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## Oceans and Law of the Sea

### Contribution from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

#### I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat (“the secretariat”) seeks to contribute to the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea” (78/69), of 5 December 2023 for the report entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea” on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the resolution in accordance with resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33. This report will cover the main recent developments in the UNFCCC process on oceans and law of the sea, for the reporting period between September 2023 to August 2024.
2. Parties have recognized the importance of protecting the ocean and its ecosystems in the Convention and the Paris Agreement:
3. In the Convention, Parties agreed to protect the climate system (Article 2), defined as the totality of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and geosphere and their interactions (Article 1.3, Article 4 (d)).
4. In the Paris Agreement, Parties noted in its preamble the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth.

#### II. Adoption of and update on the mandate on ocean-based climate action

5. At COP 25, the [Chile Madrid Time for Action](#) 2019, governments recognized the need to strengthen the understanding of, and action on, ocean and climate change under the UNFCCC. COP 25 mandated the first [Ocean and climate change dialogue](#), drawing upon the knowledge and scientific findings from the IPCC [Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a changing climate](#).
6. At COP 26, in the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) 2021 (Decision 1/CP.26 Paras. 60-61), building on the outcomes of the first ocean and climate change dialogue in 2020, Parties invited the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes. Parties also invited the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Chair to hold an annual ocean and climate change dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.
7. At COP 27/CMA 4, in 2022, the COP [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision 1/CP.27 para. 50) and CMA [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) (Decision

1/CMA.4 para. 79) continued to strengthen ocean-based action under the process and encouraged Parties to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications.

8. In [decision 1/CP.27, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#), Parties decided that the annual ocean and climate change dialogue will, from 2023, be facilitated by two co-facilitators, selected by Parties biennially, who will be responsible for deciding the topics and conducting the dialogue, in consultation with Parties and observers, and preparing an informal summary report to be presented in conjunction with the subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Julio Cordano (Chile), and Mr. Niall O’Dea (Canada) are the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue co-facilitators for the biennium 2023-24.

9. At COP28, in 2023, the outcome of the first global stocktake (Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 180), welcomed the outcomes of and the [informal summary report](#) on the 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) and encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action, as appropriate.

### III. The Ocean and climate change dialogue 2023

10. The 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) was held over two days on 13–14 June 2023 in conjunction with the fifty-eighth session of the subsidiary bodies (5–15 June 2023), Bonn, Germany. The ocean dialogue had 250 participants. The two topics addressed were: first, coastal ecosystem restoration, including blue carbon and second, fisheries and food security.

11. The co-facilitators prepared an [information note](#) in advance that provided the choice of two topics, guiding questions and proposed approach based on consultations with Parties and observers, which took place in March 2023.

12. The 2023 dialogue was aimed at strengthening ocean-based climate action at national level and under the UNFCCC process. [The ocean dialogue](#) offered a vital forum for a) enhancing collaboration, understanding and building ocean-based climate action; b), illustrating needs, opportunities and exchange of more than 250 [case studies](#) by Parties and observers; and, c) highlighting key messages for COP28 and ways forward.

13. On 15 September 2023, the mandated informal summary report of the ocean and climate change dialogue 2023 was published. The informal summary report contains the key messages for Topics 1 and 2, on the cross-cutting issues, and for COP28. The key messages include:

(a) Integrating mitigation and adaptation action for coastal ecosystems into policies and management practices, at the national and regional levels, including into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), is vital to signal government priorities and mobilize finance; and to better streamline national focus areas with other international conventions and agreements, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

(b) It is essential for Parties to strengthen blue carbon accounting methodologies and tools. Parties must embrace the IPCC Wetlands Supplement in their national Greenhouse Gases inventories. Natural national accounting, ecosystem mapping, and robust indicators must be advanced to support ocean-based climate action, monitoring, and evaluation.

(c) Sustainable management of coastal ecosystems and recognition at local, national, and international levels of their direct benefits beyond mitigation is needed, which requires building awareness and advancing a data-driven approach to demonstrate and quantify these benefits. Assessment of blue carbon storage, ocean acidification, and conducting impact assessments, including for Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies, requires further observation and research.

(d) Integration of aquatic food climate solutions within national processes, as well as at the multilateral level, including in the UNFCCC process, is needed.

(e) It is necessary to recognize the role of aquatic food in the carbon cycle and for food security, and to mainstream into other areas of government, to ensure that food security, ocean sustainability, and conservation efforts are realized.

(f) Decarbonization of blue food production chains is integral to the just transition to renewable sources of energy and low carbon practices.

(g) Increasing, scaling up, and ensuring stable and accessible finance flows is crucial to aid the implementation of sustainable fishing practices and management and restoration of coastal ecosystems.

(h) Ocean-based systematic observation, research and data management must be strengthened to improve the understanding of carbon cycling and support science-based decision making, with a focus on first filling knowledge gaps that are preventing the ocean from being more widely and effectively included in the NDCs.

(i) Institutional linkages must be strengthened between partners at national and international levels and across UN mandates and processes such as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and the KMGBF to enhance global ambition and action for a climate resilient ocean.

(j) Removing barriers for easier access to funds, capacity building, and promoting skill development are vital, especially for developing countries and communities with relatively less capacity.

(k) Fostering partnerships and adopting a whole of society approach with communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women and the private sector is vital. Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities must be engaged from project inception to build trust, integrate local and traditional knowledge, and to respect their rights and take into account the principle of free and prior informed consent. Indigenous knowledge systems and local practices must be integrated with science and policy, while adopting a rights-based approach.

(l) It is crucial that Parties mainstream ocean-related mandates from COP 26 and COP 27/ CMA 4 into their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, as well as within UNFCCC processes, including in the global stocktake political outcomes, GGA, and the financial mechanism.

(m) The global stocktake is a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of the ocean in the global response to climate change and for the global stocktake political outcomes to promote the establishment of guidelines for Parties to be able to include and strengthen ocean-based measures in their updated NDCs, NAPs, and other national strategies throughout future implementation of the Paris Agreement.

(n) All constituted bodies are encouraged to continue reporting on ocean-related activities in the context of their mandates, and at the Ocean Dialogue.

14. The co-facilitators of the dialogue presented the key messages and outcomes at the COP28 opening plenary session; and [convened an informal meeting](#) to engage with the Parties and observers on possible outcomes for the ocean at COP28.

## **IV. Updates under the UNFCCC Process**

15. The UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes, have started to integrate the ocean in their workplan activities. With the outcome of the first global stocktake on the ocean, and the 2023 ocean and climate dialogue, this reporting period saw an increase in the number of ocean activities been planned for and implemented by the constituted bodies and the work programmes. These included: the Technology Executive Committee, the Nairobi Work Programme, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building, the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action, and the Adaptation Committee.

16. Additionally, ocean-based targets were also included by an increasing number of Parties in their NDCs and NAPs. In the 2023 [synthesis report](#) of the secretariat on the NDCs under the Paris Agreement, the new or updated NDCs reflect an increased recognition of the ocean's role in strengthening climate action. As of 31 March 2024, the majority of NAPs (29 NAPs, 53%) identifies sea level rise as a significant climate hazard. Some NAPs also mention ocean acidification, saltwater intrusion, increasing sea surface temperatures and coastal erosion. 22 NAPs identified coastal and low-lying zones as a priority area in which action is deemed key to reducing vulnerability to climate change.

17. Annex I provides for the updates on the ocean under the UNFCCC process.

## V. The Ocean and climate change dialogue 2024

18. In accordance with [decision 1/CP.27, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#), the dialogue co-facilitators convened the [virtual informal exchange of views](#) (“exchange of views”) with Parties and observers.

19. Nineteen Parties and Groups of Parties and thirty-four observers and groups of observers had provided oral and/or written views on the priority topics, expected outcomes and structure for the dialogue. Annex II contain the list of Parties and non-Party stakeholders who provided views.

20. By the [letter](#) dated 19 April 2024 to Parties and observers, based on the exchange of views, the co-facilitators decided that the two topics of the dialogue will be:

- (a) Marine biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience.
- (b) Technology needs for the ocean - climate action, including finance links.

21. In advance of the 2024 dialogue, the co-facilitators prepared the [information note](#) which elaborated on their choice of the two topics and cross-cutting issues, the guiding questions, the expectations, structure and agenda of the dialogue. 10 UN agencies, and 8 constituted bodies and work programmes of the UNFCCC, provided written contribution to the information note.

22. The 2024 dialogue was held in hybrid-mode on 11–12 June 2024, during the subsidiary bodies meetings in Bonn, Germany. The webcast of the day 1 proceedings is available [here](#), and of day 2 is available [here](#). More than 220 representatives from Parties and observers attended the dialogue in-person over its’ two days of proceedings. The full [agenda](#) of the dialogue is contained in Annex III.

23. On day 1 of the dialogue, speakers in the high-level segment, including the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Mr. Simon Stiell, urged Parties for the integration of the ocean into the NDCs and NAPs. The expert panels on Topics 1 and 2, representing UNFCCC constituted bodies, identified the synergies with their respective workplans and activities, while the UN agencies representatives demonstrated the institutional linkages on the ocean and climate.

24. The participants of the breakout groups discussed the guiding questions on Topics 1 and 2, and shared actionable recommendations, key messages and good practices from their regions and countries. On day 2 of the dialogue, Parties presented on good practices and case studies on Topics 1 and 2 of the dialogue, and thereafter Parties and observers delivered plenary statements on ways forward and further strengthening ocean-based action.

25. Based on the dialogue proceedings, the co-facilitators shall prepare the informal summary report that will contain actionable key messages, to be presented at the plenary of COP29.

## VI. Cooperative activities on the ocean with United Nations entities

26. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to strengthen [ocean-related climate action and its coordination](#) with a wide range of partners. The secretariat is a member of UN-Oceans, an inter-agency mechanism convened by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, to strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas, and in this capacity, it continued to share information on the ocean under the UNFCCC process with UN-Oceans members and continued to regularly attend UN-Oceans meetings. The secretariat also contributed to the submission of UN-Oceans to the first global stocktake.

27. The secretariat invited UN-Oceans members to contribute to its information note on the ocean and climate change dialogue 2024, and participate in the dialogue itself, either as

expert panel members or in breakout group discussions. Several UN-Oceans members, including DOALOS, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, International Seabed Authority, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Meteorological Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, contributed to the 2024 ocean dialogue.

28. The secretariat participated in the [UN-Oceans meeting on the BBNJ Agreement](#) held at the principals level, convened by DOALOS, where it endorsed the statement of commitments in relation to the Agreement, and continued coordination with DOALOS and other United Nations agencies in order to build synergies on ocean-based climate action and create opportunities across the United Nations system to support Parties in implementing the Agreement.

29. The secretariat was selected to serve as a United Nations entity on the Advisory Board of the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) for a period of two years, and attended the first in-person [meeting](#) of the Board held at the UNESCO headquarters from 21 to 23 May 2024. Further, the secretariat contributed to the development of the IOC-UNESCO draft Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management and the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning, which is part of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

30. The UNFCCC secretariat was invited by the Division of Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and DOALOS to contribute to the draft outline for the Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainable use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to be held in July 2024. The secretariat written contribution to the request is available [here](#).

31. DOALOS invited a representative of the UNFCCC secretariat to serve as a panellist at the seventeenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The UNFCCC secretariat representative delivered a [virtual presentation](#) on the topic "the global legal framework for addressing climate change and its relevance for sustainable fisheries management", on 16 May 2024.

## Annex I: Relevant updates under the UNFCCC process

### 1. Outcome of the first global stocktake

1. The outcome of the first global stocktake ([Decision 1/CMA.5](#)), welcomed the outcomes of and the [informal summary report](#) on the 2023 [ocean dialogue](#) and encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action, as appropriate (para. 180).
2. In the outcome of the first global stocktake, Parties noted in the preamble the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including in forests, the ocean, mountains and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth including the ocean.
3. The outcome of the first global stocktake invites Parties to preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems and scale up, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation action (para. 35). Further, Parties note that ecosystem-based approaches, including ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures, can reduce a range of climate change risks and provide multiple co-benefits (para. 56).
4. The outcome of the first global stocktake, encourages the implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine and coastal ecosystems, which may offer economic, social and environmental benefits such as improved resilience and well-being (para.55).
5. In accordance with decision 2/CMA.5 on the Global goal on adaptation, the outcome of the first global stocktake urges Parties and invites non-Party stakeholders to increase ambition and enhance adaptation action and support, in order to accelerate swift action at scale and at all levels, from local to global, in alignment with other global frameworks, towards the achievement of, inter alia, the target by 2030 and progressively beyond, of reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems (para 63 (d)).

### 2. Nationally determined contributions

6. In the 2023 [synthesis report](#) of the secretariat on the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the new or updated NDCs reflect an increased recognition of the ocean's role in strengthening climate action.<sup>1</sup> A total of 10 per cent of the 148 new or updated NDCs submitted between 29 March 2019 and 1 October 2023<sup>2</sup> include a reference to ocean changes, such as acidification and coral bleaching, and/or climate-driven impacts on the ocean such as sea level rise. A total of 56 per cent of the 148 Parties integrated coastal and marine nature-based solutions within new or updated NDCs as part of mitigation or adaptation measures.
7. Of the 106 NDCs of island and coastal States submitted from 1 January 2020 to 11 October 2022, 73 per cent included at least one target, policy or measure aimed at ocean-based climate action, of which 59 per cent included ocean-based adaptation action, 48 per cent ocean-based mitigation action and 13 per cent action that links to both mitigation and adaptation goals.<sup>3</sup>
8. Of the 158 Parties with an adaptation component in their NDCs, 30 per cent identified ocean ecosystems as a priority sector for adaptation and 11 per cent developed quantified targets for both fisheries and ocean ecosystems.

### 3. National Adaptation Plans

9. Coastal and marine ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate-induced hazards. Climate change adaptation is therefore critical to build and strengthen the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems. National adaptation plans ("NAPs") provide the opportunity to identify and implement

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<sup>1</sup> Lecerf M, Herr D, Thomas T, et al. 2021. Coastal and marine ecosystems as Nature-based Solutions in new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions. Ocean & Climate Platform, Conservation International, IUCN, GIZ, Rare, The Nature Conservancy and WWF.

<sup>2</sup> Among the 148 submissions, six countries that are referred to as "new" (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Ecuador, Holy See, Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan) submitted their first NDCs during this period.

<sup>3</sup> Khan, M., and E. Northrop. 2022. Analysis of Ocean-Based Climate Action in Nationally Determined Contributions. Technical Note. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available at [doi.org/10.46830/wri.n.22.00063](https://doi.org/10.46830/wri.n.22.00063).

long-term adaptation options for coastal and marine ecosystems through a holistic and integrated approach.

10. As at 31st March 2024, the majority of NAPs (29 NAPs, 53%) identifies sea level rise as a significant climate hazard. Some NAPs also mention ocean acidification, saltwater intrusion, increasing sea surface temperatures and coastal erosion. 22 NAPs identified coastal and low-lying zones as a priority area in which action is deemed key to reducing vulnerability to climate change.

11. Some of the adaptation actions and measures included in the NAPs to address the vulnerability of coastal and low-lying zones are:

- (a) Promotion of low-cost coastline protection techniques;
- (b) Restoring and protecting mangroves; design and implement integrated coastal zone management and resilience plans to restore mangroves, coastal barriers and coastal aquifer recharge;
- (c) Establish robust and long-term mangrove ecosystem health surveillance, monitoring and analysis to develop insights into their current state and map future risks and vulnerabilities;
- (d) Establishment of a sea level rise monitoring system;
- (e) Improve technical capacity and institutional arrangements for coastal zone management;
- (f) Develop and update ocean ecosystem management policies, guidelines and institutional capacities for management of the blue economy;
- (g) Provide financial aid for preventative and protective actions for coastal damage;
- (h) Raise awareness among decision-makers to incorporate sea level rise scenarios into development plans;
- (i) Promotion of non-destructive fishing techniques to maintain resilience of marine ecosystems;
- (j) Legislate laws to restrict negative anthropogenic activities in the coastal zones to maintain coastal wildlife;
- (k) Implement nature-based erosion control techniques and restore degraded areas;
- (l) Promote research for a better understanding of the risk of marine submersion.

12. Cameroon, Grenada, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo – among others – have undertaken climate vulnerability and risk assessments on coastal zones, examining the vulnerability of fishing communities and ecosystems.

13. Some countries explicitly included ensuring the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems in the objectives of their NAPs (Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Saint Lucia).

14. Sierra Leone produced a Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP) and integrated it into the NAP. Grenada has integrated adaptation considerations into its coastal zone policies.

#### **4. Adaptation Committee**

15. As part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, Parties established the Adaptation Committee (AC) to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. There is an opportunity for the AC to enhance its support towards the ocean agenda. By aligning our efforts with this area, the AC can effectively contribute to broader technical guidance on the relevant theme as outlined in the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience decisions from COP28.

16. One proposed avenue is to intensify the focus of the AC on gathering information and experiences from Parties and stakeholders regarding ocean-based adaptation action. This could involve integrating ocean-related data into our existing State of Adaptation, particularly country profiles, and expanding our intelligence-gathering efforts to track progress towards UAE Framework targets, possibly through enhancements to the work on the State of Adaptation portal.

17. Additionally, the AC may wish to explore ways to incorporate ocean-related activities into our training materials and technical guidance, ensuring a more comprehensive approach to



supporting adaptation efforts globally. Collaborative engagements with other relevant bodies offer further opportunities for cross-cutting initiatives in this domain.

18. Furthermore, by aligning our support with the ocean agenda, the AC can play a significant role in advancing adaptation action to ensure our efforts are coherent and manageable, fostering resilience in marine and coastal ecosystems.

19. Currently, focus within the AC is on leveraging ongoing initiatives that can provide tools for advancing adaptation action. This may include addressing technology needs for ocean-climate action, along with establishing vital finance links. Significant existing AC resources include the Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes. Additionally, methodologies covering various aspects, from reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support to prioritizing gender-responsive adaptation action, strategies for assessing adaptation needs, and navigating the support landscape for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, are available. Collaborative work with the NWP and other constituted bodies on cross-cutting aspects could also be of interest.

20. Looking ahead, we anticipate fruitful discussions on how best to integrate these ideas into the future flexible workplans of the AC as appropriate.

## 5. Nairobi Work Programme

21. The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (“NWP”) seeks to advance both transformational and long-term incremental adaptation towards reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience.<sup>4</sup> The recent report on activities under the NWP, by region, between 2019 and 2023 prepared for SBSTA 60<sup>5</sup> provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the NWP with thematic expert groups, UNFCCC constituted bodies and communities of practice to enhance action at the regional and transboundary level, through the provision of information and application of knowledge, to achieve transformational adaptation and resilience, including on oceans.

22. **Ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems.** To address needs identified by Parties, the secretariat established the NWP expert group on oceans,<sup>6</sup> which includes the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the IPCC, and prepared several knowledge products in collaboration with constituted bodies such as the LEG and the TEC. Relevant region-specific knowledge products include:

(a) A scoping paper on closing knowledge gaps and advancing adaptation action for ocean, coastal areas and related ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves, that addresses climate change impacts, including of slow onset events, resilience-building and adaptation.<sup>7</sup> The paper draws on initiatives and actions in several regions, including Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific SIDS;

(b) A policy brief on innovative approaches to strengthening coastal and ocean adaptation, prepared by the NWP expert group on oceans in collaboration with IUCN and the TEC, that summarizes action across many regions and includes recommendations for scaling up innovative approaches in order to achieve multiple benefits for people and nature;<sup>8</sup>

(c) A report prepared by the NWP expert group on oceans in collaboration with the GCF and the LEG that provides insights for developing countries relevant to implementing NAPs to increase resilience to extreme climatic events.<sup>9</sup> This report is targeted at the LDCs and SIDS in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. According to the report, the capacity of the LDCs and SIDS to develop high-quality project proposals must be enhanced to unlock access to funding for nature-

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<sup>4</sup> For more information on the NWP, see <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2024/2.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/NWP-Expert-Group-on-Oceans.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup> UNFCCC. 2019. *Adaptation of the Ocean, Coastal Areas and Ecosystems: Scoping Paper on Closing Knowledge Gaps and Advancing Action*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/230928>.

<sup>8</sup> UNFCCC and IUCN. 2022. *Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation - Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/510426>.

<sup>9</sup> UNFCCC. 2021. *Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs: Considerations for GCF proposal development*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278047>.



based solutions, including ecosystem-based adaptation. The report identifies entry points for enhancing access to the GCF for funding to implement coastal and marine nature-based solutions.

(d) At the 13<sup>th</sup> NWP Focal Point Forum, on the ocean, held at COP 25,<sup>10</sup> an IPCC presentation on the findings in its Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere<sup>11</sup> was followed by a discussion among Parties and NWP partners on knowledge needs and specific actions that national Governments and NWP partners could take to address knowledge gaps in order to build the resilience of ocean, coastal areas and related ecosystems.

23. **LAKI** is a joint initiative between the secretariat and UNEP through its Global Adaptation Network, an action pledge under the NWP, that aims to enhance adaptation action in subregions by closing priority knowledge gaps in all countries, but particularly in developing countries, including the LDCs, SIDS and African States.<sup>12</sup>

24. **Pacific small island developing States.** The activities for this subregion cover 14 SIDS: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, of which three are LDCs.

25. The UNFCCC secretariat, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme co-convened a virtual priority-setting workshop for the Pacific SIDS.<sup>13</sup> The workshop helped to enhance understanding of the priority knowledge gaps impeding the implementation and scaling up of adaptation action in the Pacific SIDS. During the workshop, the experts focused on how to use existing data and information to bridge certain knowledge gaps, how to facilitate the informed application of knowledge and how to enhance access to information by those implementing actions on the ground. Priority knowledge gaps discussed during the workshop include how to include women, girls and people with disabilities in the design and implementation of adaptation plans and policies; how to enable access by government officers working in climate change, finance and other relevant ministries to climate change adaptation funds; how to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into programme design; and how to determine the limits to ecosystem-based approaches in the face of future climate change.

26. The priority knowledge gaps for the Pacific SIDS identified from applying the LAKI methodology have guided the development of new and innovative ways of achieving resilience in the Pacific SIDS. A strategic partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the UNEP Asia Pacific Adaptation Network has resulted in the establishment of relationships with new partners and the implementation of co-developed activities designed to address these gaps, one of which is a regional event held during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023.<sup>14</sup>

## 6. Technology Executive Committee

27. **Background.** Since last year, the Technology Executive Committee (“TEC”) has implemented its’ “Rolling workplan of the Technology Executive Committee for 2023–2027”. Under this workplan, the TEC has not only dedicated activity on Innovative Ocean Climate Solutions which aims to analyze the contributions of innovative solutions and technological innovations for ocean-based actions, including how technology can help address issues related to marine protected areas and achieve the SDG 14, but also some different activities which could relate to the ocean technologies e.g. early warning systems, disaster risk management, water-energy-food systems and digital technologies (particularly AI). To carry out this workplan and complete some deliverables in a timely manner, and ensuring the quality of outcomes, the TEC has strengthened our partnerships with various organizations to leverage their knowledge and insights in our work. For the work on Ocean and EWS, the TEC has been closely working with IUCN, ICO and GEO.

28. **TEC knowledge products related to Oceans and Technology.** In 2022, the TEC published two Policy Briefs “[Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation: Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solution](#)” and “[Technologies for Averting, Minimizing](#)

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<sup>10</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/13th-focal-point-forum-of-the-nairobi-work-programme-on-the-ocean>.

<sup>11</sup> IPCC. 2019. Glossary. In: H-O Pörtner, DC Roberts, V Masson-Delmotte, et al. (eds.). *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.677–702. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/>.

<sup>12</sup> For more information, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2022/4 (chap. V) and <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/laki.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> For more information, as well as the workshop report, see [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-\(LAKI\)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-(LAKI)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx).

<sup>14</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/news/closing-adaptation-knowledge-gaps-in-asia-pacific>.

[and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones](#)”, in collaboration with relevant constituted bodies and stakeholders. These policy briefs provided information on an array of technologies – hardware, software, and orgware – currently available to assess risks, reduce risks, recover and rehabilitate from the impacts of climate change in coastal zones. It also highlighted the challenges and opportunities of these technologies where improvements can be made to help countries prepare better to deal with adverse impacts of climate change in coastal zones. In 2023, drawing upon these policy briefs, the TEC provided key messages and recommendations for the COP and CMA on innovative technologies and integrated adaptation solutions in the ocean and coastal zones. This can be seen [here](#).

## 7. Paris Committee on Capacity Building

29. **Mainstreaming the ocean at the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (“PCCB”) Capacity-building Hubs.** To respond to the mandate from COP 26 to constituted bodies to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and workplans, the PCCB has been mainstreaming oceans at its Capacity-building Hubs during the COPs. The PCCB hosted Capacity-building Hubs,<sup>15</sup> bring together international partners and capacity-building stakeholders to organize a week-long series of sessions on different themes to foster co-creation and sharing of knowledge and collaboration within the capacity-building community.

30. *“Oceans and Land Day” at the 4th Capacity-building Hub at COP27.* The Oceans and Land Day sought to highlight capacity-building efforts related to the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. Eight sessions were organized by 11 different partners with the key outcomes including:

(a) The need to integrate scientific, traditional, local, and indigenous knowledge systems into implementing the Rio Conventions and the Paris Agreement.

(b) Emphasized mainstreaming nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into climate adaptation plans, especially for SIDS and LDCs.

(c) Emphasis on bottom-up conservation and sustainable development, leveraging local knowledge for climate adaptation and environmental stewardship.

(d) Capacity-building programs for understanding governance frameworks like UNCLOS and the Paris Agreement.

(e) Success factors for NbS implementation include: community-led conservation, cross-sectoral solutions, strengthening local capacities and knowledge, incorporating traditional management practices into formal regulatory frameworks, and ensuring long-term ecological resilience by improving access to finance and economic resilience in the short-term.

31. *“Rio Conventions Synergies Day” at the 6th Capacity-building Hub at COP29.* As the three Rio Conventions address interconnected environmental challenges, there is a need to build capacities for understanding the synergies that exist between the three Conventions and the systems that they represent. This includes integrating marine biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience efforts into broader conservation and sustainability strategies to contribute to both adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly as regards the important role oceans play in regulating the carbon cycle.

32. This thematic day would seek to delve into case studies showcasing successful integration of efforts, highlight the benefits of coordinated action, as well as share the best examples of developing practical tools and methodologies for assessing and leveraging synergies. Empowering stakeholders to implement integrated strategies at local, national, and international levels is essential for achieving meaningful progress in marine biodiversity conservation. The day would also seek to provide a platform that brings together policymakers, communities, and researchers to catalyze innovative solutions for sharing integrated and effective approaches to addressing the interconnected challenges facing coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

## 8. Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

33. Within the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership, the [2030 Climate Solutions](#) was launched at COP 28 to bring together their existing 2030 frameworks and tools, including concrete solutions and opportunities in the area of Ocean and Coastal Zones, such

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<sup>15</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/capacity-building-hub>.

as Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Ocean Renewable Energy, Aquatic Food, Marine Conservation and Shipping.

34. Moving on to 2024, the priorities include regionalizing the 2030 Climate Solutions and ensuring that ocean-based solutions are scalable and based on scientific knowledge to drive forward the implementation of the outcome of the first global stocktake and support national governments in preparing for enhanced NDCs. Starting with mangroves, the specific targets are to invest in securing the future 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by halting mangrove loss and restoring recent losses, doubling their protection and sustaining long-term finance for existing mangroves. For coral reefs, the target is to secure at least 125,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow-water tropical coral reefs and to invest for the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030. The target for ocean renewable energy is to install at least 380 GW of offshore capacity by 2030 and establish targets and measures for net-positive biodiversity outcomes, and finally to mobilise concessional finance for developing countries to reach the targets. In terms of aquatic food, the target is to provide financial support for resilient aquatic food systems and sustain food and nutrition security for three billion people. For marine conservation, significant investments should be made by 2030 to protect, restore and conserve at least 30% of the ocean. In shipping, zero emission fuels should make up at least 5%, entailing 10% of international shipping fuels and 15% of domestic shipping fuels by 2030. Two additional workstreams will also be launched: Coastal Tourism and Seagrass as part of the Ocean Breakthroughs and 2030 Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, alongside the launch of the first tracking mechanism on ocean-based solutions.