

MEETING OF THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES ALLIANCE

OCEAN INITIATIVES UNITED
FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT
IMPLEMENTATION

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#oceanforclimate



THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES ALLIANCE

CONTEXT

Climate change will have a major impact on the ocean, its ecosystems, maritime activities and coastal populations. Simultaneously, the ocean is a source of adaptation and mitigation solutions.

In light of this ambivalent observation, a strong internationally coordinated mobilization of State-actors, the scientific community and civil society arose around the ocean and climate thematic prior to COP21 and until the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP22. This mobilization resulted in:

- Mobilization of the international scientific community for knowledge on links between ocean and climate and the implementation of an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Oceans;
- Advocacy and launch of structuring initiatives in various regions across the global ocean on thematics in connection with ecosystems and maritime activities, widely supported by civil society actors gathered or mobilized by the Ocean and Climate Platform;
- Mobilization of States as part of the launch of "Because the Ocean", to support a reinforced multilateral ocean-climate agenda (reference to Oceans in the Paris Agreement);
- Integration of the Ocean in the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), part of the Paris Agreement with a day at COP22 dedicated to oceans and civil society awareness events.

Climate urgency requires ongoing mobilization of all, with an action-based approach regarding adaptation and mitigation, and broader knowledge to guide action.



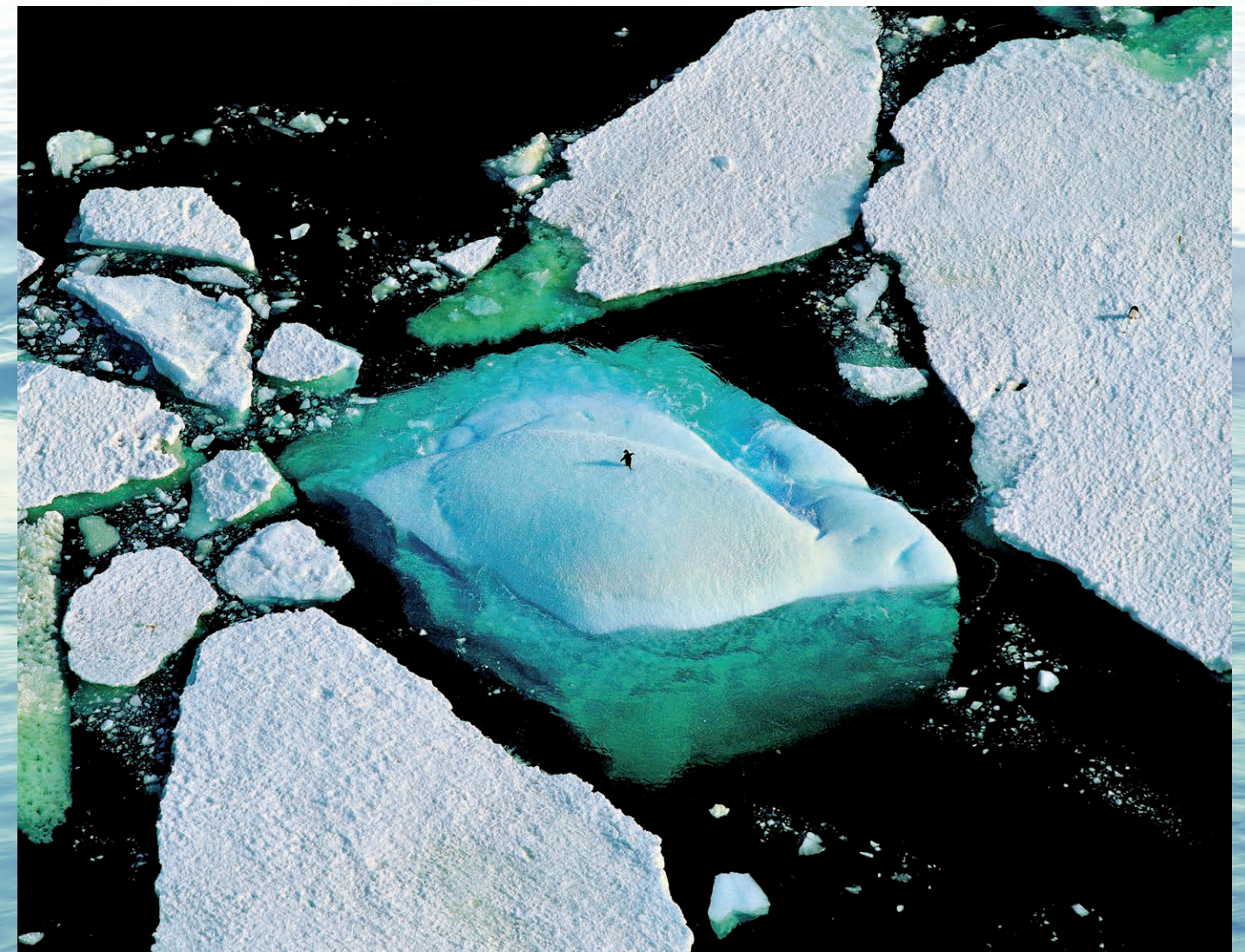
THE OCEAN AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES ALLIANCE (OCIA)

The Ocean & Climate initiatives Alliance, supported by Unesco, and France together with the other Because the Ocean declaration signatories, relies on a community of stakeholders convinced of the necessity of a collaboration, as part of structuring initiatives, to accelerate the implementation of mitigation and adaptation to climate change measures.

This collaborative dynamic is inclusive, pragmatic and robust thanks to the scientific mobilization; and therefore as the ambition to accompany actions and results with high impact on the field.

The Alliance is working with the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) process, as well as the partnership launched in Marrakesh and the proposed agenda for the Paris Agreement, hence contributing to the positive collective dynamic of climate negotiations.

The Alliance is also working with Ocean-related international and regional communities, in order to contribute to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.



OCEAN AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

The Pacific Coast Collaborative, involving the U.S. states of California, Oregon and Washington and the Canadian Province of British Columbia, announced in September 2016 the launch of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, which will advance scientific understanding of ocean acidification, reduce the causes of acidification, protect the environment and coastal communities from impacts of a changing ocean, expand public awareness and understanding of acidification, and build sustained support for tackling this global problem. The Alliance will assist members in developing and implementing individual jurisdiction action plans to respond to local threats of ocean acidification, and will actively seek inclusion of ocean acidification mitigation and adaptation commitments in future UNFCCC negotiations.

THE GLOBAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION OBSERVING NETWORK (GOA-ON)

GOA-ON, founded in 2012, is a scientific network on Ocean Acidification (OA), with the aim to improve our understanding of global OA conditions and of ecosystem response to OA. Partners in GOA-ON so far include IOC-UNESCO, IAEA, OA-ICC, GEO, GOOS, and IOCCP.



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MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS, CLIMATE CHANGE SENTINELS

This initiative aims at acting at different levels to promote the role Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) could have to fight climate change. It has three objectives: help provide better understanding of the relationships between climate change and marine protected areas; raise awareness at all levels (from the national to the local stakeholders); prepare MPAs managers to deal with climate change. The main partners of the initiative will

work at its different levels. The French MPA Agency and the Ocean and Climate Platform will create and develop a global network of observers and stakeholders for the ocean and climate, drawing on all regional networks of marine protected areas (MEDPAN, CMPAN, RAMPAN, etc.). The IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme and the World Commission on Protected Areas will act at the science level to define protocols for climate observation and action. The third level of action will be communication as Cousteau Divers will work to promote the initiative for public outreach.



INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal partnership between governments and organizations striving to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. Although the Initiative's decisions are not binding, its actions have been pivotal in continuing to highlight globally the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems to environmental sustainability, food security and social and cultural wellbeing. The Initiative has an important cooperation, collaboration and advocacy role within the international arena.

ICRI emerged from the recognition that coral reefs and related ecosystems in tropical and sub-tropical regions are facing serious degradation, primarily due to anthropogenic stresses. Many nations face similar threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems as well as similar management problems. ICRI's objectives are to encourage the adoption of best practices in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, build capacity, and raise awareness at all levels on the plight of coral reefs around the world. ICRI adopted a 'Call to Action' and a 'Framework for Action' as its foundational documents. Both set the four cornerstones of ICRI: Integrated Management, Science, Capacity Building, and Review.

GLOBAL CORAL REEF PARTNERSHIP

In 2014 UNEP and Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans ('Regional Seas') initiated a Global Coral Reef Partnership to support countries deliver internationally agreed coral reef commitments through ecosystem-based management, as called for in the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2013- 2016. The goal of the partnership is to promote and demonstrate

ecosystem-based marine management in coral reef areas, in line with UNEP Governing Council and UNEA decisions, and as a contribution towards international targets (Sustainable Development Goal 14, Aichi Target 10). It is the primary vehicle for strengthening implementation of the ICRI Continuing Call to Action.

The partnership delivers results in four work areas: (1) Building coral reef resilience in the face of climate change and ocean acidification; (2) Strengthening use of coral reef ecosystem service values in public and private decision making; (3) Enhancing data and information for ecosystem-based coral reef planning and management; (4) Securing impact through institutional support and outreach.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BLUE CARBON

Partners in the Blue Carbon Partnership (initiated in 2015) seek to protect and restore coastal ecosystems (mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses) in recognition of their value for climate change mitigation and adaptation and other ecosystem services. The Partnership is a voluntary forum to facilitate learning and knowledge sharing, thereby strengthening the collective efforts of Partners in science research, coastal management and conservation, awareness raising, climate mitigation and adaptation, and related policy. Collectively and individually, Partners seek to contribute by 2020 to the protection and restoration of substantial and increasing areas of blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes) in identified priority regional 'hotspots' for the benefit of communities globally). Partners include Australia, IOC-UNESCO, Conservation International, and IUCN, with numerous other governments and organizations working in cooperation with the partners.

INTERNATIONAL BLUE CARBON INITIATIVE

The Blue Carbon Initiative aims to mitigate climate change thanks to the restoration and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrasses). This initiative has two angles: policy and science. The policy working group creates framework for policy and management maximizing carbon conservation while the science working group develops methods to assess blue carbon stocks and emissions, supporting scientific research on the role of coastal blue carbon ecosystems and climate change mitigation. Science-policy collaboration favours a comprehensive approach, encouraging national-level accounting of blue carbon ecosystems' stocks and emissions as well as local and national capacity building to protect and manage coastal ecosystems.

THE GLOBAL MANGROVE ALLIANCE

The Global mangrove Alliance was co-founded by TNC, WWF and CI to work together to build a global community of stakeholders to leverage the expertise, funding, resources, diverse skills and networks to amplify existing efforts and increase attention to the critical role of mangroves in coastal ecosystems. Our goal is to restore 20% of mangrove habitat by 2030. The Alliance is developing a work plan based on consultations with experts on the ground around the world as we recognize the critical work already being done on mangrove conservation, restoration and resilience. The efforts are focused on increasing awareness of the role of mangroves and global investments in coastal resilience and integrated coastal management. The Alliance will also prioritize work that builds the technical capacity necessary to successfully implement sound mangrove management and restoration.



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

BLUE BELT INITIATIVE

The Blue Belt Initiative, developed by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2016, aims at building the resilience of coastal communities and promotes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, in line with SDG14 requirements. It involves partners such as FAO/AfDB, COMHAFAT/ RAFISMER, the Ocean and Climate Platform, ATSEA Consortium, Feed Algea Ltd, SETEXAM, and HalioPole Agadir. The initiative includes three main lines of action on integrated coastal monitoring systems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture, throughout the value chain. The initiative will be supported by an investment plan and capacity building programme for a total amount of USD 60m over the period 2017-2020. It has already begun work on feasibility studies, a Coastal Observation and Monitoring System, and preparations for the first regional actions.

LOW CARBON MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVITIES

NAVIGATING A CHANGING CLIMATE

The coalition is committed to promoting a shift to low carbon inland and maritime navigation infrastructure, to building capacity and enhancing decision-making on mitigation and adaptation options, and to raising awareness of the need to act urgently to improve preparedness and strengthen the resilience of waterborne transport infrastructure, with an emphasis on working with nature.

COASTAL AREAS AND COASTAL POPULATIONS CLIMATIC RESILIENCE



THE WEST AFRICA COASTAL AREAS INITIATIVE

The WACA Initiative, led by the World Bank Group, WAEMU/IUCN, Nordic Development Fund, and the Governments of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, and Togo, was launched in 2015 to support to the littoral management and growing problems of erosion and flooding in coastal areas of West Africa. To date, the initiative has held workshops and conferences as well as a learning event called Vulnerability and Resilience in the Coastal Zone of West Africa: Tools for Assessing Impacts and Adapting to Risks, and released a call to action at COP 21.

CLIMATE RISK AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (CREWS)

The CREWS initiative aims to significantly increase the capacity for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, to respond to disasters caused by climate extremes such as tropical cyclones and severe storms, floods, heat waves and droughts. By 2020, all relevant SIDS and LDCs are expected to have at least moderate early warning system and risk information capacities. CREWS aims to mobilize US\$ 100 million by 2020 in order to fill the gaps in the exiting bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes. Consultations have already been

carried out and projects developed in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Pacific Region. Led by the government of France, the initiative brings together national weather and meteorological services, UN agencies, regional organizations dealing with disaster risk reduction, Regional Development Banks and civil society organizations.

EUROPEAN MARITIME REGIONS FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

Launched in 1973, this collaboration platform is led by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR), which implements a wide array of policies and initiatives as an important contribution to the fight against climate change. They also involve concrete initiatives in the field of adaptation in many coastal regions. The CPMR also insists on effective multi-level governance in the implementation of the COP21 climate agreement, in which regions have a key role to play. A bottom-up approach with regional plans for CO₂ emissions reduction and adaptation that feed into the National plans can improve accuracy of data and credibility of plans. The initiative thus supports the development of coastal data, of expertise on coastal erosion, of specific strategies for Integrated Coastal management and promotes networking of regional observatories at sea-basin level.



MIGRATIONS

OCEAN, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY

The increasing acknowledgment of the links between ocean and marine ecosystems, climate change and human mobility encouraged the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the Ocean and Climate Platform (OCP) to combine their efforts in order to address this growing challenge. This innovative partnership focuses on three key areas of collaboration: (a) improving the

understanding and awareness of the interactions between these three phenomena; (b) undertaking joint advocacy in key policy processes at the international, regional and national levels; and (c) developing new solutions, building capacity and supporting the implementation of projects and programmes at the regional, national and local levels, in order to address key issues around ocean and marine ecosystem change, climate change and migration and provide solutions for vulnerable communities.



AFRICA

AFRICAN PACKAGE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT ECONOMIES

Emerging from calls at September's African Ministerial Conference on Ocean Economies and Climate Change in Mauritius, the African Package for Climate-resilient Blue Economies ("the Package") consists of technical and financial assistance to support coastal and island states in Africa to take the challenges of climate change as they develop their ocean-based economies and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Package is an opportunity for three leading multilateral

development organizations (FAO-AfDB-WB) to join forces among themselves and with others, including the Green Climate Fund, and coordinate their planned assistance with access to expertise and funding. The Package addresses the spectrum of ocean-related industries through five regional flagship programmes that span the African continent from Morocco to Mauritius. Based on vulnerability assessments, the Package will provide framework to make the countries' development pathways climate-resilient, build resilient coastlines and communities, strengthen food security, create decent employment opportunities and facilitate needed policy reforms for those most affected by climate change.

SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS



SIDS LIGHTHOUSES INITIATIVE

The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative was created in 2014 by IRENA to give support to Small Island Developing States in their energy transitions and the development of renewable energies, by bringing clarity to policy makers regarding the required steps and enabling targeted action. Within the initial five year timeframe, the SIDS Lighthouse initiative will focus on the power sector with the aim to achieving the following: mobilize USD 500 million, deploy 100 MW of new solar PV, deploy 20 MW of new wind power, deploy significant quantities of small hydropower and geothermal energy and a number marine technology projects in progress, and ensure all participating SIDS develop renewable energy roadmaps.

GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ISLAND NETWORK

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) formed the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN), a platform for islands

to pool knowledge and share best practices. As a resource for knowledge dedicated to islands, GREIN unites IRENA and its partners in a single space dedicated to the exchange of practical discussion topics related to renewable energy such as roadmaps for deployment, power grid integration, resource assessment, tourism applications, desalination and waste-to-energy systems. By showcasing the business case for renewable energy technologies in a wide range of island settings, GREIN aims to spur more and more islands to invest in these technologies and accelerate their deployment.

SMALL ISLANDS ORGANISATION INITIATIVE

The Small Sustainable Islands Initiative is a global network to promote islands as sustainable development pioneers by encouraging them to take concrete measures and providing local stakeholders with training, technical, and material assistance. Partners involved so far include the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), MedPan, and MAB-UNESCO.

