



OCEAN & CLIMATE
PLATFORM

OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM MEMBERS' MEETING

27 March 2025

Maison de l'Océan, 195 rue Saint Jacques, Paris, France

SUMMARY REPORT



WELCOMING REMARKS

Mathieu Kandaroun, Head of Events and Fundraising, Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I Foundation, recalled the strong bonds between the OCP and the Oceanographic Institute. He reaffirmed that the Principality of Monaco, the Prince Albert 2 Foundation and the Oceanographic Institute are fully mobilised by the organisation of the Blue Economy and Finance Forum, with the support of the Governments of France and Costa Rica as co-hosts of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3).

Romain Troublé, President, Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP), expressed his gratitude to the Oceanographic Institute for its longstanding collaboration with the OCP. He emphasized that broad mobilisation and the development of projects capable of sparking fresh ideas and innovative solutions have always been at the heart of the OCP's mission - not only through its mandate to engage civil society, but also through its visioning project.

Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the President of France for UNOC3, reaffirmed France strong commitment and high-level mobilisation in preparation for UNOC3. This ambition builds on the dedicated work of a consortium of actors, including the OCP and the Oceanographic Institute, which will know its pinnacle in Nice. He highlighted that one of the top priorities is securing the ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) by at least 60 states.

PANEL 1: FROM THE BLUE ZONE TO “LA BALEINE”: WHAT PERSPECTIVES FOR MOBILISATION?

Ashok Adicéam, General delegate and Head of international mobilisation for UNOC3, and Luna Merino, Project Manager for UNOC3, highlighted the importance of collective mobilisation in Nice. Their presentation focused on “*La Baleine*”: an innovative Green Zone designed to be inclusive, foster engagement, dialogue and collective forward-thinking action for the ocean. Hosted in [Nice's Exhibition Center](#), 20-minute away from the Blue Zone (located at Port Lympia), ***La Baleine* will be accessible to both accredited participants and the general public. Mandatory online registration will likely be implemented to manage visitors flow.** The venue will serve as an activation space starting June 2nd, helping to build momentum towards the start of the Conference.

At the heart of La Baleine will be an agora (200 seats), surrounded by **8 thematic pavilions, respectively focusing on education and ocean literacy, deep-sea exploration, digital twin technology, innovation and startups, plastic pollution, maritime decarbonization, coral reefs, and blue food.** In addition, **5 non-thematic pavilions - the Ocean Base Camp, the Archipel Pavilion and national pavilions for France, Costa Rica and the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur - will be hosted** in La Baleine. The venue also includes an auditorium (250 seats), and three smaller rooms (one room of 150 seats and two rooms of around 80 seats).

La Baleine will host numerous side events and other activities. A call for proposals for artistic projects opened and closed in March. A new call was recently issued, inviting all UNOC3 stakeholders to submit event proposals to be hosted in *La Baleine* by 30 April, [here](#).

This process complements the UN DESA-led call for proposals for in-person side-events in the Blue Zone, off-site or online side-events. The one for side-events in the Blue Zone closed on 14 March, with 600 proposals submitted for only 136 slots available. The call for proposals for off-site and online events remains open until 21 April. Submissions must be made [here](#). Approved events will receive a UNOC3 label and thus be included into the Conference's official program. Please note that off-site side-events organisers will be responsible for securing their venue (a list of suggestions will be provided) and logistics.

All accredited organisations (including those who received Special Accreditation in 2024 and early 2025) are required to register in order to be granted a badge giving access to the Blue Zone. Each registered organisation will be granted five (5) nominative, non transferable badges. As of April 10th, registration is not open.

Finally, numerous international scientific and historical vessels will be present in Nice. They will be docked next to the Blue Zone and will accommodate events and exhibitions. They will be accessible to Blue Zone badge holders and, during designated time slots, to the general public.



Q&A

Accreditation and registration

Only accredited organisations can submit proposals for Blue Zone, off-site and online side-events. Also, only accredited organisations can register for UNOC3, i.e. request a badge to access the Blue Zone of UNOC3. However, access to the Green Zone will not require a badge, but participants will be asked to book their visit online to manage visitor flows.

Please note that it is no longer possible to request a special accreditation. However, there will soon be an **option for individuals to request a Blue Zone badge under designated umbrella organisations.**

Differences between events in “La Baleine” and official off-site events

The French Government manages the programming of *La Baleine*. A call for proposals for activities in *La Baleine* (e.g. exhibitions) opened and closed in February, with responses expected in April. **A call for side-events proposals to be hosted in *La Baleine* recently opened. Submissions must be made by April 30, [here](#).**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) manages the programming of the Blue Zone, off-site and online side-events. For off-site and online events, organisers must be accredited or operate under an umbrella organisation to submit proposals on official platforms. Please note that if you are selected to organise an in-person side-event, you will be responsible for finding your venue and the logistics.

Regional representation

France will have a pavilion that will likely be focused on national policies and overseas territories, in partnership with French Polynesia. Initiatives that are part of the "Year of the Sea" will also be showcased, highlighting progress made across various territories. There will be a Pavilion dedicated to Costa Rica and one dedicated to the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur.

Thematic days

8 June will be World Ocean Day. Thematic days between 9 to 13 June are still under construction. 10 June will likely be dedicated to the Mediterranean, to **celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention.** Discussions will focus on sustainable infrastructure, connectivity, and regional cooperation.

There will also be **regional mini-summits such as the World Islands Forum and the Blue Africa Summit (9-10 June),** which should encourage high-level leadership participation.

Political engagement & ratification efforts

Several key political figures are confirming their attendance, with expectations for a high-level and impactful lineup. The focus is on ensuring tangible commitments, rather than symbolic declarations. **A major focus is put on the ratification of the BBNJ agreement.**



DEEP DIVE: KEY POLITICAL DELIVERABLES

The International Platform on Ocean Sustainability (IPOS)

Françoise Gaill, Co-founder, IPOS

Set to launch at UNOC3, IPOS is now envisioned as a UN collaborative center within the Decade of Ocean Science. Its mission will be to provide scientific insights that support and inform ocean governance processes, and tackling two major challenges: the fragmentation of ocean governance and the need for better integration of all types of knowledge. It will function as a service-oriented platform, offering States and regional groups tailored reports. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) is being considered as a potential host institution. A series of pilot initiatives will be highlighted at UNOC3, including projects on deep-sea ecosystems, small-scale fisheries and marine protected areas (MPAs) in Costa Rica, as well as the development of an AI-driven tool to accelerate the synthesis of scientific reports.

Mercator Ocean International transition into an IGO and the Ocean Digital Twin

Fabrice Messal, UX Development Manager, Mercator Ocean International (MOi)

MOi will formally become an intergovernmental organisation at UNOC3, where they will also present the Digital Twin of the Ocean, a major technological innovation and a key tool for advancing oceanographic science. The development of the Digital Twin aligns with broader efforts made under the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the Ocean Predict initiative.

The Blue NDC Challenge

Marine Lecerf, Head of International Policy, Ocean & Climate Platform

The **Blue NDC Challenge**, developed in partnership with Ocean Conservancy and the World Resources Institute, **calls on governments to pledge to integrate ocean-based climate measures into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by COP30**. Governments of France and Brazil have expressed an interest in spearheading this initiative to connect the dots from Nice to Belém. A side-event proposal was submitted for the blue zone to publicly launch the Challenge and build political momentum for the ocean-climate nexus.

DEEP DIVE: UNOC3 SPECIAL EVENTS

The One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC)

3-6 June, Nice

Wilfried Sanchez, Deputy Head of the Scientific Division, Ifremer

The **OOSC** will bring together 2,000 participants from diverse scientific and policy backgrounds to consolidate and present key research findings at UNOC3. The event will serve as a crucial platform for **science mediation, fostering stronger connections between researchers, policymakers, and civil society**. Most importantly, it will provide comprehensive scientific insights on the ocean's health, dynamics and future trajectory, on its conservation and sustainable use, and on the services and benefits it provides to humanity, to build evidence-based recommendations to guide high-level diplomatic discussions ahead of the conference. **Over 500 oral presentations and 650 posters will be featured. Additionally, 33 town halls will encourage direct dialogue between scientists and stakeholders, covering ten themes listed [here](#).**



The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit

7 June, Nice

Théophile Bongarts, Head of Coastal Adaptation, Ocean & Climate Platform

The [Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit](#) is co-hosted by the Ocean & Climate Platform, the City of Nice, with the support of the Governments of France and Costa Rica. It will mark the official launch of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition, which builds on the outcomes of OCP's [Sea'ties](#) project. The focus will be on **enhancing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and financial mechanisms to address the challenges posed by sea-level rise and ocean changes**. The secretariat of the Coalition will be hosted by the Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM), under UNOPS. On 7 June, the Summit will convene elected representatives and officials from major coastal cities, regions, and island states threatened by rising sea levels to discuss climate adaptation and coastal resilience. **Discussions will span on science-to-policy, existing tools (AI, etc.), governance, finance, insurance, harbours, social justice and equity, and nature-based solutions.**

The Blue Economy and Finance Forum

7-8 June, Monaco

Marianne Carpentier, Engagement Lead, ORRAA

The [Blue Economy and Finance Forum \(BEFF\)](#) will take place at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco. Bringing together 1,500 participants, the event will focus on mobilising investments for ocean health and resilience, emphasizing the importance of showcasing existing solutions. It will feature demonstrations of innovative financing mechanisms and new projects addressing sustainable ocean practices. The forum will be structured around three main sessions. More details about the programme are available [here](#).

PANEL 2: CIVIL SOCIETY MOBILISED FOR UNOC3

Mobilising the network at the national level

In 2023, during a consultation on the OCP's priorities for UNOC3 from a national policy perspective, **members strongly advocated for an increased focus on French Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**. The OCP has been actively working on this front since 2018, collaborating with Joachim Claudet, Research Director, CNRS and President of the OCP Scientific Committee, as well as several members and partners, **to push for France to align its national protection standards with European and international ones.**

To support these efforts, the **OCP** launched an **institutional advocacy campaign** in **partnership with its network and the support of OnlyOne**. It consisted in communication actions, the development of shared talking points, joint statements, and several op-eds - notably one in Le Figaro - as well as other materials. The OCP stands ready to amplify member priorities and reinforce France's leadership on MPAs. **The Minister of Environmental Transition of France will convene a plenary session of the *Comité France Océan* in April, offering a key opportunity to raise messages on MPAs, sea level rise adaptation, financing, and more.**



Mobilising the network at the international level

In 2023, the Governments of France and Costa Rica mandated the OCP and the Varda Group to mobilise and consult civil society organisations (CSOs) in the run up to UNOC3. A global consultation conducted that same year ([available here](#)) led to the identification of the expectations and priorities of CSOs for UNOC3. These priorities include: **(1) The need to accelerate ocean governance** (e.g. ratification of BBNJ and WTO treaties, ban or moratorium on deep-sea mining); **(2) Addressing the lack of accountability**, as it is necessary to measure progress on actions launched during the conferences or through voluntary commitments to ensure we remain on track with our ambitions; and **(3) A will to imagine a common, desirable future** by building a roadmap for the post-2030. Building on this, two initiatives were launched:

- [Let's be Nice to the Ocean](#), coordinated by The Varda Group since its launch in 2023, is a movement of 100 organisations, including 40 members of the OCP. It aims to make ocean protection the norm, rather than the exception.
- [“An Ocean of Possibilities”](#): a visioning project led by the OCP, in collaboration with the CNRS and Friends of Ocean Action, with the support of Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy.

“An Ocean of Possibilities” aims to develop a bold, long-term strategy for the ocean, with transformative impact. A workshop with over 40 partners explored desirable futures and actions needed to achieve them, building on existing initiatives. Despite diverse visions, a set of shared values was identified. A second workshop focused on maximising impact and securing greater political support. The outcomes will be presented in Nice on World Ocean Day, with the ambition to shape the agenda through to UNOC4.

DEEP DIVE: WORLD OCEAN DAY

World Ocean Day (WOD) will be celebrated in Nice and around the world on 8 June 2025. A great diversity of civil society organisations (CSOs) will lead events and initiatives. The OCP and the Varda Group have been tasked by the Government of France and Costa Rica to help coordinate the programming, which remains under construction.

People of the Ocean

Flora McMorin, Director, RISE-UP

The “People of the Ocean” event is co-organised by numerous organisations, including Rise UP, PEW, Nia Tero, IUCN, along with indigenous leaders from French territories and small-scale fisheries representatives. It will celebrate the deep connections between the ocean and Indigenous communities. They will be invited to share their stories and priorities with all stakeholders in Nice. The objective is to share the main takeaways during a high-level discussion with Member States delegations.

Universal Swim

Eric Morbo, CEO, Surfrider Foundation Europe

Building on their network and experience to convene public manifestation, Surfrider Foundation Europe and partners have been charged to organise a universal swim in Nice, as close to the blue Zone as possible, between 10:30 and 11:30 AM (CET).



Women Actions for the Ocean

Patricia Ricard, President, Institut Océanographique Paul Ricard

This event will build on the [campaign “Women Actions for the Ocean”](#), launched on 8 March 2025 - International Women Day. It aims to showcase the great diversity of powerful women taking action for the ocean, and to strengthen the role of women and girls at UNOC, ensuring their voices are heard. As of now, 126 women from 42 countries are involved in the campaign. If you wish to join them, kindly contact: Emilie SIGUIER (emilie.siguier@pernod-ricard.com).

Parade of the Ocean Wonders

Romain Troublé, Executive Director, Tara Ocean Foundation

Dozens of boats will cruise in La Baie des Anges, in front of Nice. The Parade will depart from Monaco at 2:30 PM and arrive in Nice at 4:00 PM. Heads of States, including President Macron and President Chaves, are expected to sail on some of the boats. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, will raise the UN flag during the parade, from one of the boats, marking the official opening of WOD.

THE FLOOR IS YOURS: PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES LED BY OCP MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

The Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP) is planning a strong mobilisation for UNOC3, leveraging its mandate to engage civil society and its role as a network. **Unlike other conferences, the UN Ocean Conferences are unique opportunities to talk about the ocean in all its aspects, giving every OCP member a meaningful role to play.** For Nice, the OCP's strategy to mobilise the network is built around three core pillars:

1. Building key partnerships, such as the Ocean Base Camp and the Archipel Pavilion

The Ocean Base Camp

Céline Khan, UNOC Operations manager, Oceano Azul Foundation

The **Ocean Base Camp** was created in 2022 for UNOC 2, in response to the lack of a dedicated space for civil society at UNOC1. In Nice, **the Ocean Base Camp will be located in La Baleine**. The goal is to enhance engagement, discussion among NGOs, and amplify the voices of CSOs. Different types of events are planned, including thematic events, open mics, or a talk show with journalists to sum up discussions in the Blue Zone. **The OCP will coordinate an event slot dedicated to the ocean-climate nexus in the morning of 11 June.**

The Archipel Pavilion

Stephanie Beney, Project Manager, AFD and Yacine Ait Kaci, Co-founder, Elyx Foundation

The Archipel Pavilion is born from the collaboration between the Agence Française de Développement and Fondation Elyx. It mobilises numerous civil society organisations, including the Ocean & Climate Platform and the Tara Ocean Foundation, and various partners working on marine and ocean-related topics supported by the AFD. The exhibition will be opened between 2-13 June, and will consist of three archipelagos working as a metaphor for the international geopolitical situation and highlighting three ideas: protection, sharing, and prosperity. The audience will primarily be the general public and schools, then professionals. The OCP will have a 3-hour event slot, on June 11, in the afternoon, for which a call for interests will be soon shared with members.

2. Keeping the network and partners informed on the Conference

The OCP has made information sharing a key priority to support members engagement. It regularly circulates updates through newsletters, organises information meetings, and other tools. A communications toolkit will also be shared with the network, including visuals, articles, and a shared table where members can list their events and indicate their presence in Nice, helping to foster connections and collaboration.

3. Bringing the network together in Nice

The Ocean & Climate Platform invites members and partners to a reception, set to take place on the evening of 12 June, at *Plage Amour* in Nice. Official save-the-dates will soon be shared.



THE FLOOR IS YOURS

SEAS AT RISK

is organising the Blue March: a moment of convergence open to everyone, who can bring and express their own demands for the ocean. There is a partnership with French NGOs. A website will soon be set up with logistical information and the option to register to stay informed.

IDDRI

and the OCP, with the support of the French Government, are developing the **Ocean Tourism Plan**, in coordination with relevant stakeholders and the private sector. The main objective is to encourage tourism actors to integrate sustainability in their practices, building on existing frameworks. Crucial areas will be covered, including pollution, social and economic integrity. It will be presented during a Solution Hub (side-event) during the BEFF, and a working group will likely be created to share best practices, pathways and priorities.



WAVES OF CHANGE COALITION

will organise an event at EDHEC, in the evening of 10 June.

CNRS

will organise a “village of sciences” in its station of Villefranche-sur-Mer. They will also conduct an ethnography of UNOC stakeholders, to assess their role and implication.

THE UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR

in partnership with the City of Nice and the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, are organising the **Festival des Sciences Océan** on 3-5 May. The event aims to raise public awareness on the issues at stake at UNOC3 and to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. Exhibitors (laboratories, associations, local authorities, companies) will be grouped around 4 themes: challenges of UNOC3, preserving and restoring marine ecosystems, preventing and reducing marine pollution, and “the Ocean and its resources: towards sustainable use”. The University is also co-organising, with IFREMER and other partners, **a congress for young ocean advocates**, bringing together 150 youth from around the world from 5 to 7 May. Finally, they will launch the **International Network of Marine Universities** on 7 June, focusing on how education should break down barriers to reach audiences differently.

THE UNIVERSITÉ INTERNATIONALE DE LA MER

is planning an event on 7 May in Nice, to dive into long-term risks and challenges that awaits us for 2100. A reflection on how to raise awareness among populations will be conducted.

THE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE LA MER

plans to organise two events during UNOC, including one with Europe Jacques Delors on the European Ocean Pact. In addition, they will be publishing an issue of *La Revue Maritime* almost completely dedicated to UNOC3, featuring a presentation of the three special events, along with articles from the Ocean & Climate Platform, UNOC3 Special Envoy for France, Ambassador Olivier Poivre D'Arvor and UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thompson.

THE IRD

aims to foster inclusion by engaging youth, particularly young scientists, and connecting with women in fishery communities. A dedicated panel discussion will spotlight women from southern countries, who will share their experiences and initiatives.

MERCATOR OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

will lead the Digital European Pavilion, which will be split into three zones: Decide, Engage, Inspire. The pavilion will be open for two weeks, and will welcome meetings and the international meteorological forum among other events. Perspectives on the digital twin of the ocean will also be discussed with policy makers and journalists.

THE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ALLIANCE

will organise an action plan leadership side-event in the Blue Zone, to work on SDG 14.3 on ocean acidification, NDCs, sustainable ocean plans and the EU strategy Framework. Representatives from Greece, Portugal, Fiji will be present, and more states are expected such as France, Mexico, or Columbia, along with scientists. In addition, the OA Alliance will organise an artistic performance on ocean acidification, and on the intersections between the human experience, science and art. Finally, they will organise a side-event under the UN Decade Science on vulnerability assessment and security issues.

THE TARA OCEAN FOUNDATION

will organise 2 main events at UNOC3: an exhibition at Villa Arson and an evening event co-organised with the CNRS, on the plankton manifesto in Villefranche-sur-Mer. On its way to Nice, Tara's schooner will dock at numerous ports to discuss important topics: in Brest to discuss MPAs, in Marseille to talk about the plastic treaty, Monaco during a side-event that remains to be confirmed on deep sea mining and the role of the private sector, etc.



THE DEEP SEA CONSERVATION COALITION

will present a paper on ecosystem-based management to protect sediment and deep-sea ecosystems at the OOSC. They will also host a high-level reception on deep-sea ecosystems with Governments. There is currently an ongoing message promoted by 32 countries for a push of a moratorium on deep-sea, that the coalition supports. DSCC also applied for a mural in La Baleine.

FONDATION DE LA MER

has submitted a side-event proposal in the Blue Zone, which has already been discussed with the French Government. Several events are also planned in La Baleine, including with the OFB. They booked the diving club to have a strategic spot in the port, where conferences and receptions will be organised. They will organise evening conference excursions at sea every evening during UNOC. Finally, results of UNOC2 to be shared on seagrass.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY

will be launching a new assessment tool on the impact of plastic on ocean species, birds and other animals. They plan on participating in an event on mesopelagic species, and another one on blue NDCs. A reception will be held on the topic of the Arctic, highlighting the importance of Indigenous Communities in Alaska.

THE OFFICE FRANÇAIS DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ

emphasized the importance of showcasing France's efforts in expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the BBNJ framework. In this regard, France is actively engaged in the preparation of the 6th International MPA Conference (IMPAC6) (Senegal, 2027) and upcoming workshops on marine spatial planning, including a key session scheduled in Cape Verde in May. The OFB will play a significant role at UNOC3 through its commitment to the education pavilion, which will be named "Beyond Borders: Conservation and Ocean Literacy."



INSTITUT AGRO

is organising an event with the MNHN and IFREMER, on 23 May, entitled "Mer nourricière, pêche et aquaculture face au changement global".

RESPECTOCEAN

A convention for business and companies dedicated to the ocean has been signed by 45 organisations and 90 CEOs. They will hopefully become ambassadors upon completion of UNOC3.