

THE OCEAN FOR CLIMATE DECLARATION

A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE
OCEAN FOR A RESILIENT,
NATURE-POSITIVE AND
NET-ZERO FUTURE

Note: This call is supporting and building on: [UNFCCC Climate Action Pathway - Ocean & Coastal Zones, 2030 Agenda and especially SDG 14 - Life below water](#), [Rise Up - a Blue Call to Action](#), [Because the Ocean](#), [The Ocean & Climate Platform](#), [The Ocean Super Year Declaration](#), [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#), [2021 COFI declaration on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture](#).



United Nations
Climate Change



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THE FUTURE WE NEED

It is the year 2050. The Ocean is thriving, and marine life is abundant. All marine ecosystems have recovered, dead zones have disappeared, fisheries are sustainably managed, aquaculture has grown quickly and sustainably, coastal and marine habitats are restored, and a massive loss of ocean life has been averted.

Vital ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, kelp forests and the deep sea, are preserved and are limiting the impacts of a changing climate.

We have drastically reduced emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to limit global warming to 1.5°C, including by significantly scaling up sustainable ocean-based climate solutions - such as green shipping, offshore renewable energy, sustainable seafood and restoration and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems.

As a result, we have dramatically slowed the pace of ocean warming, polar sea ice melt, ocean acidification and deoxygenation. Land-based sources of ocean pollution and upstream impacts to coastal and nearshore areas have been identified and eliminated. A healthier Ocean has contributed to regulating the global climate - by continuing to absorb 30% of anthropogenic CO₂ and 90% of the excess heat emitted annually into the atmosphere - and thus helped reduce the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, flooding and droughts.

The impacts of climate change predicted to be most detrimental to vulnerable human populations have been mitigated through comprehensive emission reduction efforts and adaptation strategies, including by protecting and restoring marine habitats which are important natural buffers. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has generated a stepchange in our understanding of the Ocean and its resources, its role in the global climate system and intricate connections with the biosphere, leading to scientific breakthroughs and targeted research.

Governance is no longer fragmented. The world's Ocean is 100% sustainably and equitably managed for protection, sustainable production and prosperity through inclusive and transparent processes. All relevant stakeholders, including fishers, fish farmers and coastal communities, are involved to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits. A just transition has been achieved, striking a balance between the urgent need to decarbonize and protect and conserve the marine environment, while respecting the labour and human rights of populations, especially women and children.

Coordinated conservation and management strategies are shaping improved regulatory policy, investment decisions and business practices. Decision-makers have adopted science-based approaches to protect over 30% of the Ocean through area-based management, including a network of effective and climate-proofed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

A vibrant, equitable, and sustainable ocean economy has spurred employment, contributed to global food and energy security, and contributed substantially to achieving a resilient, nature-positive¹ and net zero world.

To achieve this vision, the signatories to the Ocean For Climate Declaration will act and support bold and meaningful actions to achieve a healthy and productive Ocean for a resilient, nature-positive and net-zero future.

Therefore, we are calling on **State Parties to the UNFCCC to:**

- Intensify efforts to achieve the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, by halving global emissions by 2030 in line with the IPCC recommendations, and committing to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050 to protect the Ocean, its ecosystems, species and resources;
- Strengthen the integration of, and implement actions to further address the ocean-climate nexus across existing UNFCCC processes and the Paris Agreement, in line with the conclusions of the SBSTA Ocean and Climate Dialogue²;
- Scale-up action at the national level and include ocean-related measures in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and their implementation - such as accounting for ocean change risks, restoring and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems³, especially blue carbon (i.e. mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses), developing large-scale offshore wind and marine renewable energy with net-positive biodiversity impact, decarbonizing the shipping and aquatic food industries and climate-proofing aquatic food systems;
- Ensure a "just transition"⁴ to ocean-based climate solutions by prioritizing standards that promote positive social impact, embedding human rights and environmental justice into decision-making at all levels, to safeguard the most vulnerables and in particular women and children who are disproportionately exposed to ocean risk, as well as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed countries (LDCs).
- Adopt ecosystem-based approaches to sustainably and equitably manage 100% of the global Ocean, and implement strong conservation measures or protections for at least 30% of the Ocean by 2030 to deliver outcomes for climate, biodiversity and people;

1. The targets of the Nature Positive framework described by Locke et al. (2021) call for an immediate halt in the decline of nature, measured from a baseline of 2020, and then reversing "nature loss" by 2030, with "full recovery" by 2050 (Earth Commission, 2021).

2. Ocean and Climate Dialogue Informal summary report by the Chair of SBSTA, available [here](#).

3. It is important to note that strong ocean action should not be used as a substitute for drastically reducing emissions on land and at sea.

4. A just transition can be described as the transition of economies, sectors and companies to low carbon, socially just and environmentally sustainable activities ([B Team and Just Transition Centre, 2018](#))

- Recognize the need and importance of area-based management tools, including a global network of highly protected, connected, effectively implemented and climate-proofed MPAs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) conserved areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM), as tools for building ocean and coastal resilience, safeguarding the Planet's largest carbon sink and largest reservoir of biodiversity;
- Increase the share of climate finance for ocean-based mitigation and adaptation strategies, including by implementing policy and regulatory frameworks that foster investment, support technical assistance, facilitate access, and rechannel investments and subsidies away from activities harmful to coastal and marine ecosystems, investing them instead in protection, science and innovation for ocean-based climate and resilience strategies;
- Strengthen ocean-climate science – observations, research, and data-sharing – building on the UN Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and of Ecosystem Restoration, including the value of Traditional and Indigenous knowledge for informing decisions and developing solutions;
- Leverage other global processes to build synergies across ocean-climate action – including with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organization, the World Trade Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the International Seabed Authority.

We, non-state actors – including NGOs, scientific institutions, international organisations, companies, cities, regions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), voluntary initiatives and financial institutions - will continue engaging with UNFCCC Parties and are committing to boost the ambition loop⁵, in our respective organisations' areas of competences, by:

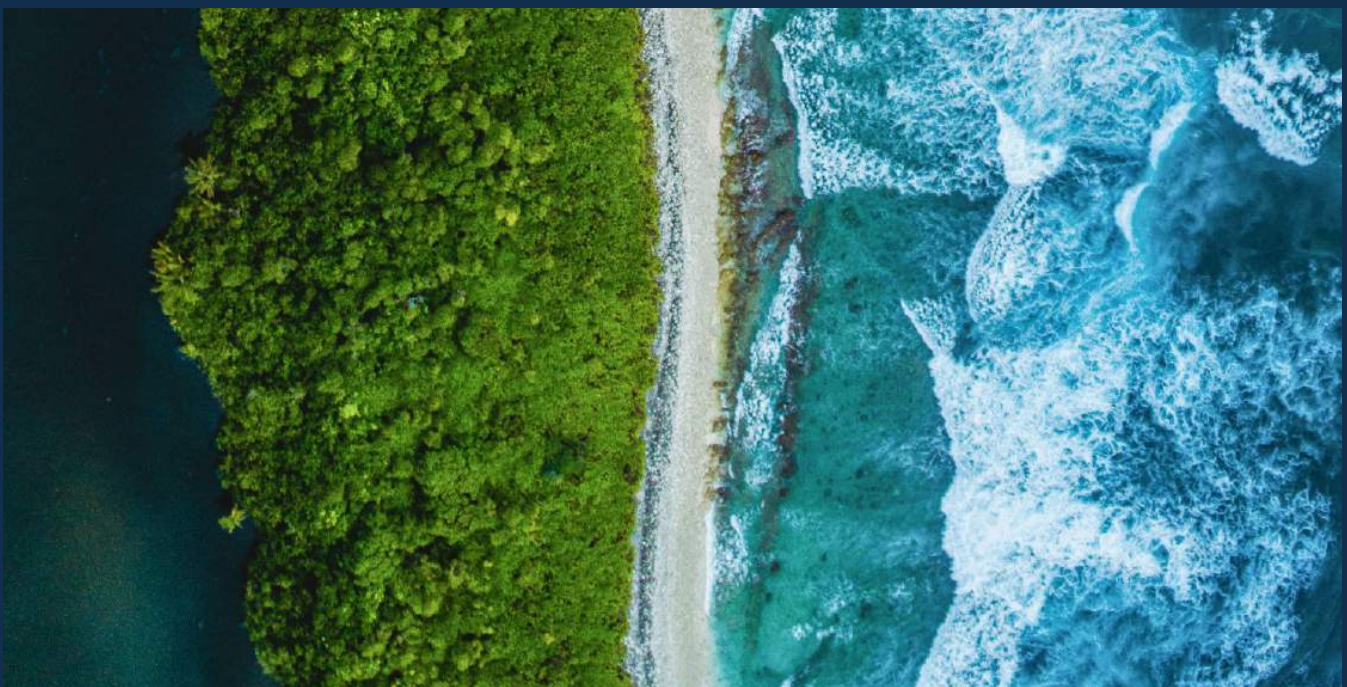
- Delivering on the Race to Zero by taking rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, more equitable, nature-positive and net-zero carbon world by no later than 2050, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C;
- Delivering on the Race to Resilience by acting, investing and publicly reporting on actions taken to protect and restore coastal and marine ecosystems that contribute to provide Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the resilience of coastal communities and reduction of GHG emissions. This includes ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes, as well as kelp beds, sand dunes, coral reefs and deep ocean ecosystems with the potential to capture and store carbon, enhance local conditions and/or reduce the impacts of sea-level rise and extreme weather conditions;

5. The ambition loop concept refers to a positive feedback loop in which bold government policies and private sector leadership reinforce each other (see: <https://ambitionloop.org/>)

- Collecting, managing and sharing relevant scientific data to improve global understanding of ocean-climate interactions and support an increase in ocean literacy;
- The Ocean Renewable Energy industry: supporting governments, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and informed by science, to expand the deployment of offshore wind, and undertake inclusive marine spatial planning as well as efficiently implement policy and regulation to enable large-scale offshore wind growth and meet the tipping point of 380GW of installed offshore wind capacity by 2030⁶. These activities should ensure that all development and operations reduce negative impacts on nature and people, and strive towards net positive impacts;
- The Maritime Transport industry: Contributing to the decarbonization of the shipping industry to achieve the tipping point of 5% zero emission fuels for international shipping and 15% for domestic shipping by 2030⁷, toward fully decarbonizing shipping by 2050 at the latest, while ensuring a just transition by incorporating a human-centred approach to decarbonization;
- Aquatic food production industry: Ensuring the production of sustainable and equitable aquatic food, including in small-scale fishing and aquaculture communities, that continues to meet the food and nutrient needs of the world's growing population. Building nature-positive and resilient aquatic food systems, including through climate risk proofing of infrastructure, facilities and practices along the value chain;
- The Finance sector: significantly increasing investments in sustainable ocean-based climate solutions, incentivizing nature-positive and equitable outcomes. Taking investment decisions informed by science and in line with the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles and the UN Global Compact Sustainable Ocean Principles.

6. [SDG7 Energy Compact of the International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\) and the Global Wind Energy Council \(GWEC\)](#)

7. [Race to Zero 2030 Breakthroughs - Upgrading our Systems Together](#)



SIGNATORIES

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Partnership



ocean-climate.org



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ANNEX

SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS FOR FACTS & FIGURES ON THE OCEAN-CLIMATE NEXUS

- [AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)
- [IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate](#)
- [UNFCCC Climate Action Pathway - Ocean & Coastal Zones](#)
- [Why the Ocean Matters in Climate Negotiations](#)
- [Ocean & Climate Change: New Challenges](#)
- [UN Global Compact \(2021\) Blueprint for a climate-smart ocean to meet 1.5](#)
- [Sectoral Breakthroughs](#)

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