

Regional Workshop
“Because the Ocean: opportunities to include the ocean in the NDCs of Latin America”
Santiago, 2-3 October 2018

The workshop, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, the Albert II Foundation of Monaco, and with the support of the Ocean-Climate Platform and the Ocean Conservancy, was attended by eight countries. The list of participants is found in an annex below.

The workshop addressed mainly three elements:

1. Presentations on substantive topics, which included:

- a. The role of the ocean as a carbon sink
- b. The synergies between Marine Protected Areas and climate action (mitigation and adaptation)
- c. The process on the inclusion of ocean in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the progress of the "Because the Ocean" initiative
- d. The effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture

2. Presentations by the countries on the state of progress of the inclusion of the ocean in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other climate policy instruments.

These presentations were distributed evenly throughout the workshop, alternating them with the background presentations, in order to contrast what science points out and good practices, with what countries are doing through their policies and programs.

3. Debate and exchange among the participants, facilitated by the organizers.

The three elements were scheduled throughout the workshop. Without prejudice to this, before the realization of the workshop, some characteristics of the reference to the ocean in the NDCs were noted, partly as a result of informal consultations with the participants before their arrival in Santiago. The main patterns identified were the following:

- Little development of mitigation action lines, largely due to a gap in knowledge and scientific basis on specific activities that allow the capture of CO₂ in a safe and permanent manner in marine-coastal ecosystems, as well as uncertainties in the absorption dynamics of CO₂ chemistry.
- Marked interest in the relationship between climate change and fishing activities, and measures to adapt this sector to the effects of climate change.
- As a result of the above, a relatively weak presence of the ocean in the NDCs was identified, which when included, is in the area of adaptation and frequently associated with fishing and aquaculture.

Some ideas that were presented during the workshop included the following:

1. There is widespread interest in knowing the links between climate policies and ocean protection, and the role that NDCs can play as vehicles to encourage such connections.
2. In this sense, the need to strengthen the science-policy relationship for better informed decision-making was identified.
3. An important knowledge gap was identified about the role of the ocean as a mitigator, based on what opportunities can be identified to implement specific mitigation measures.

The knowledge gap has a double dimension:

- At the level of basic science, monitoring and observation mechanisms.
- At the level of decision-makers, to translate this knowledge into concrete policies and measures. This should resolve some outstanding accounting issues; namely whether takeovers and sequestration by the ocean should be accounted for (either globally or in national inventories, as appropriate) without creating perverse incentives or "abuse" of this sink function, nor exacerbating the negative effects that the ocean experiences as a secondary effect (acidification, de-oxygenation, heating, etc.). Likewise, the lack of knowledge to implement direct mitigation actions should not prevent the identification and strengthening of mitigation co-benefits derived from adaptation actions.

4. The participants agreed on the importance of international cooperation for the protection of the ocean from the effects of climate change, in particular, considering that these are often physical systems and ecosystems that cover various national jurisdictions.

5. Therefore, in order to move towards more effective national practices, it is convenient to integrate processes that address the issue of ocean conservation at the multilateral level. In this sense, notwithstanding the fact that the NDCs are presented within the scope of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, other relevant processes were identified, including:

- BBNJ
- Antarctic Treaty and CCAMLR
- CBD and Aichi goals
- IMO
- International Seabed Authority
- CPPS
- UNESCO-COI (Decade of ocean science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030)

It was observed that, in terms of ocean conservation, other multilateral areas such as the CBD or BBNJ offer opportunities that are complementary to the UNFCCC, especially for the development of concepts and categories of action, which requires consistency between these processes. This in order not to avoid reinventing concepts, prevent overlaps or contradictions and incompatibilities. In this context, it was noted that the climate COP has

an agenda item that refers specifically to coordination with other multilateral processes, and it would be worth using that space for this purpose.

6. In the same sense of integration of efforts, there was a strong consensus around the idea of avoiding the watertight compartments at the national level, often referred to as silos, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote the integration of viewpoints. Several national examples pointed to the importance of systematically bringing decision-makers closer to both ocean conservation and climate policy, areas that are often separated and disconnected. In general, the participants recognized that this should not aim to create new institutions, but rather to generate better capacities and coordination mechanisms among existing institutions.

7. Several cases of national policies were presented with a strong component of citizen participation and public-private partnerships, through structures created ex profeso, such as scientific-technical committees, understanding of costs and opportunities for the private sector, etc.

8. In this sense, a series of multi-stakeholder processes that may be beneficial for this agenda were mentioned, such as the relationship with the tourism industry, which depends on the health of coastal marine ecosystems (mangroves, corals, etc.).

9. Notwithstanding these considerations, Latin America and the Caribbean have a relevant variety in their geography and ecosystems, which makes it necessary to have an approach strongly based on the conditions of each country, and often in sub-national units. For example, the fact that the absorption of CO₂ in the ocean is more intense in high and cold latitudes, and lower in low and warm latitudes; or the extension of the continental shelf that varies substantially on the eastern and western margins of South America. All of this marks very important differences in exposure to the rise in sea level and in the characteristics of fishing activities, and therefore in what measures are appropriate for each case in the context of climate change.

10. The case of Marine Protected Areas was presented as an instrument that allows integrating the conservation of marine-coastal ecosystems with co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation. Advancing the knowledge of this connection can be particularly relevant considering the MPAs created in the region and that the Aichi goals lead to the creation of these areas. It was also noted that MPAs also serve as white zones or control points with respect to other sectors of the ocean, to establish baselines to control levels of capture and emission of gases.

11. Specifically in the UNFCCC, it was recalled that there are a series of initiatives that seek to promote the ocean-climate agenda, among which "Because the Ocean", the Ocean-Climate Platform and the Ocean Pathway. In this regard, the publication of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere, scheduled for September 2019, will have a central role in providing scientific evidence to understand how to relate the ocean to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Without prejudice to this and in order to advance

in a technical discussion, we could take advantage of opportunities that bring scientific knowledge closer to climate action, such as the item on Research and Systematic Observation, the Nairobi Work Program or others that could be identified.

Next steps and follow-up

Based on the above, the following actions are suggested to follow up on what was discussed at the workshop:

1. Preparation of a brief document for validation with the participants, which contains the main ideas and findings of the workshop.

2. Preparation of a "dossier" of relevant documents referred to in the workshop and that is easy to share with colleagues in each capital. Along with this report, the dossier includes:

List of participants	In Annex
FAO Report	http://www.fao.org/3/I9705EN/i9705en.pdf
Options Paper (Biniaz y Bodansky)	In Annex
OA Alliance toolkit	https://www.oaalliance.org/build-your-oa-action-plan/
Ocean Acidification impacts (two-pager Ocean Conservancy)	In Annex
Because the Ocean Declarations	http://www.vardagroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Second-Because-the-Ocean_May2017.pdf
Callum Roberts “Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change”	http://www.pnas.org/content/114/24/6167
Reports of “Because the Ocean” Workshops (Bonn Nov 2017 and Washington Sept 2016)	Washington DC Sept 2016: http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/paris-agreement/ Bonn Nov 2017: http://www.vardagroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BtO_Workshop_COP23_Report_final.pdf

IDDRI, “Ocean – based measures for climate action”	https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20iddri/Propositions/201810-PB0618-oceans%20solutions.pdf
Draft report of the IPCC on the Ocean and the Cryosphere	https://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session45/Decision_Outline_SR_Oceans.pdf

3. Translation into English and delivery of the final report as background for the preparation of the following regional workshops: Europe and South Pacific.
4. Explore opportunities for coordination and consultations in complementary events such as BBNJ, Our Ocean conference, among others.
5. Side-event at COP24 to present the results of the workshop.
6. Meeting in COP24 of the countries participating in the workshop and other "Friends of the Ocean" (governments and other non-state actors) to follow up the national processes of NDC update, identification of barriers and challenges, as well as opportunities and support for the inclusion of the ocean in updating the NDCs.
7. Inclusion of the ocean in the work of the UNFCCC, in line with the document "Options Paper" prepared by Sue Biniiaz and Dan Bodansky, among other inputs and ideas.
8. Use of the suggested materials and actions as possible inputs in the national updating processes of the NDCs.

Annex

List of Participants

Número	Nombre	País/organización
1.	Matías Almang	Argentina
2.	Juan Sebastián Gómez	Colombia
3.	Viviana Tinoco	Costa Rica
4.	Maritza Campos	Guatemala
5.	Carmen Arias	Perú
6.	Bienvenido Santana	Rep. Dominicana
7.	Mónica Gómez	Uruguay
8.	Britt Bello	The Ocean Conservancy
9.	Rémi Parmentier	Prince Albert of Monaco Foundation & Ocean Climate Platform
10.	Manuel Barange (por videoconferencia)	FAO (Roma)

11.	Roberto de Andrade	FAO (Sede regional en Santiago)
12.	Isauro Torres	Chile (MINREL)
13.	Juan Angulo	Chile (MINREL)
14.	Salvador Vega	Chile (MINREL)
15.	Cristóbal Hernández	Chile (MINREL)
16.	Julio Cordano	Chile (MINREL)
17.	Alejandro Montero	Chile (MINREL)
18.	Eduardo Silva	Chile (MINREL)
19.	Laura Farías	Chile (CR2)
20.	Alfonso Galarce	Chile (MMA)
21.	Gustavo San Martín	Chile (Subsec Pesca)
22.	Jaime Letelier	Chile (Instituto Fomento Pesquero)