OA Alliance at COP 23

Starting this week, the annual UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23) is taking place in Bonn, Germany from November 6-17. Each year, global leaders gather to assess progress on their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process.

Participants at the conference will focus on ways to further implement details of the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Fiji made history this year by becoming the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to preside over the conference of the parties. As a result, concerns about changing ocean conditions due to climate change have been a front and center priority.

Building on the ocean action momentum initiated by the COP 23 Presidency, the OA Alliance will host a side event at COP 23 on November 13 from 6:45-7:45 am, Pacific Time (3:45-4:45 pm, Central European Time). The event will focus on 1) growing a global collaborative to combat ocean acidification, 2) Ocean Acidification Action Plans as a vehicle for implementing change and 3) announcements by new members of the OA Alliance.
The event offers a unique opportunity to convene in-depth conversations on ocean acidification between high-level government officials from around the world, from Oregon to Chile to Iceland, including how our members can work to enhance action on ocean acidification (OA) through the UNFCCC.

We invite those in attendance at COP 23 in Bonn to join us at this important convening of leaders. To RSVP for this event, please contact Jessie@OAalliance.org

For those that cannot join in person, please follow our live video coverage on Twitter @PCC leads.

For updates throughout the conference please follow, #OAalliance on Twitter!
OA Alliance Welcomes New Members

- Iceland
- New Zealand
- Sweden
- The City of Portland, OR
- Wildcoast

Thank you for joining the OA Alliance. We look forward to working with you on
your efforts to combat and adapt to ocean acidification.

Thank you to everyone who joined our OA Alliance webinar on October 26th. A recap of the webinar is available below for those who joined and those that couldn't make it. Please feel free to direct any questions or inquiries to Jessie@OAalliance.org or Melia@OAalliance.org

Report Out from October Webinar

Attendance at the Our Ocean Conference in Malta on October 5-6:

- An updated voluntary commitment was presented by representatives from the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and Ocean Conservancy. The announcement reaffirmed the OA Alliance’s goal to grow to 60 members in 2018 and to have 15 unique government OA Action plans completed by June of 2019.
- OA Alliance member, Chile, in partnership with, Washington, Oregon, California, the Canadian Province of British Columbia, and Ocean Conservancy hosted the first in-person meeting for current and prospective OA Alliance members. The conversation focused on the need to develop regional strategies to protect at risk species and build coastal resiliency through the development of an OA Action Plan. Members expressed enthusiasm for the Action Plan Toolkit and highlighted the opportunity to continue developing it into a flexible and adaptive resource for all members.
UN Climate Change Conference COP 23, November 6-17 in Bonn, Germany:

- The COP 23 Presidency invited the OA Alliance to join an emerging ocean initiative, Ocean Pathways Partnership, which will work to include ocean health within the UNFCCC process. The objectives of the partnership compliment the OA Alliance goals and we look forward to learning more and collaborating with Fiji and other ocean climate initiatives on this effort.
- Many OA Alliance members are hosting events on oceans and climate, and many will be attending the OA Alliance side event, as described above. We are proud of our members' critical leadership on this important issue.

Priorities of 2018:

- A major focus in the coming year will be on moving from high-level commitments to on-the-ground actions. The OA Alliance will be scheduling one-on-one calls with members early next year to discuss the development of OA Action Plans and the tools, information, and partnerships that will better serve you in this process.
- Members of the OA Alliance are invited to support the process of transforming the current OA Action Plan Toolkit format into an interactive document that can also indicate regional interests in actions, best-practices, and solutions. If you have ideas or suggestions or would like to take a lead role in this process please contact Melia at Melia@OAalliance.org

Individual Member Reports:

- Monterey Bay Aquarium shared strategies they plan to use as an affiliate member, to support their government’s creation of an OA Action Plan and offered expertise in using communication tools to amplify the importance of including oceans in international climate agreements. They also pointed to the importance of convening government members to facilitate conversations between members and other experts.
- The Suquamish Tribe expressed an interest in engaging in environmental
education efforts. The Tribe also emphasized the importance of elevating community-based stories to give voice to those already experiencing direct impacts of changing ocean conditions.

We thank you for your membership, engagement and leadership as members of the OA Alliance. We are grateful for your commitment to work with us as we continue to advance solutions to combating critical ocean health issues.