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INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

# 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS, IMPACT AND PROGRESS REPORT

# 2023 A YEAR IN REVIEW

The International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) brings together governments and organizations from across the globe dedicated to taking urgent action to protect coastal communities and livelihoods from the threat of ocean acidification and other climate-ocean impacts. Together we are increasing ambition for climate action and transforming response to climate-ocean.

In 2023, the OA Alliance became a hosted initiative of the **UN Foundation**. This new partnership has allowed our initiative to maximize impact, strengthen organizational durability, and further contribute to climate-ocean leadership across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international platforms.

*“OA Alliance members are leading efforts to ensure multilateral commitments, policies, and communications reflect the interdependence of the ocean to our climate goals and the entire SDG framework,”* said **Elizabeth Cousens**, **President and CEO of the UN Foundation**.

The 2023 annual report details major accomplishments, activities, and programmatic strategies that supported members in advancing OA leadership and achieved objectives of the OA Alliance this year.

Specifically, our objectives include:

1. Support the development of government led OA Action Plans and integration of climate-ocean policies at national and subnational levels.
2. Advance international climate-ocean commitments and promote OA science to policy connections.
3. Increase awareness and visibility of OA as a policy issue through communications efforts.
4. Grow impact, increase partnerships, and strengthen initiative durability.

**Thank you for being part of this community. It’s only through true partnership that we have been able to grow and increase our impact over the last several years. We remain grateful for such a committed network of experts, partners, and true leaders!**

**135 MEMBERS**

across **26 countries** integrating climate-ocean science, policies and investments

Supporting implementation of **UNFCCC, UN SDG 14** and the **UN Decade of Ocean Science**

**2** new regional **POLICY PROGRAMS** in Europe and Africa

**20 DIRECT COLLABORATIONS** with members and partners

**4** new **OA ACTION PLANS**

**5 NEW OA COMMUNICATION PROJECTS**

**6 HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP EVENTS** calling for increased ambition to address OA

**5 WORKSHOPS** convening over **160 participants** across **36 countries** on OA science, policy, financing and communication

**6 PUBLICATIONS,** high-level contributions or OA policy recommendations for governments.

**35 GOVERNMENT & SCIENCE PARTNERS** delivering remarks or registering commitments to OA Actions

**OUR IMPACT**

# 2023

# HIGHLIGHTS



## OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE PANELIST & OA MEMBER MEETING

March 2-3 | Panama City, Panama

OA Alliance was an invited panelist during the climate plenary session. At a side meeting, members discussed needs and opportunities for advancing OA actions across international and domestic agendas. Meeting participants included government representatives from the United States, Norway, Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal, and Mexico.

## WIOMSA PARTNERSHIP

May 17

Launched, “Mapping OA Monitoring & Research Recommendations to Policy In Africa” a joint policy communications project to ensure that regional OA activities occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles are better understood by policy makers as critical for achieving Continental and regional sustainable development, blue economy and food security goals. Supports the creation of Regional OA Program under the Nairobi Convention.

## EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

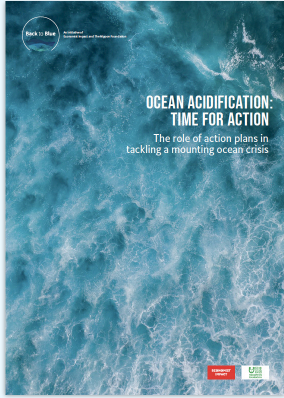
May 24-25 | Brest, France

Hosted workshop “Exploring Marine Management and Policy Response To Ocean Acidification In Europe.” Participating countries including France, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom discussed the role OA information should play in domestic marine management frameworks. The OA Alliance is now producing OA policy recommendations to the European Commission.

## CLIMATE WEEK WITH U. S. FEDS AND STATES

September 18-24 | New York City, U.S.A

Hosted meeting, “Accelerating Implementation of Climate-Ocean Policy in the U.S.” which brought together over 40 practitioners from NOAA, State Department and 10 U.S. states to discuss shared climate-ocean policy priorities, information needs and investments.



## ○ ECONOMIST IMPACT GROUP OA POLICY PAPER, "A TIME FOR ACTION"

November 14 | London, United Kingdom

The policy report "[Ocean Acidification, A Time for Action: The role of action plans in tackling a mounting ocean crisis](#)," was launched with support of the OA Alliance. The report calls on national governments to rise to the challenge of developing National OA Action Plans.



## ○ IAEA OA COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

November 21-24 | San José, Costa Rica

Invited to curate content and programming for "[Communicating OA to Policy Makers](#)" at an OA Communications Workshop hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Ocean Acidification Coordinating Center. The workshop brought together 12 scientists around the world to discuss their goals, challenges, and existing tools to support understanding of local or regional OA efforts.



## ○ COP 28

December 2-12 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Release of [U.S. Ocean Acidification \(OA\) Action Plan](#) at Ocean Pavilion. The U.S. called upon more national governments to create [OA Action Plans](#) by the UN Ocean Conference 2025 and support implementation of [SDG 14.3](#), "to minimize and address OA." Government leaders from France, Sweden, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia made commitments to domestic OA Actions.





# OUR VALUES

## **AMBITIOUS:**

OA Alliance members commit to aggressive climate action; achieving ambitious emission reductions targets is the most important step in turning the tide of climate impacts on our ocean.

## **PROACTIVE:**

We don't know everything, but we know enough to act. Facilitated through the OA Alliance, national, subnational, regional and tribal governments are proactively responding to the impacts of ocean acidification as they create OA Action Plans that promote climate-ocean solutions and advance knowledge into action.

## **INTEGRATIVE:**

National, subnational and tribal leaders are integrating OA and other climate-ocean actions as part of their climate change commitments, policies, communications and investments.

## **CROSS BOUNDARY AND MULTI-SECTORAL:**

OA is a global problem with local impacts. The OA Alliance is helping to drive connection and alignment across climate, ocean and biodiversity commitments by providing global context for the implementation of local actions and policies.

## **COLLABORATIVE:**

We leverage member-to-member information sharing by providing access to toolkits and workshops, scientific information and synthesis, and examples of OA mitigation and adaptation strategies at local and regional scales.

## **INCLUSIVE:**

The OA Alliance would not be possible without the passion, expertise and commitment of all our members and partners. Throughout its work, the OA Alliance strives to ensure all knowledge, leadership and priorities are reflected across ocean and coastal climate change response strategies, including consideration of Tribal treaty rights, responsibilities, diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

## **IMPACTFUL:**

OA Alliance members are demonstrating the types of actions required to deliver on ambitious high-level commitments made through platforms like the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, UNFCCC, Convention on Biological Biodiversity, Our Ocean Conferences, and other fora.



# PROGRESS TOWARDS **OUR OBJECTIVES** IN 2023

# Support the Development of Government Led OA Action Plans and Integration of Climate-Ocean Policies at National and Subnational Levels



Increasingly, OA must become a cross cutting issue embedded across climate, ocean and marine science priorities, opportunities, and actions. Advancing domestic OA action will inform better decision making for achieving mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals.

Through the development of OA Action Plans, OA Alliance members are proactively responding to ocean acidification (OA) and its impacts by promoting solutions that advance knowledge into local action.

OA Action Plans allow governments to increase ambition for mitigating carbon dioxide emissions and actively address localized manifestations of OA, helping to turn back the tide and manage marine resources effectively in the context of climate-ocean change. 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.

While increasing ambition to meet GHG and carbon mitigation goals and targets is essential for mitigating OA, there are additional actions governments can be incorporating now, across domestic strategies.

## ACTIVITIES THAT ADVANCED OA ACTION PLANNING AND CLIMATE-OCEAN POLICY INTEGRATION IN 2023:

- Hosted “[Members and Partners Meeting](#)” on March 3, during the **Our Ocean Conference in Panama City, Panama**. Members discussed needs and opportunities for advancing OA actions across international and domestic agendas. Participants included U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Fisheries and Polar Affairs, Professor Maxine Burkett and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Richard Spinrad, in addition to government representatives from Norway, Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal, and Mexico and non-government partners like PEW Charitable Trust, The Ocean Foundation, World Resources Institute, Peace Boat, and Seattle Aquarium.
- Hosted workshop “[Exploring Marine Management and Policy Response To Ocean Acidification In Europe](#)” on **May 24 in Brest, France as part of European Maritime Day**. Participating countries including France, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom discussed the role OA information should play in domestic marine management frameworks. This included the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which is currently being updated by the Commission to better reflect the realities of climate change impacts on achieving Good Environmental Status of EU waters.



The workshop brought together regional science bodies and policy leaders to discuss OA trends across European waters, better understand the risks and biological impacts to keystone fisheries and aquaculture within the Arctic, North Atlantic and Mediterranean, and highlight recommendations of [OSPAR's 2023 OA Assessment](#).

- **Hosted webinar, “[Mapping OA Monitoring & Research Recommendations to Policy In Africa](#)”** on May 17 seek feedback on a joint policy communications project being undertaken between the OA Alliance and affiliate member, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The policy communications project aims to ensure that regional OA activities occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles are better understood by policy makers as critical for achieving Continental and regional sustainable development, blue economy and food security goals.

The webinar was attended by 50+ scientists, resources managers and high-level policy makers across the WIO region and laid the groundwork for the development of critical communications products to effectively engage policy making audiences in Africa.



- Partnered with the UN Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts and Climate Registry to host a meeting of U.S. federal and state partners on September 18 during UN General Assembly Climate Week. The meeting, “[Accelerating Implementation of Climate-Ocean Policy in the U.S.](#)” brought together over 40 practitioners from NOAA, State Department and 10 U.S. states to discuss shared climate-ocean policy priorities, information needs and investments. Areas of focus included: (1) Ongoing mapping, evaluation, deployment, and accounting of blue carbon ecosystems to meet state climate mitigation goals; and (2) Improved planning and investments for climate resilient marine resources and coastal communities. The meeting laid the groundwork for developing a U.S. state member working group, facilitated by the OA Alliance and invited practitioners in 2024.

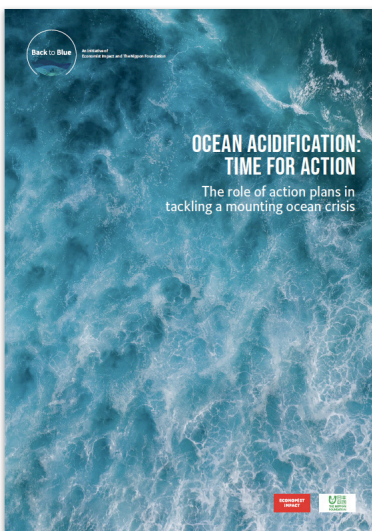
**Meeting participants included:**

**Federal partners:** National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; White House

**U.S. States:** State agency leaders and Governor’s office policy leads from California, Oregon, Washington, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina.

**Practitioners:** UN Foundation, OA Alliance, Pew Charitable Trusts, Climate Registry, U.S Climate Alliance, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, Ocean Conservancy, Nature4Climate US, Ocean Defense Initiative, and US Aquarium partners.

- Speaker at the Economist Impact Group event, “[Ocean Acidification: a threat to marine ecosystems and economies in the Commonwealth and beyond,](#)” on November 14 in London. The event marked the launch of “[Ocean Acidification, A Time for Action: The role of action plans in tackling a mounting ocean crisis,](#)” a policy report calling on national governments to rise to the challenge of developing National OA Action Plans. **The event was attended by government leaders** from across the world including representatives from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Antigua and Barbuda. Speakers and panelists highlighted policy tools, resources and best practices available to support governments in this work, with special emphasis on the [OA Alliance Framework and Toolkit.](#)



- **The United States announced the release of the [U.S. Ocean Acidification \(OA\) Action Plan](#)** on December 10 during a COP28 side event at Ocean Pavilion co-hosted by **NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, U.S. Department of State,** and OA Alliance. The U.S. called upon on more national governments to create **OA Action Plans** by the UN Ocean Conference 2025 and support implementation of **SDG 14.3**, “to minimize and address OA.” During the side event, national government leaders from France, Sweden, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia made commitments to domestic OA Actions.

**Speakers included:**

- Dr. Mahlet Mesfin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, **U.S. State Department**
- Dr. Richard Spinrad, Administrator of the **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
- Ambassador Anna Lindstedt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Sweden**
- Ms. Emilie Rojas Margolliet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Chile**
- Ms. Gabrielle Larricq, Directorate of European and International Affairs **France**
- Dr. Armando Francisco Arias-Isaza, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, **Colombia**
- Congressman Eduardo Murat Hinojosa, **Mexican Chamber of Deputies**
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, **UN Special Envoy for the Ocean**



*“While all governments will have their own unique strategy for addressing OA in a way that meets their needs, the US OA Action Plan may be helpful to other national governments undertaking this work. It provides a framework for prioritizing local research, supporting networks and connections, connecting to policy.*”

*Approaches to developing an OA Action Plan should be place-based and unique to the ecology, capacity, and policy or management goals of the nation or region. National actors, sub-national actors, and intergovernmental organizations like the OA Alliance play an important role in advancing this collective action.*

*The United States encourages other nations to join the OA Alliance and develop OA Action Plans. We are committed to working collaboratively across all levels to deliver on climate ocean goals for the health of the planet and future generations.”*

- Dr. Richard Spinrad, Administrator of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at COP28.

- The Province of British Columbia released their [OA and Hypoxia Action Plan](#), which was created in response to a preliminary assessment that identified ocean acidification as a significant climate-change risk to B.C.'s seafood sector. New York State released their [OA Action Plan](#) final report. OSPAR released an [OA Action Plan](#), which outlines research and prioritizes activities in NE Atlantic waters. OSPAR is the mechanism by which 15 Governments and the European Union cooperate to protect the marine environment.
- Redesigned the [OA Action Plan webpage](#) to better reflect the 6 thematic areas of OA Action Planning and highlight relevant activities and projects from members across each theme. The updated webpage features our members' OA related activities and supports members in creating OA Action Plans.
- Released infographic, "[European Policies Can Address OA](#)" which highlights Regional Seas Conventions and European Management Directives that can be leveraged and strengthened by European governments to support OA knowledge and response. The infographic supports further recommendations to the European Commission for how OA information can be integrated across the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in 2024-2030.
- Released communication tools along with executive summary of "[Mapping Policy for Supporting OA Monitoring and Research in the Western Indian Ocean \(WIO\)](#)." The communication tools and executive summary include country examples of OA efforts occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles and helps national and regional policy makers understand expanded OA activities as critical for meeting Continental and regional sustainable development, blue economy, and food security goals.



**MAPPING OA MONITORING AND RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY IN AFRICA**  
MEETING SUMMARY + PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION  
May 19, 2023 | 11:00am-1:00pm East Africa Time in Tanzania

WIMOSA | OA ALLIANCE

**OVERVIEW**

The OA Alliance and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIMOSA) hosted a webinar in May 19 to provide an overview of and seek feedback on, "Mapping OA Monitoring and Research Recommendations to Policy in Africa," a joint policy communications project they are undertaking together in 2023.

The policy communications project flows from the Western Indian Ocean Acidification (WIO) OA Monitoring project established by WIMOSA in conjunction with regional institutions and experts. The monitoring project resulted in the 2022 OA report in 2022, which examines the state of OA and makes recommendations for future research and information priorities across 6 countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Next steps include expanding monitoring programmes and moving forward on key recommendations of the report. Importantly, there is a desire to ensure existing and expanded OA activities and efforts are understood by policy makers and utilized to inform local and regional policy, management, and adaptation strategies into the future.

In order to support communication about the importance of advancing and funding this work, the OA Alliance/ WIMOSA policy communications project will enhance existing OA efforts in region, by illuminating their relationship to consequential policy goals and targets that decision-makers and managers are already tasked with implementing.

[www.oaalliance.org/oa-monitoring](https://www.oaalliance.org/oa-monitoring)

**European governments can utilize existing conventions**

The effectiveness of action depends on local factors and conditions. Across Europe, existing conventions and shared directives can be used to accelerate regional collection of information and enhance OA mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures.

Regional conventions can gather localized information for specific purposes:

- Monitor and report on local trends.
- Prioritize research on impacts to keystone species.
- Evaluate ocean-based mitigation strategies.
- Tackle non-climate stressors that lead to eutrophication.
- Promote and evaluate adaptation and resilience efforts.

**CONVENTIONS**

**EU directives can be strengthened for OA response**

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive**  
Take Up OA Monitoring and Reporting as Relevant to assessing Good Environment Status under Descriptor 1 (biodiversity); Descriptor 5 (eutrophication); Descriptor 7 (hydrographical conditions); and Descriptor 11 (energy pollution).
- Marine Spatial Planning Directive**  
Apply Localized OA Information Across Marine-Use Decisions including options for Blue Carbon.
- Water Framework Directive**  
Model, Report On, Reduce Pollutants that Exacerbate OA, Warming and Oxygen Loss (Eutrophication).
- Nitrates Directive**  
Model, Report On, Reduce Nitrates that Exacerbate OA, Warming and Oxygen Loss (Eutrophication).
- Habitats and Birds Directive**  
Apply Localized OA Information to Assess Conservation Measures and Nature Based Solutions that Support Marine Habitats.

**Climate-ocean policy integration is needed & possible**

As the science, research and observed impacts of climate-ocean change continue to grow, we must integrate OA information and knowledge across mainstream management and policy responses.

OAA worked in collaboration with: [www.oaalliance.org](https://www.oaalliance.org), NEA Hub, and OA Med Hub.

**GRAPHIC #6: EXAMPLE OF DOMESTIC POLICIES FOR UTILIZING OA MONITORING AND RESEARCH IN THE WIO**

Mapping Policy for Supporting OA Monitoring and Research in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)

**SEYCHELLES:**

OA monitoring and Research occurring through WIMOSA: Monitoring and evaluating the potential of mangroves to remediate OA and promote blue carbon sequestration.

Relevance to implementing policy: Supports country in establishing a long-term monitoring program for mangroves and mangrove habitats by 2025, while incorporating the greenhouse gas (GHG) sink of Seychelles' blue carbon ecosystems within the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory by the same year.

Domestic Policy: Nationally Determined Contribution

**KENYA:**

OA monitoring and Research occurring through WIMOSA: Research to determine the responses of organisms and ecosystems to OA with an emphasis on critical coral habitats of keystone fisheries.

Relevance to implementing policy: OA data collected should be layered with fisheries management data and made available to decision makers by Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRRI). This will inform the National Ocean and Fisheries Policy with a focus on ensuring food security and sustaining and managing fish resources, including coastal and marine fisheries and their habitats.

Domestic Policy: National Ocean and Fisheries Policy

[www.oaalliance.org/oa-monitoring](https://www.oaalliance.org/oa-monitoring)

# Advance International Climate-Ocean Commitments and Promote OA Science to Policy Connections



International and multi-government commitments to addressing climate-ocean change and sustainable development play an important role in stimulating collective action. By integrating OA science, management and investments, OA Alliance members are demonstrating the types of actions required to deliver on ambitious high-level commitments.

OA Alliance members are calling for carbon emissions reductions alongside ocean mitigation and adaptation actions under international climate frameworks like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We also deliver on OA commitments to the Our Ocean Conference and co-lead outcomes for the OA Research for Sustainability Program under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability.

It is important to ensure UN frameworks and conventions—including UNFCCC, UN Sustainable Development 14, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science:

1. reflect interconnectivity across climate-ocean information and risk assessments.
2. articulate OA specific policy goals and targets, including financing to support meeting those goals and targets.

National OA Action Plans call forth renewed ambition to realize mitigation and adaptation targets already in place across the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, “to minimize and address ocean acidification. Additionally, OA Action Plans help prioritize science, policy, and funding needs across the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability.

In 2023, the OA Alliance engaged across relevant fora and dialogues in order to: (1) accelerate GHG reduction commitments by 2030; (2) emphasize and prioritize ocean adaptation and resilience needs; (3) increase finance and technical capacity for ocean & coastal efforts; and (4) showcase example pathways for integrating regional OA science across relevant policy mechanisms.

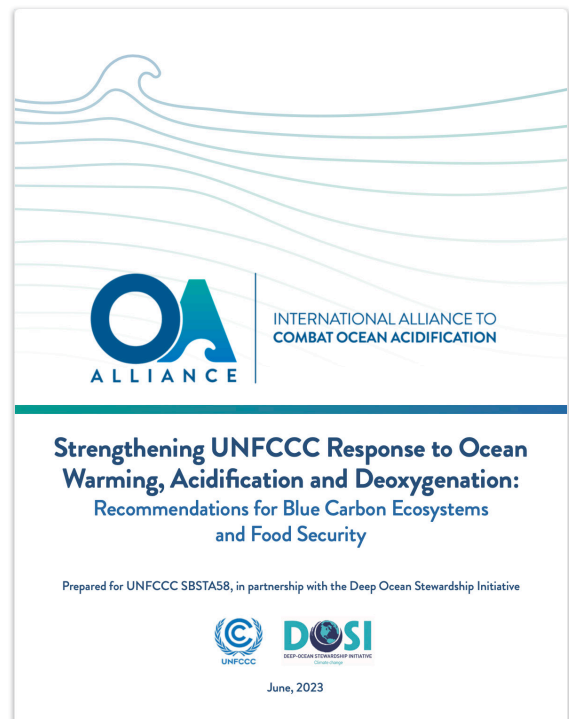


## ACTIVITIES THAT ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE-OCEAN COMMITMENTS AND PROMOTED OA SCIENCE TO POLICY CONNECTIONS IN 2023:

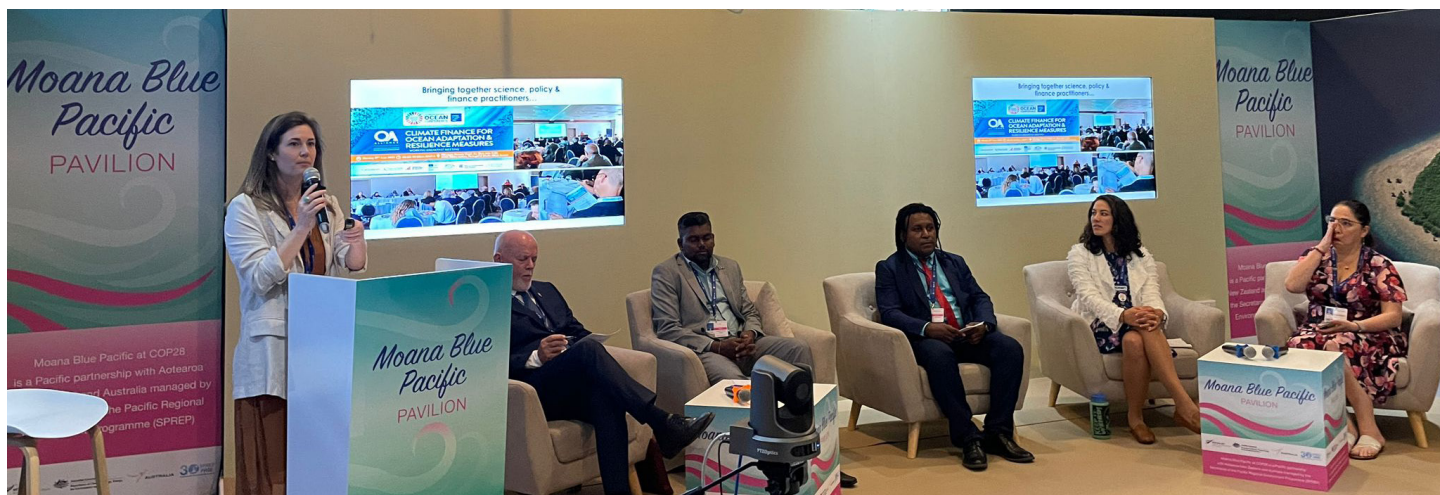
- **Invited panelist during the [Climate Plenary at the Our Ocean Conference on March 2](#)**. The plenary focused on climate change, impacts, solutions, and response strategies. OA Alliance Executive Director, Jessie Turner, highlighted the role of OA Action Plans to support governments in prioritizing needs and aligning policies and investments in the face of climate-ocean change.

### *Additional panelists included:*

- Vladimir Ryabinin - Executive Secretary and Deputy Director General of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
  - H.E. Steffi Lemke - Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
  - H.E. Miguel Ceara Hatton - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic
  - Ms. Alicia Montalvo, Manager of Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity, CAF Development Bank of Latin America
  - Ms. Aulani Wilhelm, Assistant Director for Ocean Conservation, Climate and Equity at the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President
  - Ms. Melissa Garvey, Global Director, Ocean Protection, The Nature Conservancy
  - Laura Dihuinidili Huertas Thompson – Guna Yala Indigenous Coastal Community
- **Participated in the [Ocean and Climate Dialogue](#)** on June 14 as part of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice 58 meeting. The Dialogue was co-facilitated by Chile and Canada and focused on: (1) the role of coastal ecosystem restoration, including blue carbon ecosystems; and (2) fisheries and food security in the context of climate change. The OA Alliance released [recommendations to strengthen UNFCCC response to ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation](#) with specific focus on enhancing blue carbon and food security.



- Released policy brief, **“[OA Alliance Perspectives on Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal and Related Research](#)”** prepared by the **OA Alliance Executive Team**. The policy brief supports members in navigating through the different approaches to marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) strategies and how they relate to ocean acidification. It is critical that ocean acidification scientists, technical experts and multi-discipline practitioners come together with policy makers, resource managers, public and private sectors to collectively outline, prioritize, and conduct the research and evaluation needed to assess the implications of different mCDR strategies for ocean acidification.
- Implementing partner of two UN Decade of Ocean Science endorsed programs: **“[Understanding and Addressing Ocean Acidification and Changing Ocean Conditions Through the Development of OA Action Plans,](#)”** project ID 8 and **“[Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability \(OARS\),](#)”** project ID 219.
- Co-facilitated publication of white paper at IOC-UNESCO on behalf of OARS UN Decade program outcome #2, **“[Identifying OA Data and Evidence for OA Mitigation and Adaptation.](#)”** The white paper included the creation of an “OA Information for Decision Making” cheat sheet for policy makers, scientist and other stakeholders identifying OA information needs for 6 discrete decision-making outcomes.
- Invited to brief the **[Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#)** ocean and coastal leads on September 5. The briefing was invited by GCF to discuss the role of regional OA information in supporting successful implementation and evaluation of climate adaptation grants. Next steps include offering OA technical guidance to GCF.
- Programed and participated in events across **“OA Week Symposium”** hosted by **[Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network \(GOA-ON\)](#)** between 30 October- 3 November. The Symposium brought together researchers across the world with sessions, plenary speakers, and engaging talks about ocean acidification research to support OA mitigation, adaptation and improved management of ocean and marine resources. The OA Alliance leads presented across a number of events including:
  - **[Updates on Law and Policy Related to OA](#)** (31 Oct)
  - **[North East Atlantic Hub Updates on European OA Assessments and Policy Response](#)** (1 Nov)
  - **[Enabling the Scientific Community To Provide OA Data and Evidence of Known Quality, and Communications for Same](#)** (2 Nov)
- Hosted **three events at COP28**. **17 government** and science partners **delivered remarks and made commitments** to OA action across COP28, which took place 30 November - 12 December as part of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The OA Alliance was additionally invited to speak at 3 events about the importance of building OA policy capacity, increasing OA literacy and the role of ocean alkalinity enhancement on OA remediation.



- On 4 December, the OA Alliance co-hosted an event at the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion, “[Leading on OA Monitoring, Policy Mainstreaming and Finance in the Pacific.](#)” The event was co-hosted with U.S. NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, U.S. State Department, and The Ocean Foundation. The event was an opportunity to share out goals, partnerships, and successes of the Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Centre ([PIOAC](#)), alongside needs for increased science, policy mainstreaming and financing.

**Speakers included:**

- Office of the Prime Minister, Climate Finance Specialist, Mr. Ravneeth Dewan, Fiji
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy to the Ocean
- Mr. Exsley Taloiburi, GEM Division Deputy Director of Pacific Community
- Dr. Kalina Grabb, U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ms. Alejandra Navarrete, Government and Multilateral Officer, The Ocean Foundation

- On 6 December, the OA Alliance co-hosted an event at the Commonwealth Pavilion, “[Leveraging UN Mechanisms for Local OA Adaptation and Resilience.](#)” The event was co-hosted with UN Foundation; IOC-UNESCO; Plymouth Marine Laboratory; Ocean Decade Programme ‘Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability; Commonwealth Secretariat; Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network and University of Washington. Panelists discussed food security, adaptation and financing concerns associated with OA and highlighted the science, policy, and further investments needed to respond. The event launched the [OA Research for Sustainability UN Decade Programme Commitments Page.](#)

**Speakers included:**

- Cristina Rumbaitis de Rio, Director of Adaptation, UN Foundation
- Dr. Tarub Bahri, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
- Mr. Euan Low, Climate Impact Area Lead, Green Climate Fund
- Tiago Pitta e Cunha, Chief Executive Officer of Oceano Azul Foundation
- Nicholas Hardman- Mountford, Head of Ocean Governance and Natural Resource Management Commonwealth Blue Charter
- Professor Steve Widdicombe, OARS Secretariat. UN Decade of Ocean Science, Ocean Acidification Research Programme
- Ms. Paula Faiva, Director of Ministry of Climate, Oceans & Resilience, Government of Tokelau
- Dr. Kalina Grabb, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy to the Ocean







- **Contributed to publication, “[Integrating the Ocean: Options for the CMA 5 Decision on the Global Stocktake.](#)”** The publication informed the COP28 [Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#) which includes ocean and marine elements and makes explicit references about the need to safeguard food security, particularly food production systems that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It notes the importance of ocean and coastal ecosystems as both carbon sinks and as vital resources offering economic, social, and environmental benefits that will require adaptation and resilience building strategies to maintain.
- **Contributed OA suggestions to the [UNFCCC Global Goal on Adaptation \(GGA\)](#)** which now incorporates a number of ocean, coastal and marine aspects including the need for achieving climate-resilient food production, reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through management, restoration and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.



**OA**  
ALLIANCE

# Increase Awareness and Visibility of OA as a Policy Issue Through Communications Efforts



As global interest in ocean acidification grows, we must be communicating OA for different audiences and outcomes; moving from describing “what is OA” and “why does OA matter” to “what can different actors do to address OA?”

Since its launch, the OA Alliance has been focused on turning OA knowledge into action. To be successful, it’s important that we clearly communicate not just the primary causes of climate-ocean change but also the myriad options for mitigation, preparedness, and response. By doing this, we see more actors—governments, scientists, and civil society—engaging with the OA Alliance and support a global community in identifying pathways for OA actions at different scales.

It’s important that members of the OA Alliance have a strong narrative about their OA leadership and understand the discrete outcomes they want to achieve through OA communication efforts. Communications strategies advanced by the OA Alliance in 2023 supported members and increased our collective impact around:

- the need for ambitious reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- climate-ocean change impacts and policy response
- the importance of acting now
- leadership role of OA Alliance members

Increased focus on communications was highlighted as main priority during strategic planning in 2021, acknowledging that a strong communications strategy is essential to furthering our mission and helping members leverage their work and leadership. In response, OA Alliance launched a series of surveys for our membership, to ensure we were providing the right messages, tools, and content in a format that our members could utilize.

## COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES THAT INCREASED AWARENESS AND VISIBILITY OF OA AS A POLICY ISSUE IN 2023:

- **Hosted webinar “[Communicating OA and Climate Change](#),”** on February 22 which provided communications takeaways and learnings from the OA Alliance when engaging governments and non-science partners. Drawing on our participation in the **[5th International Marine Science Communication Conference](#)** (CommOCEAN) we discussed perspectives from practitioners who are working on discrete OA communications projects at local, regional, and international scales.

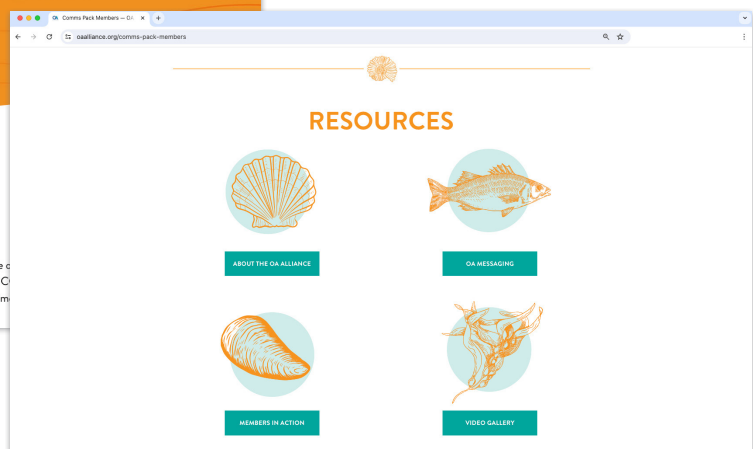
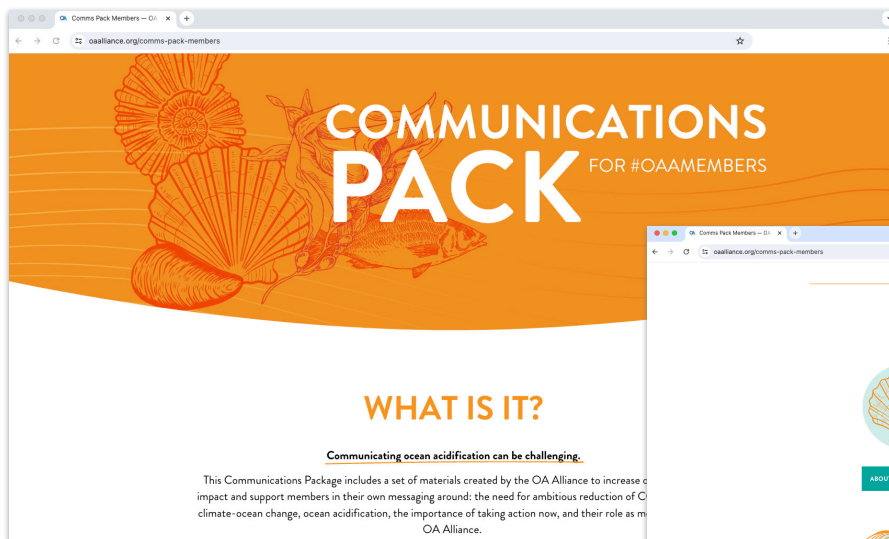
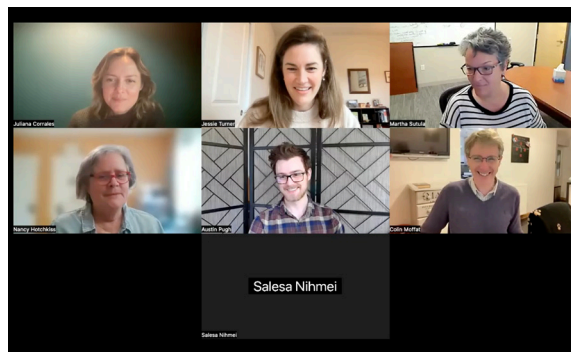
### *Speakers included:*

- Ms. Juliana Corrales, Creative Consultant to the OA Alliance
- Salesa Nihmei, Meteorology & Climatology Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Nancy Hotchkiss, Pathways Collaborative, Oregon OAH Council Communications Project
- Austin Pugh, Canadian Community of Practice on OA
- Dr. Martha Sutula, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

- **Attended annual members' meeting of the [Ocean and Climate Platform \(OCP\)](#)** in Marseille, France May 10-11. OCP members discussed opportunities to: (1) enhance communications efforts and shared messages and calls for action; (2) prioritize shared research needs at different scales; and (3) support national and subnational governments in preparing policy and financing commitments at the [UN Ocean Conference 2025](#).
- **Authored article with partners at [RISE UP for the Ocean](#) to increase awareness about the risks OA pose to food security and sovereignty.** The article demonstrated the importance of addressing climate-ocean change to the Makah Indian Tribe, highlighting various initiatives the Makah Tribe has advanced, including developing an OA Action Plan and launching a "First Foods Climate Resilience Plan."
- **Developed and released "[Communications Package for Members](#)"** comprised of resources across four categories: About the OA Alliance; OA Messaging; Members in Action; and Video Gallery. The content is ready to be used across our members' day-to-day activities, including a glossary, key messages, information about the OA Alliance and membership, infographics, videos, social media assets and examples of OA action from fellow members.

The Communications Package for Members will help members and partners:

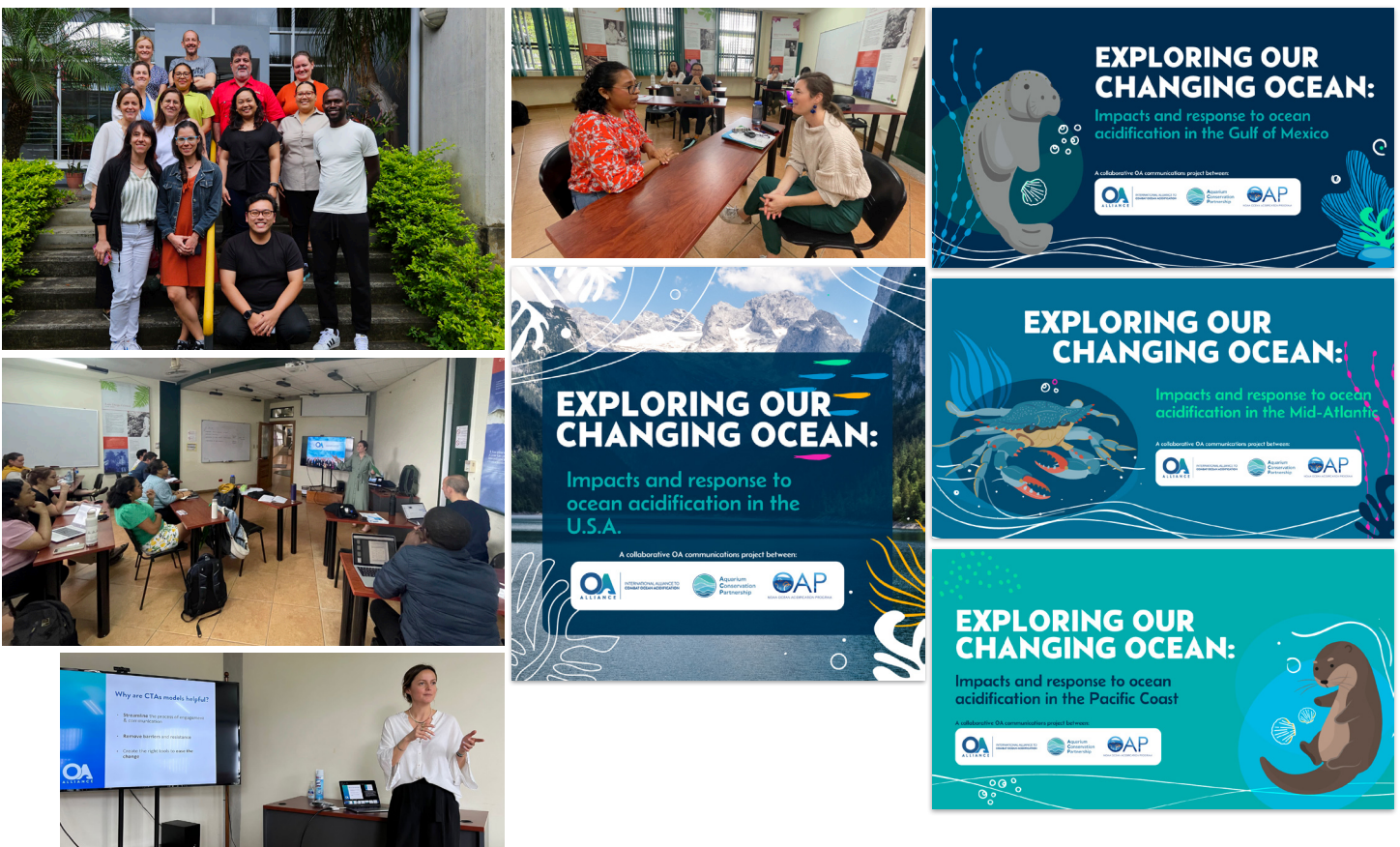
- Create talking points for climate or ocean conferences.
- Communicate with colleagues within their own government or organization.
- Support education and outreach efforts.
- Begin drafting their own OA Action Plans.



- **Invited to curate content and present four days of programming “Communicating OA to Policy Makers”** at an OA Communications Workshop hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s [International Ocean Acidification Coordinating Center](#) which took place Nov 14-24 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The communications workshop brought together 12 scientists from Malaysia, Philippines, Greece, Argentina, Peru, Panama, Brazil, Greece, Cabo Verde, South Africa to discuss their goals, challenges, and existing tools to support communications about and understanding of local or regional OA efforts. The OA Alliance director and communications lead generated presentations, worksheets, interactive discussions, and role-playing exercises to support the module.
- **Designed and launched a U.S. wide OA communications project with the [Aquarium Conservation Partnership](#) and [NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program](#).** “[Exploring Our Changing Ocean: Impacts and Response to Ocean Acidification in the US](#),” is a collaborative project supporting aquaria in place-based storytelling about the importance of addressing climate change in communities they serve. The project includes the development of six interactive OA StoryMaps showcasing relevant ocean acidification trends, science activities, stakeholder engagements, and policy responses taking place across regions where NOAA supports U.S. Coastal Acidification Networks (“CANs”). The six regional NOAA CANs include activities in Alaska, California Current, North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico.

By regionalizing information and storytelling, “[Exploring Our Changing Ocean: Impacts and Response to OA in the US](#)” supports education, outreach, and calls to action that associated aquarium partners and science institutions can utilize across their larger climate change narratives and outreach efforts. Project partners will be working together throughout 2024 to ensure the OA StoryMap content is made available for partnering aquarium to utilize across their outreach and education activities.

- **Released 9 e-newsletters** which help ensure members and prospective members hear from the OA Alliance regularly and are seeing examples of how the OA Alliance might effectively address in-region concerns.
- **Updated the [OA Alliance website](#)** to ensure new messages, policy publications, OA Action Plan Toolkit, and members’ activities reflect our work and impact.



# Grow Impact, Increase Partnerships, and Strengthen Initiative Durability



Following a 2021 Strategic Planning process of the OA Alliance Executive Committee, we conducted a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis to assess the impact of the initiative and effectiveness of programmatic deliverables under the current organizational model. We then evaluated benefits and limitations across several alternative organizational hosting entities.

Through this process, it was identified by the Executive Committee that our goals for increased organizational durability included:

- More stable funding streams, expanding support staff with well-defined work streams, deliverables, support products, and partner collaborations across science and policy leads.
- A new initiative host or programmatic home to increase exposure to high-level climate and ocean policy landscapes.
- Maintain national and subnational government leadership and information sharing.
- Increase amplification of membership successes and brand affiliation.
- Improve ways of quantifying impact and defining OA metrics for global climate-ocean health.

Through deliberations between the Executive Committee and broader membership, the OA Alliance became a hosted initiative of the UN Foundation in April 2023.

The UN Foundation (UNF) is an independent charitable organization created to work closely with the United Nations to drive global progress and tackle urgent problems. UNF collaborates and innovates to address humanity's greatest challenges, acting as a strategic partner to help the UN mobilize the ideas, people, and resources it needs to support a diverse and durable constituency for collective action.

## ACTIVITIES TO GROW IMPACT, INCREASE PARTNERSHIPS, AND STRENGTHEN INITIATIVE DURABILITY IN 2023:

- **Joined UNF as a hosted initiative** which has allowed the OA Alliance to institutionalize its work, allowing for growth, increased funding, and enhanced staff capacity. This includes providing more structure and support for longer-term strategic planning, with UNF acting as an incubator over the next 3 years (2023-2026).
- **Invited new members to join our Executive Committee** and develop Articles of Governance outlining leadership roles and responsibilities. **Secured two new funding partners** supporting our work.

- **Formed a support team** leading various aspects of OA Alliance policy and communications work streams.



**Jessie Turner**  
Executive Director



**Juliana Corrales**  
Communications Lead  
and Creative Consultant



**Annika Frosch**  
OA Action Plan Lead and  
International Policy Consultant



**Inken Dressler**  
European Project Lead, Policy  
Consultant and Legal Research  
Fellow



**Dr. Reuben Makomere**  
Africa Programme Lead, Policy  
Consultant and Legal Research  
Fellow



**Edith Mari**  
UN Decade of Ocean Science  
Programme Lead and U.S. Policy  
Consultant

- **Welcomed 5 new members** this year including the national governments of Denmark and Columbia, the Institute for Marine and Coastal Research of Columbia, [Sustainable Ocean Alliance](#), [Kelp Forest Foundation](#), and [AirClim](#).
- **Directly partnered with over 20 entities to host 14 events, workshops or produce shared deliverables.** These partnerships included:

- OSPAR Convention
- Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (NE Atlantic Hub and Mediterranean Hub)
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- Aquarium Conservation Partnership
- Alaska OA Network
- NOAA Ocean Acidification Program
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Peace Boat US
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Pacific Coast Collaborative
- Ocean Defense Initiative
- Ocean Climate Platform
- Pacific Community
- The Ocean Foundation
- Economist Impact Group
- Commonwealth Blue Charter
- Oceano Azul Foundation
- IOC-UNESCO
- IAEA International OA Coordinating Center
- Rise Up for the Ocean

**Moving forward, the OA Alliance will continue to expand and utilize strategic partnerships to deliver on our goals, serve our members, and increase our impact.**



# THANK YOU

The OA Alliance—alongside a global community of OA practitioners—is increasing ambition for climate action and transforming response to climate-ocean change. Together, we have increased our collective impact calling for ambitious climate action and by demonstrating the mitigation and adaptation measures that support broader climate, ocean, and biodiversity goals.

A special thank you to **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** for their support and partnership since the beginning—the OA Alliance would not have been possible without this early vision. Thank you to **Ocean Conservancy** and **Seattle Aquarium** for acting as fiscal sponsors to the OA Alliance over the last 7 years, and of course to **Cascadia Policy Solutions** for serving as Secretariat. Thank you to **ICONIQ Impact Group's Ocean Co-Lab** and the **Jewish Community Fund of Montreal** for joining our effort and for your trust.

Finally, the success of the OA Alliance is brought about by the commitment of members and an ever-growing set of partners.

The OA Alliance's work and growing impact would not be possible without the passion, expertise, time, and commitment of all our members and partners: you are creative, generous, and outcome oriented. It is easy to look back and see every step forward as the obvious one; and course that is rarely the case. Thank you to every person and collaboration that showed the way.

We look forward to continuing our work together in 2024.





INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

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