

## 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue – SBSTA 64

### Plenary Statement Submission from The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Since its establishment in 2019, the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue (Dialogue) has become a key platform to accelerate ocean-based climate action and strengthen the ocean's role across UNFCCC processes. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) welcomes the 2026 Dialogue and expresses gratitude to the Co-Facilitators – Mr. Ulrik Lenaerts from Belgium and Dr. Sivendra Michael from Fiji – for their coordination and commitment to advancing the role of ocean-based climate action under the UNFCCC.

We celebrate this year's Dialogue three themes: 1) Ocean-based measures in NDCs; 2) Means of Implementation (MOI); and 3) Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation and we wish to share complementary reflections and resources around these themes.

#### Ocean-based measures in NDC

The ocean is increasingly recognized as a powerful source of climate solutions. As noted in the Co-Facilitators' Information Note, out of a total of 119 Parties that have submitted their new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), 76.4% of Parties included at least one explicit reference to the ocean, of which 86% included ocean-based adaptation measures and 55% included ocean-based mitigation measures<sup>1</sup>. These figures are encouraging, but much more remains to be done to unlock the full potential of ocean action through ambitious policies, greater investments, and cross-sectoral integration.

TNC is committed to supporting countries in integrating nature comprehensively across all ecosystems and sectors, including agriculture, forestry, wetlands and marine ecosystems, while ensuring climate justice, biodiversity co-benefits, and inclusive, locally led approaches. Our [Guide for Including Nature in Nationally Determined Contributions](#), co-developed with partners, offers practical recommendations to embed ambitious, science-based, and equitable targets into NDCs while ensuring climate justice and biodiversity co-benefits.

Also, as members of the Mangrove Breakthrough NDC Task Force, we're committed to mobilize policy action through NDCs and aligned policy frameworks in support of the Mangrove

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<sup>1</sup> Ocean Dialogue 2026 Information Note

Breakthrough's goal to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030. The NDC Taskforce recently developed a [set of practical policy guidance resources for recognizing mangroves within NDCs and the GGA](#), key points of which are in alignment with the Dialogue's three themes.

## **Means of Implementation**

As countries move from ambition to implementation, stronger support is needed to translate ocean-based climate commitments into action. While many countries have increasingly recognized the value of the ocean within their climate strategies, barriers related to finance, technical capacity, data, and implementation support continue to limit progress.

Addressing these challenges will require greater mobilization of public, private, and blended finance for ocean-based climate action, alongside the expansion of innovative financing mechanisms that recognize the full value of the ocean for climate action. As called by the Pacific SIDS at COP30, it's necessary to address these challenges by committing to tailored funding pathways that expand direct access and uphold social and environmental safeguards, gender equality, human rights, and intergenerational equity. This includes strengthening readiness support, reducing administrative and procedural barriers, and scaling up proven direct access modalities, such as regranting structures, devolved finance, and locally managed funds.

The Nature Conservancy is proud to contribute to this effort through innovative finance models and mechanisms including [Nature Bonds](#), the [Coastal Resilience Assets](#), [Coral Reef Insurance](#), the [Mangrove Breakthrough](#), [Blue Carbon Plus \(BC+\)](#), blue carbon markets projects, to name a few. These approaches are designed to unlock capital, reduce risk, and deliver scalable conservation, adaptation, and resilience outcomes.

At the same time, countries need support to develop investment-ready project pipelines that connect policy commitment with financing opportunities, as well as improved access to data, science, technology, and monitoring systems to strengthen planning, implementation and reporting.

## **Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation**

The Dialogue is a timely space to explore how ocean-based action can serve as a bridge between climate and biodiversity goals, especially considering the CBD COP16 mandate to enhance collaboration across the Rio Conventions. Greater coherence among these global frameworks can accelerate national-level action. We recommend that Parties and other stakeholders align their ocean-based climate actions with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), particularly Target 2 and Target 3.



As COP31 approaches, the Dialogue plays a key role in shaping ambition and building momentum. We kindly encourage the Co-Facilitators to ensure the Dialogue's outcomes are translated into clear, actionable messages for COP31 and are connected to other relevant UNFCCC processes, informing negotiations and shaping political outcomes. Continued engagement with both Party and non-Party stakeholders will be essential to advancing progress throughout the year.

This Dialogue comes at a time when ocean action is more urgent, and more aligned with global climate, biodiversity, and development goals, than ever before. The Nature Conservancy remains committed to partnering with Parties and other stakeholders to deliver ocean-based climate solutions that are science-driven, equitable, and resilient.