

UN Climate Change COP 29 Baku, Azerbaijan

Outcomes Report

Action Event / Implementation Lab:

Ocean Breakthroughs: Towards Resilient Economies and Societies

Date, Time: 21 November, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm AZT
Venue: Nasimi

Organized by the following partners:

Ocean & Climate Platform
Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action
UN High-level Climate Champions

Event Title: Ocean Breakthroughs: Towards Resilient Economies and Societies

Key Headlines and Messages:

- The Ocean Breakthroughs reveal the potential of the ocean as a source of ready-to-implement solutions to deliver on climate, biodiversity, and sustainable goals by 2030, on the path to a healthy, productive and resilient ocean by 2050.

Key Messages:

- Ocean Finance is Climate Finance

The ocean is part of the solution to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and, as such, it must be included in climate finance. It is necessary to increase the availability and access to funding, while mobilising new and additional finance flows for ocean-based solutions. This can be achieved by adopting an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), finalising the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and accelerating the delivery of the Loss & Damage Fund.

- Blue Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

While a growing number of countries are committing to ocean-based measures in their national climate strategies, they are still underrepresented. As countries review and update their strategies (due in 2025), it is crucial to integrate and strengthen ocean-based climate measures for both mitigation and adaptation, clearly specifying content and means of implementation.

- Powering the Ocean Breakthroughs for Climate, Nature and People

The Ocean Breakthroughs set clear targets to be achieved by 2030 to ensure a healthy and productive ocean by 2050, transforming five key sectors – namely marine conservation, ocean renewable energy, shipping, aquatic food, and coastal tourism. As such, they can serve as a compass for all to scale-up ocean action for the benefits of nature, climate, and people.

- Mainstream the ocean-climate nexus within the UNFCCC

The ocean has been progressively anchored in the Climate Convention and, most recently, its important role was recognised as part of the world's response to the conclusions of the Global Stocktake. As the main entry point to discuss ocean-based solutions, the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue should be further operationalised, including by requesting a five-year roadmap for the Dialogue to outline clear objectives and priorities for collaboration.

- Blue thread: building synergies across fora

Better connection among the ocean, climate and biodiversity agendas are needed to ensure greater coherence and efficiency in the actions taken to deliver on global goals. The ocean can act as the great connector across Climate and Biodiversity Conventions, including by building a blue thread between national climate (NDCs) and biodiversity (NBSAPs) strategies. Moreover, international cooperation across ocean-related conventions and agreements should be strengthened to ensure a more robust and holistic ocean governance.

Outcomes:

Outcome 1: *Launch of the Coastal Tourism Breakthrough - The tourism industry shows clear commitment to support halving emissions by 2030, support adaptation, and invest in safeguarding People and Planet.*

The first panel of the event was dedicated to the [launch of the Coastal Tourism Breakthrough](#) which aims to mobilise by 2030 investments of at least USD 30 billion per year to support halving emissions in the sector, and further funding to build the resilience of local communities, as well as to recover and protect ecosystems to sustainably manage tourism in island and coastal destinations most vulnerable to climate change. The discussion was moderated by **Erika Harms** (Iberostar) who co-led the development of the target. **Julia Simpson** (World Travel and Tourism Council) highlighted the urgency to take action in this industry valued at USD 3 trillion, which contributes over 7% of global emissions and sees half of its spending in coastal areas. She emphasised the need for businesses to prove leadership in the transition of the sector, by allocating 2-3% of their revenues - equivalent to approximately USD 65 billion annually - toward initiatives aimed at protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, and advancing the energy transition. To that end, **Manuel Pulgar-Vidal** (WWF) provided insights on how NGOs can collaborate with Governments and the private sector, including through the *Race-to-Zero* and *Race-to-Resilience* campaigns, and particularly stressed the potential of tourism to act as a platform for cross-sector collaboration, especially in conservation.

Outcome 2: *Growing support to the Ocean Breakthroughs - The ocean-climate community has an ambitious, concrete and clear roadmap to accelerate action and increase investments in the 5 key ocean sectors with the highest potential to deliver on global goals.*

The Ocean Action Event highlighted the transformative potential of the [Ocean Breakthroughs](#) to unite a diverse array of stakeholders, working together to deliver on Climate, Nature, and People. Discussions focused on showcasing progress achieved over the past year, since COP28, across the different sectors, emphasising collaboration and tangible outcomes. **Tatiana Antonelli** (Goumbook/MENA Oceans Initiative) introduced the [2030 Marine Biodiversity and Ocean Health Breakthrough and Roadmap](#), which outlines specific near-term actions and milestones for the maritime sector to promote ocean health and biodiversity. **Shamini Selvaratnam** (Ocean Conservancy) underscored that achieving the Breakthroughs requires action not only from non-state actors but also from governments. She presented a new [guidance tool](#) designed to support Parties in integrating responsible offshore wind into their national climate strategies, in support of the Offshore Wind Breakthrough, i.e., to achieve the ambitious goal of installing at least 380 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030. Providing a more local perspective, **Gabriel Muswali** (EARFISH) emphasized the dual benefits of action in the aquatic food systems sector. He noted that integrating measures into national climate strategies can not only reduce emissions but also combat poverty and malnutrition, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals. In light of these discussions, the importance of the Ocean Breakthroughs and the Marrakech Partnership on Ocean & Coastal Zones in driving non-state actor engagement were highlighted by several panelists, including **Manuel Pulgar Vidal** (WWF) and **H.E. Razan Al Mubarak** (COP28 High-Level Climate Champion), who urged non-state actors to continue collaborating to fast-track ocean-based solutions.

Outcome 3: On the road to COP30, a wave of blue commitments - An increased number of governments include ocean-based climate solutions in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in response to the Global Stocktake.

On Ocean Action Day, a clear call was issued for Parties to further integrate ocean-based solutions into their revised climate strategies, as encouraged by the Global Stocktake (2023) and the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue. Concrete tools and examples from countries like Sierra Leone and the Dominican Republic demonstrated how governments are already paving the way for a wave of blue NDCs on the road to COP30. For instance, **Dwight Z.K. Sheriff** (Government of Sierra Leone) explained that to address important annual mangrove loss, Sierra Leone was the first African country to endorse the Mangrove Breakthrough, which recently launched its dedicated [NDC taskforce](#). This initiative aims to help countries take concrete action to protect and restore mangroves by including related measures into their revised national climate strategies. **Ivan Cruz Burgos** (Government of the Dominican Republic) shared the Dominican Republic's approach to supporting a fair and sustainable transition in the coastal tourism sector, which is vital to the nation's economy. He highlighted the country's experience in working with local stakeholders to mitigate climate impacts and develop adaptive strategies.

To further support Parties' efforts, several tools and instruments were presented. **Shamini Selvaratnam** (Ocean Conservancy) presented the [guidance tool](#) developed with the Global Offshore Wind Alliance for including responsible offshore wind into NDCs, in line with the GST call to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030. These discussions were further explored during the Ocean & Coastal Zones Implementation Lab, where similar tools were presented, including the FAO's guide "[Integrating Blue Foods into National Climate Strategies](#)", which lays out guidelines for decision-makers to develop concrete policy strategies that can support a thriving blue food sector in the face of climate change. **Whapoe Elijah** (Liberia) also emphasized the importance of such discussions in addressing the numerous challenges countries face when updating their NDCs, including constraints in financial resources and limited opportunities for knowledge-sharing.

Content: Events were required to feature collective progress on the 2030 climate solutions (including mitigation (2030 breakthroughs), adaptation and resilience (SAA outcomes)) and means of implementation. Please outline below how these were featured in your session.

The session highlighted collective progress in the different sectors covered by the Ocean Breakthroughs, which are fully integrated into the 2030 Climate Solutions. Key aspects included:

On Mitigation (2030 Breakthroughs):

- Emphasis on offshore wind energy, with the development of new policy tools to support the integration of these ocean-based solutions into Parties' national climate strategies to achieve global mitigation goals.
- Demonstration of raising ambition in the shipping sector, with the launch of a roadmap linking decarbonisation and biodiversity, by providing specific near-term actions and milestones for the maritime sector with respect to ocean health and biodiversity.

On Adaptation and Resilience (SAA Outcomes):

- The launch of the Coastal Tourism Breakthrough, which aims to drive action and investments of at least USD 30 billion per year by 2030 to support halving emissions in the sector, but also to build the resilience of local communities as well as to recover and protect ecosystems, and sustainably manage tourism in island and coastal destinations that are most vulnerable to climate change.
- Demonstration of progress in marine conservation, especially under the Mangrove Breakthrough (i.e., development of its NDC Taskforce).

On means of implementation:

- Finance is key to achieve the Ocean Breakthroughs. Panelists stressed the importance of leveraging funding of all sources - both public and private - to drive the transition towards a sustainably managed, productive and healthy ocean.
- The session also underscored the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- The event featured a great diversity of actors (NGOs, representatives of the private sector, Government representatives, etc.), showcasing that the inclusion of all stakeholders and their cooperation is instrumental in achieving the Ocean Breakthroughs.

Speakers:

Event organisers were requested to ensure events were inclusive of age, gender, geography, and represented a spectrum of stakeholders across all levels of government and sectors. Please share below the number of speakers represented in each group at this event.

Please complete the table below to share speaker diversity & inclusion information (please reflect your final list of speakers who contributed at the event - not prospective speakers from the concept note). The data shared below will be reflected in the reporting for the HLCs/MP Agenda at COP 29.

Total number of speakers in event: 11

Speaker demographics							
Full Name	Role in event	Youth <35	Geography	Developing country	Gender	Indigenous person	Stakeholder group
Loreley Picourt	MC / Moderator	Yes	France, Europe	No	Female	No	Civil Society (Youth, NGO)
H.E. Peter Thomson	Speaker	No	Fiji, Oceania	Yes	Male	No	UN
Erika Harms	Moderator	No	US, North America	No	Female	No	Business
Julia Simpson	Speaker	No	UK, Europe	No	Female	No	Civil Society (Non profit)
Manuel Pulgar Vidal	Speaker	No	Peru, LAC	Yes	Male	No	Civil Society (NGO)
Ivan Cruz Burgos	Speaker	Yes	Dominican Republic, LAC	Yes	Male	No	Party (Gov rep) /

Tatiana Antonelli	Speaker	No	UAE, MENA	Yes	Female	No	Business
Shamini	Speaker	No	USA, North America	No	Female	No	Civil Society (Youth, NGO)
Gabriel Muswali	Speaker	No	Kenya, Africa	Yes	Male	Yes	Civil Society (Youth, NGO)
Dwight Z.K. Sheriff	Speaker	No	Sierra Leone, Africa	Yes	Male	No	Party (Gov rep) /
H.E. Razan Al Mubarak	Speaker	No	UEA, MENA	Yes	Female	No	Climate Champions

Audience - Please share the number of guests who attended your session:

An estimate or percentage is welcome.

Nasimi Room was estimated to be 75% full.

Materials & Assets from the session:

Please share links below to:

- [Concept note](#)
- [Run of Show](#)
- [Photos](#) - In case of use, please include these credits: Photo by IISD/ENB | Angeles Estrada Vigil
- [Slides](#)
- Video - [Discover the Ocean Breakthroughs: achieving a healthy and productive ocean](#), by UN High Level Climate Champions, Ocean & Climate Platform on behalf of the Marrakech Partnership, with the support of Orsted
- Video - [High-Level Climate Champions Go to the Edges of Earth](#), by Edges of Earth
- Video - [In Hot Water](#), by WWF