

The Because the Ocean initiative workshops series – Key outcomes and takeaways

**Rémi Parmentier, Secretariat of the Because the Ocean Initiative
@ Climate & Ocean Negotiators Symposium #BeforeTheBlueCOP
Suva, Fiji 2019**

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The Because the Ocean Initiative



Because the Ocean Declarations – Paris COP21 - Marrakech COP22 Ocean Pathway Partnership – Bonn COP23

BtO-1: We believe, in keeping with the sense of urgency, that it is high time to promote an **Ocean action plan under the UNFCCC**, starting in 2016, and we shall continue to meet as a group to address the challenges identified in this declaration, inviting the participation and input of other relevant processes and initiatives, within and outside the UN.

BtO-2: Because the **Ocean** is taking an increasingly central place in the global policy arena, we are encouraging UNFCCC Parties to consider submitting Nationally Determined Contributions that promote, as appropriate, ambitious climate action in order to minimize the adverse effects of climate change in the ocean and to contribute to its protection and conservation.

The Ocean Pathway: Towards an Ocean Inclusive UNFCCC Process

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Support the work of the Because of the Ocean Coalition and others to encourage inclusion of ocean matters in NDCs as they are implemented and enhanced.



39 signatories



Aruba, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kiribati, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, UK.

The Before the Blue COP Workshop series



Bonn – Nov 2017



Santiago – Oct 2018



Madrid – April 2019



Fiji – May 2019

IPCC Special Report + UNSG Climate Summit + COP25



Monaco – Sept 2019



New York – Sept 2019



Santiago – Janvier 2020

Workshops TakeAways (1)



1. **Silos** are starting to break down;
2. **Great appetite for political initiative** to increase momentum on the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus, provided that they have an **added-value** compared to existing declarations;
3. **Knowledge is improving** on ocean & climate interlinkages, but more research needed to substantiate emerging findings;
4. **IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate** in September 2019 is a great opportunity to increase general awareness on the ocean climate nexus ahead of COP 25 & in anticipation of the [UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#)(2021-2030);
5. It is key to ensure **environmental integrity and accountability** in the context of ocean and climate action;
6. **NDCs offer opportunities** to address ocean and climate interlinkages, as well as other vehicles such as **NAPs**;
7. Concentrating on advocating for the inclusion of a **dedicated UNFCCC agenda** item on the ocean might risk delaying meaningful action;
8. **Cooperation between the marine and climate communities should be fostered** at international, regional, and national levels.

The Suva Take-Aways (1)

1. There is **strong appetite and on-going plans** to incorporate the ocean within revised NDCs throughout the region.
2. Commitment, ambition and implementation of Parties in their NDCs requires **support**, both at the financial and technical levels.
3. It is expected that the launch of the SROCC in September will help filling the **knowledge gaps** and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges concerning the incorporation of the Ocean into the work of the UNFCCC.
4. PSIDS welcome the development of **supplementary technical guidelines/advice** to UNFCCC processes, in particular on the potential for linking the ocean with: NDCs, NAPS, National Communications and GHG Inventories.

The Suva TakeAways (2)

The

5. This support is important to build and **reinforce the capacity** of PSIDS and must be developed in a way that **promotes the ownership and sustainability of climate and ocean action to the countries for the benefit of local communities and their livelihoods.**
6. Detailed discussions took place among the countries on **key ocean issues** of relevance to the Pacific and **pragmatic options** were presented for each of the following areas, in addition to initial steps identified to progress the design and implementation of actions:
 - opportunities and risks arising from the role of the ocean in **carbon sequestration and storage**, and the significance of blue carbon ecosystems for adaptation and mitigation;
 - clean and sustainable **blue energy**, especially for large ocean States
 - **decarbonized maritime transportation** of people and goods; and
 - **sustainable fisheries** management, conservation and adaptation to climate change.

The Suva TakeAways (3)

7. It was recognized that whilst mitigation is the primary objective of NDCs, **adaptation measures** to climate impacts on the ocean and coasts are an essential component that deserves incorporating into NDCs and other UNFCCC elements.
8. **Strategic coherence** must be reciprocal: incorporation of the ocean in the work of the UNFCCC must be accompanied by stronger integration of climate change scenarios and concerns in international governance and management discussions.
9. Workshop participants **commended the COP25 Presidency** for convening a Blue COP in Santiago and look forward to supporting Chile's efforts throughout its presidency.

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