



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

REPORT FROM COP27

TOGETHER FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN EGYPT

NOVEMBER 2022



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022

COP27, known as the “implementation COP,” was hosted Nov 6-20 by the Egyptian Presidency in Sharm el Sheikh.

Negotiations were focused on implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and GHG emission reduction targets. Additional priorities included delivering on adaptation priorities that are science-based and responsive to regional, country and community needs. Finally, the finance and technical capacity needed for accomplishing these goals was front and center across negotiations and reflected in calls from the public and private sector.

The OA Alliance engaged across events and discussions in order to: (1) accelerate GHG reduction commitments by 2030; (2) emphasize ocean adaptation and resilience needs; (3) increase finance and technical capacity for ocean & coastal efforts; and (4) showcase implementation of OA Action Plans, including examples of climate-ocean policy integration and regional collaboration.

SPECIFICALLY, THE OA ALLIANCE:

- Drafted guidance for Parties; concrete recommendations for enhancing climate finance for ocean mitigation and adaptation measures across NDCs and NAPs.
- Was invited to report out recommendations to Parties at delegate meeting organized by U.S., U.K., Norway, Chile and Fiji.
- Contributed to discussions regarding the monitoring, verification and reporting structures needed for exploring marine carbon dioxide removal strategies.
- Joined ocean focused civil society group working to support delegates in negotiations of ocean and coastal themes.
- Supported 15+ national/subnational governments and science partners in delivering remarks and registering commitments to climate-ocean action/ OA Action Planning
- Supported 4 events in the blue zone featuring climate-ocean action planning; director spoke about the initiative at an additional 3 events.
- Joined private sector and civil society, signing onto We Mean Business letter to COP27 delegations and calling for urgent actions keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C.



Ministry of Environment - وزارة البيئة @EGY_Environment

4/4: "There are #IPCC reports with a lot of information that so many communities don't have access to. It's critical information that needs to be distributed for the sake of proper #climateequity & #climateaction."

Jessie Turner, Executive Director, Ocean Acidification Alliance



IPCC @IPCC_CH · Nov 14

Today, at the Ocean Pavilion, @KoBarrettIPCC spoke in her NOAA capacity at @OA_Alliance event about increasing ambition for #climateaction and transforming response to climate-ocean change.

"Fighting #climatechange must include the world's oceans."



OUTCOMES FOR THE OCEAN AT COP27

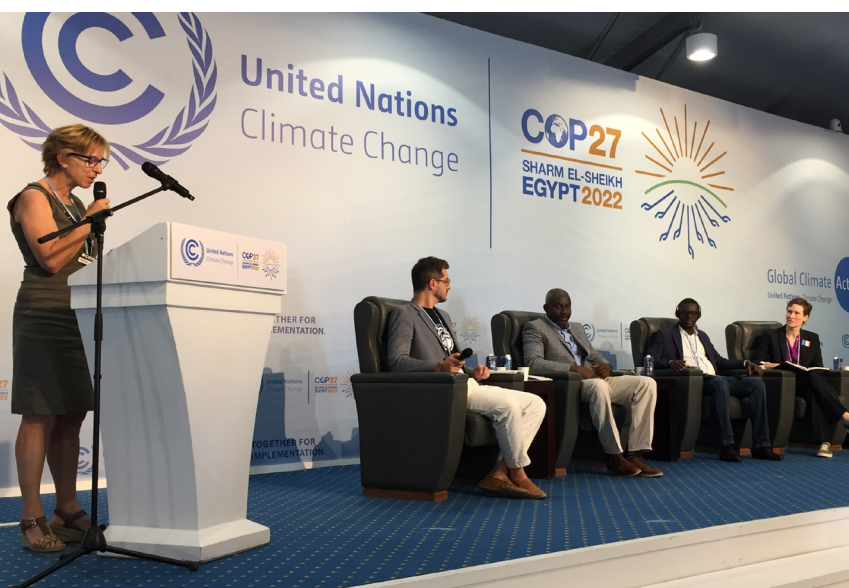
The final COP decision, as reflected in the [“Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan,”](#) highlights Ocean commitments in Articles 45 and 46.

Specifically, Article 45 welcomes [outcomes of the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue in 2022](#) and assigns two co-facilitators to coordinate topics and key themes for the Dialogue moving forward. Co-facilitators will be selected by Parties on a rotating basis and will be responsible for preparing an informal summary report to the COP annually.

Article 46 encourages ocean-based action across national climate goals, including NDCs, long-term strategies and adaptation plans.

Importantly, Article 26, recognizes the need to address systematic observation and information gaps, particularly as relevant to climate risk assessments and early warning systems.

Created in 2019 at COP25, the [UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue](#) is a critical mechanism through which ocean action will be advanced. However, to be sufficient, themes must include technical capacity building and financing needed by Parties in the face of ongoing climate and ocean change. This includes understanding what governments require to better assess risk and respond to climate related changing ocean conditions along their coastlines.



The OA Alliance has actively contributed to the Ocean Climate Dialogue, with [OA specific submissions in 2020 and 2022](#). From our perspective ocean acidification can—and should—be considered a relevant metric when assessing appropriate timelines, trajectories, and funding for mitigation and adaptation action across the UNFCCC to “ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner” as called for by Article 2. Many countries that have large ocean territories are not fully documenting the impacts caused by increasing CO₂ emissions to regional food security, ocean industries or marine economies.

Additionally, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC has recognized sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss as slow-onset events. This has relevance to UNFCCC framework mandates—particularly Article 7. Adaptation, Article 8. Loss and Damage, Article 9. Financing and Article 11. Capacity Building.

FINANCE

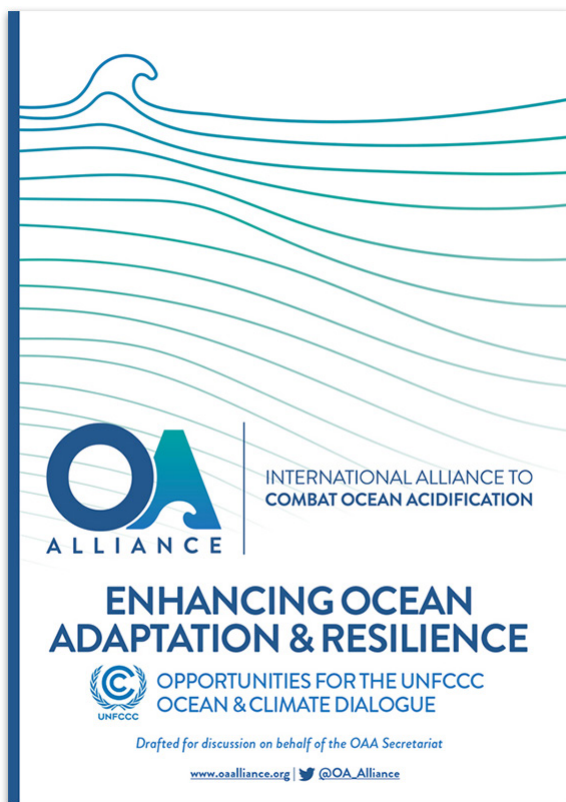
Less than 2 % of climate finance flows towards ocean and coastal projects. 1.6% of official development assistance supports the ocean economy. 70% of global ocean acidification research is being conducted in North America and Europe—which highlights inequities and disparities in access to coastal change information and hinders adequate response. Finally, UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 is the least funded of the SDGs.

This means a significant increase in resources and finance are needed. We must be finding ways to expand access and direct financial flows towards ocean mitigation, coastal information, community adaptation strategies and nature-based solutions.

To make progress on this front, the OA Alliance hosted a **virtual event on 9 November** with the [Global Fund for Coral Reefs](#), **“[Harnessing Finance for Addressing Climate-Ocean Change.](#)”**

You can [watch the discussion here](#), includes reflections from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Global Environment Facility, UN Environment Program, Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Additionally, the OA Alliance has put together a set of [recommendations for advancing climate finance for ocean adaptation](#) through the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue in 2023. We were invited to share out these recommendations to Party delegates across events at COP27.



IMPLEMENTATION

To support themes around implementation, the OA Alliance hosted a number of events at COP27, highlighting member case studies and calling for integrated climate and ocean science, policy and investments.

OA Action Plans [include strategies](#) for reducing carbon emissions and local land-based pollution, strengthening monitoring nearshore to better understand and predict local conditions, investing in adaptive measures in partnership with industry or seafood dependent communities, and advancing information sharing strategies that help policy makers respond.

Through this process we are showing that science and knowledge can—and must—increasingly be translated into real actions on the ground.



OA ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

Climate and Environment Minister George Heyman of British Columbia **announced the development of an OA and Hypoxia Action Plan**, responding to their Climate Risk Assessment which listed OA as the 5th biggest climate risk posed to Province.

Executive Director of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Dr. Arthur Tuda, announced the **release of an OA monitoring report and next steps for activities in South Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique and Tanzania.**

The United Kingdom spoke about their approach for **incorporating OA science and priority research across broader climate adaptation strategies**—providing a roadmap for other governments to do the same.

Senator Murat, Congress of Mexico, highlighted the importance of **local legislation and policy structures** for taking action on ocean acidification.



The United States committed to integrating **OA** priorities across the **Biden Administration's Ocean Climate Action Plan!**

Ambassador Ilana Seid, Permanent Representative to the UN for Palau, cited **OA research being conducted on keystone shellfish species** with an intent to build adaptation efforts.

Delegates from Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and Cook Islands attended our OA event at the Pacific Pavilion which featured information about the **newly launched Pacific Region OA Training Center** as well as **Policy Handbook for decision makers.**

Dr. Nayrah Shaltout, Associate Professor at the Egyptian National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries described the important role of the **OA Africa Monitoring Network** in supporting climate-resilient fisheries and blue economy in Egypt.



OUR EVENTS

Fifteen government and science partners delivered remarks and made commitments to climate-ocean action across 4 events hosted by the OA Alliance. The OA Alliance Secretariat spoke at 3 events, including several focused on the importance of reducing carbon emissions in the marine shipping sector.

We were proud to join partners across the private sector and civil society, signing onto a [We Mean Business Coalition letter](#) to COP27 delegates calling for urgent actions keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C.





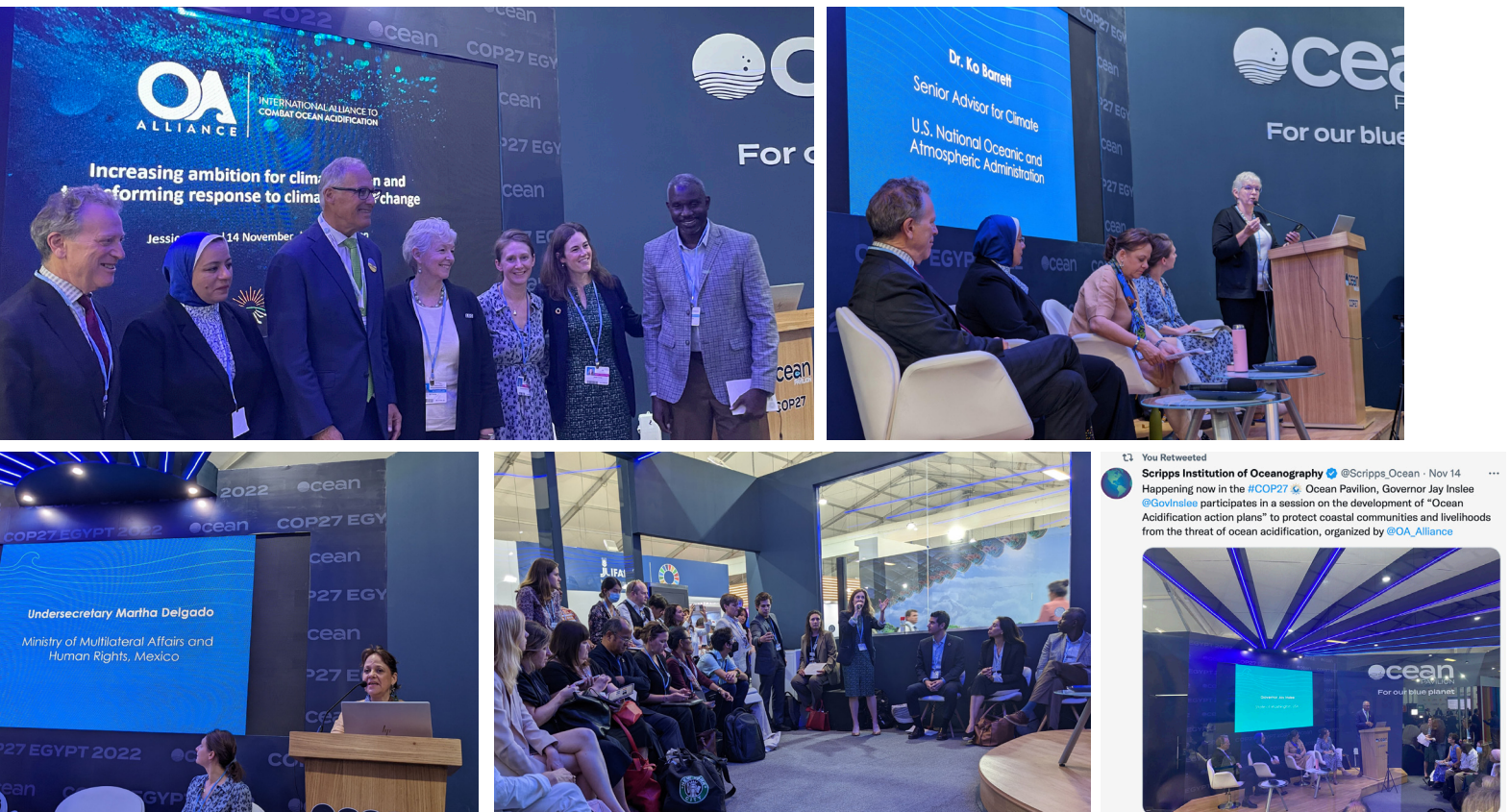
OCEAN PAVILION

A resounding call for OA Action led by governments and partners at the Ocean Pavilion on 14 November including United States, State of Washington, Mexico, Palau, Province of British Columbia, United Kingdom, Egyptian National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association.

Dr. Ko Barrett, Senior Advisor for Climate at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

“Federally, the U.S. has led on climate-ocean change knowledge and response through the creation of the Biden Administration’s Ocean Climate Action Plan, EPA’s National Estuary Program, and NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program.

I am proud to say that the U.S. is leading the way, ensuring that climate and ocean policies and investments accurately reflect their interdependence.”



You Retweeted
 Scripps Institution of Oceanography @Scripps_Ocean · Nov 14
 Happening now in the #COP27 Ocean Pavilion, Governor Jay Inslee @GovInslee participates in a session on the development of “Ocean Acidification action plans” to protect coastal communities and livelihoods from the threat of ocean acidification, organized by @OA_Alliance

Participants:

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Advisor for Climate, Dr. Ko Barrett; **Washington State** Governor Jay Inslee; **Government of Mexico**, Undersecretary Martha Delgado, Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights; **Government of British Columbia, Canada**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable George Heyman; **Egyptian National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries**, Dr. Nayrah Shaltout; **Government of the United Kingdom**, Stephanie Ockenden, Head of Ocean and Climate Change Policy & International Evidence, Marine and Fisheries, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs; **Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association**, Executive Director, Dr. Arthur Tuda; **Government of Palau**; Ambassador Ilana Seid, Permanent Representative to the UN; Congressman Eduardo Murat; **General Congress of the United Mexican States**.



AMERICA IS ALL IN PAVILION

Subnational governments were united for climate-ocean action on [12 November at the America Is All In Pavilion](#), showing incredible leadership from the West Coast of North America. [Watch it here.](#)

Founding members of the OA Alliance in California, Oregon and British Columbia turned out to share their experiences.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Province of British Columbia, Honourable George Heyman, announced the creation of an OA and Hypoxia Action Plan for the provincial government [which you can read more about here.](#)

Province of British Columbia, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable George Heyman

“It is now apparent that ocean warming, acidification, and oxygen loss threaten the health of marine ecosystems impacting shellfish, salmon, and other marine species, along with the well-being of coastal communities, industries and First Nations that depend on them.

This is why the British Columbia Ocean and Acidification and Hypoxia Action Plan was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, at the request of the Climate Action Secretariat of the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Through the development of the OAH Action Plan, BC is taking a landmark step forward along this path as the first Canadian province to recommend actions needed to understand and minimize the impacts of OAH within the province’s coastal waters.”



Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, U.S. Congress, State of Oregon

“By acting now we can make a difference. We must continue to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas and carbon emissions, the most important step in turning the tide of climate impacts on our ocean. Additionally, we can take a no-regrets approach to supporting resilience. This means helping decision-makers and coastal communities take actions now that increase biodiversity and improve adaptive capacity.”



Participants:

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, **U.S. Congress, State of Oregon**; Province of British Columbia, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable George Heyman; **California Office of the Insurance Commissioner**, Senior Climate Policy Advisor, Deborah Halberstadt; Senator John Laird, **California Senate**; Queen Quet, Chiefess of the **Gullah/ Geechee Nation**; Alex Clayton, Conserving Marine Life in the US, **Pew Charitable**



PACIFIC PAVILION

Partners at the [Pacific Pavilion spoke on 9 November](#) about regional leadership moving from OA knowledge to action. Speakers outlined ongoing gaps and needs for ocean-based climate action towards implementing SDG14.3.

The discussion included tools and resources including an [OA Policy Makers Handbook](#) and the launch of a new [OA training center](#). The event also included [recommendations](#) for increasing attention and finance for these activities through the UNFCCC. We also welcomed remarks from OA Alliance member, [The Makah Tribe](#), as Councilman T.J. Greene shared perspectives on the importance of Tribal Sovereignty, Treat Rights and climate justice when taking OA Action.



Participants:

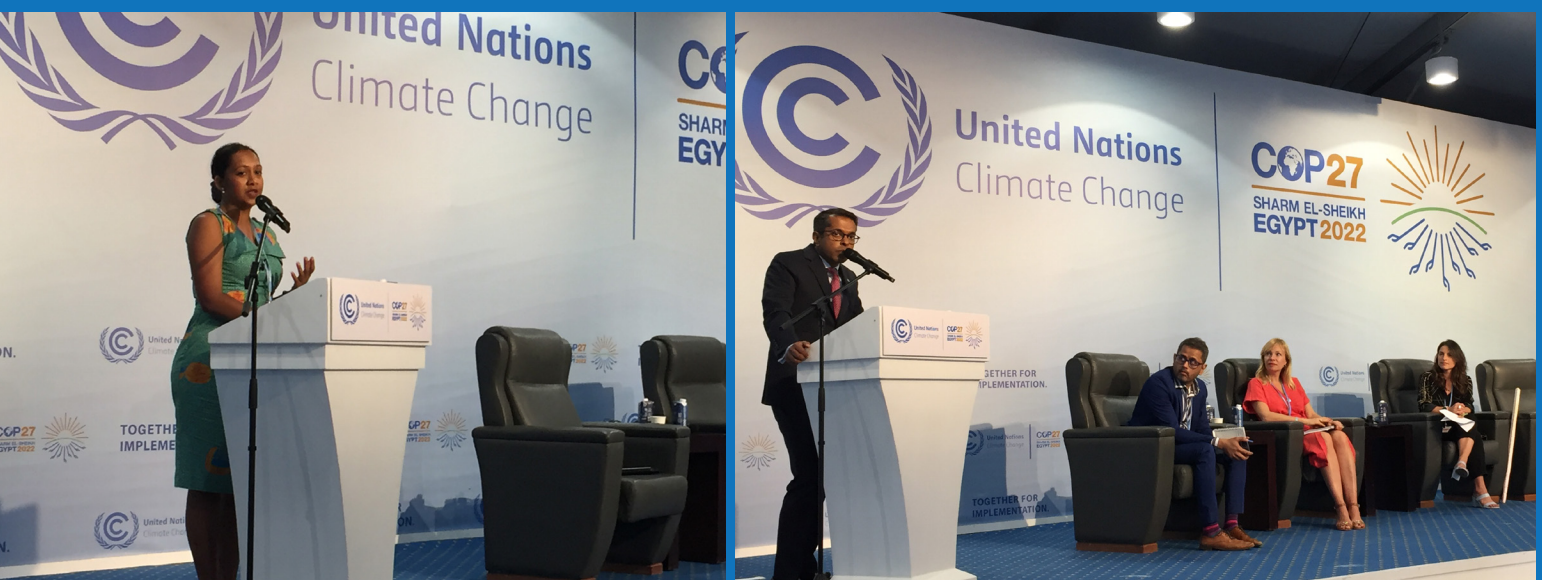
Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO**; Susan Ruffo, Director of Climate and Ocean at **UN Foundation**; Professor Stephen Widdicombe, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Science at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Co-chair of the **Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON)** ; Anne-Claire Goarant, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, **The Pacific Community, New Caledonia; Commonwealth Blue Charter Secretariat**, Dr. Nick Hardman-Mountford, Head of Oceans & Natural Resources; Jessie Turner, Director, **OA Alliance**.

BIGGER PICTURE

Ocean Action Day took place on 16 November and showcased leadership on ocean and coastal themes across the African continent. Panelists led thoughtful and nuanced discussions about what's needed at different scales to support coastal adaptation and resilience.

Key takeaways:

- We must keep ambition for GHG reduction targets and achieve a net-zero society.
- Solutions (including mitigation and adaptation efforts) will not be uniform everywhere, nor must they be limited to one or two options.
- Climate risk assessments must include ocean/coastal risks and vulnerability caused by warming, acidification and deoxygenation.
- It's essential to “demystify” local science and information that will be most useful for supporting human community needs (including healthy reefs, fisheries and aquaculture).
- We can increase access to finance for locally targeted efforts and climate- adaptive decision making.
- Addressing climate change in all its manifestations is a moral imperative.



Moving forward, the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue is a critical mechanism through which ocean action will be advanced. It's crucial that themes of the Dialogue include priority information gaps, technical capacity building, and financing needed by Parties in the face of ongoing climate and ocean change.

These efforts must guide successful coral reef restoration, fisheries and aquaculture resilience strategies, innovative nature-based projects, carbon removal strategies, land-based pollution controls and climate responsive marine spatial planning and conservation efforts.

Indeed, the road ahead is long. But we have the tools, the partners, and the roadmap for where we need to go. Now we must move together for implementation.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.

Together we are increasing ambition for climate action and transforming response to climate-ocean change.

Thank you for being a part of this community!



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

www.oalliance.org |  [@OA_Alliance](https://twitter.com/OA_Alliance)