the Antarctic by 2020
--The World Bank has committed more than USD 1 billion to advance the sustainable oceans and Blue Economy agenda in developing countries

Commitments to SDG 14 and the formation of a robust Paris Agreement Work Programme, taking into account the ocean and coasts were also discussed as a part of the Marrakech Partnership Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event.

2. The short-term (by 2020), mid-term (2030) and/or long-term (2050) goals that were highlighted

The IPCC Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C stresses that major climate change impacts will occur much earlier than expected, as early as 2030, highlighting the need for immediate action (short-term and mid-term). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) will offer the opportunity to enhance goals for the ocean in 2019.

The implications of the IPCC 1.5°C Report are profound for ecosystems and peoples in the oceans and in the coastal zones of 183 coastal and island nations. Decarbonization of our societies must be realized in the short time available. As we focus our efforts on much accelerated upgrading of mitigation ambition, we must devote as much effort to mitigation as well as to adaptation and addressing attendant effects such as population displacement. The effectiveness of adaptation options comprising structural, physical, institutional, and social responses will depend largely on governance, political will, adaptive capacities and financing.

3. The initiatives that achieved those goals above, including new initiatives launched or commitments announced

Several international multistakeholder coalitions/initiatives have been working to advance these issues in the context of the UNFCCC, including, inter alia, the Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA), the Ocean and Climate Platform, the Because the Ocean Initiative, and the Blue Carbon Initiative.[1] Initiatives discussed at the Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event included the Global Coral Reef Partnership, a successful example of increasing action in priority areas of ocean and coastal zones, and a call for funding for an ocean prediction project through IOC/UNESCO, which would work through modelling, an ocean observation system, and predictive ecosystem management. FAO unveiled a landmark report on *Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture,*[2] a synthesis of current knowledge, adaptation and mitigation options, featuring over 100 authors and over 600 pages of country-by-country assessments for analyzing the climate and marine fisheries nexus.

4. How progress towards these goals were made in 2018 Mobilization of Stakeholders

The Ocean and Coastal Zones Action Event highlighted a number of meetings/actions that were held or took place in 2018 to develop a vision and agenda for concrete action related to the oceans and climate nexus for the period 2019-2021. These included, inter alia:

--The Lisbon Strategic Discussion on Advancing Oceans within the UNFCCC, March 21-22, 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal

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[1] ***ROCA***
Roca Report, Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2018, https://bit.ly/2RBnOOA
Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action Initiative (ROCA) Information Leaflet, http://bit.ly/2HqYhjK
Toward a Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016 to 2021, http://bit.ly/2hzqvyV
Assessing Progress on Oceans and Climate Action: 2016-2017 Report, http://bit.ly/2h94kw3
Oceans Action Day at COP 23 Summary, http://bit.ly/2HSsvuA; Oceans Action Day Bulletin and IISD Reporting Services Conference Coverage, http://bit.ly/2yRGw6U
Ocean and Climate Platform
Website: https://ocean-climate.org/?lang=en
Measuring Progress on Ocean and Climate Initiatives: An Action-Oriented Report, http://bit.ly/2hyT6RD
Because the Ocean Initiative
https://minrel.gob.cl/foreign-minister-munoz-signed-second-because-the-ocean-declaration-and/minrel/2017-05-19/151930.html
http://www.iddri.org/Themes/Oceans-et-zones-cotieres/Because-the-Ocean-Declaration-sur-le-Climat-et-les-Oceans
The Blue Carbon Initiative
Website: http://thebluecarboninitiative.org

[2] ***FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper***, *Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture:* http://www.fao.org/3/I9705EN/i9705en.pdf

--Meetings of the UNFCCC Friends of the Ocean organized by the Ocean Pathway and partners[3] during the UNFCCC Bonn meetings (May 6, 2018), during the Bangkok Climate Change Conference (September 3, 2018), and at COP 24 in Katowice, Poland (December 10, 2018).
--Several submissions to the Talanoa Dialogue,[4] and several papers outlining possible strategies for the way forward have been prepared.[5]

Actions on the Ground/Commitments

--The fifth Our Ocean Conference in Indonesia from October 29-30, 2018 which delivered a broad range of commitments for a number of predetermined areas of action including maritime security, marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, sustainable blue economy, and climate change, with 305 measurable commitments and a USD 10.7 billion monetary total. The Conference resulted in 48 tangible and measurable commitments specifically regarding the blue economy, with the World Bank committing more than USD 1 billion to advance the sustainable oceans and Blue Economy agenda in developing countries.
--The European Union has maintained its 250E million investment into an All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance that seeks to support over 1000 Atlantic research teams from the Arctic to the Antarctic by 2020.
--New initiatives like the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF) have emerged to help create a pipeline of bankable investment opportunities for coastal resilience projects with clear ecosystem service benefits, including blue carbon.

5. Describe specific policy options proposed to negotiators for incorporation in NDCs

There is a need for a broader inclusion of the ocean in global climate action, including in the mitigation and adaptation components of NDCs. This would contribute to address as many

[3] The Governments of Fiji and Sweden, Because the Ocean Coalition, Global Ocean Forum, ROCA, Ocean Conservancy, Oceano Azul Foundation, Ocean Policy Research Institute/Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Ocean and Climate Platform

[4] ***Talanoa Dialogue Submission, April 2, 2018:*** Prepared byGlobal Ocean Forum, ROCA, Oceano Azul Foundation, Government of Chile, IOC/UNESCO, Ocean and Climate Platform, Conservation International, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Pacific Community, Tara Expeditions, and Future Ocean Alliance, April 2 2018. https://unfccc.int/documents/65078
Talanoa Dialogue Submission, October 29, 2018: Prepared by, Global Ocean Forum, October 29 2018. https://talanoadialogue.com/view-inputs

[5] ***Papers:***
IUCN Paper: The Lisbon Meeting considered a policy brief especially prepared for the meeting, "Considering Oceans in the Climate Regime: Opportunities and Strategic Considerations," prepared by Thiago Chagas, Nicole Kramer, Charlotte Streck, and Dorothée Herr, February 2018, commissioned by IUCN with the support of the Government of Sweden.
Climate Change and the Ocean: Key Linkages, Needed Actions, and Options for Further Steps, Susan Biniaz and Daniel Bodansky, August 13 2018
Review of Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) Texts, Daniel Bodansky and Susan Biniaz, October 2018

sources or sinks of greenhouse gases as possible, including oceans and coastal-marine ecosystems, which play a critical role in the adaptation capacity of the planet. Currently 70 percent of NDCs address ocean and coastal issues.

The Global Stocktaking process will be a main tool to track progress towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals. There is not yet clarity on the extent to which natural solutions (such as the overall role of oceans as a major carbon sink) will be considered in that assessment and the measures that can be taken to enhance this role both through global and national climate action.

In order to enhance opportunities to increase ambition on climate action, there is a need to clearly understand what could be the role of oceans and coastal-marine ecosystems as well as to identify gaps in science and knowledge, policy guidance, methodological approaches, capacity building and other means of implementation to support global and national action. This includes addressing the following factors: science data, observations and addressing the knowledge gap, open data, informing policies and climate action based on sound science, means of implementation and lesson learning.

Several workshops on the incorporation of ocean action in NDCs under the Paris Agreement have been organized under the aegis of the Because the Ocean initiative. Workshops highlighted the ocean/climate connection and actions, and took place in Concepción, Chile (March 2018), Santiago Chile (October 2018), and Bonn (November 2018). Based on these consultations, a guidance document will be presented in Monaco in September 2019 when the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Environment will be released.

Section 2 – Outcomes of the work of The Thematic Area in 2018

2018 Impacts and Progress Showcased

As noted earlier, there were both "bad news" and "good news" regarding the Thematic Area in 2018.

Initiatives:

- The Ocean Pathway initiative was successfully launched by the Fiji Presidency in COP23 in Bonn in 2017, spearheaded by the Government of Fiji and Government of Sweden, with a two track strategy for 2020 supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement that includes; 1. Increasing the role of the ocean considerations in the UNFCCC process and; 2. Significantly increasing action in priority areas impacting or impacted by ocean and climate change.
    - As noted earlier, throughout 2018, the Ocean Pathway, together with a range of partners, hosted "UNFCCC Friends of the Ocean" discussions for parties to debate, discuss and agree on options for incorporating the ocean issues into the UNFCCC process in Bonn, Bangkok, and in Katowice; several key papers on the linkages between climate and the ocean were produced.
- The Roadmap to Ocean and Climate Action (ROCA), the multi-stakeholder initiative involving governments, international agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector, and subnational authorities to advance the oceans and climate agenda (especially in the UNFCCC, the UN Ocean Conference, and in other United Nations fora), and at the national level in all countries co-organized several oceans and climate meetings and prepared the ROCA report on *Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2018*, following up the Report on Toward a Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016 to 2021. The 2018 report highlighted issues and goals for the ocean progress achieved/not achieved under the following categories: the central role of oceans in climate and associated science policy issues, the central role of NDCs, mitigation, adaptation, blue economy, population displacement, financing oceans and climate, and capacity development.
- European Commission Initiatives
    - The European Union has maintained its 250E million investment into an All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance that seeks to support over 1000 Atlantic research teams from the Arctic to the Antarctic by 2020.
    - The European Union made 23 new commitments at the 2018 edition of Our Ocean Conference (Indonesia, 29-30 October 2018) for better governance of the oceans.
- Because the Ocean, launched by 23 countries at COP21 in Paris in November 2015, encourages progress on the incorporation of the ocean in the climate change policy debate, with a special focus on the inclusion of ocean action into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
    - Several workshops on the incorporation of the ocean in NDCs were organized in 2018 in Bonn and Chile, with workshops planned for 2019 in Fiji and Madrid.

- Roadmap for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, launched by IOC/UNESCO, will develop an Implementation Plan between 2018 and 2020. The main motivation is to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and create improved conditions for sustainable development of the ocean, seas and coasts.
- The Ocean and Climate Platform, a coalition of ocean actors formed during World Oceans Day in June 2014, with the support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), has especially focused on achieving a better understanding and consideration by policy-makers and the wider public of the scientific messages on the interactions between ocean, climate and biodiversity.

Moving Forward

A Step by Step Approach

In order to enhance opportunities to increase ambition on climate action, there is a need to clearly understand what could be the role of oceans and coastal-marine ecosystems as well as to identify gaps in science and knowledge, policy guidance, methodological approaches, capacity building and other means of implementation to support global and national action. Similarly, further understanding of the impacts of climate change on coastal and island communities is essential for crafting effective policy solutions.

Based on the need for a party-driven process and considering existing bodies and processes in the UNFCCC, there is a need for a step-by-step and adaptive process that ensures the deployment of an inclusive political dialogue on the contributions of oceans to achievement of the climate global goals. We need to clarify the scope and nature of required climate action, through UNFCCC established mechanisms such as the Subsidiary Bodies under the guidance of the COP.

The following initial steps were discussed at various meetings/activities noted earlier.

1. Within the Formal UNFCCC Processes

Consideration of Two IPCC Reports and their Implications for Mitigation and Adaptation Related to Oceans and Coastal and Island Populations

The IPCC 1.5˚C report

Hold a workshop/session on the implications of the IPCC 1.5°C report for oceans and coastal peoples and communities and identify gaps in science and policy to enhance the role of oceans in achieving global climate goals both at the national and global levels and to develop effective policy responses, including providing further guidance on the inclusion of oceans climate action in the NDCs and in other relevant bodies or initiatives of the UNFCCC.

The IPCC Special Report on The Ocean, Cryosphere and Climate Change (SROCC)

This report, centrally focused on the oceans and climate nexus, is under preparation and is due in September 2019. The report includes key chapters on Polar Regions, Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities, Changing Ocean, Marine Ecosystems, and Dependent Communities, Extremes, Abrupt Changes and Managing Risks, and a Cross-Chapter Box: Low Lying Islands and Coasts.

It will be essential that this report receive careful and timely consideration in the UNFCCC process. A review procedure including parties and non-party stakeholders, should be to held prior to and at COP 25. The results of these assessments could be used to ultimately develop an "Ocean Impact" scale for the main greenhouse gases, which integrates the effects of different greenhouse gases on both climate change and ocean acidification, and, as well, to understand the implications of decline in the capacity of the ocean to continue to chemically absorb carbon dioxide which would result in far faster and higher increases in global temperatures.[6]

Consideration of Points Related to Oceans and Coasts in the Paris Rulebook and in the Global Stocktake

Support development of a Paris "Rulebook" that promotes ambition, particularly through a robust transparency framework and effective Global Stocktake, and that allows for consideration of specific ocean/coastal impacts and contributions to climate ambition in all processes, including reporting, associated with the Rulebook. As well, insure that information on the status of ocean sinks and other relevant aspects related to the climate and ocean nexus is an input into, and subject of, the Global Stocktake. Similarly, ensure that the Global Stocktake review of the "adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation" includes ocean-related adaptation.

Supporting the Ocean Content and Ambition of NDCs

Support nations in enhancing the ocean content and ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions, including mitigation measures, adaptation measures, capacity development, and assist them in obtaining the requisite financing support.

Ocean Financing

Support nations to address the multiple and difficult challenges they are facing regarding mitigation, adaptation, displacement, and capacity building related to climate change impacts on oceans, coastal zones, and coastal and island peoples. More systematic understanding of the existing patterns of

[6] ***Climate Change and the Ocean: Key Linkages, Needed Actions, and Options for Further Steps,*** Susan Biniaz and Daniel Bodansky, August 13 2018

financial flows must be developed, comparisons made to financial requests made in NDCs, followed by careful assessment of gaps and ways of fulfilling such gaps.

2. Connecting, on a Systematic Basis, with Other UN and Other International Developments

Work and discussions on the oceans and climate nexus taking place in the context of the UNFCCC must also be synchronized and coordinated with oceans and climate initiatives in other UN fora (e.g., the 2019 UN Secretary General's Climate Summit, the 2020 projected UN Ocean Conference, the UN Law of the Sea deliberations, work on the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, implementation of Agenda 2030, and other related efforts), and with more informal efforts led by specific nations, such as the forthcoming Our Ocean conferences—in Norway in 2019 and in Palau in 2020.