



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

I's on the Ocean: Integration, Implementation, Impact

Thursday, 30 June - 08h15-09h45

Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva Science Centre - Auditório José Mariano Gago

Organized by: WWF, the CBD Secretariat and the World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action

Background on the event

This event convened leaders across the public, private, scientific and civil society arenas to “chart a course” from commitment to delivery and called upon the broader ocean community to work more closely together to achieve SDG14. To strengthen ocean impact, we must align efforts and ensure the integration of ocean action across biodiversity, climate, and sustainability agendas. This is particularly relevant as the global community prepares for the 15th meeting of the Convention of Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in 2022, where governments are expected to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, containing new global goals and targets for biodiversity. It is also relevant for the preparations underway for securing a strong Ocean Treaty for Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP27).

Key Issues discussed

Following introductory comments from the event moderator, Kristian Teleki, Director, WEF Friends of Ocean Action; WWF International Director General, Marco Lambertini and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Elizabeth Maruma-Mrema, speakers highlighted examples of the actions and enabling conditions necessary to accelerate area-based conservation and effective, inclusive community-based management; to inspire renewed action; and to increase investment and commitment to deliver SDG 14. This included:

- Nuno Banza, President of the Portuguese Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, highlighted Portugal's commitment to a nature positive world, and 30x30 in particular.
- Chris Kiptoo, Kenya's Principal Secretary for Environment and Forestry, spoke of Kenya's commitment to scale solutions to accelerate ocean action for a nature-, people-, climate-positive future.
- Roberta Casali, Vice President for Finance and Risk Management, Asian Development Bank, spoke to the importance of finance as one of the enabling conditions necessary for success, and highlighted ADB's Healthy Ocean Initiative and its commitment to invest US\$5 billion in ocean solutions by 2024, in areas such as plastic free oceans, sustainable seafood, coastal resilience and ocean finance.

- Benjamin Sykes, Vice President and Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted, highlighted an example of private sector leadership with Ørsted's ambition that their offshore energy solutions will have a net-positive biodiversity impact.
- Francisco Cruz, Vice Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia, highlighted an example of public sector leadership where governments are going beyond commitments to deliver real action with the strong engagement of local communities. He noted Colombia's efforts to promote nature-positive and carbon-neutral actions and integrate their land and sea protected areas, with recent commitments to achieve the goal of protecting 30% of its land and waters eight years ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Key recommendations for action

Speakers also highlighted ways to align and leverage ocean action to benefit biodiversity, climate and people, showcasing where real impact is evident. This included:

- Lavenia Naivalu, Nacula District Representative from the Locally Managed Marine Area Network in Fiji, highlighted the value of co-management solutions, demonstrating how communities can achieve and sustain outcomes in terms of biodiversity, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and livelihoods.
- Asha de Vos, Founder and Executive Director, Oceanswell, Sri Lanka, spoke to the important role of the scientific community in advancing impact to secure healthy oceans. She particularly emphasized the importance of inclusive and representative conservation, including local and indigenous knowledge for the benefit of people and nature. With 70% of coastal areas in the developing world, science and conservation must become more representative of these communities.
- Jeremy Ragauin, AOSIS Fellow, highlighted that young people from small island states have good reason to be frustrated with the pace of action on climate change and ocean health, yet they are also hopeful as they are engaged in advancing the solutions needed to address these challenges. He underscored the importance of engaging youth and "large ocean states" in the design and delivery of solutions.
- The discussion also highlighted the importance of the ocean community ensuring that policy instruments, such as the global biodiversity framework, include strong ocean components. All actors, including public, private, scientific and civil society must work to ensure the full, equitable, effective and gender-responsive participation in decision-making, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their rights over their resources.
- There was a clear call to invest in community-led sustainable development plans to support communities' development aspirations and contribute effectively to the implementation of SDG14 as part of the full SDG package. When we collectively invest in people, they can have a real impact, not just for tomorrow but for years to come.

Voluntary Commitments

- The intention of this event was not to elicit additional commitments, but rather to explore how better to integrate existing commitments across frameworks; to focus on moving from pledges to real progress by accelerating implementation; and to hold ourselves and others accountable for impact that benefits people and nature.