

Marrakech  
Partnership



## UNFCCC COP 27

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

### Outcome Document - Ocean Futures Lab

# “Thinking outside the shell: Towards the sustainable blue future we need”

Organised by the High-Level Climate Champions & teams, the MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones, and the Ocean & Climate Platform

Tuesday 8 November 2022

8.30 - 10.00 AM

Nature Pavilion

## Key Messages:

- **Ocean protection and production can go hand-in-hand**  
The ocean greatly contributes to the 2030 Agenda, providing solutions and opportunities to draw a sustainable path between production and protection. The offshore wind industry being a good example. Sustainable Development Goal 14 sets out a global plan to restore respect and balance to humanity's relation with the ocean.
- **The sustainable blue economy can provide significant benefits**  
A vibrant, equitable and sustainable blue economy can spur inclusive well-being around the world, generating employment, supporting global food and energy security, while substantially contributing to achieving a resilient, nature-positive and net-zero world.
- **Ocean renewable energy can become a major source of clean energy**  
There are opportunities to scale-up sustainably planned and managed offshore wind in every region of the world. Other ocean technologies can also be reliable contributors to the clean energy market. Offshore wind development and other maritime activities should be greatly supported by investments and robust maritime/marine spatial planning to achieve harmonious coexistence with other ocean users.
- **The climate-smart aquatic food industry can be sustainable and a larger source of proteins**  
Climate-adaptive and sustainable management can support a thriving fisheries industry. Aquatic food can support a major shift in food systems by providing a low-carbon source of proteins and essential micro nutrients, in particular for indigenous peoples and local communities.

## Outcomes:

1. **Mainstream ocean-based climate solutions.** *Scale-up action at the national level and include ocean-related measures in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and their implementation. Recognise the potential contribution of the ocean to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) — including SDG 2 on 'Food Security' and SDG 7 on 'Affordable and Clean Energy' and of course, SDG 13 on climate change.*

The Ocean Futures Lab focused on two particular sectors: ocean renewable energy and sustainable aquatic food production. Throughout the discussions, panelists demonstrated through concrete examples how the development of both are essential to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and how they present major co-benefits for communities and their resilience. For example, **Amjad Abdulla** (Head of Partnership at the International Renewable Energy Agency for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)) insisted on the necessity of linking the energy sector to others such as tourism, which plays a major role in the economies of Small Islands Developing States. Participants unanimously called for more means - including access to science - especially for coastal communities and investments for the implementation of ocean-based solutions. Finally, as part of the closing segment "No Paris without Montreal" highlighting the interconnectedness between ocean, biodiversity and climate, **Razan Al Mubarak** (President, UICN) and **Manuel Pulgar Vidal** (Global Lead, Energy & Climate, WWF) both shared their expectations to see Nature-based Solutions further included in NDCs as they are "a major force for mitigation and adaptation" and key "to create the connection between climate and nature". They also urged State Parties and Non States Actors to address the climate and biodiversity crises together, to which the ocean is a great source of solutions.

2. **Recognise the potential of ocean renewable energy.** *Encourage governments, with the support of energy industries (as well as other relevant stakeholders) and informed by science, to expand the deployment of offshore wind, and undertake inclusive marine spatial planning (striving towards net positive impacts on*

*nature and people) as well as efficiently implement policy and regulation to enable large-scale offshore wind growth and meet the tipping point of 380 GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030.*

The Ocean Futures Lab showcased that a future where ocean renewable energy is broadly developed is within reach, by putting forth existing key opportunities to harness the potential of the ocean as a source of clean energy. Moderator **Anna-Marie Laura** (Director of International Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy) and representatives from the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** and **Ørsted** pointed out that the production of offshore wind, for example, has been exponential over the years but still, further efforts must be made. **Benjamin Sykes** (Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted) noted that technology and cost are not the main challenges anymore - deployment is, which needs to be sustainable, biodiversity-positive and integrated in marine spatial planning to coexist with other users. To this end, the development of international regulatory frameworks, common to the industries of the sector, was vowed essential. The discussion also addressed the role of financial institutions in scaling up and derisking investments to successfully support the sector.

- 3. Call for sustainable and resilient aquatic food productions.** *Encourage the production of sustainable and equitable aquatic food (including in small-scale fishing and aquaculture communities) that continues to meet the food and nutrient needs of the world's growing population; and nature-positive and resilient aquatic food systems.*

Bringing together representatives from **the FAO, Rare and the SeaBOS Initiative**, the first panel of the Ocean Futures Lab offered an in-depth look at the state and the future of aquatic food systems. Participants recalled that current productions are not sustainable yet, and that progress is crucial. Indeed, discussions showed how developing sustainable aquatic food systems is about food security, these products being essential to our health and future as a source of nutrients and proteins, but also a source of jobs, essential to the livelihoods and resilience of coastal communities. Both **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director General of the FAO and **Rocky Tirona**, Vice President Fish Forever at Rare, shared key enablers to achieve a sustainably-developed sector and support small-scale fisheries, including a call for more aquaculture licences, strengthened inclusion of coastal communities into decision-making and providing them the science and information they need to manage their own resources. **Wenche Grønbrekk**, Director of Strategy, Partnerships and External Relations of the SeaBOS Initiative, highlighted that as much as innovation and sustainability are important, policy is also crucial for a proper management of water resources.

## Materials / Assets:

- IISD/ENB coverage: <https://enb.iisd.org/ocean-futures-lab>
- IISD/ENB Twitter thread: [https://twitter.com/iisd\\_enb/status/1590031532894609408?s=61&t=uGEmbBH9wPSwAayeZM5TAQ](https://twitter.com/iisd_enb/status/1590031532894609408?s=61&t=uGEmbBH9wPSwAayeZM5TAQ)
- The OCP Twitter live-tweet: [https://twitter.com/ocean\\_climate/status/1589559386296311808?s=20&t=B2-dEDHmvBtIfhA8d7Pqw](https://twitter.com/ocean_climate/status/1589559386296311808?s=20&t=B2-dEDHmvBtIfhA8d7Pqw)
- Live illustration: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fOAK6v0RX4qDmAANKiPdPFfKLqJOqKGa?usp=s\\_hare\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fOAK6v0RX4qDmAANKiPdPFfKLqJOqKGa?usp=s_hare_link)

- *Photos © Ocean & Climate Platform:*  
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### **Case Studies:**

- Video: "[Femmes et Coquillages, delta du Saloum | Paddle Rise & Irocwa](#)"
- The SeaBOS Initiative: <https://seabos.org>
- The EAF-Nansen Programme, a partnership between FAO and Norway:  
<https://www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen/en/>