

# MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

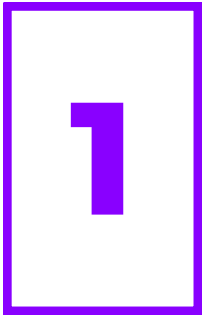
## OCEAN & COASTAL ZONES

### OCEAN-CLIMATE STRATEGIC RETREAT

31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2023 · DUBAI

## SUMMARY REPORT





# OCEAN-CLIMATE STRATEGIC BRAINSTORMING: DEFINING PATHWAYS TOWARDS 2030

## SETTING THE SCENE

Under the leadership of the High-level Climate Champions (HLC), the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MP-GCA) provides a unique and dedicated space for non-state actors to convene, showcase concrete solutions and signals of change to raise the ambition of Parties to the UNFCCC.

Since its creation in 2016, the MP-GCA Ocean & Coastal Zones has laid the foundation to advance the ocean-climate nexus (e.g. [Ocean Pathway](#)), and progressively unify the ocean community active at the UNFCCC. At COP26, in Glasgow, the “[Ocean for Climate](#)” Declaration was signed by more than 120 organisations, including NGOs, scientific institutions, international organisations, businesses and financial institutions. It put forth a portfolio of ocean-based solutions to scale up to tackle climate change. The following year the MP-GCA and HLC, together with partners, launched the “[Blue Ambition Loop](#)” report, taking stock and mapping non-state actors-led action in five key ocean sectors, i.e., marine conservation, ocean renewable energy, aquatic food, ocean-based transport, coastal tourism.

The work of the MP-GCA is supporting the delivery of the 3 global campaigns: the [Race to Zero](#), the [Race to Resilience](#), and the [Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero](#) (GFANZ). With the objective to achieve transformative change, two key roadmaps support these campaigns: the [2030 Breakthroughs](#) and the [Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#).

Building on recent global agreements such as the Global Biodiversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty, several opportunities will arise to move the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus forward in the coming years. That includes the Global Stocktake to conclude at COP28 and the subsequent revision of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by Parties to the UNFCCC, and the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference in 2025.

With that in mind, this strategic workshop aimed at **defining a set of ocean pathways to drive the transition towards a net-zero world and strengthen the position of the ocean in climate and biodiversity negotiations.** To do so, and building on the **blue ambition loop approach** - i.e the positive feedback loop in which bold government policies and non-state actor leadership reinforce each other -, the MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones has decided to focus on catalysing ocean action around 5 sectors: (1) marine conservation, (2) ocean renewable energy, (3) ocean-based transport, (4) aquatic food, and (5) coastal tourism, to deliver on a fair, nature-positive and net-zero future.

The effective deployment of this approach deeply relies on the collaboration of stakeholders across sectors, which has motivated the operationalisation of the group and led key partner organisations of the MP-GCA Ocean & Coastal Zones to step up and take the lead in the five aforementioned sectors. A total of ten Sector Leads, along with Special Advisors on Science, Finance, Governance and Inclusivity to ensure an interdisciplinary and cross-cutting approach, will support the implementation of the vision through the **co-design of sectoral “Ocean breakthroughs”**.

A “Breakthrough” can be understood as a moment that marks a significant advance in the transformation of an economic sector or natural system. It must therefore be operational and accessible so that all stakeholders can understand their role and opportunities in the transition. Thus, the five sectoral Breakthroughs will be accompanied by concrete and quantified objectives, specific actions, and key enablers to achieve them. Ultimately, they can inspire governments and activate the blue ambition loop.

COORDINATORS

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MARINE CONSERVATION

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OCEAN-BASED ENERGY

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AQUATIC FOOD

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OCEAN-BASED TRANSPORT

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Shipping Lead, Climate Champions Team



COASTAL TOURISM

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**Karly KELSO**

Director on the Climate Resilient Food Systems, Environment Defense Fund

**Susan RUFFO**

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INCLUSIVITY

- **Vatosoa RAKOTONDRAZAFY**  
Chairperson, Mihari Network

## TOUR DE TABLE: EXPECTATIONS

To kick off the discussions, participants reflected on their expectations for the meeting, the MP-GCA and COP28. Participants expressed their **desire for more inclusive processes**, especially of local stakeholders. Furthermore, the importance of a **shared vision and narrative on ocean-climate action** was acknowledged as a priority to move forward with solutions. Moreover, **consistency was considered a key element for success**: consistency in the messages directed at non-State actors, of those shared across UN fora, or across the five sectoral breakthroughs.

Building on this, the work undertaken by the MP-GCA Ocean & Coastal Zones shall resonate at the 2023 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, in Bonn, and at COP28, in Dubai. In the spirit of breaking down the silos and building synergies, our collective efforts shall also echo in other fora. Beyond the UNFCCC, the CBD COP16 followed by the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) were identified as milestones to leverage the ocean narrative and connect the dots across Nature and Climate.



## PRESENTATION ON UAE'S PERSPECTIVES FOR NATURE-CLIMATE ACTION

Marina ANTONOPOULOU and Daniel MATEOS-MOLINA (Emirates Nature-WWF)

Emirates Nature-WWF is a UAE-based NGO established to drive positive change in the country and conserve its natural heritage. Indeed, the UAE hosts globally and regionally threatened marine species and critical habitats for their life cycle, including blue carbon ecosystems. The country is undertaking ocean-based climate action by including blue carbon ecosystems, as well as coral reefs, in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of its mitigation and adaptation strategies. Their upcoming National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2023 will also include a strong marine and coastal component.

To support these efforts, Emirates Nature-WWF follows three priorities to frame its activities: (1) conserve and restore natural ecosystems, (2) contribute to a low-carbon future, and (3) accelerate socio-economic drivers for change. The organisation leads multiple projects, such as: (1) "Enhancing the resilience of blue carbon ecosystems in the UAE" (2021-2024) which aims to protect and restore coastal natural ecosystems acting as carbon sinks through nature-based solutions with multiple co-benefits (e.g., food security, ecotourism); (2) the "UAE Alliance for Climate Action" that drives implementation of the Paris Agreement for non-state and sub-national actors in the country.



*Field visit of the Umm Al Quwain's mangroves organised by Emirates Nature - WWF on 2 June 2023.*

# 2

## DEEP-DIVE ON OCEAN-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

This workshop focused on the overall target of co-designing five sectoral Breakthroughs' headlines to be presented at the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue in Bonn (13-14 June 2023). The group will then reconvene later in the year for a second in-person workshop to work on sub-targets and enablers.

*NB: Breakthrough headlines are still work in progress - co-leads will review the targets over the summer.*

### BRIDGING EFFORTS ACROSS SECTORS UNDER AN OVERARCHING GOAL FOR THE OCEAN

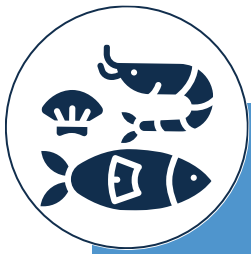
## OCEAN BREAKTHROUGH



**By 2030, delivering sustainable, equitable and effective solutions for a resilient and regenerated ocean**



Many efforts have been invested in the identification of targets through the Climate Action Pathways and the 2030 Breakthroughs or in reference to the existing Shipping, Mangroves or Coral Breakthroughs. To build on those efforts and in continuity with the targets that already exist, participants embraced the idea of an overarching “Ocean Breakthrough” that would encompass the five ocean sectors. This goal shall be understood as a system change we want to achieve in 2030, and that cumulative action across sectors, whose stakeholders will act towards the achievement of its own breakthrough, will lead to.



## AQUATIC FOOD HEADLINE

### SUGGESTED BY THE CO-LEADS

By 2030, global per capita fish consumption reaches 21.4 kg sustained by climate resilient aquatic food systems. The sector will have benefited the climate, people and nature by reducing GHG emissions from fisheries and aquaculture, adapting to climate change, contributing to the fight against global hunger and malnutrition and driving the restoration and protection of natural ecosystems.

### UPDATED

**By 2030, management of aquatic food systems is climate resilient, precautionary, and sustainable, contributing to the improvement in the well-being of 500 million people through better food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods while also enhancing ecosystem health.**

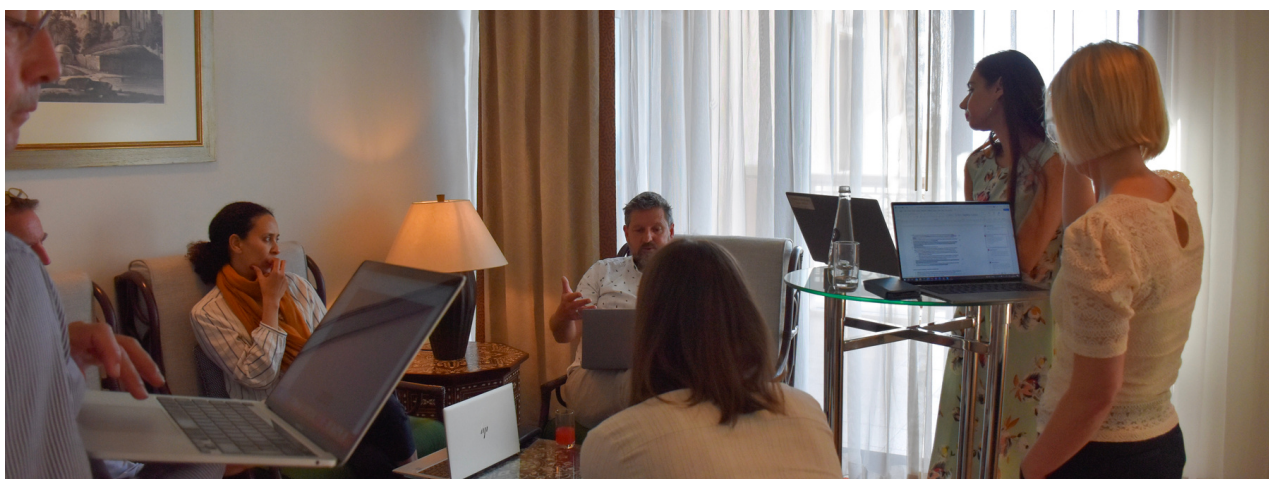
Tarub Bahri (FAO) insisted on the increasingly important role the aquatic food sector plays in achieving food security and the sustainable development of local economies, particularly in small-scale fishing communities. She further described how blue transformation, with measurable climate-resilient objectives, will contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recalling the upcoming Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue (13-14 June 2023, Bonn), which will focus on “Fisheries and food security” and “Coastal ecosystem restoration”, the Dialogue could (1) recognise the importance of aquatic food in the climate agenda, (2) identify practical entry points and (3) define a roadmap for the aquatic food sector to be integrated into relevant UNFCCC processes.

Discussion among workshop participants:

- **Framing of the target:** Most participants disagreed on the phrasing “global per capita fish consumption reaches 21.4 kg sustained by climate resilient aquatic food systems”, considering that the target should not be a consumption-based target. They decided to focus instead on “aquatic food production” and how it could support the projected need for an increase in consumption, thereby ensuring that food security objectives are met as well.

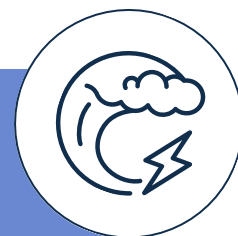


- **Quantitative target:** While most participants disagreed to use “global per capita fish consumption”, all strongly recommended to include a quantitative target in order to effectively track progress. The overall target could be further detailed in the sub-targets, and sub-targets should be organised by order of importance. Several options were mentioned, including percentage of regenerated fisheries and percentage of increase in consumption to support.
- **Climate and nature benefits:** It was agreed to focus primarily on adaptation but to also include decarbonisation, since the aquatic food sector is a minor emitter of GHG emissions. Fisheries that are not managed could be included, as well as the consequences of climate impacts such as warming. In addition, the difference should be made between wild catch and sustainable food production.
- **Benefits to People:** Several participants raised equity concerns. The target should be realistic, thus considering food security and poverty eradication (e.g., labour perspective) as priority objectives. Local actors need to feel included in the target, as well as in the design of this target, to renew their faith and trust in multilateral processes.



# OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

## HEADLINE



### SUGGESTED BY THE CO-LEADS

The Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) has set a goal of 380 GW of offshore wind capacity installed by 2030 (a ten fold increase from today). A significant portion of installed capacity must be developed in developing countries for this goal to be achieved and for benefits to be realized equitable.

### UPDATED

**By 2030, install at least 380 GW of offshore wind capacity while establishing targets and enabling measures for net-positive biodiversity outcomes, including by leveraging sustainable ocean plans. Additionally, mobilize \$10 billion in global concessional finance to support developing countries in contributing to this goal and benefiting from it.**

Shamini Selvaratnam (Ocean Conservancy) and Amy Finlayson (Ørsted) pointed out that marine renewable energy, and offshore wind in particular, presents a vital opportunity to address both the climate and biodiversity crises, and deliver many benefits, including mitigation, job creation, etc. Achieving a global offshore wind capacity of 2,000 GW by 2050, along with onshore renewables and phasing out of fossil fuels, is necessary to limit temperature rise to below 1.5°C. Although, while there is a need to take opportunities, integrating biodiversity in ocean renewable energy is a challenge.

Discussion among workshop participants:

- **Role of developing countries:** Developing countries and emerging economies play a key role in offshore wind energy deployment. According to the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) in its report "[Key Factors for successful development of Offshore Wind in Emerging Markets](#)" (2021), there is over 16 000 GW of offshore wind technical potential resources in developing countries.
- **Quantitative target:** While sources of investments to support the deployment of offshore wind are not limited to "concessional finance", it was agreed that this specific mechanism would be an enabling piece for new projects in developing countries. There is an important role for and demand of global development banks to support such projects. While the target of "\$10 billion" may be high, it is necessary to reflect the demand and be met with the right investments.

- **Integration of biodiversity:** The wording of the headline should reflect a holistic and precautionary approach, include marine spatial planning language, and be aligned with the Marine conservation headline. Balance is needed between a headline that would wrongly imply a push for rapid deployment detrimental to biodiversity and habitats, and one that would affirm that deployment would have no impact on biodiversity.
- **Enabling environment:** This target could be a tool for Parties, especially in the update of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). To this end, it is considered crucial for marine renewable energy to be integrated in countries' sustainable ocean plans and marine spatial planning strategies. This could also give a boost of confidence for stakeholders to support the large-scale deployment of offshore wind.



## MARINE CONSERVATION HEADLINE

### SUGGESTED BY THE CO-LEADS

US\$ X billion invested in the effective conservation and management of coastal and marine ecosystems through climate-resilient marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, in alignment with and in support of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### STILL IN PROGRESS

**By 2030, US\$ X billion invested in the equitable and effective conservation and management of coastal and marine ecosystems, including coastal blue carbon ecosystems, that provide climate adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity and livelihood benefits for people and nature, through networks of climate-smart marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, in alignment with and in support of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**

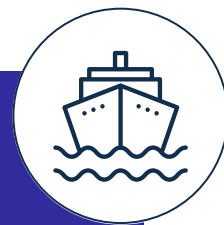
Jill Hamilton (Conservation International) presented the two existing sector-specific Breakthroughs, respectively on Mangroves (i.e., US\$ 4 billion invested to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally) and Coral Reefs. The latter is currently being developed by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and will be launched in September 2023 at the International Coral Reef Summit. In this context, she explained that the Marine Conservation sector would also be an overarching goal, aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework and in particular Target 3 on the 30x30 to connect climate action and marine conservation.

Discussions among workshop participants:

- **Governance:** Need to clarify the articulation between the Coral and Mangrove Breakthroughs, and the marine conservation target (e.g., overlaps and competition for finance), by adopting an integrated approach and aligning on the existing breakthroughs. The alignment between the Paris Agreement and newly adopted Global Biodiversity Framework encourages increased synergies within the UN system. This sector should focus on the inclusion of climate-smart MPAs in Nationally Determined Contributions (e.g., quantitative targets), as well as building synergies with their biodiversity counterpart the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- **Climate benefits:** The language around climate mitigation and adaptation benefits of MPAs could be strengthened, and include such benefits in the expected impacts and refer to levels of protection of MPAs. Participants asked for a mention of carbon-rich ecosystems (such as blue carbon ecosystems), and recommended using “climate-smart” rather than “climate-resilient”. This sector can be an opportunity to target specific areas and regions of the world (e.g., using IUCN Blue List to set priorities).
- **Articulation with aquatic food:** The articulation between conservation and sustainable management of aquatic food to meet food security objectives needs to be clarified, and the connection of respective efforts developed in a shared vision. There is no adaptation without food security, and no food security without sustainable aquatic food.
- **Equity concerns:** The headline needs to reflect equity, inclusivity and benefits to local communities such as Indigenous peoples and other right holders. Other systems of knowledge shall be included in the key enablers and the role of these communities in conserving MPAs highlighted. The number of expected job creation could be increased while current jobs need to be maintained.
- **Finance:** The monetary goal should be presented as the cost of delivering on that “blue list”. This goal should be science-based, like the Mangrove Breakthrough, and progress should be regularly measured. It will be crucial to engage with and mobilise the private sector to increase financial flows.

# OCEAN-BASED TRANSPORT

## HEADLINE



### **PRE-EXISTING 2030 SHIPPING BREAKTHROUGH**

Zero emission fuels make up 5% of international shipping's energy demand. 450,000 seafarers need to be retrained and upskilled. At least 30% of global trade needs to move through climate-adapting ports

### **SUGGESTED COMPLEMENT TO INCLUDE BIODIVERSITY**

(...) The shipping sector must assess, reduce and avoid its negative impacts on marine biodiversity.

### **MERGED AND UPDATED**

By 2030, zero emission fuels make up 5% of international shipping fuels and 15% of domestic shipping fuels, 30% of global maritime trade moves through climate adapting ports, connecting people and supply chains, with a focus on benefitting the world's most vulnerable regions, and 450,000 seafarers will be retrained and upskilled by 2030, rapidly scaling to 800,000 by the mid 2030s.

Susan Ruffo (United Nations Foundation) recalled that the shipping sector accounts for 3% of global GHG emissions. As of today, it is not aligned with the Paris Agreement goals, even though the science required to reduce emissions is already well-established. Katharine Palmer (Climate Champions Team) presented the evolution of the work undertaken within the UNFCCC framework to reduce the carbon footprint of the sector, including with the Climate Action Pathways and the 2030 Breakthroughs. However, the sector's regulation falls into the single hands of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). These goals neither reflect or cover the impacts of shipping on biodiversity.

Discussion among workshop participants:

- **Integration in domestic policies:** Only domestic shipping - i.e. activities are taking place in Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZ) - can be included in NDCs, while international shipping - i.e. when vessels are navigating in EEZ or in the high seas - remains under the regulation of the IMO. However, energy-efficiency measures and the transition of infrastructures fall under the scope of Parties and their NDCs.

- **Targets:** To galvanise non-State actors' action, the headline should more clearly target the industry and its stakeholders. Companies, ship owners and local communities have a crucial role to play in the transition of the sector, and should be supported in doing so.
- **Greening the infrastructures:** Reducing the GHG emissions of the sector is not limited to the use of zero-emission fuels, but also applies to the decarbonisation of its infrastructures, including ports and vessels. Achieving the goal will also require investment on the land side of the sector. Such actions will offer opportunities to integrate biodiversity elements in the shipping sector, e.g., implementation of Nature-based Solutions in ports.
- **Finance:** The transition of the shipping sector will require massive investments. An opportunity for funds could arise from the next meeting of the IMO (July 2023), when it could be decided to impose a tax on carbon emissions. The prospects of such tax - in billions of dollars - could, in return, be invested in climate strategies. Investments and guidance are needed to drive the transition on land, which partly rely on the responsibility of Governments.



## COASTAL TOURISM HEADLINE

### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

#### Resources to build on:

- [“The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in tourism”](#) adopted in 2021 at COP26
- Report [“Opportunities for Transforming Coastal and Marine Tourism: Towards Sustainability, Regeneration and Resilience”](#), High Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy, 2023. Complementary resources are available [here](#).

Ocean-based tourism is the largest segment of the tourism industry, and is projected to become the largest ocean economy sector. It comprises both coastal and maritime tourism, and currently employs about 8.5 million people. It represents more than 50% of the whole tourism industry and is the largest economic sector for most small island developing states (SIDS). It also amounts to approximately USD 4.6 trillion. Besides, the UN World Tourism Organisation defines sustainable tourism as a form of “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”.

The identification of the sustainable coastal tourism's headline and subsequent targets is under progress. Discussions will continue to build on two main initiatives on sustainable coastal tourism: the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in tourism adopted in 2021 at COP26, and the work led by the High Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy on the matter.

# 3

## THINKING FORWARD: PLANS FOR COP28 AND NEXT STEPS

The last session of the workshop focused on expectations and perspectives for COP28 (Dubai, UAE, 30 november - 12 December 2023). Participants broke the ice by reflecting on how to take stock and continue the efforts of the MP-GCA and how to reach beyond Ocean champion Parties and rally other non-State actors.



### KEY MESSAGES

- **Investing in the ocean is an investment in the future of humanity.** Public and private investments - including philanthropy - are essential to deliver on climate and biodiversity goals. Those investments should support Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and developing countries in the development of ocean sustainable plans and in building their resilience.
- **Science is available in various forms to support investments and implementation of evidence-based ocean solutions,** e.g. IPCC reports, outcomes of the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues, etc.
- **Ocean-based climate solutions can help deliver on other global targets** such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially on climate (SDG13) and food security (SDG2), and the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.



### OPPORTUNITIES

- Having porte-paroles, “Ocean Voices” from the Global South.
- Creating a country-led ocean task force to establish an “ocean solutions fund” for de-risking, financing and scaling ocean-climate solutions.

- Parties taking leadership on cross-cutting issues in the climate fora (e.g. food security) and leveraging the ocean-climate narrative in other negotiations instances (G20, G77...)

Ignace Beguin Billecocq and Loreley Picourt concluded the workshop by offering their perspective on the priorities for the group. This includes : (1) meeting with negotiators in order to leverage the ocean narrative and raise ambition of Parties; (2) identify expectations and messages aligned with the broader group, and the COP28 Presidency and their own expectations, which include the conclusion of the Global Stocktake.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **JULY - AUGUST**

- Co-leads to review and finalise Breakthrough headlines, enablers and UNFCCC section, with support of advisors.

### **EARLY SEPTEMBER**

- Loreley and Ignace to share updated Ocean Breakthrough with the group for inputs/comments

### **UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEEK**

- One Day in person workshop in NYC to:
  - finalise Breakthroughs
  - plan MP-GCA Ocean events at COP 28



# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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- Jill HAMILTON, Director, Blue Climate Strategy, Conservation International [Online]

### OCEAN-BASED TRANSPORT

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### AQUATIC FOOD

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### OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

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- Anna-Marie LAURA, Senior Director of Climate Policy, Ocean Conservancy [Online]

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