



**Climate-Forward Ocean Conservation Strategies  
to Deliver on Global Targets**  
A COP28 High-Level Convening

**Location:** [Nature +ve Pavilion](#), COP 28, UAE

**Co-hosted by:** Bloomberg Philanthropies, Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Mangrove Alliance, Ocean & Climate Platform, Race to Resilience

**Date & Time:** 1 December 2023, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (GST)

**Event Background:**

In the face of the climate and biodiversity crises, it is crucial to prioritise climate-forward conservation strategies as a foundational element in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. This recognition stems from the intricate interplay between climate change and broader international social and ecological objectives. The Mangrove Breakthrough and the Coral Reef Breakthrough, two pivotal initiatives highlighting the critical role of sustainable finance, have been established as ambitious implementation pathways for these global goals.

In light of the Global Stocktake concluding at COP28, the Marrakech Partnership on Ocean & Coastal Zones together with the High-level Climate Champions recently launched the **Ocean Breakthroughs unveiling transformative pathways covering five key ocean sectors, where accelerated action and investments could deliver up to 35 percent GHG emissions reduction and contribute to a resilient, nature-positive and net zero future by 2050**. Marine Conservation is central to this vision to secure the integrity of ocean ecosystems by protecting, restoring, and conserving at least 30% of the ocean for the benefit of people, climate, and nature.

The Mangrove Breakthrough, in collaboration with the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions (HLCC), establishes a science-based pathway to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030 by mobilizing US \$4 billion and through joint action to halt mangrove losses, restore half of recent losses, double global mangrove protection, and ensure long-term sustainable financing for all existing mangroves. Following the launch of the Mangrove Breakthrough, the Coral Reef Breakthrough, a collaborative effort between HLCC, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), aims to secure the future of at least 125,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow-water tropical coral reefs, with investments of at least US\$12 billion to support the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030. **These two initiatives represent critical components of the broader endeavor through the Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals to safeguard our planet's critical coastal ecosystems and cultivate a sustainable, climate-resilient future.**

With a specific focus on delivering on the Mangrove Breakthrough and Coral Reef Breakthrough targets, ***Climate-Forward Conservation Strategies to Deliver on Global Targets*** hosted by the GFCR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Bloomberg Philanthropies, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Race to Resilience, Ocean & Climate Platform, and the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA), provides a platform for exploring innovative solutions, cultivating collaborative efforts, and accelerating action ahead of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) hosted by the Governments of France and Costa Rica. The 2025 UNOC will be a chance to take stock of progress against the international community's commitments for 2030. This high-level convening will feature key leaders and experts who play an instrumental role in advancing effective climate-positive conservation. These integrated efforts, reinforced by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, underscore the urgency of these initiatives within the broader context of international sustainability objectives, emphasising the interdependence of climate resilience, biodiversity preservation, and the collective responsibility for a sustainable future.

COP28 presents an invaluable opportunity to amplify the global focus on these vital endeavors. High-level representatives have the opportunity to progressively advocate for targeted collective action and showcase concrete pathways to scale solutions, as well as issue calls for the urgent mobilisation of financial resources to bolster sustainability. Representatives can also leverage COP28 to continually underscore the importance of climate-smart planning and management and the identification and preservation of climate-resilient habitats.

## **Agenda**

**Event MC:** *Loreley Picourt, Executive Director of the Ocean & Climate Platform*

### ***Opening (10m)***

- **H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr.**, President of Palau

### ***In-Depth Leaders Discussion (40m)***

- **Marcia Toledo Sotillo**, HLCC, Department Director, Adaptation and Resilience
- **Leticia Carvalho**, Head of Marine and Freshwater Branch, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) & Global Fund for Coral Reefs Executive Board Co-Chair
- **Elizabeth McCleod**, Global Ocean Director, The Nature Conservancy

### ***Closing Statement on the Forthcoming UNOC 2025 & Call to Action (10m)***

- **H.E. Peter Thomson**, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean