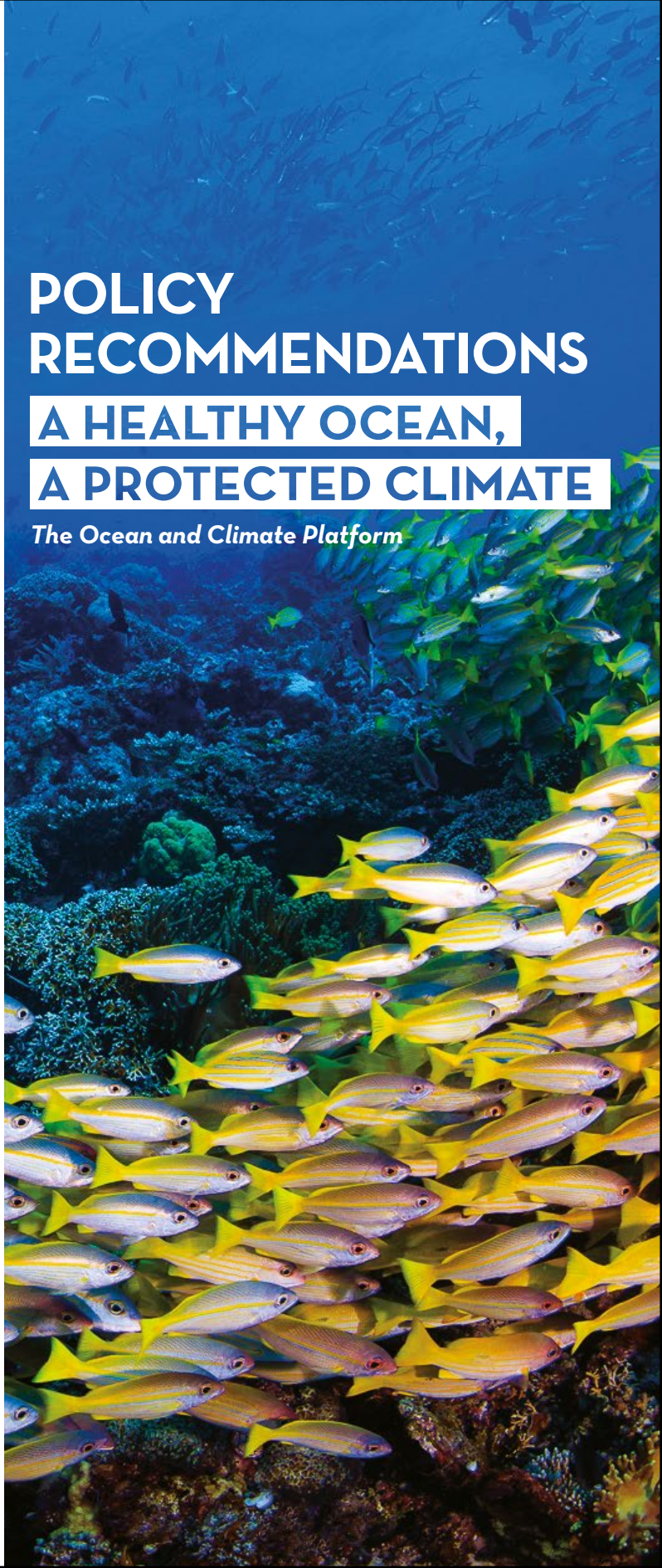




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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS A HEALTHY OCEAN, A PROTECTED CLIMATE

The Ocean and Climate Platform



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The Ocean and Climate Platform: Who are we?

The Ocean and Climate Platform is the result of an alliance between non-governmental organizations and research institutes. It brings together more than 70 organizations - including NGOs, research institutions, foundations, museums, private sector entities, national institutions and international agencies, and territorial collectivities - with the aim to promote scientific expertise and advocate ocean-climate issues to policymakers and the great public.

Drawing on its expertise, the Platform supports decision-makers in need of scientific information and guidance in the implementation of public policies. The Platform also meets a need expressed by the scientific community, as well as by representatives of the private sector and civil society: that of a forum for exchanging and reflecting - a space where ocean and climate actors can build a common and holistic approach to the challenge of protecting marine ecosystems and fighting climate change.

ACRONYMS

CBD : Convention on Biological Diversity

COP : Conference of the Parties

FAO : The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GCA : Global Climate Action Agenda

GCF : Green Climate Fund

GCRMN : Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

GHG : Greenhouse gas

GOOS : Global Ocean Observing System

ISC : International Science Council

IUCN : International Union for Conservation of Nature

IUU : Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

MPA : Marine Protected Area

MSY : Maximum Sustainable Yield

NBS : Nature-based Solutions

NDCs : Nationally Determined Contributions

OCIA : Ocean and Climate Initiatives Alliance

OECMs : Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures

RME : Renewable Marine Energy

SBSTA : Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

SDGs : Sustainable Development Goals

SROCC : Special Report on Ocean & the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

UNESCO : United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC : United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

This policy document is the result of the experiences and commitments of the members of the Ocean & Climate Platform, created in 2014 in the run-up to COP 21 and the negotiations of the Paris Agreement (2015). Its main objective is to advocate “a healthy ocean for a protected climate”.

This document not only aims at promoting an understanding of the major challenges the global ocean, and therefore our planet, are facing; it also presents concrete solutions and measures, based on the latest available science, to preserve the ocean, its biodiversity and the climate.

The following policy recommendations are addressed to all policymakers and stakeholders negotiating and working on climate change and for the conservation of the ocean and its ecosystems.

Therefore, the Platform wishes to provide them with accessible and reliable recommendations resulting from the collaboration of an international network of more than 70 members.

The ocean at the heart of the climate system

Covering over two thirds of the Earth's surface, the ocean is a complex ecosystem providing essential services for sustaining life on our planet.

The ocean is at the heart of the global climate system. It absorbs more than 25% of the CO₂ emissions released each year into the atmosphere by human activities and provides 50% of the oxygen produced on Earth. It further absorbs more than 90% of the heat resulting from emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), thus limiting atmospheric warming and playing an essential role in climate regulation.

While the ocean partially mitigates climate change, anthropogenic pressures already alter its dynamics and its interaction with the atmosphere. Ocean warming, carbon dioxide absorption, overexploitation of both living and geological resources, destruction of habitats and multiple forms of pollution negatively affect ocean ecosystems. As a result, marine and coastal ecosystems become more and more vulnerable, species migrate, ocean acidification increases, and dead zones grow and expand to new areas of the ocean.

These changes affect the very functioning of marine ecosystems, and more generally, the planet's entire biosphere since the ocean represents 71% of the Earth's surface.

Ocean health has become a crucial issue. Marine ecosystems (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, sea mounts) provide multiple direct and indirect services to human societies; these include protection against rising sea levels and extreme weather events, food security for three billion people, livelihoods and cultural resources. These ecosystems, still largely unknown, represent an invaluable natural capital and participate in the recycling of organic matter – crucial to the survival of living organisms, including humans.

The Ocean and Climate Platform has been committed since COP21 to placing the ocean at the heart of international climate negotiations

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992) explicitly refers to the ocean and coastal areas (Articles 4-1d and 4-1e). In 2015, during COP21, the Platform and its 70 member organizations participated in the overall push to adopt a universal and ambitious agreement on climate, and to ensure the ocean was fully taken into account in climate negotiations. This collective momentum led to the Paris Agreement, which specifies in its preamble "the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans" and recognizes the ocean's vulnerability and its role in climate regulation.

This momentum persisted at COP22, in 2016, with the adoption of the Marrakech Partnership, which included the ocean as one of the priority themes of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCA). In 2017, in the context of the GCA and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 relating to the ocean, the Platform launched the Ocean & Climate Initiatives Alliance (OCIA), an international network promoting concrete solutions to climate change.

The role of the ocean was further recognized in 2017, during COP23, with

the launch by Fiji of the Ocean Pathway Partnership - a group of ambitious countries conveying the voice of the ocean in climate forums; and then, in 2018, when the Talanoa Dialogue was convened and resulted in a Call for Action encouraging Parties to increase the ambition of their climate pledges to achieve the objective of the Paris Agreement.

From 2015 to 2019, the Platform also played an important role in the climate negotiations and work leading to the IPCC's decision to produce a Special Report on Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC).

Finally, in September 2018, during the preparatory phase of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the Platform organized a High-Level Scientific Conference, together with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), to synthesize recent scientific progress on the interactions among ocean, climate and biodiversity and to reflect on ways to move from science to action.

Ocean and climate challenges at the heart of the 2019-2021 international agenda

The Ocean and Climate Platform's mission is to highlight the importance of ocean, climate and biodiversity interactions, and promote concrete solutions in this area.

Therefore, the Platform works towards a better integration of the ocean into climate negotiations within the UNFCCC; and intends to reaffirm the close links between biodiversity, climate and ocean within biodiversity governing bodies.

UNFCCC COP25 to be held in December 2019 under Chilean Presidency, and announced as the "Blue COP" will be instrumental in encouraging nations to include ocean-related measures into their Natio-

nally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are to be submitted in 2020 and ambitiously revised every five years, according to Articles 4-3 and 4-9 of the Paris Agreement.

In light of these upcoming milestones, the Platform has partnered with the *Because the Ocean* initiative, supported by about forty countries, to provide the UNFCCC Parties with recommendations on the integration of ocean-related measures in NDC content.

In 2020, the IUCN World Conservation Congress in France, followed by COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China, will provide a major opportunity to strengthen the ocean-climate connections in the post-2020 international framework on biodiversity.

Ongoing negotiations on the high seas aim at establishing by 2020 a legally binding

international agreement on the conservation and sustainable management of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In particular, this treaty will aim to preserve essential ecosystem services - including carbon sequestration and primary production - through strengthened management of marine genetic resources and the development of tools and methods for the protection of marine biodiversity, such as marine protected areas (MPAs), environmental impact assessments and ecosystem-based management.

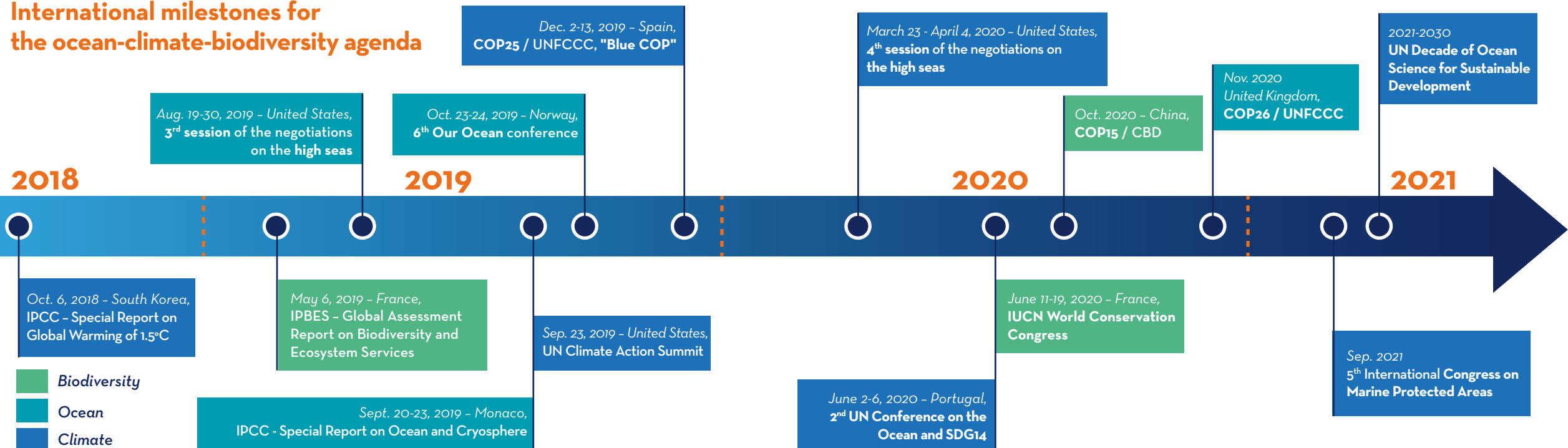
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights that water, biodiversity, ocean and climate are intrinsically linked and sustain life on Earth. SDG 14 - Life below water - specifies that concerted action at all levels is necessary to preserve the ocean's health and integrity, its ecosystems and its contributions to our societies and all living species. In June 2020, Portugal will host the second UN Conference to support the im-

plementation of SDG 14, where four targets of this goal will be assessed: ecosystem protection and resilience, overfishing and illegal fishing, MPAs, and fisheries subsidies.

At the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the upcoming negotiations will focus on adopting short-, medium- and long-term measures in accordance with the initial strategy adopted in 2018. This strategy aims at reducing GHG emissions from shipping by 50%, by 2050, compared to 2008 levels, and contributing to meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Finally, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) aims at fostering synergies, partnerships, public awareness, education and an effective science-policy interface in order to promote efficient and coordinated ocean science and action.

International milestones for the ocean-climate-biodiversity agenda





The Ocean and Climate Platform's policy recommendations

Since the 2019-2030 international agenda marks the beginning of a new commitment to the ocean, climate, and biodiversity, the Platform presents these policy recommendations to ensure that all ocean priorities are at the heart of decision-making at all scales.

It is our common responsibility to act ambitiously for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and policies relating to biodiversity must recognize the major role of the ocean in the face of the climate crisis and global changes.

These efforts focus on four key challenges:

- 1 / Mitigation**
- 2 / Adaptation**
- 3 / Science**
- 4 / Sustainable finance**



1.

MITIGATION REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND STRENGTHENING NATURAL CARBON SINKS

First of all, it is essential to follow the recommendations of the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: limit global warming below 1.5°C during the second half of the century in order to reach a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by greenhouse gas sinks, in accordance with Article 4-1 of the Paris Agreement.

It is estimated that one third of oil reserves, half of gas reserves and more than 80% of coal reserves worldwide have to remain unexploited to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Therefore, ending subsidies to fossil fuel extraction and transitioning to clean energy by 2050 is a priority.

Reducing GHG emissions, and in particular CO₂ emissions, is essential to maintain marine life's good health, as well as climate functions and ecosystem services provided by the ocean. Limiting GHG emissions is currently the only option to mitigate ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, impacts of extreme weather events and destruction of particularly sensitive ecosystems, such as coral reefs.

Although the ocean is affected by climate change, it also provides mitigation solutions, including marine renewable energies (MRE), emission reductions by ocean users and carbon sequestration in marine habitats like sea grasses, salt marshes, and mangroves.

Specific measures related to the ocean and maritime activities can help reduce GHG emissions and must be integrated by Parties to the UNFCCC into their NDCs.

Lastly, considerable efforts still need to be undertaken to better understand the marine carbon cycle and the most appropriate approaches to optimize this cycle.

To this end, it is urgent to:

1 PRESERVE THE MAJOR ROLE OF THE OCEAN IN THE CARBON CYCLE

- Protect marine and coastal ecosystems with a high ecological and biological value and/or those that sequester and store a large quantity of "blue carbon";
- Reduce major threats to key ecosystems:
 - > protect them from habitat disruptions and land-based pollutions, inter alia through the prevention of agricultural runoffs and the implementation of sanitation systems and physical, chemical and biological wastewater treatment plants;
 - > prohibit commercial scale geoengineering in the ocean, unless and until the negative consequences identified by scientists can be mitigated, and ensure that any geoengineering research or pilot projects adhere to a code of conduct that will minimize their negative impact;
 - > close identified vulnerable zones to offshore oil and gas exploitation and adopt a constructive dialogue, based on scientific knowledge, to identify additional vulnerable areas;
- Preserve fishing resources and associated ecosystems by implementing sustainable fisheries management, especially in areas with little or no protection;
- Implement regulatory, technical and financial strategies to designate, by 2030, 30% of the ocean in:
 - > highly and/or fully protected MPAs, effectively and sustainably managed with the involvement of territorial stakeholders;
 - > other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) offering equivalent benefits to biodiversity;
- Prioritize, when possible, nature-based solutions (NBS) that rely on policies that explicitly

2 DEVELOP MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY WHILE PRESERVING OCEAN BIODIVERSITY

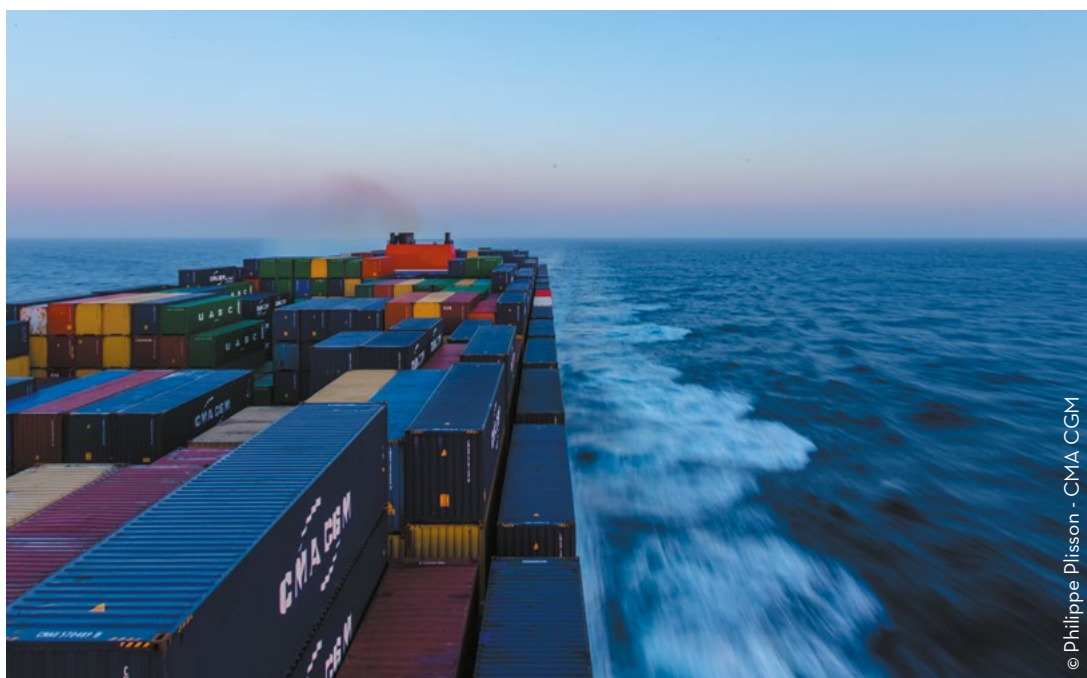
integrate targets of ecosystem protection or restoration.

- Develop sustainable technologies and industrial sectors in offshore wind, hydroelectric, and thermal energy from the ocean;
- Use rigorous and concerted marine spatial planning when establishing MRE to avoid harming particularly sensitive habitats, species and ecological processes;
- Reduce their impacts during their siting, construction, use and dismantling phases;
- Require impact studies to refer to recognized and transparent protocols that take into account all the potential impacts of the project, as well as the cumulative impacts with other activities at appropriate scales;
- Acknowledge the conflict between, on one hand, the demand for metals and rare earths created by renewable energy needs (e.g. wind turbines, solar cells, electric batteries), and on the other hand, the threats to biodiversity of deep-seabed mining;
- Encourage the IPCC to include, in its 6th assessment report (AR6), an in-depth synthesis of the contribution and potential of MREs.



3 PROMOTE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS GENERATED BY SHIPPING AND MARITIME SERVICES

- Reduce the maritime transport of non-essential and unsustainable goods;
- Encourage operational measures to reduce GHG emissions and pollution from ships (e.g. speed reduction and regulation, energy consumption optimization);
- Invest in ship innovation and eco-design favoring energy-efficient and ocean-friendly navigation and propulsion modes (e.g. giving up heavy fuel oil, using liquefied natural gas as a transition fuel, and developing hydrogen, hybrid electric technology and sailing support);
- Encourage cooperation between ports and shipowners to facilitate waste disposal, shore connection to the electric grid and bunkering of alternative fuels, and optimize stopovers by improving data flow among all operators;
- Prohibit immediately the use of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic Ocean to avoid the risks and impacts of oil spills in this particularly sensitive environment, and of black carbon deposition on sea ice, amplifying global warming and its impacts;
- Encourage nations to include measures relating to energy efficiency of vessels and energy transition in ports into their NDCs.



4 REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM FISHERIES AND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

- Reduce the average speed of fishing vessels, and renew and modernize fleets to increase propulsion effectiveness (e.g. fuel-efficient engines, bigger propellers, low friction hulls);
- Support as much as possible the replacement of towed fishing gears (trawls and dredges) by environmentally appropriate passive gears (nets, lines, traps), which emit less CO₂ per kilogram of fish produced;
- Improve energy efficiency of fishing equipment, and adapt fishery management strategies to reduce any excess in fishing capacity, thus limiting fuel overconsumption;
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the various seafood sectors, in particular by regulating the use of on-board freezing and by optimizing transport in the supply chain;
- Reduce GHG emissions related to the production and transportation of aquaculture food by replacing fish meal with products with a lower carbon footprint;
- Convince the IMO to integrate the fishing sector in its fourth study of GHG emissions, as well as in its GHG reduction strategy.



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2.

ADAPTATION PROMOTING THE ADAPTATION OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Risks and vulnerability linked to the impact of climate change on the ocean, marine biodiversity and human communities that depend on them, are already widely perceivable and increasing.

Coastal regions and island states already face the destruction of marine ecosystems and degradation of the services provided by these ecosystems.

Human populations are becoming increasingly vulnerable, especially to rising sea levels and extreme weather events that are growing more frequent and intense each year.

Observed and predicted consequences of climate change affect large and numerous regions of the globe, from melting sea ice in the Arctic to forced migration of inhabitants of coastal communities in the Gulf of Mexico, the Arctic, and low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Adaptation measures to limit negative impacts of climate change on the ocean are therefore crucial to protect goods, people and vulnerable ecosystems. Therefore, the Paris Agreement provides that "each Party should, as appropriate, submit and periodically update an adaptation communication, which may include its priorities [...], plans and actions [...]" (article 7-10), "submitted (...) as a component of (...) a national adaptation plan, [and/or] a nationally determined contribution" (article 7-11).

In this context, urgent action should be taken to:

1 PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO PROTECT AND RESTORE COASTAL AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

- Favor nature-based adaptation solutions over hard engineering (e.g. concrete, dikes), in particular restore mangroves, seagrass beds, coastal marshes, kelp forests, coral reefs and other coastal ecosystems that help moderate flooding and reduce the impacts of extreme weather events and rising sea levels;
- Create and effectively manage marine areas with an appropriate level of monitoring and protection, mainly in locations particularly vulnerable to climate change and/or ocean acidification, in order to protect biodiversity, ensure coastal protection, and regenerate and sustain fish stocks;
- Support the development of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), as well as research and innovation dedicated to coral reef restoration;
- Strengthen monitoring and alert systems in the face of extreme weather events;
- Promote sustainable fishing practices that protect fish stocks and ecosystems, while promoting a high environmental standard beyond the current maximum sustainable yield (MSY)-based management.



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2 DESIGN RELEVANT ACTION PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THESE SOLUTIONS



- Design adaptation measures to climate change that also address anthropogenic stressors (e.g. pollution, destruction of habitats, overexploitation of resources, extractions);
- Integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge and techniques into these strategies;
- Support, as a priority, adaptation measures dedicated to the most vulnerable regions, including those threatened by rising sea levels: island states, megalopolises and deltas with high population densities;
- Avoid maladaptation which unintentionally increases rather than reduce vulnerability when implementing adaptation measures;
- Ensure that solutions are implemented equitably, with a focus on vulnerable and historically underserved communities;
- Implement long-term monitoring, assessment and adaptive management strategies for adopted measures;
- Promote networks of MPA managers and other stakeholders at national, regional and global scales, to strengthen the capacity of managers at the local level, and integrate their knowledge of possible future changes into decision-making processes.



3.

SCIENCE REINFORCING RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE ON OCEAN-CLIMATE INTERACTIONS

Scientists studying the ocean-climate nexus seek to understand the mitigating role of the ocean in the climate system, including via the analysis of physicochemical, biological and ecological parameters, as well as of the various fields of the humanities and social sciences.

The implementation of the Paris Agreement, using relevant and effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, requires this knowledge to be incorporated by policymakers and economic players to result in improved governance and behavior changes.

To this end, it is essential to:

1 ADJUST SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES

- Build integrated observing systems and open-access databases to develop a coordinated and sustained ocean observing system – based on the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) – better suited to meet community needs and including biological, ecological, socio-economic and sociocultural data;

- Promote the integration of natural and human system-related knowledge to tailor solutions to sustainability problems and their ecological, political, economic and sociocultural contexts;
- Enhance scientific collaboration, at national, regional and international levels, through transparent approaches, free access to data and reproducible results, in particular by promoting existing standards in this area.

2 CONSOLIDATE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

It is essential to further increase knowledge on several major themes, including:

- The role of the ocean in climate regulation:
 - > document, understand and predict the evolution of the ocean heat and circulation, as well as their influence on weather, climate variability and climate change;
 - > better understand, qualitatively and quantitatively, the role of the ocean in climate regulation through the sequestration of anthropogenic carbon, or of other climate-active gases;
 - > analyze the interactions between marine biodiversity and climate regulation, in particular by better identifying feedback loops between the ecological impacts of different pressures (e.g. overfishing, pollutions, climate change) and CO₂ storage mechanisms;
 - > explore the implications of climate change on deep-sea ecosystems and their feedback on climate associated with ocean-lithosphere interactions.
- Impacts of climate change on the ocean and on marine socio-ecosystems:
 - > further study the cumulative and interacting effects of climatic stress factors (e.g. global warming, deoxygenation, acidification) and anthropogenic pressures (e.g. overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction) on the coastal and marine biosphere, carbon cycle and socio-economic systems;
 - > better understand how our societies interact with the ocean (e.g. ecosystem services, natural benefits provided to communities), quantify the part of our well-being (e.g. health, economic development) linked to a functioning and healthy ocean, and anticipate how this well-being will be affected by climate change;
 - > support the production of climate scenarios to enable participatory, relevant and appropriate decision-making at different scales.

- Mitigation and adaptation solutions:
 - > improve understanding and quantification of the benefits of NBS, such as MPAs, in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as the impact on biodiversity, carbon storage and community access to natural resources;
 - > deepen knowledge on the adaptive capacity of marine organisms, in particular of marine habitat-forming species such as reef-building corals, seagrass beds and oyster reefs;
 - > consolidate and improve scientific knowledge in the field of fisheries, in particular by mapping fishing effort as well as better understanding fish stocks, fishing fleets and marine habitats.

3 SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RAISE SOCIETY'S AWARENESS OF THE OCEAN-CLIMATE ISSUES

- Strengthen the education of the ocean's importance for our quality of life within school programs, and consolidate teaching material in easy-access online tools;
- Raise awareness among citizens about their potential role in ocean and climate protection, together with scientific communication networks (e.g. universities, research institutes, museums, aquariums);
- Support the creation and dissemination of scientifically-relevant content, comprehensible by the great public;
- Promote increased collaboration among economic, non-governmental and academic actors;
- Develop participatory and citizen projects on marine science;
- Offer ocean-climate scholarships for youth and develop a dedicated research platform for early-career researchers, under the aegis of the International Science Council (ISC);
- Train actors from the marine sector (e.g. MPA managers, merchant navy officers, fishermen) to the challenges posed by climate change and appropriate solutions.



4.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE RAISING FUNDS FOR OCEAN-CLIMATE PROJECTS

A current priority of the financial world must be to reorient public and private investments towards a low-carbon economy to prepare the 2050 low-carbon emission pathway, as well as to deliver on the SDGs and the Biodiversity agenda.

In this perspective, it is essential to stop subsidizing fossil energy and minimize any practices harmful to the environment, including those related to overfishing, in order to invest in a sustainable economy and promote a just transition.

Rising sea-levels and increased extreme weather events related to climate change threaten people and infrastructures. The insurance sector can help assess oceanic and coastal risk and increased vulnerabilities of societies. It can also finance resilience by helping put in place appropriate marine and coastal solutions to strengthen blue natural capital.

National and multilateral funders and development banks have begun to align their activities and investments with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. However, ocean-related projects remain marginal and underfunded. These must be reinforced.

Sustainable financing for the ocean must therefore support mitigation, adaptation and ocean conservation.

In that regard, efforts must:

1 INCREASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE OCEAN AND FACILITATE THEIR ACCESS

- Strengthen national and multilateral funders' efforts and commitment to funding marine projects, including for the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems in national and even international waters;
- Integrate systematically climate and biodiversity considerations into ocean projects;
- Facilitate the access of developing countries to these funds;
- Deliver faster access to funding for community-based initiatives, small-scale projects and educational ones.

2 STRENGTHEN THE RESPONSE CAPACITY OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

- Ensure that the objective of \$100 billion per year is met by 2020;
- Dedicate a specific budget line within the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for ocean-related measures;
- Increase adaptation financing to ensure equitable distribution of funds, according to a 50/50 balance between adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Encourage and provide support to ocean actors in submitting projects to the GCF.



3 ENCOURAGE PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT AND INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

- Develop new finance tools for the ocean, harnessing the creativity and innovative capacity of the technology sector and civil society, to fund scientific research and the preservation of ocean ecosystems (e.g. payment for ecosystem services and result-based payments);
- Consider specific ocean finance instruments, such as trust funds and an Ocean Sustainability Bank specifically dedicated to sustainable ocean management;
- Integrate blue finance approaches and NBS into marine and coastal infrastructure financing, taking marine ecosystem services and blue natural capital considerations fully into account.

4 CONSOLIDATE CARBON FINANCE MECHANISMS

- Define a carbon pricing mechanism for all ocean activities, that reflects the latest available science, fully values the contribution of the ocean to the carbon cycle and sequestration, and ends all fossil fuel subsidies;
- Roll-out, in cooperation with the private sector, an integrated ocean data architecture that can support research, quantify and manage marine ecosystems with the goal to maintain the capacity of ecosystems and marine organisms to sequester carbon while preserving fish stocks;
- Encourage marine and coastal ecosystem restoration through appropriate regulation, user fees and other funding mechanisms.

CALL FOR ACTION



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20 policy recommendations from the Ocean and Climate Platform

THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE PLATFORM ...

Recalling that the Paris Agreement notes in its preamble, "the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans";

Recognizing that the ocean plays a fundamental role in climate regulation;

Considering that the good health of marine and coastal ecosystems is critical to the proper functioning of the climate system, and that reducing vulnerabilities, raising natural resilience to the impacts of climate change, protecting and restoring marine ecosystems, is an integral part of the fight against climate change;

Stressing that the ocean is the basis of cultural, social, and spiritual values for many human societies and that its status determines access to fundamental human rights for many people;

Noting that Parties to the UNFCCC ratified the Paris Agreement and adopted a common methodology for its implementation (the "rulebook") which provides for a periodic revision of their commitments;

Recalling that the Paris Agreement must be implemented in close partnership with all stakeholders, nations, the economic world and all components of civil society, and in particular indigenous peoples;

Integrating the conclusions and recommendations of the IPCC's Special Reports on Global Warming beyond 1.5°C and on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, as well as those of the IPBES' Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

Noting that the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provides a common transdisciplinary framework to the scientific community, policymakers and civil society to meet the targets set by the SDGs, in particular SDG 14 for a sustainable management of the ocean;

CALLS INTERNATIONAL DECISION MAKERS TO :

- 1] Intensify** efforts to limit the rise in temperature to 1.5°C;
- 2] End** subsidies to fossil fuel production immediately; establish a scientifically-based planning for offshore oil and gas exploitation that preserves the most fragile marine ecosystems; and cease their exploitation by 2050;
- 3] Develop** marine renewable energies (i.e. offshore wind, hydroelectric and thermal energy from the ocean), while ensuring ecosystem preservation and limiting their impacts (e.g. noise pollution, harm to sensitive species);
- 4] Accelerate** significantly the implementation of adaptation measures, in particular for island states and coastal regions, favoring nature-based solutions;
- 5] Encourage** Parties to the UNFCCC to continue their efforts to integrate the ocean into the Convention's work processes, and to request the 12th meeting of the Research Dialogue, under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), to be dedicated to the conclusions of the SROCC, during the Bonn Climate Conference in 2020 (SB52);
- 6] Request** the IPCC Working Group III to include, in its 6th Assessment Report (AR6), an in-depth synthesis of the contribution and mitigation potential of measures specific to the ocean and maritime activities;
- 7] Prompt** Parties to the UNFCCC to include ocean-related mitigation and adaptation measures in the mechanisms provided by the Paris Agreement, especially the national adaptation plans (NAPs), adaptation communications and revised nationally determined contributions (NDCs), taking into account the recommendations developed by the *Because the Ocean* initiative; and ask the UNFCCC to develop a dedicated platform to register all these ocean-related solutions;

- 8] **Strengthen** developing countries' capacity to access climate funding; achieve the GCF's objective of \$100 billion per year by 2020; and dedicate a specific budget line of these funds to ocean-related action;
- 9] **Support** the development of ocean-specific institutions and funding mechanisms to quickly provide the necessary funding for the sustainable management of marine ecosystems, resources and activities;
- 10] **Promote** the implementation of the IMO 2018 initial strategy for reducing GHG emissions from ships: in the short-term by adopting reduction measures applicable by 2023 (e.g. ship speed regulation, energy efficiency reinforcement), and by using low-carbon fuels;
- 11] **Convince** the IMO to include the fishing sector in its fourth study on GHG and strategy for reducing GHG emissions;
- 12] **Boost** efforts to end illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by 2020, in accordance with SDG14, and eliminate all subsidies contributing to overfishing, overcapacity and IUU fishing, while implementing the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA);
- 13] **Implement** and enforce an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries, that respects biodiversity and is socially and economically equitable, to limit overexploitation and depletion of fisheries resources and ensure their sustainable recovery;
- 14] **Urge** Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to recognize the need to build the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to help fight and adapt to climate change, and reflect it in all relevant targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

- 15] **Invite** Parties to the CBD and the UNFCCC to create synergies between their different governing bodies, such as COPs and subsidiary bodies, and to build common action agendas for an integrated governance of ocean, climate and biodiversity;
- 16] **Pursue** a target of 30% of the ocean protected by 2030 in effectively and sustainably managed, highly and/or fully protected MPAs with the involvement of local stakeholders; and accelerate the implementation of a coherent, representative and resilient global network of MPAs to urgently restore biodiversity and enhance resilience to climate change;
- 17] **Strengthen** existing funding and develop innovative financial mechanisms to ensure effective management of MPAs and support networks of MPA managers;
- 18] **Adopt** a legally binding agreement for fair conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the high seas, capable of integrating future scientific discoveries, technological innovations and new political paradigms, Operationalize this treaty by establishing MPAs in the high seas, global standards and requirements for environmental impact assessment and management, as well as common and freely accessible genomic databases to allow for the sharing of marine genetic resources;
- 19] **Sign** the call for an "Ocean, Common Good of Humanity";
- 20] **Strengthen** international transdisciplinary research on ocean-climate themes by including a socio-ecological dimension; develop ocean observing systems in particular in the deep sea; foster open access to data obtained from observation systems; and build a new body of knowledge on blue carbon in a global vision integrating the carbon cycle, marine ecosystems and climate mechanisms.

MEMBERS OF THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE PLATFORM





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