UNFCCC COP 25

Concept Note
Oceans and Coastal Zones Action Event:
Ocean and Coastal Zones Climate Action Towards 1.5°C Pathways

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

6 December 2019
15:00-18:00

Organizers

Supporting Organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan; Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal; Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK; Because the Ocean; Ocean and Climate Platform; The Carbon Institute; Canada Coastal Zone Association; International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification; The Ocean Foundation; Municipality of Salvador; Friends of Future Ocean Alliance

Version 27 November
MPGCA Event Oceans and Coastal Zones: Ocean and Coastal Zones Climate Action Towards 1.5°C Pathways

Description:

The IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate has sent a resounding clear message that action is needed to address climate change in ocean and coastal zones. This event will provide examples of action on adaptation and mitigation, as well as how the UN and other organizations are collaborating to build synergies for accelerating action.

Objectives of the event towards addressing pre-2020 action, the Climate Action Pathways/Yearbook of Global Climate Action/the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA), and the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit

1. To show pre-2020 progress and challenges, and to address the way forward towards 1.5°C Pathways and the Paris Agreement global goal for balancing mitigation and adaptation, this event will contribute to:

2. Raising awareness on the medium and long-term implications of the latest scientific knowledge on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (IPCC, 2018) and on ocean and the cryosphere (IPCC, 2019), and the urgent need for mitigation and adaptation actions in coastal regions, with emphasis on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and low-lying regions.

3. Exchanging experiences, success stories, needs and challenges, as well as recommendations on how to enhance vulnerability assessments, mitigation and adaptation measures and national adaptation plans to fully include impacts on ocean and coastal areas, and align them with the UN 2030 Agenda-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including how to build on the transformational outcomes of the 2019 Regional Climate Weeks and the UN SG Climate Action Summit.

4. Exchanging experiences on using nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation, mindful of the communities living in ocean and coastal areas and how these can contribute to enhance social-economic and ecological resilience with climate co-benefits.

5. Raising awareness for the need of a coherent and coordinated framework to enhance adaptation from local to global levels, and within the UNFCCC and UN processes, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that contribute to the development of a policy interface for ocean and coastal zones in climate action.

6. Developing actionable recommendations for raising ambition and building social, environmental and economic resilience through adaptation to climate change in ocean and coastal zones, while seizing opportunities towards climate resilient communities and their blue economies.

7. Identifying the UN initiatives that complement each other and help to enhance their contributions to global climate action, building on the synergies between them, particularly in ocean and coastal zones.
Types of speakers:

To deliver a knowledge to policy dialogue format, the event brings together representatives of the full spectrum of ocean and coastal climate action across scales of governance and geographical representation: a) scientific knowledge experts, b) practitioners and implementers of ocean and coastal climate action from public and private sectors, and c) policy levels focused on action and solutions:

a) Experts in the scientific knowledge of impacts of GHG emissions on ocean and coastal zones with the capability to translate the latest best available scientific knowledge into accurate non-expert language.

b) Practitioners and implementers addressing impacts of climate change on ocean and coastal zones on the ground and/or across scales of governance: Director Generals/Directors of Parties to the UNFCCC, Mayors and other leaders of subnational authorities, coordinators of programmes and projects, CEOs, leaders of emergent/innovative sustainable solutions, Expert NGOs and IGOs addressing impacts, and promoting ocean and coastal climate action for sharing concrete experiences on the ground and across scales of governance.

c) Policy and High-Level: President/Head of State/Prime Minister, Minister, Ambassador, Governor, Head of UN organization, Head of Regional organization.