

Provisional programme of the 2026 SCF Forum on financing climate action for water systems and the ocean

Time	Description	
DAY 1: FRAMING THE ISSUES AND IDENTIFYING BARRIERS		
7:30–8:15	Registration	
08:15 – 09:00 (45 minutes)	Welcome to Country ceremony followed by family photo	
09:10–09:20 (10 minutes)	Opening of the Forum Welcoming remarks. Overview of the SCF Forum objectives and expected outcomes.	Welcoming remarks: • SCF co-chairs • Chao Feng, COP 31 Deputy Chief Negotiator, Australia • Sivendra Michael, Pacific Island Countries • H.E. Robert Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, Climate Change Commission, the Philippines Moderator: SCF Forum co-facilitators Davi Bonavides (Brazil) and Isobel Bartholomew (UK)
09:20–09:40 (20 minutes)	Session 1: Scene-setting and framing the issues (<i>plenary</i>) Scene-setting session introducing the importance of water systems and the ocean in the context of climate change, connecting cross-cutting and systemic issues and highlighting the overarching goal that frames the Forum’s discussions over the next two days.	Professor Mark Howden, Vice Chair, Working Group II, IPCC (<i>virtual</i>) <i>A science-based overview of water systems and the ocean, highlighting their interconnections as well as distinct characteristics, challenges, needs and gaps, within the context of climate change.</i>

Time	Description	
09:40–10:35 (55 minutes)	Session 2: Climate finance for water systems and the ocean – trends and gaps (<i>plenary</i>) Overview of the current climate finance landscape as it relates to water systems and the ocean, highlighting recent trends in finance flows, persistent gaps, and key challenges. The session aims to establish a shared understanding of water systems and the ocean within the climate finance landscape, and underscore their importance for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.	Panellists Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Global Climate and Energy Lead, WWF (<i>Video recording</i>) <i>An overview of the current climate finance landscape for water systems and the ocean, including recent trends in finance flows, available data and evidence, needs and gaps and key challenges.</i> Bapon Fakhruddin, Climate Investment Principal Green Climate Fund Secretariat <i>Insights from an international climate fund on scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean, including emerging priorities, challenges and opportunities.</i> Salome Taufa Tukuafu, Strategic Partnerships and Donor Relations Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme <i>Perspectives from bilateral and multilateral cooperation on access, partnerships and implementation for climate actions in water systems and the ocean.</i> Martin Stadelmann, Principal Policy Advisor for Environmental Finance, Federal Office of the Environment, Switzerland <i>Perspectives from bilateral and multilateral cooperation on access, partnerships and implementation for climate actions in water systems and the ocean.</i> Q&A
10:35–11:00	Coffee break	

Time	Description		
11:00–13:00 (120 minutes)	Session 3: Barriers affecting the flow of climate finance to water systems and the ocean — structural and systemic barriers This session will assess the structural and systemic factors that constrain the scaling-up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. It will explore barriers across different levels of the finance landscape, including fiscal space and debt constraints, low financial returns and risk perceptions for adaptation-focused interventions, complexities associated with transboundary water resource management and challenges in translating policy priorities into project pipelines and finance-ready investments. Format: Rotating “Focus Lab” modality Under this modality, participants will engage in three parallel focus labs, with discussion leaders rotating across the groups through three 30-minute rounds to enable cumulative and interactive exchanges on all topics. The session will begin with brief ice-breaker introductions, and buffer time between rounds will facilitate transitions across the labs. Participants will be assigned to a focus lab with a view to ensuring balanced and interactive discussions across the groups, while also having the opportunity to engage with each discussion topic over the course of the session. Reflections and key takeaways can be shared during the closing wrap-up session of the day.		
	Focus Lab 1: Macro-fiscal and financial system constraints <i>This focus lab will explore structural macroeconomic and financial system factors that influence the quality, availability and accessibility of climate finance for water systems and the ocean.</i> <i>Moderator:</i> Shaila Mahmud, IIED Researcher and LDC Adviser	Focus Lab 2: Policy priorities and implementation <i>This focus lab will examine best practices and challenges related to translating policy priorities and planning frameworks into coordinated, finance-ready projects and programmes for climate action in water systems and the ocean.</i> <i>Moderator:</i> Patriciah Roy Akullo, SCF Member	Focus Lab 3: Investment and market barriers <i>This focus lab will explore systemic investment and market factors that affect the scale, quality, direction, and effectiveness of climate finance flows for climate action in water systems and the ocean.</i> <i>Moderator:</i> Karima Oustadi, SCF Member

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	<i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Daniela Paz Duhart Vera, Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Chile	<i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Camilla Agnethe Borrevik, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway	<i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Oksana Tkachenko, Founder/Principal Director, Lean Finance
13:00–14:30	Networking lunch		
14:30–16:30 (120 minutes)	Session 4: Enabling environments: governance and institutional systems for scaling climate finance The session will explore how enabling environments at global, regional, national and subnational levels can create the institutional and governance systems necessary for scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean. This session aims to examine how water systems and the ocean can be embedded within planning and policy frameworks, including nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans, and how institutional arrangements, regional and national coordination mechanisms and capacity-building efforts can influence the coherence and impact of climate finance flows. Format: Rotating “Focus Lab” modality This session will follow the rotating “Focus Lab” modality described under Session 3.		
	Focus Lab 1: Global and regional enabling environments <i>This focus lab will discuss how global and regional cooperation, coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements can support more coherent, accessible and effective climate finance flows for water systems and the ocean.</i>	Focus Lab 2: National governance and planning systems <i>This focus lab will explore how national planning processes, policy frameworks, taxonomies, role of finance ministries and institutional arrangements can help integrate water systems and the ocean into broader climate and development priorities and support the translation of those priorities into financing strategies and implementation efforts.</i>	Focus Lab 3: Subnational and local implementation systems <i>This focus lab will examine the role of subnational and local institutions, coordination mechanisms and capacity-building efforts in supporting access to and delivery of climate finance for water systems and the ocean at the local level.</i>

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	<i>Moderator:</i> Diann Black Layne, SCF Member <i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Professor Ian Overtan, International Water Management Institute	<i>Moderator:</i> Justine Coutu, SCF Member <i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Rawleston Moore, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility	<i>Moderator:</i> Kassim Gawusu-Toure, Executive Director, Greener Impact International, Ghana <i>Ice-breaker and rapporteur:</i> Abigail Oregelns Cartillo Carmona, Director, General Directorate of Ecosystem Management and Conservation Policies, Venezuela (tbc)
16:30–16:45	Coffee break		
16:45–17:30 (45 minutes)	Day 1 Wrap-up: Reflection and interactive dialogue (<i>plenary</i>) This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on key messages and insights emerging from the discussions held during Day 1. The session will begin with a presentation on the outcomes and key messages from the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue: Sivendra Michael, Co-Chair, The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue. Building on the reflections, participants will engage in an interactive exchange reflecting on practical experience, lessons learned and key insights emerging from Day 1 discussions.		
17:30 onwards	Reception		

DAY 2: ADVANCING SOLUTIONS AND DELIVERY

08:00–08:45
(45 minutes)

Opening of Day 2: From barriers to delivery *(Plenary)*

Building on the discussions from Day 1, this panel discussion will provide a forward-looking introduction to Day 2 by highlighting practical experience, implementation perspectives and lessons learned relating to financing climate action in water systems and the ocean.

Opening speech: Benjamin Isaiah Mitchell, youth representative from the Merriam and Mualgal peoples

Panellists

- **Himerio Justin VII Gozon Garcia, Executive Assistant, Climate Finance Policy Group, Department of Finance, Philippines**
National perspective on the importance of water systems and the ocean in the context of climate change and the economy, including their role in livelihoods, food security and sustainable development drawing on experience and insights from designing and implementing national climate plans.
- **Miranda Amade Miguel, Head, Department of Climate Policy Analysis and Strategies, Ministry of Planning and Development, Mozambique**
Practical insights from project development and preparation processes in translating priorities into implementable and finance-ready initiatives for water systems and the ocean in the context of climate action.
- **Mohinesh Prasad, Head, Green Finance Center (Virtual)**
Experiences with delivery models and financial mechanisms for strengthening access to and delivery of financing climate action in water systems and the ocean.

Q&A

08:45–10:00 (75 minutes)	Session 5: Financial instruments and approaches for scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean The session will discuss a range of available financial instruments and innovative approaches, particularly public and private sources, blended and concessional finance that can support the scaling up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. <i>Format: “Action Group” modality</i> Throughout the day, discussions will take place through two thematic action groups – Water systems and Ocean – anchored in practical case studies to support solution-oriented exchanges among participants. Participants will be invited to self-select into the action group most closely aligned with their interests and areas of expertise. Unlike Day 1, both discussion leaders and participants will remain within a single thematic action group throughout the session. Reflections and key takeaways can be shared during the closing wrap-up session of the day.		
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10:00–11:15 (75 minutes)	Session 6: Solutions to address barriers for the provision and mobilization of finance and investments Building on the structural and systemic barriers identified during Day 1 and the instruments discussed in Session 5, this session will explore how financial solutions, stakeholder engagement, partnership approaches and enabling		

	conditions can be combined to respond to specific constraints affecting the provision and mobilization of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. Discussions will aim to identify common lessons and practical considerations for improving the effectiveness and scalability of financing approaches across different contexts, including through collaboration among relevant public, private and community stakeholders. Format: “Action Group” modality This session will follow the modality described under Session 5.		
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11:15–12:35 (75 minutes)	Session 7: Delivery and access: reaching local actors and communities Assess how climate finance for water systems and the ocean is delivered to, or not effectively reaching, local actors responsible for implementation, including cities, subnational governments, and frontline communities. The session		

	will consider practical experiences and emerging models that improve the delivery, accessibility, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of climate finance at the local level. <i>Format: “Action Group” modality</i> This session will follow the modality described under Session 5.		
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	Action group discussions on the virtual space <i>The session will enable virtual participants to contribute to the Action Group discussions, share relevant experiences and perspectives, and help identify practical takeaways for the Forum.</i> <i>Moderator:</i> Nadine Gray, Australia <i>Ice-breaker:</i> Outi Honkatukia, SCF member A representative from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (TBC)		

12:35–13:45 (70 minutes)	Session 8: Key Takeaways and recommendations (<i>plenary</i>) This session will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the key messages and recommendations emerging from the two days of Forum discussions for consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance. Through an interactive exchange, participants will consider cross-cutting insights, practical opportunities for advancing action and issues that may warrant further consideration and action by the COP. Closing remarks - Incoming COP 31 Presidency - Incoming COP 31 Presidency of Negotiations - SCF Forum co-facilitators
13:45 onwards	Lunch and networking session
