



2024-2025

TAKING DOMESTIC ACTION IS IMPORTANT

- The world is waking up to the threat that ocean acidification (OA) poses to marine ecosystems and to the coastal economies that depend on them. OA is a rise in the acidity of seawater caused by an excess of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) being absorbed by the ocean.
- Increasingly, OA must become a cross cutting issue embedded across climate, ocean and marine science priorities, policies, and actions. Advancing domestic OA action will inform better decision making for achieving national mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals.
- By joining the OA Alliance and endorsing the Call to Action, members commit to creating a unique OA Action Plan. An OA Action Plan encompasses the actions that OA Alliance members will take (or are taking) to better understand OA in their region and accelerate OA mitigation, adaptation, and resilience nearshore.
- OA Action Plans help governments: take inventory; prioritize needs and make recommendations; and align policies and investments in the face of climate-ocean change.
- This is especially important for achieving climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture, climate smart conservation, coastal resilience and habitat restoration, effective upgrades of infrastructure, and evaluation of marine carbon dioxide removal strategies.
- OA Action Plans call forth renewed ambition to realize mitigation and adaptation targets in place across UNFCCC and deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, “to minimize and address ocean acidification.”

INVITATION TO JOIN AN OA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME, SUPPORTING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH AND CAPACITY

- You are invited to join a leadership programme to develop National OA Actions by the UN Ocean Conference in June 2025.
- The leadership programme will support invited Ministries, departments and policy officers in the development and implementation of unique national commitments to domestic OA activities.
- The OA Alliance will directly support invited governments in finding their unique approach to domestic OA Actions across 2024-2025, leading to national implementation of UN SDG 14.3 “to minimize and address OA” by the 3rd UN Ocean Conference in 2025.

- **Between 2024-2025, the programme will include:**

- 1-1 calls between your government and the OA Alliance.
- Surveys to better understand your needs, goals, and capacities.
- 4 webinars to help your government through the process.
- 4 in-person meetings of members at high-level conferences like the Our Ocean Conference and Pre-UN Ocean Conference (2024).
- 2 high-level leadership events at COP29 and the UN Ocean Conference (2025).

- **Participating governments should expect to:**

- Designate an “OA lead” within their appropriate ministry or department to work with the OA Alliance.
- Expect to contribute about 3 hours a month to this programme.
- Have demonstrated efforts to account for OA across domestic policies by UN Ocean Conference 2025.
- Send high-level leadership to participate at events across COP29 and the UN Ocean Conference 2025.



UNIQUE APPROACHES TO OA ACTION PLANNING

- We know that domestic approaches to **OA Action Planning will be different across governments**. The OA Alliance has created specific guidance to help governments find the right approaches to OA Action Planning that work best for them.
- We can help you **identify regional and local OA science activities in your country, and decide which existing climate or ocean policies might benefit from integrating OA information**. This means understanding the mitigation, adaptation and management outcomes you think are most important.
- For members of the OA leadership programme, **governments will receive specific guidance** on the following approaches to OA Action Planning:
 - Member States of the European Union will learn how to integrate OA across relevant descriptors of the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**.
 - Members of the High-Level Panel on Ocean Sustainability will learn how to integrate OA activities or priority knowledge gaps across related outcomes of **Sustainable Ocean Plans** having to do with ocean wealth, health, equity, knowledge, and finance.
 - Parties of the **Paris Climate Agreement** will learn how to include OA mitigation, adaptation, technology capacity and financing needs across **NDCs and NAPs**.
 - If desired, governments will also learn and see examples for how to create a stand-alone OA Action Plan. Such **stand-alone OA Action Plan** would identify OA information and evidence needs (data collection + reporting) and pair that information with available mitigation or adaptation measures.
 - All governments will learn how to **report OA monitoring information to UN SDG 14.3.1**.
 - All governments will receive access to the **OA Alliance Toolkit, Action Planning Support Materials** and a “**Getting Started Checklist**” as well as examples for OA Action Plans that have been developed.
 - All governments will receive access to the **Members Communications Package** which will help members: amplify their leadership role on OA, create talking points for climate-ocean conference, communicate with colleagues within their own governments, support education and outreach efforts.

TIMELINE AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
<p>Call with OA Alliance</p> <p>1-1 calls with OA Alliance; governments fill out brief survey reflecting their existing climate-ocean policy priorities and if any local information is known about OA in their areas.</p>	<p>February-March 2024</p>
<p>Webinar #1: Getting Started</p> <p>Why is domestic OA Action Planning important? Suggested approaches to OA Action Planning and guidance available from the OA Alliance</p> <p><i>Homework: Choosing your approach to OA Action Planning and assigning an OA lead from your government as primary contacts for this programme.</i></p>	<p>7 March 2024 9am ET/ 3pm CET</p>
<p>Meeting #1: of governments at Our Ocean Conference</p> <p>(optional for those attending)</p>	<p>16-17 April 2024</p>
<p>Webinar #2: Taking Inventory</p> <p>How do you know what OA science and research is happening in your area? What is the best way to take inventory of local OA knowledge and to prioritize gaps. Which entities can help you do this?</p> <p><i>Homework: Filling in worksheet that will help identify your local science resources, state of knowledge, and prioritize any gaps that are most important to your government.</i></p>	<p>17 May 2024 9am ET/ 3pm CET</p>
<p>Meeting #2 of EU governments. At European Maritime Day</p> <p>(optional for those attending)</p>	<p>20 May 2024</p>
<p>Meeting #3 of governments. At pre-UN Ocean Conference</p> <p>(optional for those attending)</p>	<p>6-7 June 2024</p>
<p>Webinar #3: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies</p> <p>How do you identify the best mitigation or adaptation strategies for your government? What resources or sectors are most connected to this work?</p> <p><i>Homework: : Beginning to connect relevant mitigation and adaptation efforts to OA information. Charting out where OA efforts should be incorporated across the specific policy document/ framework you chose to focus on.</i></p>	<p>12 September 2024 9am ET/ 3pm CET</p>

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
High-level OA Leadership at COP29	November 2024
<p>Webinar #4: Updates Towards OA Action Planning</p> <p>How has your chosen approach to OA Action been going? What barriers are you encountering that need extra support?</p> <p><i>Homework: Review progress to date with OA Alliance, receive feedback and move towards finalizing your approach to OA Action Planning.</i></p>	6 February 2025 9am ET/ 3pm CET
<p>Meeting# 4: of governments at Our Ocean Conference</p> <p>(optional for those attending)</p>	April 2025
High-level OA Action Plan Launch event at UN Ocean Conference	June 2025



JOIN US!

The world needs your leadership! Together, we can demonstrate different national responses to ocean acidification. In joining this OA Action Planning Leadership Circle your government can call forth renewed ambition to realize mitigation and adaptation targets in place across UNFCCC and deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, “to minimize and address ocean acidification.”

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