

**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**

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

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

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
<b>Ranjeet Bhagooli</b>	Professor of Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography, University of Mauritius	<a href="#"><u><i>Coral reef ecosystems of Mauritius, a SIDS nation: challenges and promises</i></u></a>
<b>Bruna Rodrigues Debastiani</b>	Senior Blue Economy R&D Analyst, OceanPact Maritime Services	<a href="#"><u><i>Mangrove restoration in the Western South Atlantic: Challenges, Innovations and Inclusion</i></u></a>
<b>Sevandi Jayakody</b>	Chair Professor of the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Chairperson of Marine Environment Protection Council, Sri Lanka	<a href="#"><u><i>A Science-Backed, Inclusive Paradigm for Coastal Wetland Restoration</i></u></a>
<b>Philippe Cousteau</b>	Ocean entrepreneur, filmmaker and innovator	<i>Voyacy Regen</i> [Virtual]
<b>Janine Adams</b>	Professor, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa Deputy Director of the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research Chair for Shallow Water Ecosystems	<a href="#"><u><i>Priorities for the restoration of Blue Carbon Ecosystems</i></u></a> [VIRTUAL]
<b>Mark J. A. Vermeij</b>	Scientific Director, Professor, Tropical Marine Ecology, CARMABI Foundation / University of Amsterdam	<a href="#"><u><i>Missing conservation goals: Why standards are needed to guide Caribbean Reef Conservation</i></u></a>

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)	<a href="#"><i>Advancing marine ecosystem restoration through enhanced maritime security and crime prevention</i></a>
Ellen K. Pikitch	Executive Director for the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science Endowed Professor of Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University	<a href="#"><i>Restoration of an Ecosystem: The Shinnecock Bay Global Hope Spot</i></a>
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	<a href="#"><i>Enabling and enhancing marine ecosystem restoration through international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities – Ireland’s Perspective</i></a>
Owen Day	Executive Director, CLEAR Caribbean	<a href="#"><i>Enabling and Enhancing Marine Ecosystem Restoration through International Cooperation &amp; Coordination Challenges and Opportunities — A Caribbean Perspective</i></a>
Nicola Ferri	Senior Legal and Compliance Advisor, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	<a href="#"><i>Advancing marine ecosystem restoration in the Mediterranean and Black Sea</i></a>

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	<a href="#"><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></a>
Chanel Raynor	Coordinator, Ecosystems, National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica	<a href="#"><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></a>
Verónica Cáceres	Secretary, Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention	<a href="#"><u><i>Strengthening marine ecosystem restoration -The role of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</i></u></a> [VIRTUAL]
Karina Barquet	Senior Researcher and Team Lead Water Coasts & Ocean, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	<a href="#"><u><i>Marine ecosystem restoration in times of geopolitical change</i></u></a> [VIRTUAL]
James Strong	Group Head of Seafloor Ecosystems, National Oceanography Centre, UK	<a href="#"><u><i>International collaboration on essential spatial data</i></u></a>
Elizabeth Sinclair	Senior Research Fellow, University of Western Australia	<a href="#"><u><i>Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Australia: building capacity from R&amp;D</i></u></a>

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