

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Twenty-sixth meeting
22 – 26 June 2026
“Marine ecosystem restoration”

Segment 1

The status of marine ecosystems and their role in sustainable development: new developments, approaches and challenges

Monday, 22 June

3 – 6 pm EDT

Panellist	Affiliation	Presentation
Greg Reynolds	Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations	<i>Building climate and community resilience through coordinated marine restoration</i>
Laura Bowie	Executive Director, Gulf of America Alliance	<u>New approaches to address the challenges of Gulf ecosystem restoration</u>
Boze Hancock	Senior Marine Restoration Scientist, Global Oceans Team, The Nature Conservancy	<u>Partnering with offshore wind to develop marine habitat restoration in the mesophotic zone: Oyster reef restoration in the North Sea</u> [VIRTUAL]
Liana Talaue McManus	Marine Science and Policy Consultant	<u>A Planning process for Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Shared Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): Lessons from the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</u> [VIRTUAL]
Lorenzo Alvarez-Filip	Principal Investigator, Reef Systems Unit, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología (ICML) - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	<u>Coral Reefs: Crisis, Outlook, and the Case for Action</u>

As at 18/06/26

<p>Kristina Boerder</p>	<p>Research Scientist Future of Marine Ecosystems lab Dalhousie University / Lead Scientist Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative, Canada</p>	<p><u>Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative: Community-based Eelgrass Research and Restoration in Nova Scotia</u></p>
<p>David Smith</p>	<p>Director, Centre for Environmental Management, Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Development, The University of the West Indies</p>	<p><u>SIDS, Climate Risk & Blue Economics</u> [VIRTUAL]</p>

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Segment 1

The status of marine ecosystems and their role in sustainable development: new developments, approaches and challenges

Tuesday, 23 June

3 pm - 6 pm EDT

Panellist	Affiliation	Presentation
Ranjeet Bhagooli	Professor of Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography, University of Mauritius	<u><i>Coral reef ecosystems of Mauritius, a SIDS nation: challenges and promises</i></u>
Bruna Rodrigues Debastiani	Senior Blue Economy R&D Analyst, OceanPact Maritime Services	<u><i>Mangrove restoration in the Western South Atlantic: Challenges, Innovations and Inclusion</i></u>
Sevandi Jayakody	Chair Professor of the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Chairperson of Marine Environment Protection Council, Sri Lanka	<u><i>A Science-Backed, Inclusive Paradigm for Coastal Wetland Restoration</i></u>
Philippe Cousteau	Ocean entrepreneur, filmmaker and innovator	TBC [Virtual]
Carlos M. Duarte	Professor of Marine Science at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia	TBC [VIRTUAL]
Janine Adams	Professor, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa Deputy Director of the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research Chair for Shallow Water Ecosystems	<u><i>Priorities for the restoration of Blue Carbon Ecosystems</i></u> [VIRTUAL]

As at 18/06/26

Mark J. A. Vermeij	Scientific Director, Professor, Tropical Marine Ecology, CARMABI Foundation / University of Amsterdam	<u>Missing conservation goals: Why standards are needed to guide Caribbean Reef Conservation</u>
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As at 18/06/26

Segment 2

Enabling and enhancing marine ecosystem restoration through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

Wednesday, 24 June

10am - 1 pm EDT

Panellist	Affiliation	Presentation
Xiaohong Li	Representative, New York Liaison Office, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	<u>Advancing marine ecosystem restoration through enhanced maritime security and crime prevention</u>
Ellen K. Pikitch	Executive Director for the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science Endowed Professor of Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University	<u>Restoration of an Ecosystem: The Shinnecock Bay Global Hope Spot</u>
James Kairo	Chief Scientist, Member of the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute	<i>Money works: How blue carbon trading scheme is restoring and protecting mangroves in Kenya</i>
Rory O’Leary	Head of Marine Strategic Policy in the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Government of Ireland	<u>Enabling and enhancing marine ecosystem restoration through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities – Ireland’s Perspective</u>
Owen Day	Executive Director, CLEAR Caribbean	<u>Enabling and Enhancing Marine Ecosystem Restoration through International Cooperation & Coordination Challenges and Opportunities — A Caribbean Perspective</u>
Nicola Ferri	Senior Legal and Compliance Advisor, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	<u>Advancing marine ecosystem restoration in the Mediterranean and Black Sea</u>

As at 18/06/26

Segment 2

Enabling and enhancing marine ecosystem restoration through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

Wednesday, 24 June

3 - 6 pm EDT

Panellist	Affiliation	Presentation
Kim Friedman	FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Ecosystem Restoration Focal Point	<u><i>Fisheries in marine ecosystem restoration: the FAO UNEP Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and Target 2 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i></u>
Chanel Raynor	Coordinator, Ecosystems, National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica	<u><i>Marine ecosystem restoration in Jamaica Enabling and Enhancing Marine Ecosystem Restoration Through International Cooperation and Coordination: Challenges and Opportunities and the Way Forward</i></u>
Verónica Cáceres	Secretary, Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention	<u><i>Strengthening marine ecosystem restoration -The role of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</i></u> [VIRTUAL]
Karina Barquet	Senior Researcher and Team Lead Water Coasts & Ocean, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	<u><i>Marine ecosystem restoration in times of geopolitical change</i></u> [VIRTUAL]
James Strong	Group Head of Seafloor Ecosystems, National Oceanography Centre, UK	<u><i>International collaboration on essential spatial data</i></u>
Elizabeth Sinclair	Senior Research Fellow, University of Western Australia	<u><i>Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Australia: building capacity from R&D</i></u>

As at 18/06/26

Segment 2

Enabling and enhancing marine ecosystem restoration through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

Thursday, 25 June

3 - 6 pm EDT

Panellist	Affiliation	Presentation
Daniel Friess	Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Director of the Center for Public Policy Research, Tulane University	<i>Achieving mangrove restoration at scale</i>
Mark J. Spalding	President & CEO, The Ocean Foundation Senior Fellow at the Center for the Blue Economy	<i>Cooperation as the engine of restoration: From shared seas to high seas</i>
Dao Ha Viet	Director, Senior Expert, Institute of Oceanography of Viet Nam	<i>Coral reef restoration in Viet Nam: Preliminary results, challenges and opportunities</i>
Margaret Miller	Chief Science Officer, SECORE International	<i>Cooperative Opportunities and Challenges in Coral Seeding</i>
Senne Aertbeliën	Policy Officer, Marine Environment Department, Government of Belgium	<i>Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) - Working Track Nature</i>
Jamil Ahmad	Director, UNEP New York Office	<i>From ridge to reef: The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration & UNEP's work in Marine & Coastal Ecosystems</i>

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