

TO ADVANCE OCEAN ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE MEASURES ACROSS THE UNFCCC, THE SBSTA & OCEAN AND CLIMATE DIALOGUE SHOULD CONSIDER:

1. In partnership with UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability relevant programmes—establish a framework to outline regional priority gaps in data and information, alongside an inventory of technological and institutional capacity needs for measuring coastal impacts of ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation.
2. Actively collaborate with the NAP Taskforce of the Adaptation Committee and Nairobi Work Programme Ocean Expert Group, to identify adaptation pilot projects that will incorporate and apply available information or projections related to coastal manifestations of ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation.
3. In partnership with the Standing Committee on Finance, explore links between existing climate finance program funds and ocean monitoring, science and adaptation needs outlined through NDCs, NAPs, and national adaptation projects. These could include program funds that emphasize (1) food security; (2) nature-based solutions; (3) coral reef resilience; or (4) early warning and climate information systems.
4. Request the GCF and GEF to reduce barriers for regional funding applications that advance monitoring, science and research capacity related to responding to ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation. These pilots should build upon regional partnerships already in place and be designed to enhance capacity for informing and evaluating coastal adaptation projects over the next ten years.
5. Engage other UN bodies, including FAO, and relevant partners in expediting multi-stressor research on the adaptation potential of keystone seafood species. This could include linkages with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

ENHANCING OCEAN ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNFCCC
OCEAN & CLIMATE DIALOGUE

Drafted for discussion at COP27 on behalf of the OAA Secretariat

URGENCY FOR CONNECTING SCIENCE TO POLICY RESPONSE

The UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue was introduced in the COP25 decision and mandated to occur annually in the COP26 decision, as Parties have increasingly recognized of the need to strengthen ocean mitigation and adaptation efforts in context of climate change and across the UNFCCC.

Despite dire warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the impacts of ongoing ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation caused by increased GHG emissions and carbon emissions are often under-recognized, misunderstood, or not reflected across mainstream climate mitigation or adaptation priorities.

The disconnection between the scientific evidence and policy response throughout the global climate regime poses a substantial risk to coastal community resources, ecosystems, and seafood economies that humans depend upon. It also risks undermining the effectiveness of more mainstream conservation and management tools like marine protected areas, ecosystem and habitat restoration efforts, nature-based solutions, and climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture.

CLIMATE FINANCING NOT MEETING OCEAN NEEDS

At present, climate financing for ocean adaptation is inadequate and does not reflect the level of severity or harm that climate change is posing to ocean resources and human communities.

Less than 2% of international climate adaptation funding is flowing towards ocean and coastal adaptation projects. Only 1.6% of official development assistance supports the ocean economy. SDG 14 is the least funded of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Internationally, approximately 70% of the knowledge generated about ocean acidification comes from research conducted in North American and European countries.

Taking action to address ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation must include adequate and equitable investments in climate preparedness, adaptation, and resilience.



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEVERAGE CLIMATE FINANCE FOR OCEAN ADAPTATION

Financial mechanisms have existing priorities and projects focused on developing the blue economy, sustainable aquaculture, food security and ecosystem restoration. Increased investments in targeted and regional climate-ocean change information will enhance outcomes across these areas.

Incorporating ocean priorities across climate adaptation financing mechanisms will inform a broad range coastal adaptation strategies. These include coral reef restoration, fisheries and aquaculture resilience strategies, innovative nature-based projects, local carbon removal strategies, land-based pollution controls, and climate responsive marine spatial planning and conservation efforts.