

Global Climate
United Nations Climate Change



Marrakech
Partnership



RACE TO ZERO



OCEAN & CLIMATE
PLATFORM

POWERING THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS

3 - 5 JUNE 2024 • COSTA RICA

SUMMARY REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This workshop brought together more than 20 organisations from the ocean community, united to power the Ocean Breakthroughs. Discussions were built around 4 main goals: (1) leveraging equity and finance to operationalise the breakthroughs; (2) developing a tracking mechanism to assess progress from ocean-climate initiatives; (3) planning for the launch of the Ocean Breakthroughs campaign at CBD COP16; and (4) improving how we communicate on the breakthroughs. Key takeaways from the discussions include:

- **People must be put first**, both in terms of communication and actors we work with, especially as evidence shows that inequity is rising.
- **Unlocking capital, through the mobilisation of the private sector, is crucial**, and could be approached through the regeneration lens.
- **More work must be done to clearly identify the objective of the tracking mechanism**, what we measure and with which indicators.
- **COP16, G20, UNOC3 and COP30 are milestones to take advantage of, by developing an Ocean Breakthroughs agenda for each of these conferences.** The inclusion and mobilisation of the Global South is crucial and requires building their confidence as key ocean players.
- **Our storytelling must become clearer and build on on-the-ground experiences** to showcase that efforts are already underway.
- **We must keep engaging more stakeholders**, to not become an NGO-only initiative.

NEXT STEPS

- **On Ocean Equity & Finance**
 - Identify new advisors on equity to join the Core Group, including from the Blue Justice working group.
 - Look into the possibility of drafting a declaration Ocean for Climate 2.0 by putting ocean equity at the centre.
 - UNGC will work with the Sector Leads on the possibility of developing sector-focused annexes to the Ocean Investment Protocol.
- **On the tracking mechanism:**
 - The OCP and the Climate Champions will work on a concept note to better frame the intent of the project.
 - A brief survey will be shared with the group to get feedback on the tracker.
- **Towards CBD COP16:**
 - The OCP will work on a set of common key messages, around the Ocean Breakthroughs, to share with the group ahead of COP16.
 - Participants are welcome to join the informal Ocean group coordinated by the OCP for CBD.
 - Plans for the Ocean Day at COP16 will be shared with the group once the date is set.
- **On the narrative:**
 - Communications Inc. will work on developing a narrative strategy for the Ocean Breakthroughs to be reviewed by the Core Group in September.

INTRODUCTION

Loreley Picourt (Ocean & Climate Platform) and Ignace Beguin Billecocq, (HLC Champions)

The rationale behind the UN High-Level Climate Champions' breakthrough theory of change can be explained by the question: 'what do we need to do by 2030 to reach a tipping point at which the sector will see a dramatic shift in the way it operates?'. This approach participates in building the confidence of investors, organisations and various other stakeholders in a specific space to engage and work in the same direction, supported by the fact that governments will provide a framework to work around.

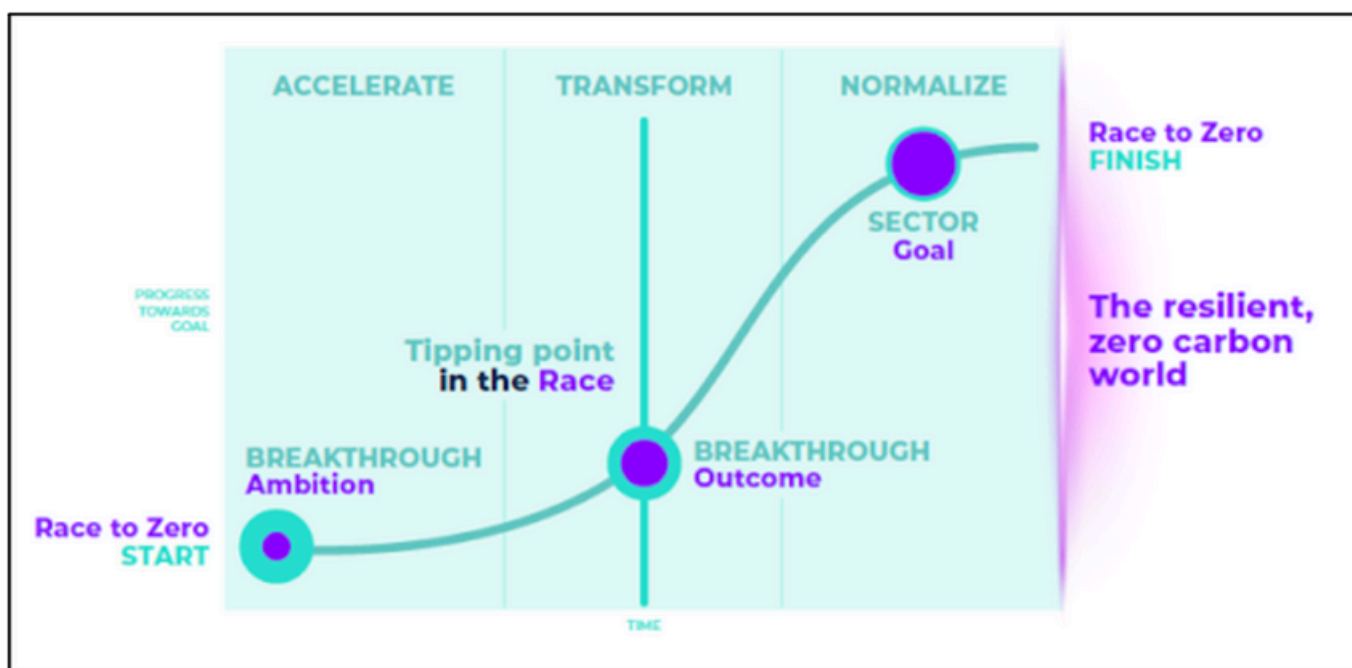
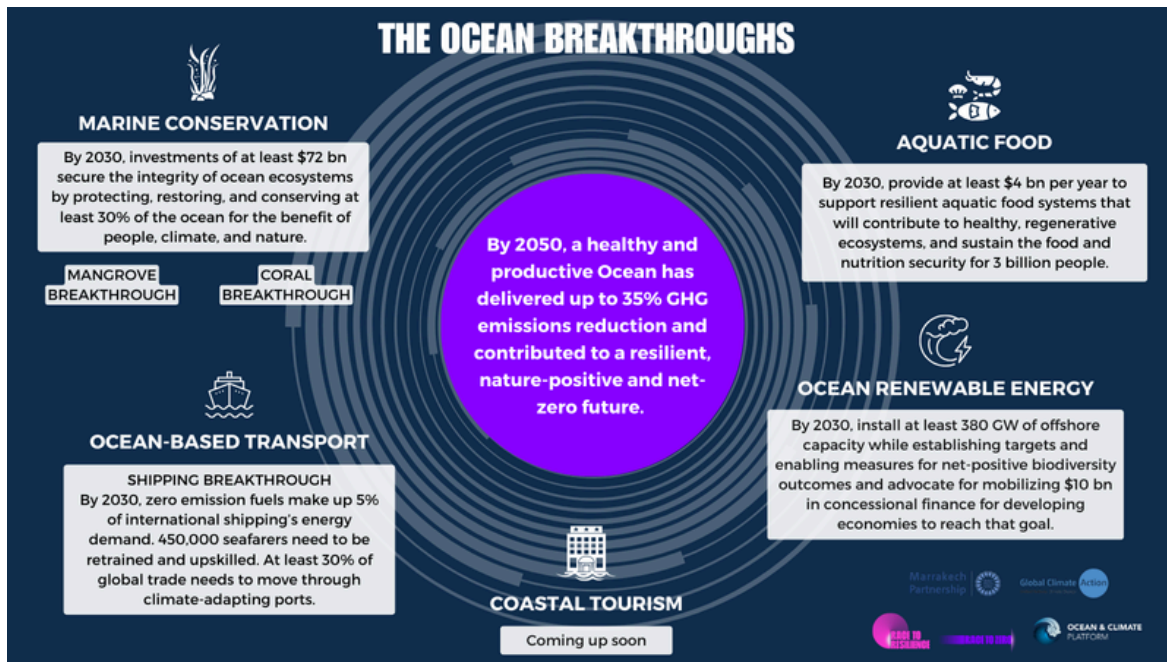


Figure 1. Visual representation of the theory of change used to develop a Breakthrough.

This theory has been applied to the Ocean Breakthroughs, which cover five ocean sectors: marine conservation, aquatic food, shipping, ocean renewable energy and coastal tourism. These sectors were selected building on the report [The Ocean as a Source of Solution to Climate Change \(2019\)](#), published by the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), which identified sectors with the most potential to deliver on the climate challenges. In 2023, [the Ocean Panel updated this report](#), highlighting that full implementation of ocean-based climate solutions could reduce the “emissions gap” by up to 35 percent on a 1.5°C pathway in 2050.



Key information about the Ocean Breakthroughs:

- **They result from the collaboration and collective efforts of a pool of experts from different horizons** (e.g., NGOs, industries, UN organisations, etc).
- They were developed through a holistic approach, and thus **aim to deliver on climate, nature and people**.
- The Ocean Breakthroughs are **science-based**.
- **Finance, science, governance and inclusivity** are key levers to achieve them.
- **All these sectors have a reporting framework in place** (e.g. the FAO SOFIA Report to assess progress in the aquatic food sector, or the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) is annually reporting on progress on offshore wind).
- The **financial targets are at the core of the changes which are aimed for**. For instance, the [Mangrove Breakthrough's financial Roadmap](#) was launched at COP28 and backed by 25 of the largest financial institutions, philanthropies, impact investors, companies, and non-state actors. It showcases how a **breakthrough draws an agenda that non-state actors, governments and financial actors can understand and embrace**.

Another positive signal that non-state actors, businesses, and governments at all levels are embracing this agenda, is the support and enthusiasm the Ocean Breakthroughs were met with at COP28, together with the organisation of the first ocean ministerial event centred around the Ocean Breakthroughs in the first days of the Conference.

To inspire discussions, an overarching guiding question was set: **what can we, as the ocean-climate community, deliver for COP30 in Brazil?** The community should **reflect on how the ocean agenda, including the Ocean Breakthroughs, can deliver on the world's four major challenges across security, energy, food, and finance**.

UPDATES ON THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS



MARINE CONSERVATION

Two ecosystem-focused breakthroughs exist on Mangrove and Corals. For the **Mangrove Breakthrough**, a board is now driving the efforts, with the objective of securing a host institution to launch a Secretariat ahead of New York Climate Week 2024. Three working groups are also in place on finance, policy, and pipeline projects. Efforts to gain more traction for the Mangrove Breakthrough are also supported by “Ambassadors”, such as Carlos Correa. **The Coral Breakthrough** is led by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). The Coral Breakthrough has been endorsed and supported by all 45 country members of ICRI. Two other ecosystem-focused breakthroughs, on seagrass and seaweed, are under development.



AQUATIC FOOD

There are growing efforts to connect the blue food agenda with a broader food system transformation effort, including on food security.



SHIPPING

A biodiversity target for the Shipping Breakthrough was launched at COP28. The Climate Champions are leading regional consultation on how best to combine decarbonisation and nature benefits. Looking at COP29, a report on the zero-emission target will be published.



OCEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY, SPECIFICALLY OFFSHORE WIND

Anna-Marie Laura and Shamini Selvaratnam (Ocean Conservancy) shared significant support for the Breakthrough including at Our Ocean 2024, where countries members of the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) committed to include offshore wind in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025. Also, at the **IRENA Assembly**, where the Offshore Wind Breakthrough was well received, by both donor and beneficiary countries, during a Ministerial on offshore wind and scaling finance. OC has now joined the steering committee of GOWA, where they will be able to ensure alignment between their target and the breakthrough. Moreover, OC will soon release a **concessional finance brief**. They are also working with the UN Global Compact and the Ocean Stewardship Coalition in the context of the UN Ocean Decade (see: [“Net-positive biodiversity actions in offshore renewables: Minimum criteria and recommendations for action”](#)), and with IUCN and the Regional Grid Initiative (RGI) on the GINGER initiative, to develop frameworks to monitor and report global progress on offshore wind.



COASTAL TOURISM

The Coastal Tourism Breakthrough will be launched at COP29. A task force led by Iberostar, the Ocean Foundation and Ivory Vogt (Emerald Consulting) is currently developing a draft. The next steps include an online meeting in August to gather experts to present and discuss it, followed by an in-person workshop in New York City on 26 September 2024 (2-6 PM), to discuss a revised target with the other sector leads.

SESSION 1 - STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ON POWERING THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS TOWARDS UNFCCC COP30

Discussions of this session focused on how to operationalise the Ocean Breakthroughs by activating two levers: (1) equity and (2) finance.

OCEAN EQUITY

Dr Jessica Blythe (Brock University) and Dr Joachim Claudet (CNRS)

The first part of the session focused on how to better include equity in the Ocean Breakthroughs. Participants were first introduced to the work of [the “Blue Justice” group](#), bringing together practitioners, experts, academics, and regional representatives, building on their **definition of ocean equity – i.e. the level of fairness with respect to how we think about how people can engage with and how they benefit from ocean initiatives**. Some of these aspects are considered in the Marine Conservation, the Aquatic food and the Shipping Breakthroughs, but to concretely deliver for nature, people, and climate, they should formally include ocean equity. Ocean equity is framed by three domains: recognitional, procedural, and distributional. They are all connected, and one is needed before the others, but remain not well-defined and hard to measure.



While global commitments to advance equity exist, as in the 2030 Agenda, the GBF or the Paris Agreement, **inequality can still be seen all over ocean spaces and coastal communities**. However, **the operationalisation of ocean equity remains a challenge as no universal instrument to measure it exists**. An option to look into is **the Ocean Equity Index: a framework to measure equity and monitor progress over time**. Building on a set of 12 criteria to score and assess the state of equity, it can be applied across sectors and fields and allows the identification of areas for improvement. The framework is still under development but has been applied to a few case studies as part of a testing phase.



MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION:

- **The “inclusivity” lever of the Ocean Breakthroughs should become “equity”.**
- **The Ocean Equity Index aims at being an overarching tool** accounting for and capturing elements/requirements of ocean equity that are more specific to a given initiative.
- **The Index can be applied at different scales** (e.g. local projects, national strategies) and **across sectors** (e.g. offshore wind, aquatic food) **and fora** (e.g. climate, biodiversity). It makes it a great tool to monitor progress of and influence national strategies (NDCs, NBSAPs).
- **Ocean equity could help mobilise and engage stakeholders working on the issue and to socialise the Ocean Breakthroughs.** The Index could be applied to case studies on different scales (e.g. project level, NDC level, and regulation level in a developing country) in each sector to showcase how it works. It could be used as a common thread to communicate on how the Breakthroughs cooperate.
- **The visual representation of the Ocean Equity Index could inspire the layout of the Ocean Breakthroughs’ tracker,** with an important added value in terms of communication.
- **The Index could be operationalised through governance,** by supporting the development of equitable policies or sustainable ocean plans. It could **also have an added value regarding finance, by helping organisations and companies demonstrate how they deliver on equity** and thus build the confidence of investors.
- **The Ocean Equity Index could be included in the tracking mechanism dedicated to the Ocean Breakthroughs, thus contributing to strengthening ocean equity** by helping to identify stakeholders who remain excluded. However, it should not become a barrier preventing stakeholders from sharing their initiative for the tracker.
- **It is essential to reflect on how the index interacts with frameworks that already exist and are recognised** (e.g. the Ocean Impact Navigator, standards of the International Finance Corporation, or Ocean Action 2030’s knowledge platform to be launched).

FINANCE

Suzanne Johnson (UN Global Compact) and Klaas de Vos (Ocean Fox Advisory)

The focus turned to finance and more especially on the UN Global Compact's efforts to develop a tool to channel more fundings towards the ocean. The UNGC convenes multi-stakeholder groups (i.e. governments, investors, banks, corporates, insurance) at the UN General Assembly, the World Bank meetings, COPs, to reflect on how to unlock private investment towards the ocean. Building on their collaboration of over three years with these groups, **the UNGC is developing the Ocean Investment Protocol (OIP)**. It identifies **5 to 10 recommendations per stakeholder group, corresponding to ways in which each can re-leverage its position in the system, to enable and scale up the transition towards the sustainable blue economy**. They are **science-based and aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, and call for interventions of business, investment, and governance, and upon the additional and unique needs of the Global South. The **OIP aims to be an overarching tool**, highlighting and drawing from existing frameworks that specifically focus on one group of stakeholders, **and provide a foundational systems' view of how all these pieces work together**.

A **draft was presented** at the World Bank Spring meetings. UNGC is now looking to **open its consultation process and seek inputs from governments** - the OIP will thus be presented to the Ocean Panel in July 2024. UNGC will also incorporate this work into the G20 dialogues and at COPs. **The goal is to enact and present it at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2025**.

Specific annexes to the Protocol, focused on the Ocean breakthroughs, could be developed, addressing the finance targets and what needs to be done in each sector to unlock investments.

Organising Framework

The OIP offers recommendations that will collectively unlock private capital to support the achievement of the Ocean Breakthroughs.

Ocean Finance Actors

Governments	DFIs	Industry	Finance	Insurance
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Ocean Breakthroughs

Marine conservation	Ocean renewable energy	Shipping	Aquatic food	Coastal tourism
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Shared Priorities

1. Ocean literacy and understanding of risks and materiality
2. Access to ocean data and measurement
3. Globally recognised standards to guide investment
4. Pipeline of investments that meet the requirements of large, market-based investors
5. Fostering a supportive regulatory environment
6. Incorporating the needs of the Global South

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION:

- **The language used to communicate is important.** All stakeholders **must understand it to act and get mobilised.** That includes, **educating about the actions and tools that can be used to scale up ocean investments (e.g. blue bonds).**
- **The UNGC should widen the pool of actors it consults.** That includes organisations (e.g. Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), Green Climate Fund, Climate Investment Funds), and governments, especially from the Global South and specifically Latin America, where three important meetings will take place in 2024 and 2025.
- **The Protocol should reflect the need for fundings and markets to be more aligned with reality (e.g. regarding the size of investments).** The OIP would gain value in putting pressure not only on the market and the project owners, but also on investors.
- **The OIP could be about how to unlock the regenerative potential of an ocean-based economy,** rather than in support of a sustainable ocean economy.

SESSION 2 - TRACKING PROGRESS ON THE OCEAN BREAKTHROUGHS

Carolyn Salvodelli (World Resources Institute) and Cyrielle Lâm (OCP)

This session focused on the project of launching an **online mechanism which would track all the initiatives launched under the goals of the Paris Agreement since 2015, focusing on the five sectors of the Ocean Breakthroughs at first.** This work is **led in collaboration with the World Resources Institute and Systems Change Lab.** It will build on existing tracking mechanisms, such as those of the commitments made at Our Ocean Conferences (e.g. [in 2024](#)) or the [NAZCA Platform by UNFCCC](#). **The objective is to launch the tool by COP30 in 2025, coinciding with the second revision cycle of NDCs under the UNFCCC.**

This project aligns with the work done by [Systems Change Lab \(SCL\)](#), which is a climate action tracking tool convened by the World Resources Institute and Bezos Earth Fund. It builds on the WRI's annual [State of Climate Action Report](#) and tracks global progress for more than 70 “transformational shifts” across 15 systems. It enables users to compare current action against targets we need to reach to protect people and the planet, and aims at providing insights to high-level decision makers to drive more ambitious action across climate, nature, and equity. **The ocean transformational shift is being developed with contributions from UNEP-WCMC and partners; a first draft is currently under review.**

To help design the tracking mechanism, two questions were discussed among participants:

- **What is the target audience of the dashboard?** This question aimed to identify who would benefit most from the dashboard and how it can be designed to meet their needs effectively.
- **What major barriers does this product address?** This question focused on identifying the challenges the dashboard could help overcome.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION:

- It is essential to **clearly define the purpose of the dashboard from the outset and design it to achieve those objectives efficiently.** The primary aim is to prove to governments and other stakeholders that non-state actors are making significant contributions and that these actions are feasible and scalable.
- **It is important to clarify if and how we develop indicators or use existing ones to track mitigation, adaptation, but also co-benefits in terms of equity, and on finance.**
- **Two groups identified governments as the primary target audience,** as the dashboard could help showcase successful non-state actor initiatives and provide data that can influence policy decisions and scale up ocean-based climate solutions. On a second plan, **the tool could help NGOs use data and case studies for advocacy.**
- **This tool could help guide investments and inform decision-making processes** by providing access to data and highlighting where gaps in knowledge, science and investment exist. It could also **help hold governments and non-state actors accountable for their commitments and actions,** ensuring transparency in their progress.
- **This dashboard should be more useful and engaging than existing platforms** (e.g. Our Ocean Commitments portal, NAZCA) **which are not user-friendly or effective. It could aggregate these mechanisms** and provide a comprehensive and standardised way to present data and track progress in one place.
- **There is a need for robust results-based storytelling to communicate progress and challenges effectively.** This includes showing both achievements and areas where targets are missed to mobilise broader community action. It will be essential to reflect on how to move from numbers and indicators into the reality of things.
- **The dashboard could stand out by identifying proxies for success, which can help measure the effectiveness of different initiatives.** This approach could help understand barriers and leverage points to enhance the implementation of the Ocean Breakthroughs.
- **The reach of this tool could be impacted by the different characters of each Breakthrough.** Some are about progress achieved through the development or expansion of an industry or the transformation of a sector (e.g. offshore wind, fisheries), while others are about protection, conservation, management measures (e.g. marine conservation), typically led or mandated by governments with the support or compliance of other actors. **Thus, if the platform only focuses on actions led by non-state actors, a part of the reality would not be captured.**

SESSION 3 - SWIMMING TOWARDS CBD COP16

Matt Frost (Plymouth Marine Laboratory) provided feedback on the CBD intersessions (May 2024, Nairobi), where discussions related to the ocean focused on two main items: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Across the negotiations on those items, the need for better alignment between the CBD and the High Seas Treaty was discussed and more clearly identified. However, synergies between the CBD and UNFCCC still need to be strengthened. The visibility and focus on the ocean was more important than last year, with more side-events and informal meetings dedicated to marine issues.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION:

- **Building on previous efforts like the "No Paris Without Montreal" Declaration and the Ocean Breakthrough campaign is critical** to maintain continuity in the narrative and achieve tangible results at COP16.
- **There are positive signals from within the UNFCCC to build synergies with the CBD** (e.g. outcomes of the Global Stocktake). **The Ocean Breakthroughs are a tool to bridge the gap**, building on the success at COP28 and as they all include a biodiversity component.
- **The Ocean Breakthroughs must become more accessible** (e.g. translation in other languages).
- **There will be many opportunities for the group to collaborate towards COP16 and build momentum for the ocean in Cali.** It includes collaboration on side-events, identifying common ocean key messages or partnering on the Ocean & Climate Platform's upcoming policy brief focusing on synergies between NDCs and NBSAPs.
- **Significant events must be planned for COP16 to maintain momentum for ocean conservation leading to COP29 and COP30.** Potential ideas include a large, unified event to bring together all stakeholders and a possible declaration on the Ocean Breakthroughs.
- **COP16 is a unique opportunity to leverage the Marine Conservation Breakthrough, and ecosystem-focused Mangrove and Coral Breakthroughs.** ICRI and the GFCR must be included in the conversation as they have important plans to raise ambition at COP16. Key asks for governments should be identified.
- **Continued collaboration with the Global Ocean Alliance** (i.e. group of countries that are ocean champions at the CBD) **and leveraging the influence of key countries like China, the UK, and Brazil is crucial.** Also, a significant focus should be on **empowering the Global South to lead the global ocean agenda.**
- **Engaging financial institutions and companies will be essential.**
- **CBD COP16 provides a great opportunity to spotlight ocean equity issues.**
- **COP16 is a stepping stone towards COP30, and so is COP29 in Azerbaijan,** which will focus on finance and must be used to advance investments towards the Ocean Breakthroughs.
- **Ocean issues should be included within broader climate and biodiversity frameworks, using events like the UN Ocean Conference in 2025.**

SESSION 4 - NARRATIVE & OUTREACH STRATEGY

Mirella Von Lindenfels (Communications Inc)

The objective of the session was to reflect on ways to improve the narrative of the Ocean Breakthroughs, to craft **a story people engage with**, rather than focusing on what to communicate or the tools. Indeed, a good story **needs to engage rationally and build on a clear, credible and believable vision**, and to connect people emotionally so they are willing to engage and be part of the vision. **Ultimately, what we want to achieve with this narrative is action and change, whether it is in behaviour or in attitude.** A common mistake in communication is focusing on what we want other people to know, instead of thinking about what they need to hear; and telling people *what* they should do instead of *why* they should do differently. **Regarding the Ocean Breakthroughs, the call to action must speak to the people who are able to become part of the initiative and those in position to make decisions.** The major target audience of the Ocean Breakthroughs' narrative is thus the people who have the power to deliver on a breakthrough - and not just the right. It involves a broad diversity of stakeholders: governments, civil society, financial institutions, industries, media, IPLCs or the general public.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION:

- Numerous stakeholders and messages challenge effective communication.
- Simplifying and clarifying the overarching goals and messages is needed to avoid confusion and complexity, and ensure coherence in communication.
- These barriers could also be addressed by the **development of a multi-layered engagement and communication strategy using new media tools**, specific to stakeholders' needs. **Visual storytelling and infographics are key to convey messages effectively, as well as tailored messages** to resonate with different audiences, especially for governments and the private sector.
- The **narrative should include positive messaging, emphasise immediate actions** over distant future goals, **showcase practical solutions and demonstrate their effectiveness.**
- **Engaging with communities to bring initiatives to life and ensure local actions align with broader goals will have an added value for the storytelling and can help legitimise efforts.** In that line, the Climate Champions are partnering with Edges of Earth to spotlight real on-the-ground action, and bring some human reality to the narrative.
- To leverage this narrative, **upcoming global events (e.g. COP meetings, G20) are unique opportunities to build momentum and push the agenda.**
- Participants also discussed the **importance of operational guidelines for the Ocean Breakthroughs and the need for tangible, quick wins to maintain momentum and engagement from governments and industries.** The sense of leadership and community support was also emphasised as essential.
- The **narrative should be clear about the fact that these targets will only be achieved if we halt the expansion of and phase down fossil fuels.**

CONCLUSIONS

To close the meeting, **Jose Maria Figueres (former President of Costa Rica)** identified two **priorities where the Ocean Breakthroughs could be centre stage: (1) jointly addressing the intertwined issues of the ocean-climate nexus and poverty; (2) making the most of this decade (2020-2030)** and push to achieve the targets the world has set for 2030.

The power of the Breakthroughs lies in 4 key characteristics:

- 1.They **address the importance of the ocean and climate nexus**: our efforts should thus focus on those who don't think about it.
- 2.They are **science-based with reporting mechanisms, and finance components**, putting us in advance in respect to other objectives in the environmental or climate space.
- 3.It is a **multi-stakeholder initiative**, which is a power we must not lose.
- 4.The **word "breakthrough" conveys a sense of urgency** that can catalyse efforts.

SUGGESTED WAYS FORWARD:

- Working on education and awareness, together with governments and by coming up with a strategy to promote the Ocean Breakthroughs.
- Mobilising the Friends of Ocean Action, who could become ambassadors of the Breakthroughs.
- Changing perceptions and improving messaging about the ocean (e.g. The Green Climate Fund could become the Climate and Ocean Fund).
- Identifying innovative ways to finance ocean action (e.g. replenish the GCF by implementing a tax on the shipping industry; creating an ocean fund).

This workshop was organised by:



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