



Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

10-11 June 2026, Bonn, Germany

Ocean Conservancy thanks the Co-Facilitators and UNFCCC Secretariat for your facilitation of the 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and welcomes the informative and timely discussions that have taken place over the last two days. We greatly appreciate your leadership in guiding this process and for the considerable effort shown in the development of the comprehensive concept note shared ahead of the Dialogue. As in years past, the Dialogue has successfully supported countries in integrating ocean-based measures within their national climate strategies and has provided a valuable space for learning and exchange. Building on this year's momentum, we welcome the opportunity to share priority considerations for enhancing the overall effectiveness and impact of the Dialogue, for realizing the mandate of the Glasgow Climate Pact on integrating and strengthening ocean action across the UNFCCC, and for ocean-climate outcomes at COP31.

The following recommendations are based on the **Topics for Discussion** identified for the Breakout Groups on Day 2 of the Dialogue:

1. Ocean-based thematic priorities in the NDCs.

There is both an **ambition and an implementation gap** to achieve the Paris Agreement goals that ocean-climate solutions can help close, but they remain underfunded and under-integrated in NDCs despite significant progress in reflecting ocean-climate solutions in national climate plans. Of the 119 Parties with new NDCs as of COP30, over three-quarters (91 Parties) include at least one ocean-based component, however only 12% of ocean-related measures target maritime decarbonization and offshore renewable energy which are crucial to the net zero transition, o. The Dialogue should continue to create a space to share knowledge and lessons on ocean-based mitigation solutions, such as offshore wind, renewable energy for SIDS, and the phase out of fossil fuels and just transitions. In addition, the Dialogue should facilitate further conversations on means of implementation to scale-up these ocean actions, including technology transfer, capacity-building and finance. Additionally, the Dialogue should provide a space to discuss stakeholder coordination and engagement, including how to develop and implement more equitable and inclusive ocean-based climate solutions, including through closer collaboration with the Mitigation Work Programme. Initiatives such as the Blue NDC Challenge can help the inclusion of ocean-based mitigation measures in NDCs and serve as added capacity in advancing implementation efforts.

2. Means of implementation as a cross-cutting issue.



Finance and access to finance remains a key barrier to closing the implementation gap and in building adaptive capacity and resilience for vulnerable coastal communities, in particular LDCs and SIDS. The Dialogue should help ensure that ocean-based solutions are not only recognized for their mitigation and adaptation potential, but also support Parties in championing ocean priorities and integrating these across the UNFCCC's means of implementation architecture, to ensure support for ocean action is adequately scaled up, predictable and accessible. The Dialogue should specifically focus on how to unlock greater ocean finance through the multilateral climate funds, including consideration of Blue Finance Window(s) and their role in prioritizing and enhancing finance for key ocean sectors and communities, towards informing the SCF's draft guidance to the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism. Key findings from the Ocean Dialogue should be disseminated to the Standing Committee on Finance to inform preparations for the 2026 Forum of the SCF on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean', and with the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) and Technology Executive Committee (TEC), to inform the integration of ocean considerations into their work plans, and these committees invited to the 2027 Dialogue to report on how ocean action can be supported through their activities.

3. Ocean-Climate-Biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.

Building on the "[Blue Thread](#)" policy brief, the Dialogue should explore how to align NDCs and NBSAPs – both in terms of solutions and leveraging reporting capacity. While aligning the Rio Conventions should remain the priority, it would be necessary to consider how to connect across other international frameworks and organizations (e.g., Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), International Seabed Authority, International Maritime Organization, Sustainable Development Goals, and BBNJ Agreement) to strengthen integrated ocean governance for more effective ocean action.

Furthermore, the Dialogue could be further leveraged to mainstream the ocean across the convention, in line with its original purpose and the Glasgow mandate. It could be used, ahead of each COP, to collectively elevate ocean issues within ongoing climate negotiations, existing processes, and Presidency-led initiatives. In order to do this, the structure of the Dialogue should explicitly facilitate the implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP) mandate for the integration and strengthening of ocean-based action across the UNFCCC's processes.

Specific opportunities to more structurally embed and catalyze greater coherence, collaboration and coordination for ocean-based solutions through the Ocean Dialogue include:

- 1. Establish a Standing Item in the Ocean Dialogue on 'Progress towards GCP 1/CP.26. on Integration & Strengthening':** Invite active participation and updates from across Constituted Bodies (CBs) and Work Programmes (WPs) to disseminate information on key entry points and opportunities to enhance engagement across UNFCCC processes, and



catalyze greater coherence, collaboration and coordination, in particular to unlock means of implementation for ocean action.

2. **Initiate Systematic Reporting and Track Progress:** Request routine reporting from CBs, WPs and relevant International Organizations to inform the Dialogue, to be systematically captured and progress tracked in the Ocean Dialogue Information Note and Informal Summary Report to COP. Such efforts would raise awareness of the opportunities for enhancing ocean across the UNFCCC, and provide greater understanding and transparency on the integration and strengthening of ocean action overtime, building an evidence base for consideration under the next Global Stocktake (GST).
3. **Encourage the nomination of 'Ocean Focal Points' within CBs and WPs:** Dedicated Ocean Focal Points would play a practical and pivotal role through incorporating ocean-related considerations and activities into workplans of CBs and WPs, taking responsibility to attend and systematically report into the Ocean Dialogue.

Emphasis should be placed on identifying specific opportunities and requirements for the integration and strengthening of ocean-based action within the work plans and activities of the UNFCCC's CBs and WPs, including the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), Technology Executive Committee (TEC), Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), and Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), to unlock finance, capacity-building and technology support for Parties to include ambitious ocean-based solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). In doing so the Ocean Dialogue can serve to bridge discussions from ambition to implementation, from national action to international co-operation, identifying the role for UNFCCC's processes and towards securing outcomes across intersessional work, at the SBs and in COP and CMA decisions.

Looking Forward

We welcome the discussion of a multi-year strategy (development plan) for the Dialogue, in particular, with consideration for aligning the Ocean Dialogue with the Paris Agreement ambition and implementation cycle to support the transition from ambition to implementation. Horizon scanning of key UNFCCC technical and political process, and long-term planning towards advancing ocean action across these milestones must be embedded within future Dialogues to ensure strategic focus.

In light of this year's focal areas, and to raise the visibility of the Ocean-Climate nexus and to leverage key leadership moments on the road to pre-COP and COP31, the key messages from the Dialogue and the Informal Summary Report could:

- Reflect on how to ensure coherence and continuity between the Pre-COP (Fiji) and associated Leaders Meeting in Pacific (Tuvalu) in October, and COP31 the following month.



- Provide an update on progress and outline next steps for the Blue NDC Challenge, while encouraging additional countries to join the initiative.
- Provide actionable recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance to support the preparation of the 2026 Forum on Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and the Ocean and the SCF's draft guidance to Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism.
- Integrate key findings from the Ocean Dialogue and SCF Forum into the COP special session on climate finance for SIDS, alongside considering wider opportunities to amplify these key messages.
- Provide actionable recommendations to inform the negotiations under the "Cooperation with other International Organizations" agenda item – aligning with the CBD COP16 Decision.
- Kickstart considerations on how best to integrate the ocean both within the technical and political processes and outputs of the Second Global Stocktake (GST) – in alignment with the CBD's Global Review.
- Include explicit reference to the Belém Mission to 1.5's alignment with the focal areas of this year's Dialogue, helping to build a bridge between the two processes and enabling the participation of the Dialogue co-facilitators in the Belém Mission to 1.5 process to carry ocean-based priorities forward.

In conclusion, this year presents a particularly important opportunity to make significant progress for the ocean and climate. With the incoming Türkiye-Australia Presidency of COP31 signaling strong commitment to ocean priorities, now is the time to advance our shared vision for a healthy ocean.

The Pacific Pre-COP must serve as a steppingstone, building on the leadership of longstanding champions and laying the groundwork to secure robust outcomes for the ocean at COP31. Ocean Conservancy stands ready to support these efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

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