



## **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event**

### ***Ocean Conservation Journeys: Stories from Leaders Advancing Ocean Conservation at New Scales***

Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am, Eurostars Universal Hotel

Organized by: Blue Nature Alliance; Conservation International; The Pew Charitable Trusts; the Global Environment Facility; the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation; Minderoo Foundation; Global Island Partnership; Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association; Alliance of Small Island States; and Niue Ocean Wide Network

#### **Background on the event**

The side event featured an engaging panel of partners from the Blue Nature Alliance – a global partnership to catalyze the conservation 18 million square kilometres of ocean by 2025. From Indigenous leaders working towards new protections in places such as Fiji, Canada, and the United States, to conservation leaders working towards improving the management capacity of MPAs across the Western Indian Ocean, to Niue’s efforts to create innovative and inclusive new revenue streams for ocean conservation, the panelists brought diverse perspectives on the innovation, collaboration, and dedication needed to make ocean conservation effective long-term.

The panel was moderated by Angelique Pouponneau (Alliance of Small Island States) and panelists included Solomon Kaho‘ohalahala, (Kupa ‘āina o Lāna’I, Native Hawaiian Elder); Doug Neasloss (Chief Councilor, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation); Mere Lakeba (Country Director, Conservation International - Fiji); Arthur Tuda (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association); and Kate Brown (Global Island Partnership).

Through the sharing of personal experiences and lessons learned in ocean conservation, the discussion provided an opportunity to build upon collective knowledge, share innovations, and consider opportunities to scale up ocean conservation equitably as we work towards the global targets of 30x30.

#### **Key Issues Discussed:**

- Opportunities and best practices to equitably scale up ocean conservation to reach the goal of protecting 30% of ocean area by 2030.
- Equitable conservation requires a spectrum of partners to engage including governments, communities, researchers, NGOs, philanthropists, and the private sector.
- The need to support ocean conservation areas beyond initial designation through their full conservation journey, recognizing that each country and site is at a different stage of development and needs different types of partnerships to achieve fully formed, well managed, and sustainably financed areas.
- The fundamental building blocks of effective ocean conservation which include, but are not limited to, appropriate levels of protection, equitable and effective management, and sustainable financing.

### **Key Recommendations for Action:**

- Those supporting ocean conservation must recognize that it is a process, often involving multiple phases of work spread over years or decades. For impact to be durable, support is required across each of these phases, representing a site's conservation journey.
- There is strength in the building of communities of practice which can share lessons learned and expertise across ocean conservation areas and regions, the continued support of these connections is paramount to reaching 30x30.
- Indigenous peoples and local communities are key stakeholders in conservation action and, for ocean conservation to be successful, they must be given a seat at the table and an opportunity to share their perspective and knowledge.

### **Voluntary Commitments**

Recognizing that the ocean sustains all of us, the Blue Nature Alliance and its partners commit to work towards effective, equitable, and durable ocean conservation, with the ultimate goal of securing a healthy, functioning, and connected ocean to the benefit of both people and nature.