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LISBON
27 JUNE -
1 JULY
2022



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

DRIVING CLIMATE ACTION AT UNOC CONFERENCE 2022

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The UN Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, took place from June 27 to July 1 in Lisbon, Portugal. The success of the Conference proved that while the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the delay of many pivotal ocean and climate convenings and benchmarks —the global commitment to action and progress is not diminished.

The OA Alliance showed up in a big way, doing our part to drive climate action and increase understanding and implementation of UN SDG 14.3, “to minimize and address ocean acidification.” We did this by announcing new members, convening a meeting about climate financing for ocean adaptation, hosting an official SDG 14.3 side event at Altice Arena and unveiling voluntary commitments to OA action taking made by membership!



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM JOIN THE OA ALLIANCE

The OA Alliance was honored to welcome two new national governments into the family: the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, Mr. John Kerry made the announcement during the [Conference Plenary](#):

“The ocean touches all of our lives. It is clear that greenhouse gas emissions are driving warming and acidification of our oceans, and the rate of pace is alarming. This has an impact on marine life that will affect every single person on the planet. So today, I am proud to announce that the United States will join the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification. We do this in addition to the many other actions we are taking to meet our target of 1.5 degrees and reduce our national greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot tackle OA without tackling the source: this means achieving a zero carbon or low carbon energy future as soon as possible.”



Further announcements were made by **Dr. Richard Spinrad**, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States and **Mr. James Smith**, Deputy Director for Marine Policy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom.

U.S. NOAA has supported a [domestic OA Program](#) since 2011 and is leading work across federal agencies including through the U.S. Interagency Working Group on OA, which directly assists the government on matters related to ocean acidification monitoring, policy and investments. This includes coordination of federal interagency activities as outlined in U.S. Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (FOARAM).

United Kingdom's leadership on climate-ocean action and investment in OA monitoring has been displayed through the UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme, the [Commonwealth Blue Charter](#), and across Plymouth Marine Laboratory which supports the [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network's NE Atlantic Hub](#).

Both governments are leading the way, taking domestic and international actions that expand climate-ocean policy and financing for this work.

We look forward to learning from these two climate-ocean leaders, as we seek deeper integration across climate, ocean and biodiversity commitments and advance actions that address climate change, support food security and sovereignty, and increase resilience of marine ecosystems, economies, and communities.



OA ALLIANCE PARTICIPATES IN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE 3: MINIMIZING AND ADDRESSING OCEAN ACIDIFICATION, DEOXYGENATION AND OCEAN WARMING.

The OA Alliance was welcomed as an invited panelist to the official [Interactive Dialogue on SDG 14.3](#) which took place Wednesday, June 29. We took the opportunity to share members' efforts to better understand and respond to ocean and coastal acidification.

Ms. Jessie Turner, Director of the OA Alliance brought home the importance of taking action now:

“When talking about climate change impacts on our ocean, we must be clear that while we don’t know everything, we know enough to act. We know enough to begin prioritizing and exploring the key questions that are most important to policy makers, seafood industries and coastal communities. And the good news is...we have lots of existing frameworks across different scales of governance that can be leveraged to take up this work.”



Co-Chairs of the Interactive Dialogue Included:

- H.E. Mr. John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, USA
- H.E. Hon. Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica

Moderator:

- Mr. Stephen Widdicombe, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Science at Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML); Co-Chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) Executive Council

Panelists:

- Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency
- Mr. Johan Stander, Director of Services, World Meteorological Organization
- Ms. Jessie Turner, Director of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification
- Mr. Hans Otto-Pörtner, Co-Chair of the IPCC Working Group II

Discussants:

- Mr. Inti Keith, Senior Marine Biologist and specialist in invasive species, Charles Darwin Foundation, Galapagos, Ecuador
- Ms. Loreley Picourt, Executive Director, Ocean Climate Platform



THE OA ALLIANCE HOSTS BREAKFAST MEETING ON:

CLIMATE FINANCING FOR OCEAN ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE MEASURES

The OA Alliance began the week by convening a breakfast meeting, “[Climate Financing for Ocean Adaptation](#),” on Monday, June 27 which brought together OA science and policy coordinating bodies, national governments, and international climate finance regimes with charges to support countries in implementing climate adaptation and resilience strategies that advance goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

The discussion established [a better understanding of pathways](#) to ensure climate financing is made available for ocean acidification adaptation and community resiliency strategies.

Participants included leaders from UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Commonwealth Blue Charter, UNFCCC, UN Foundation, IOC-UNESCO; national governments with emergent OA monitoring programs including (Samoa, Fiji, Tokelau, Kiribati, Belize, Costa Rica, Peru, Columbia, Argentina, Ghana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles and Kenya); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programm (SPREP); Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA); relevant partners across the community of practice to implement SDG 14.3.

A full meeting summary report will be issued in August of 2022. Please contact Jessie@OAalliance.org if you’d like to receive the summary.

The event was co-organized by: OAAlliance, Commonwealth Blue Charter, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, and the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network.

In partnership with: UN Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and The Ocean Foundation.





Director General, Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programm (SPREP):

“Ocean is part of our way of life, provides our food and it is our culture and identity. Our members are custodians of the Pacific, the largest ocean in the world. We need to build our own expertise in OA in our region. This is fundamental because of its impact on our livelihood. Giving our students opportunities to become experts, they will be able to integrate traditional knowledge to science in a way that communities need most.”

Because the monitoring of OA and the science is fairly new, it is important to bring all the communities in the Pacific to discuss and exchange information on best practice and lessons learned. This is what we did under the Pacific Partnership on OA project where nations with more experience in OA monitoring programmes were able to share information with countries starting their OA programmes.”



Dra. Carla F. Berghoff, Programa “Dinámica del Pláncton Marino y Cambio Climático, Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero, Argentina

“The Latin American OA Network acknowledges the importance of giving a useable message to decision makers, especially for those not really immersed in OA work.”

We need to be clear that OA is a long term, slow on-set climate impact that requires the long-term capacity for observing changes and anticipating response. As countries begin to assume commitments for monitoring the progress of OA along their coastline, those commitments must be long-term-- at least at decadal scale that consider the infrastructure capacities needed for coastal monitoring and for accelerating targeted research on the shellfish, finfish, and coral reef structures the region most relies upon.”

THE OA ALLIANCE'S OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT:

TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS OCEAN ACIDIFICATION & IMPLEMENT SDG 14.3

Our [official OA side event](#), held on June 29 inside the Altice Arena, highlighted Voluntary Commitments made by governments and civil society for advancing OA policy, financing, literacy, science and innovation for management.

Speakers demonstrated that increased local and regional knowledge of risks, impacts and coastal community priorities is helping to inform management and response strategies.

This is in parallel to global efforts that are moving forward to provide society with the evidence needed to sustainably identify, monitor, mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification at relevant scales.

The event helped leverage national and subnational actors across the UN Decade of Ocean Science endorsed programme, [OA Research for Sustainability \(OARS\)](#) of which the OA Alliance is a co-champion partner.

The event was co-hosted by: OA Alliance, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Commonwealth Blue Charter, IOC-UNESCO; IAEA Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre, the Global Ocean Acidification-Observing Network, the University of Washington and The Ocean Foundation.



Featured speakers included:

- Dr. Richard Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States
- Mr. James Smith, Deputy Director for Marine Policy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- Dr. Mark Gold, Director of California Ocean Protection Council, State of California
- Ms. Hillary Hyland, Senior Environmental Specialist for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- Dra. Carla F. Berghoff, Programa “Dinámica del Plancton Marino y Cambio Climático, Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero, Argentina
- Prof. Richard Bellerby, Chief Scientist Climate and Oceans, Norwegian Institute for Water Research; OARS co-champion
- Dr. Jan Newton, co-chair of the University of Washington Ocean Acidification Center and co-chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network
- Dr. Katy Soapi, Coordinator of Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science
- Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC- UNESCO
- Ms. Alexis Valauri-Orton, The Ocean Foundation

Dr. Jan Newton, co-chair of the University of Washington Ocean Acidification Center and co-chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network

Dr. Katy Soapi, Coordinator of Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science

“Co-design of OA science and research must be demand driven, led by place-based coastal communities.”

“Building long-term relationships is the single most important aspect for getting things done. Progress happens at the speed of trust, and this must underpin our work on OA regionally.”



COMMITMENTS TO OA ACTION FROM MEMBERS!

Subnational, national and civil society members of the OA Alliance are leading the way on OA action taking by registering [Voluntary Commitments](#) to implement SDG 14.3 through science, policy and financing.



State of California:

- More than \$5million dollars in investments on OAH monitoring
- Exploring vulnerabilities to California's biological resources, communities, and economies.

[Official voluntary commitment](#)



State of Washington:

- Internationally recognized leader in addressing ocean acidification through the Marine Resources Advisory Council
- Governor Inslee signed into law a suite of the strongest climate change policies in the nation

[Official voluntary commitment](#)



Tsleil-Waututh Nation:

- People of the Inlet & distinct Coast Salish Nation are taking OA action by creating a TWN Climate Action Plan that advances ocean & community resiliency; increased partnerships focused on ocean action and climate action

[Official voluntary commitment](#)



State of Maryland:

- Developed an OA Action Plan which includes: a blue carbon strategy, state-led carbonate system monitoring strategy in the Chesapeake and Coastal Bay and an emphasis on public engagement.

[Official voluntary commitment](#)

BUILDING PATHWAYS FOR OA ACTION

If there's a final takeaway we'd like to share from our perspective working with governments and civil society on this issue, it's that climate change drivers and impacts—and therefore climate-ocean change drivers and impacts—must always been seen through the lens of climate justice, and in this way is absolutely a moral imperative.

In this context, it's important to be clear that SDG 14.3 is not just about enhancing ocean observation...but rather, is a necessary part of adequate and equitable climate preparedness and adaptation.

Therefore, it's important that we clearly communicate not just the primary causes of ocean acidification, warming and deoxygenation, but also the myriad options for mitigation, preparedness, and response. And if we do that, we know more people—governments and civil society across all scales—will be ready and able to engage with us and see more pathways for OA action.





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