

UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland

Concept Note
Action Event:

**Under Pressure: Adapting to Climate Change in Ocean
and Coastal Zones under 1.5°C of Global Warming**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

5 of December, at 17:40-19:10 at the Brazil Pavilion
With Simultaneous Translation from Portuguese-English

Co-Organisers:

The **Future Ocean Alliance (FOA)**¹ on behalf of the MPGCA Ocean Theme Group in
Partnership with the **Republic of Cape Verde**

¹ For the MPGCA-Oceans Group; Co-sponsored by the (national) Foundation for Science and Technology-Portugal, FOA, and anonymous donors and with the institutional support by the Fulbright Commission and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, East-Timor)

Under Pressure

Adapting to Climate Change in Ocean and Coastal Zones with 1.5°C of Global Warming

Description

Exchanging experiences and major developments, and identifying needs and challenges in adaptation to the impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in ocean and coastal zones. Adaptation will be addressed with an ecosystem and cross-sectoral approach, while identifying contributions for future direction under impacts by 1.5°C of global warming.

The debate will be inspired by a highlight on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, as it represents the outlook of the changing reality to what public managers, societies and economies must adapt to: the latest on what humankind will need to adapt to.

Participants will be at the levels of Ministers, Director General, and Leaders/Coordinators of expert groups of governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Concrete cases will aim, as in last year (COP23 of the UNFCCC), to share experiences in ocean and coastal zones, from the different geographies and levels of development, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Overall Narrative/Background

The increasing severity of impacts by climate change, and the predictions by the IPCC, on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, further stress the need for adaptation on ocean and coastal zones. A forward looking approach is needed for planning adaptation and social, environmental and economic policies and development, supported by tailored (institutional) capacity development to empower countries and their institutions towards leadership and ownership of their adaptation processes. During 2018, and yet, on the aftermath of extreme meteorological events and record temperatures during 2017, extreme meteorological events continue claiming lives and destroying communities' livelihoods.

Under this lens, comprehensive ecosystem approaches to ocean and coastal management combine the ecosystem functioning with human activities to enhance resilience of human and natural systems as nature-based solutions. This holistic approach can be used in adaptation, where nature-based solutions can function as cost-effective natural infrastructure for the protection of coastal zones, populations and the livelihoods therein, while enhancing marine and coastal biodiversity, conservation and resource management, and concurrently, functioning as carbon sink (blue carbon).

Coastal zones concentrate over 40% of the world's population and human societies heavily depend on coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods. The ocean is the main regulator of the planetary climate. It absorbs over 90 per cent of the heat produced by human-induced climate change and approximately 28 per cent of CO₂ emissions from human activities. The science of climate change shows that numerous coastal and ocean resources, ecosystems and infrastructure, as well as livelihoods, are at greater risk due to the additional pressure of impacts of GHG emissions. These cover, inter alia, sea-level rise, storm surges, coastal erosion, water temperature, oxygen depletion and

ocean acidification. Ocean and coastal areas sustain coastal and island communities, and those who rely on its bounty to meet their nutritional needs. But while the ocean is key to mitigating climate change, a warming planet also places it, and the services it provides, at greater risk.

Objective of the event: Impacts and progress made in 2018

This MPGCA event aims to

- Exchanging experiences, identifying success, needs and challenges and recommendations to enhancing adaptation of impacts in ocean and coastal areas.
- Raising awareness to the UNFCCC Parties and stakeholders on the perils of impacts by GHG emissions on ocean and coastal zones, and the need for a coherent and coordinated framework (also) within the UNFCCC process to articulate a policy interface for ocean-coasts in global climate action: impacts are increasing; adaptation action and decisions are urgent.
- Building on the momentum to advance adaptation in ocean and coastal zones created during COP23 of UNFCCC and the several initiatives delivered during 2018, including cross-fertilization with the MPGCA different themes, Talanoa Dialogues and other non-MPGCA stakeholders.
- Recalling that (adaptation on) ocean and coastal zones plays a crucial role to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the UNFCCC objectives, including the Paris Agreement global goal for *enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change*, which is particularly important to SIDS and LDCs.

Results/Impacts:

- To elicit and deliver concrete recommendations on adaptation to climate change in ocean and coastal zones, including to the UNFCCC, the UN-Oceans and the UN 2030 Agenda processes.
- Raising awareness among UNFCCC Parties and Non-parties, across sectors and scales of governance, will continue being a major objective and impact of FOA's initiatives as a MPGCA member towards a coordinated and coherent programme of action on adaptation in ocean and coastal zones and the communities' therein.

Co-chairs: *Ms. Isabel Torres de Noronha, President, Future Ocean Alliance*

Mr. Martin Frick, Senior Director for Policy and Programme Coordination, UNFCCC

Contact Person

Isabel Torres de Noronha

Future Ocean Alliance, FOA, Portugal

e-mail: itnoronha@future-ocean-alliance.org and info@future-ocean-alliance.org

Tel./WhatsApp/Viber: +351-919036434

Live streaming at: <https://www.facebook.com/futureoceanalliance/>

Programme

Introduction by the Co-Chairs:

Ms. Isabel Torres de Noronha, President, Future Ocean Alliance &

Mr. Martin Frick, Senior Director, Policy and Programme Coordination, UNFCCC

1. *H.E., Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of the Republic of Cape Verde, Adapting policies and development to climate change in ocean and coastal zones (5 minutes).*
2. *Ms. Thelma Kruger, Vice-chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Highlight on the IPCC Special Report on Impacts of 1.5°C global warming on natural and human systems: outlook for adaptation in ocean and coastal zones (10 minutes).*
3. *Mr. Alexandre Nevsky, Director General of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment Republic of Cape Verde: Building resilience in coastal communities using the nature (5 minutes)*
4. *Mr. Arlindo Ceita de Carvalho, Director General of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe Islands: Towards ownership of coastal adaptation: Building resilience of São Tomé through tailored institutional capacity development for programme management (5 minutes).*
5. *Mr. Adriano Oliveira / Mr. José Domingos Miguez, Adaptation Department of the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil. Adapting the Brazilian Seas to Climate Change: Planning for Ocean Resilience (5 minutes). t.b.c.*
6. *Ms. Monica Scatasta, Head of Climate, Environment, Social Policy, European Bank of Investment: Adaptation to climate change in ocean and coastal zones through development, cooperation and good neighborhood policies. (5 minutes)*
7. *Mr. Christopher Bartlett, Adviser to Minister Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu. Marine adaptation in Vanuatu, and its limits, in the coral seas of Vanuatu (5 minutes)*
8. *Ms. Tamara Thomas, Global Ocean Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, Resilience for People, coastal economies and nature- Can we insure our future?(5 minutes)*
9. *Ms. Saliha Dobardzi, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund. Capacity development towards climate resilience. (5 minutes)*
10. *Mr. José Inácio Faria, Member of the European Parliament, Ocean governance a centerpiece towards fulfilling the UN 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC. (5 minutes) t.b.c.*
11. *H.E. Ronny Jumeau, Seychelles' UN and Climate Ambassador, Marine protected areas for building resilience towards a blue economy (5 minutes)*
12. *H.E. Amjad Abdulla, Government of Maldives, Chair of AOSIS and of SIDS to UNFCCC, Perspectives of SIDS and LDCs for adaptation under the impacts of 1.5°C of global Warming: the way forward in UNFCCC (5 minutes)*

Discussants: the Co-chairs with

Ms. Annett Moehner, UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, Suggested title: Adaptation Processes in the UNFCCC: are there (technical) missing pieces to address ocean and coastal adaptation? Guidance to the ocean community (5 minutes), t.b.c.

Debate and conclusions:

The way forward on adapting to the impacts of climate change: recommendations (30 minutes)

Contact Person

Isabel Torres de Noronha

Future Ocean Alliance, FOA, Portugal

e-mail: itnoronha@future-ocean-alliance.org and info@future-ocean-alliance.org

Tel./WhatsApp/Viber: +351-919036434

Live streaming at: <https://www.facebook.com/futureoceanalliance/>