



OCEAN & CLIMATE
PLATFORM

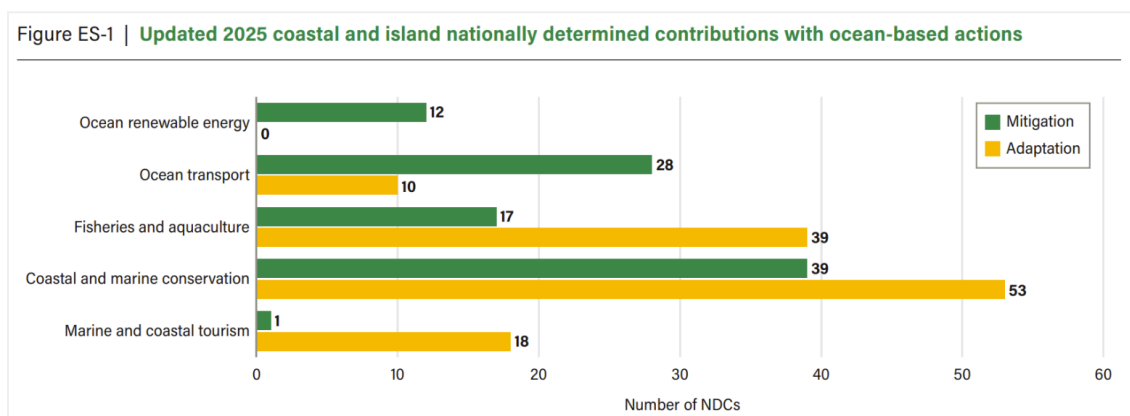
Belém Mission to 1.5 – Call for Inputs

Inputs from the Ocean & Climate Platform

The [Ocean & Climate Platform](#) is an international network of more than 120 organisations from civil society, working at the science-policy interface, to promote a better understanding and consideration of ocean, climate and biodiversity interactions in decision-making processes.

In 2023, the first Global Stocktake delivered a clear message: the world is not yet on track to meet the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, and the window of opportunity to course correct is rapidly closing. At this decisive moment, **the ocean stands as a powerful ally in the fight against climate change**, with ocean-based climate solutions holding the **potential to deliver up to 35% of the emissions reductions needed in 2050 to limit temperature rise to a 1.5°C pathway**.

While a growing number of countries integrate the ocean in their national climate strategies, **ocean-based mitigation options remain particularly underrepresented**. Of the 66 coastal countries reviewed, 60 include at least one ocean-based climate measure in their 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); however, ocean-based mitigation solutions **account for fewer than 20% of all actions assessed**¹ (see the figure below). Importantly, high-impact sectors – from the phasing out of offshore oil and gas to the decarbonisation of maritime industries and the expansion of offshore renewable energy – represent only 12% of actions reviewed. This a major missed opportunity to harness their potential.



Source: Khan, M., et al. (2025) / Data: As of 6 November 2025

¹Khan, M., et al. (2025). The state of ocean-based climate action in 2025 nationally determined contributions. World Resources Institute. Ocean & Climate Platform. Ocean Conservancy. Available [here](#).

In this context, there is a need to **scale up ready-to-implement ocean-based mitigation solutions**, as requested in the Global Stocktake (Paragraph 35 of Decision 1/CMA.5)², **and the Belém Mission to 1.5 presents an important opportunity to deliver on this ambition**. This submission provides concrete recommendations and examples on how this could be achieved.

What action areas and solutions have the highest impact potential to support the submission, ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

The phase out of offshore oil and gas activities: Fossil fuels are responsible for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and offshore oil and gas already account for more than 30% of global production. These activities continue to expand rapidly, with offshore wells alone representing 85% of new global discoveries in 2024³. The ongoing expansion of offshore oil and gas operations poses significant threats to the ocean and to the communities who rely on it (both through direct impacts from drilling to the resulting increase in GHG emissions). Urgent action is needed to halt this expansion, including bans on all new projects (concessions, licensing or leasing) and the redirection of subsidies toward ocean renewable energy alternatives. This should be complemented by time-bound pathways, aligned with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, to accelerate the just and equitable transition to responsible renewable energy – in line with the Global Stocktake (Paragraph 28 of Decision 1/CMA.5)⁴ and contributing to the “Roadmap to transition away from fossil fuel”. Additionally, plans should be put in place for the responsible decommissioning offshore installations, including through environmental impact assessments.

The decarbonisation of maritime industries (namely shipping, fisheries, and coastal tourism): Decarbonising maritime sectors could account for roughly one third of the ocean’s potential as a climate solution⁵. Achieving global climate targets will require a major transformation from these sectors to energy-efficient and low-emission practices across value chains. The [Ocean Breakthroughs](#) can act as a compass to guide this transition to a net zero future, identifying five tipping points for action by 2030 across marine conservation, aquatic food systems, shipping, ocean renewable energy, and coastal tourism. They show how working with the ocean can cut emissions, build resilience, and secure a safer future for people and the planet. The Action Agenda’s [Blue Package](#) Plan to Accelerate Solutions, launched at COP30, outlines the concrete steps that must be undertaken to achieve the Ocean Breakthroughs targets.

²UNFCCC (2023). Outcome of the first global stocktake. Decision 1/CMA5. Available here.

³Global Energy Monitor (2025). Oil & gas extraction’s move offshore: Trends and risks. Available here.

⁴UNFCCC (2023). Outcome of the first global stocktake. Decision 1/CMA5. Available here.

⁵Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Northrop, E. et al. (2023). The ocean as a solution to climate change: Updated opportunities for action. Special Report. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available here.

The deployment of responsible offshore renewable energy: Ocean renewable energy presents a promising pathway to deliver on climate mitigation goals, especially offshore wind energy. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and International Energy Agency (IEA) both estimate that 2,000 GW of offshore wind will be needed globally by 2050 to deliver the energy transition and limit temperature rise to below 1.5°C. These technologies have become the most mature of the offshore renewables' technologies, leading to cost reductions and making offshore wind a competitive energy source. Between 2010 and 2024, installed costs offshore wind declined by 48%⁶. However, its development brings trade-offs and challenges, and it should be undertaken in a way that minimises environmental impacts.

Attention point: these mitigation efforts should be pursued in a way that minimises environmental impacts⁷. Several pathways and frameworks have been developed to guide countries in this process, such as the Minimum criteria and recommendations for net-positive impacts of offshore wind development⁸, which apply the mitigation hierarchy principle. But beyond preventing harm, decarbonisation offers the opportunity to drive a transition with net-positive impact on biodiversity, and even contributing to restoration goals. While the urgency of the climate crisis is undeniable, slow progress cannot justify actions that risk undermining ecological integrity. The ocean has long stood as one of humanity's greatest allies in the fight against climate change – quietly absorbing carbon and heat, while regulating the planet's temperature – and it is absolutely critical to preserve its integrity and the services it provides.

In this context, it is necessary to focus solely on technically proven, ready-to-implement solutions. While technologies to enhance the ocean's ability to capture and store carbon dioxide (mCDR) are attracting growing attention, they remain surrounded by many uncertainties and unknowns, particularly concerning the efficacy of carbon capture and storage, but also regarding potential impacts on ecosystems and societies. These technologies also carry the risk of mitigation deterrence, where the promise of carbon removal could undermine urgent decarbonisation efforts – potentially exacerbating climate change impacts.

What is required to further strengthen international cooperation to enhance ambition and enable the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs?

Build country capacity through the Blue NDC Challenge and its implementation taskforce. There is both an ambition and an implementation gap to achieve the Paris Agreement goals that

⁶IRENA (2025). Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2024. Available here.

⁷Lecerf, M., Millington-Drake, M., and Picourt, L., (2024), Blue Thread: Aligning National Climate and Biodiversity Strategies, p1-13. Ocean & Climate Platform, Blue Marine Foundation. Available [here](#).

⁸UN Global Compact. (2024) Net-Positive Biodiversity in Offshore Renewable Energy. Minimum Criteria and Recommendations for Action. Ocean Stewardship Coalition. Available [here](#).

ocean-climate solutions can help close, but they remain underfunded and underintegrated in national climate strategies. To raise awareness about the potential of these solutions, Brazil and France launched the [Blue NDC Challenge](#) – a global call encouraging countries to integrate ocean-based climate solutions in their national climate strategies by COP30. In Belem, the two countries announced the launch of an implementation taskforce to help these countries deliver on their NDC commitments and continue to raise national ambition.

Advance the integration of the ocean within the Climate Convention. Since COP21, there has been steady progress in how the UNFCCC recognises the ocean, moving from one word in the Paris Agreement to its progressive mainstreaming. A key milestone came in 2021, when the Glasgow Climate Pact called for greater integration of ocean action across the UNFCCC’s constituted bodies and work programmes, and established the annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue. Two years later, the first Global Stocktake reinforced this momentum, calling for the urgent scaling up of ocean-based action. However, despite clear progress, integration remains uneven – it is neither systematic nor comprehensive, and has not yet translated into the level of action needed. Only through prioritisation and systematic integration can we fully unlock and support implementation of ocean-based climate action at all levels.

Build a “blue thread” across relevant frameworks, bodies, and conventions. Ocean-based climate solutions sit at the intersection of multiple international frameworks, including the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The unique cross-cutting nature of these solutions spotlights their significant potential to enhance international cooperation – building policy coherence, optimising resources and increasing overall impact. Importantly, by aligning their national climate (NDCs) and biodiversity (NBSAPs) strategies through ocean-based solutions, countries can support the critical role of healthy marine ecosystems in delivering both climate and biodiversity outcomes, contributing not only to mitigation but also to adaptation, resilience, and socioeconomic goals.

Conclusion

The Ocean has emerged as a priority across COP31 Presidencies. The “ocean current” envisioned by Australia as President of COP31 Negotiations is advancing, with a Standing Committee on Finance’s Forum on the Ocean in Australia, a Pre-COP in the Pacific and a Blue COP in Antalya. In this context, the Belém Mission 1.5°C offers a critical opportunity to place ocean-based climate action at the center of climate ambition. We therefore urge the Mission to champion the systematic inclusion of ocean-based climate solutions within future NDCs and NAPs and to recognize the ocean as an indispensable partner in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.