

Ocean Planning Meeting for COP26 Glasgow Friday, 26 February 2021, 9:00-10:30 AM US EST

MEETING REPORT

This meeting was organized by the Global Ocean Forum and partners within the framework of the Roadmap to Ocean and Climate Action ([ROCA](#)) Initiative, which is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving governments, international agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions, private sector, and subnational authorities to advance the oceans and climate agenda (especially in the UNFCCC, the UN Ocean Conference, and in other United Nations fora), and at the national level in all countries.

Purposes and agenda:

The meeting aimed to foster the exchange of information on plans and perspectives on the way forward in advancing the ocean agenda at COP26 as well as the sharing of ideas on how to coordinate participating organizations' initiatives for better synergy and integration of efforts. The meeting agenda is in Annex 1 of this report.

Participants:

Ian Ponce, UNFCCC GCA Team
Joanna Post, UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Focal Point
Loreley Picourt and Esther Delrieu, Ocean & Climate Platform
Tamara Thomas and Emily Pidgeon, Conservation International
Dorothee Herr, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Lauren Bevan and Beth Siddons, Defra, UK
Kushaal Raj, Ministry of Economy, Fiji (separate call)
Ambassador Helen Ågren, Sweden
Rémi Parmentier, Because the Ocean
Marco Martinez, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
Salvatore Arico and Kirsten Isensee, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
Tarub Bahri and Xuechan Ma, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Takehiro Nakamura, UN Environment Programme
Joseph Appiott, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
Fredrik Haag, International Maritime Organization
Valentina Germani, Fernando Cabrera Diaz, and Jessica Howley, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Tiago Pitta e Cunha and Sam Collins, Oceano Azul Foundation
Miko Maekawa, Tomohiko Tsunoda, Nagisa Yoshioka, and Mai Fujii, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Isabel Torres de Noronha, Future Ocean Alliance

Philippe Vallette and Guillaume Lheureux, Nausicaa and World Ocean Network
Peter Ricketts, Coastal Zone Canada Association
Carol Turley and Thecla Keizer, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK
Jessie Turner, International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification
Miriam Balgos, Richard Delaney, Vanessa Cicin-Sain Knecht, and Johanna Vonderhorst, Global Ocean Forum
Natalya Gallo, University of Bergen

Welcome and introductions

Miriam Balgos welcomed over 40 participants representing 24 organizations to the meeting, thanking them for coming to the meeting and inviting their active participation. The following reflects what was shared and discussed at the meeting by representatives of participating organizations in the ocean-climate community.

Next steps on the Marrakech Partnership programme for COP26 (Ian Ponce, UNFCCC GCA Team)

There are currently three strands of work under the Marrakech Partnership and Global Climate Action agenda:

1. The global campaign/convergence. The High-Level Climate Champions launched *Race to Zero* last year which is about trying to mobilize all types of actors - business, cities, regions, civil societies. More than 2500 actors are now part of the *Race to Zero* initiative that strives to be net 0 by 2050 or earlier. Recently launched is the *Race to Resilience*, which is a sibling campaign launched at the end of last year and showcased during the Climate Adaptation Summit and will also have an upcoming announcement during Regional Climate Week roundtables where efforts on the resilience front globally are to be mobilized.
2. Climate action pathways. Relaunched in COP25 in Madrid, new versions of all the pathways were released at the end of last year as part of the *Race to Zero* dialogues and in the lead up to the Ambitions Summit by the end of the year. The Champions are keen on mobilizing support around endorsements and getting actors to implement pathways towards a 1.5-degree resilient future.
3. Regional engagements as part of priorities of the Champions. The Champions believe that regional diversity is quite important, and they are trying to link into the Regional Climate Weeks that are coming up; trying to set up regional presence.

All of the above are part of carrying out the Global Climate Action mandate which was extended at COP25 for the next five years and improving the Marrakech Partnership for the next five years and beyond.

The Champions are working closely with the UK Presidency on different possibilities for the COP and what will be happening there, in an integrated approach to make it as impactful as possible.

Planning for Oceans Action Day at COP26 (Loreley Picourt, Ocean & Climate Platform and Tamara Thomas, Conservation International, Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action Co-Focal Points for Ocean and Coastal Zones)

The objectives for the GCA Ocean and Coastal Zones theme (aligned with the objectives of Champions) are to:

1. Further entrench the role of the ocean and marine ecosystems in the fight against climate change (there was some achievements in this area in the last few years under UNFCCC);
2. Further institutionalize the ocean-climate nexus under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and identify next steps and the endgame;
3. Reflect on and define how to build synergies between the UNFCCC and CBD (and other governance frameworks) given the opportunity of the upcoming COP26.

For 2021, the MP co-focal points will prioritize:

1. Consolidating and expanding the ocean-climate community under the MPGCA. We have looked into the roadmap of the High-Level Climate Champions and what it would mean for the ocean and coastal zones group to consolidate itself; need to mobilize broader number of actors with focus on developing countries, at the moment we don't have a very balanced diversity of actors; looking to mobilize on the ground actors as well; talking to a core group of stakeholders who have been involved for a while, while trying to mobilize others and making sure all actors are informed about the work of the GCA to make sure that everyone is informed about upcoming news and activities and how to contribute.
2. Defining key messages to be jointly carried by the ocean-climate community (aligned with the UNFCCC agenda). We've been saying for a while that voices are stronger together; one priority leading up to COP26 is to make sure all of us have the same narrative and a clear vision of what we are trying to achieve as a community under the Marrakech Partnership and the ocean and coastal zones pathway; get influential businesses to commit to strong action; when we talk about civil society under the GCA, it includes the private sector so we will be focusing a little bit this year on how to mobilize a greater number of private entities on ocean climate action.
3. Defining what we expect from having the ocean included in the UNFCCC, in the short, medium, and long-term. We need to look back at 2015 and realize what we have done so far but now that we have the ocean climate dialogue at COP26 we need to decide what will be the endgame; we need to recall that the role of this group is to promote ocean climate actions and solutions from non-state actors to ensure that parties are raising their ambition and in that regard we are very committed to working with parties as well to establish that dialogue with non-state actors and parties.

Planned activities for COP26:

We are thinking of organizing a segment during the GCA programme to invite private sector and countries to make commitments during that event; we have *Race to Resilience* and *Race to Zero* which are two mechanisms through which private sector can make commitments. We do have to acknowledge that to participate in the *Race to Zero* and *Race to Resilience* mechanisms, you

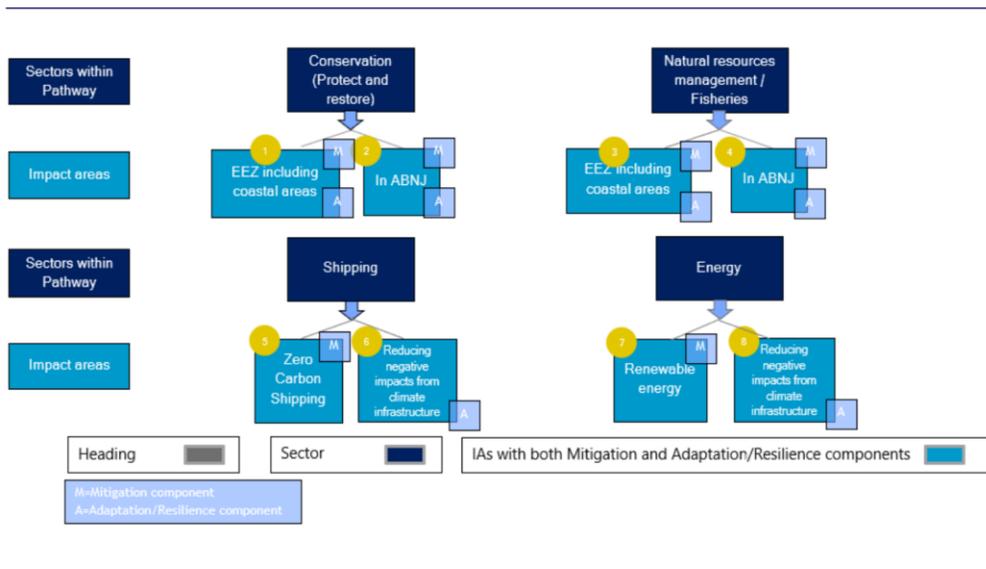
have to be part of an alliance. We want to make sure that the private sector can join whether they are part of an alliance or not. We will aim for a high-level segment.

We would also like to see pledges coming from the private sector in synergistic themes that run between sectors and countries. We will be working with the GCA Team to bring in private sector. We will be working with the GOF on pavilion side events. The main focus for this year’s COP is to give the private sector a huge spotlight as well as emphasize that they have a huge responsibility while working in tandem with countries.

Promoting the Climate Action Pathway for Oceans and Coastal Zones at COP26 (Dorothee Herr, IUCN and Kirsten Isensee, IOC-UNESCO)

The Pathway for Ocean and Coastal Zones has four sectors: conservation, natural resources/fisheries management (EEZ including coastal areas and ABNJ, synergistic approach), shipping, and energy, which are the primary activities within the ocean (see below for the climate action structure). The pathway promotes zero carbon shipping and renewable energy and mitigation, aligned with reducing impacts through conservation and protection of marine ecosystems carried out in parallel.

CLIMATE ACTION TABLE - STRUCTURE



We are in the process of updating the pathway document by looking at it through the climate lens (UNFCCC) as well as in view of international agreements that have an impact on coastal and marine ecosystems, through e.g., nature-based solutions, MPAs and marine spatial planning.

We use the pathway to find partners in making the changes on how to better address issues in collaboration with the Champions team. The updated version is coming out in the first semester

of 2021 so that momentum can be built before COP26. The ocean-climate community should be represented in the document.

Update and follow-up to SBSTA Ocean and Climate Dialogue (Joanna Post, UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Focal Point)

The GCA is a mandated mechanism to bring stakeholders into the UNFCCC process and this is where ocean and coastal zones is very strongly represented under UNFCCC. What we don't have is a mechanism under the actual negotiation process itself to consider oceans as strongly as it is considered within the GCA. Hopefully, the SBSTA Ocean and Climate Dialogue is going to change things. It was mandated back in Madrid, held for two days in December 2020, and a summary report is forthcoming to bring out key messages and bring us on the next step forward and try to increase people's understanding of the importance of governments and parties considering oceans and the work they do under the UNFCCC. The important points that came out during the Ocean and Climate Dialogue include the importance of science in decision making; the need to raise awareness and learning on the interconnectedness of the ocean and climate change and biodiversity as well as the interconnectedness between land and ocean; the need to raise ambition on ocean related action under the UNFCCC by Parties in their NDCs and in their reporting under the GST and under the process itself in terms of strengthening consideration of ocean by constituted bodies and other work streams, in reporting back and in terms of regularly occurring dialogue; the need to break down silos in terms of action, integration, collaboration, better governance structures; base action on science and working parallel with the science to strengthen basis; nature having an essential role; and the need to align global finance to support work.

These are key focuses coming out and put forward in the Dialogue. The report is coming out by the end of the first quarter. There will be open online events in June where the SBSTA Chair will speak about the land and ocean dialogue outputs. It will be up to the Parties to decide where to take information from the Dialogue at COP26.

COP26 Priorities and other information from the UK Organizers (Beth Siddons and Lauren Bevan, Defra, UK)

Taking advantage of the opportunities 2021 has to offer to continue to elevate the story of the ocean not only as a victim of climate change but also as a really vital part of the solution; recognizing the inextricable links between the ocean, climate change and biodiversity and trying to make the most of the synergies between COP26 and the other milestones happening (G7, CBD COP15, COP26, BBNJ negotiations, launch of the UN Decades of Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration), all of which are central to taking action to protect ocean health and resilience and realizing the multiple benefits of ocean-based solutions.

On the road to COP26, our ocean priorities are focused on three key areas - ambition, nature, and action.

1. **Ambition:** Secure ambitious commitments for emissions reduction at COP26 to protect ocean health. We want to showcase the best available evidence to tell the story of the damage that climate change is doing to the ocean to embolden countries to do more.
2. **Nature:** Putting nature at the heart of COP26; strengthening the role of nature-based solutions, recognizing their wider role in delivering adaptation, resilience, and biodiversity benefits as well as supporting mitigation and sustainable livelihoods.
3. **Action:** Enabling implementation of ocean solutions through finance, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration, all of which are crucial to meet the Paris goals and targets and the SDG 14 goal.

We are committed to hosting an inclusive COP and amplifying the voices of those often marginalized in these discussions and those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change but as well to harness innovation and commitment of all society. This brings to mind the Ocean and Climate Dialogue that took place in December. We were encouraged by the level of engagement at the Dialogue which highlights the continuing momentum for global ambition and action on ocean climate and builds on the Chile COP in 2019. We are looking forward to the summary report and working together to explore how to take forward the outcomes of the Dialogue, working on a consensus towards a practical outcome.

We are also working on an action agenda, *Race to Zero* and *Race to Resilience* campaigns with the GCA and Champions team. We are keen to champion ocean science and nature-based solutions through COP26 campaigns such as nature campaign and the adaptation and resilience campaigns.

We are looking to showcase the work of the ocean community and everything it is doing in the ocean-climate nexus at COP26 to really elevate shared priorities by delivering a strong and coherent program of ocean related events and other activities around Glasgow. Key to all of this is collaboration, a united community will help to amplify messages. Specific priorities are to raise the profile of ocean-climate issues through other opportunities; raise momentum through different events using each milestone to progress in key areas.

The main priority is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, tell the story of the ocean, the story of physical, chemical and environmental damage at the hands of climate change and within that to raise ocean literacy across various different sectors not least the private and finance sector. As well, we need to tell a clear and coherent story on nature-based solutions and translating science into action for ocean climate issues. Under nature-based solutions, action for climate change under biodiversity and poverty will be included.

Nature is at the heart of plans for COP26, under the nature campaign and also supporting leaders' pledge for nature, advocating for initiatives that increase ambition and drive change in nature-based solutions that support adaptation and resilience as well as mitigation and that protect and restore vital ecosystems and biodiversity. These will include ocean-related actions for NDCs, and national adaptation plans with a nature focus, for example, Blue Carbon work for mitigation and adaptation and resilience.

Under nature, we want to share experiences and showcase best practice that is already available in this area. Another key theme is ocean science and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, highlighting the importance of science and ocean observation to understand the impact that climate change is having on our ocean and turning that science into resilient and sustainable solutions.

**Ocean planning for COP26 - Blurbs of events/activities by participating organizations
(Moderators: Miko Maekawa, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and Richard Delaney, Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, Massachusetts)**

COUNTRIES

Fiji (Kushaal Raj)

On behalf of Kushaal Raj, of the Fiji Ministry of Economy, Climate Change and International Cooperation Division, Miriam Balgos passed on information on Fiji's ambition for the ocean agenda at COP26 (from an earlier meeting with Kushaal), to continue the momentum set in motion by the Ocean Pathway Partnership under the Fiji COP Presidency together with Sweden:

1. First, Fiji requests a permanent mandate around a formal SBSTA dialogue specific to the ocean/climate nexus;
2. Second, Fiji would appreciate as a second option, a language on ocean in the NDC process that ensures that Parties emphasize the inclusion of ocean action within NDC's or blue economy sectors; and
3. Third, as an alternative option – an interim/draft discussion going forward into COP 26 would be to draft a formal work plan to encompass means to centralize ocean/climate nexus within the UNFCCC from existing mandates.

Sweden (Ambassador Helen Ågren)

Regarding the Ocean Pathway, the EU has a joint EU position, and with the Swedish government being part of it, Fiji is able to go further on the Pathway.

Of importance to Sweden is continuing to provide a platform to engage with Party and non-Party stakeholders to discuss the ocean-climate issue and discuss alternatives on how to move forward and to make it as concrete as possible. We are looking forward to the report from the Ocean and Climate Dialogue and how to transform the outcomes and take them into the conversation at COP26. We are looking into all opportunities to work on the ocean-climate nexus and also at other fora outside the UNFCCC with CBD and the Decade of Ocean Science trying to move forward as much as possible.

Because the Ocean (Remi Parmentier; Marco Martinez, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile)

Remi Parmentier

I'm speaking from the perspective of the secretariat of the *Because the Ocean* initiative which is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Information on the work done under this initiative since COP25 can be found on the *Because the Ocean* [website](#). During the most recent Ocean-Climate Ambition [Summit](#) held in January, which was co-sponsored by the *Because the Ocean* Initiative together with the UN Foundation and other partners, Prince Albert of Monaco announced a meeting of the countries which have signed and supported the *Because the Ocean* initiative since COP21, to be held as part of the Monaco ocean week which is taking place online within 22-25 March, to take place on 23 March. The relevant countries have been informed; a discussion paper for that meeting is being prepared for distribution to the 39 signatories; a good critical mass of countries are expected to participate to discuss options for COP26 on the basis of input from all parts. The meeting will be in two parts, one of which is a roundtable to be facilitated by Ambassador Ågren from Sweden. Chile is working on a third *Because the Ocean* declaration for COP26.

Marco Martinez, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

During COP21 in 2015, the first *Because the Ocean* declaration was launched, which was signed by 23 countries joined with the purpose of capturing the urgency of bringing the ocean into the climate change discussion. A year later, 33 countries signed a second *Because the Ocean* declaration at COP22, which led to an extensive agenda of activities and workshops about the opportunities and possibilities of including the ocean in nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement in the later years. Today, 39 countries support this mission and now we think it is time to update these efforts according to the experience gained and the current process under the UNFCCC framework. Chile's Foreign Minister Mr. Andres Allamand announced in January that Chile is working on a third *Because the Ocean* declaration which will be based on the most recent scientific evidence and will consider urgent topics to be addressed, such as to ensure that the Global Stocktake to be organized in 2023 includes the ocean as a component and how it can inspire further action and ambition in the new rounds of nationally determined contributions to be presented by 2025; the need for strengthening technical assistance for the implementation of solutions for the ocean, and in that context how we can think together on funding a strategy for ocean action and how we can ensure that COP26 in Glasgow addresses the ocean-climate nexus again and adopts new mandates.

We plan to work very closely with all the countries that have supported the previous *Because the Ocean* declaration in signing the next one. Further information on the first draft is coming in the next month.

UN AGENCIES

IOC-UNESCO (Kirsten Isensee)

Our role for COP26 is to support the Marrakech Partnership and contribute to the pathway and coordinating Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development activities. We are looking forward to what was mentioned by the UK representatives regarding elevating science to show how science can contribute to the solutions and how we can incorporate that in the planning for COP26, including presentations of case studies for some of the new programs.

Within the Decade, the ocean-climate nexus is clearly identified as one of the challenges and there is a huge momentum in value chain from science to policy keeping it as a priority issue. A selection of first round of programs will be made in the coming couple of months and there will also be support for that in June during the virtual kick-off meeting of the Decade. Some laboratories which focus on ocean and climate issues have the potential to contribute to online gatherings in the format that would fit their purpose, e.g., a science side event that can show how science can actively help to mitigate and adapt to climate change focusing on the coasts and ocean.

We have had a lot of good events at the COPs in the past but there is potential for improvement - our goal is to push science and elevate it to the solution space.

FAO (Tarub Bahri)

We are happy to contribute to pathway update and to see what the most relevant steps forward are on how to translate the solutions that were identified into concrete action and support this.

Awareness needs to be raised with fisheries and aquacultural authorities and the countries to foster climate action and adaptation and mitigation because there is a lot that needs to be made from that point of view because there is some climate literacy that needs to be developed in the fisheries and aquaculture world.

Regarding plans for COP26, in the past years, adaptation projects in different regions of the world have been presented, some of which are coming to an end and it would be interesting to have an overview of lessons learned from the countries including Chile where there is a GEF-funded project being run by FAO with an overview of lessons learned and practical implementation of those solutions that the FAO has been advocating for over the last years. We hope to organize this and to showcase the sustainability declaration that has been adopted at the last FAO Committee on Fisheries meeting held at the beginning of February and where climate change is highlighted as one of the challenges.

We are really interested in contributing to the thinking on how this is going to be institutionalized and how it translates from advocacy into having oceans on the negotiations table of the climate negotiations.

In FAO, efforts are being invested in supporting the agricultural sectors in the NDCs so we might have some elements to share on that at COP26.

UNEP (Takehiro Nakemura)

UNEP and FAO functioning as the leads of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration are keen in launching the Decade on World Environment Day 2021, June 5th in Pakistan. We are working right now on launching a report of the Decade in which marine and oceans are not yet properly included so best effort is being made to put marine and coastal ecosystems and their restoration into the Decade as much as possible.

One focus of the Decade is nature-based solutions to climate change, many restoration efforts associated with Blue Carbon and any other issues of ecosystem-based restoration have a close linkage with climate change, so UNEP is very keen to put nature-based solutions to climate change as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

After the launch of the Decade in June, more extensive dialogue with colleagues under the climate community will happen, in the hope that further interaction will occur on Decade implementation.

Two initiatives to feature at COP26:

- 1) Global Fund for Coral Reefs. Coral Reefs have been identified as the most vulnerable ecosystems in ocean and coastal areas. UNEP, UNDP and UN Capital Development Fund, together established the Global Fund for Coral Reefs with an initial \$10 million contributed by countries and the private sector. This initiative has started to address the ecosystems most impacted by climate change. This is an interesting partnership established among UN agencies, the private sector and government, which we want to highlight in COP26.
- 2) Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles. UNEP and other partners are hosting the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles and many private sector investors are part of this initiative. We will further launch these principles to guide financial institutions in providing sustainable financing for Blue Economy sectors and Blue economy activities.

CBD Secretariat (Joseph Appiott)

CBD Parties are currently negotiating successors to the Aichi targets, negotiating a post-2020 global biodiversity framework which might have a different name by COP15. This framework will contain new set of global goals and targets for biodiversity and what will be different about these targets as compared to the previous is that there is certainly direct intention to ensure that the targets and goals not only speak to biodiversity for its own value and sake but also

speak to the importance of biodiversity for the broader range of sustainable development priorities including the range of biodiversity and climate issues.

There will be a lot of focus in the framework on climate-related issues and the linkages between biodiversity and climate and the ocean which is stressed throughout. The framework is the big focus of CBD work, intention is for it not to just be a CBD framework but a global framework; CBD has near universal participation (196 parties) so the governments themselves will own and commit to those targets and will be responsible for them. We hope that the post-2020 framework could be welcomed and showcased and taken up in other processes; something will be set up to showcase it at COP26.

We are limited in capacity at the Secretariat and in the ocean team, swamped with the post-2020 framework and many other things so the Secretariat has not been able to engage as fully and wholeheartedly in the UNFCCC process as much but has been having good discussions on how to scale up collaboration despite being limited in capacity and in between climate officers.

Informal discussions of subsidiary bodies in the last few weeks have included how to better include the ocean and the ocean-climate nexus in the post-2020 framework so it is expected that that will be a big element of discussion going forward for the remainder of the negotiations of the framework, which is expected to be adopted at COP15.

I have nothing specific to report on as to planned events for COP26 but there will be high-level engagement from the Secretariat. Space at the CBD COP will be provided to highlight outcomes and actions from COP26 including things that the Secretariat will be committed to do from COP26. Opportunities to influence the CBD post-2020 framework are coming up; I encourage everyone to work to build common messages across these processes.

IMO (Fredrik Haag)

2021 is an extremely busy year with condensed meetings scheduled for IMO. Issues of focus for IMO are IMO initial GHG strategy and issues of future fuels. There will be meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee coming up in June and November this year as well as of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships in May. Under the London Convention and London Protocol through which ocean-based interventions to mitigate climate change such as CCS and marine geoengineering are regulated, we will have two major meetings this year with the scientific groups in April and the governing bodies in October.

We are in the early stages of planning how to be active and contribute to COP26, with an internal task team established for this. The IMO secretariat is very interested in being part of any conversation involving shipping and ocean-based interventions for climate change mitigation and the science-policy interface. We are in close dialogue with IOC and the Decade of Ocean Science. GESAMP (Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) which IMO is secretariat for, along with several of its working groups, will have

annual sessions in September.

UN DOALOS (Jessica Howley)

The 21st meeting of the UN General Assembly's Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP) will focus on the topic of sea level rise and its impact. The ICP meeting, which was delayed due to the global pandemic is expected to be held in mid-June this year.

The Second World Ocean Assessment is to be launched shortly, a major output of the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, with many chapters providing information relating to the effects of climate change on the ocean.

The 4th session of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference is planned to be held in the second half of August.

UN DOALOS will continue to participate in the activities of the UNFCCC Nairobi work program.

DOALOS plans to participate in COP26 although this will depend on funding availability. Plans are not yet developed, but a statement on behalf of UN-Oceans may be delivered during the session and a UN-Oceans side event might be organized. Consideration is being given as to how relevant discussions emerging from the ICP on sea level rise may be relayed and members of the Regular Process Group of Experts are considering organization of a side event to draw attention to the Second World Ocean Assessment.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Oceano Azul Foundation (Sam Collins)

Work is being done on *RISE UP – A Blue Call to Action* campaign, a campaign that has gathered over 450 organizations to push for programs on the overarching ocean agenda. It has gathered a group of diverse civil society actors under this ocean agenda and will be using this agenda in a variety of ways in 2021 and will culminate at COP26. It will be using that network to guide and direct some ocean ambition. Work still being developed and guided but encourages signing on to *Rise Up*.

RISE UP is aiming to be a unifying voice for the ocean and close the gap in the ocean-climate nexus. It will be present at COP26 and aims to contribute to the mission of all other organizations on this call.

Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Miko Maekawa)

The Japanese government has finally announced a policy to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050 – there is great opportunity to inform these processes. Activities toward COP26 should inform these concrete actions.

For COP26, it is important to have a much stronger engagement of the business sector, cities, and OPRI is happy to facilitate that process. OPRI and SPF as an organization has made the decision to become a member of the *Race to Zero* campaign so we are committed as an entity to reach GHG zero emissions.

For COP26 Oceans Day related events, some people have raised the idea to have an Ocean Pavilion in previous conversations and we very much like the idea, so if such a pavilion will be held physically or in a virtual space OPRI will be happy to support that. It is important to showcase our studies and best practices and from the OPRI side, we are conducting studies on sustainable seafood in the context of climate change, climate-induced migration, and wind power development because it is going to be a major part of the Japanese policy for GHG reduction.

It is important to continue the Ocean and Climate Dialogue and we look forward to the Ocean and Climate Dialogue report. As a community, we should support continuous efforts for such a dialogue involving negotiators.

We are organizing public activities and events with the UK embassy in Tokyo, including a UK-Japan ocean dialogue. COP26 and climate change in general will be important topics for the dialogue; updates on these are forthcoming.

NAUSICAA and World Ocean Network (Philippe Vallette)

NAUSICAA will be at COP26 highlighting the importance of the general public participating in the general process of mitigation, adaptation, and so on. We will be there, and we are waiting to know if it will be a virtual COP or a real COP.

Coastal Zone Canada Association (Peter Ricketts)

The upcoming Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2021 which should have been held in 2020 but was postponed will be a virtual conference (with an on-site component if allowed), which will be held in June. The focus of the conference will be on Inuit traditional knowledge and because it is virtual everyone can register (fee is \$50 Canadian, registration is encouraged). We expect a lot of good information will come out of this.

The Arctic is one of the most damaged oceans as a result of climate change so it fits very much into that focus of promoting information around the degree of damage and what's being done and in particular the impacts on the Arctic communities and the world of Inuit traditional

knowledge will be key. A lot of things will be coming out of this conference that will be very valuable going forward into COP26 and also for updating the roadmap for the COP.

The Cold Regions Living Shorelines Community of Practice ([CRLS CoP](#)) is a nature-based focus network of practitioners and best management practices. There are interesting aspects of what's being done by this CoP in terms of adaptation and nature-based adaptation solutions in addressing cold regions living shores, again focusing on a key priority of COP26.

Plymouth Marine Laboratory (Carol Turley)

PML is working with a number of international and cross-sectoral partners and organizations in submitting a proposal for the UK-managed spaces on the 5th of March. We have also been involved with the space and earth observation folks so we may include some ocean aspects within a proposal for UK-managed spaces again. We've participated in a number of COP26 planning meetings and networks which seem to have sprouted all around the UK with great excitement. There's been a number of conferences, science ocean conferences and climate conferences being organized by various networks and we may see that some of those have a marine element like nature-based solutions and so on.

University of Bergen (Natalia Gallo)

While with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I have been working on an analysis of the ocean dialogue submissions, produced an executive summary before the Ocean and Climate Dialogue and now we're working on getting that report published as well, hopefully out in time for COP26.

University of Bergen has an SDG Bergen initiative partially focused on SDG 14 and ocean sustainability as well as a scientific advice component and a scientific diplomacy component. I'm here in this meeting looking for opportunities to get the University of Bergen more involved in the ocean-climate nexus.

International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (Jessie Turner)

The OA Alliance is a combination of national governments as well as states and regions, so we have this body of different governments to bring to bear on our three big goals throughout COP26, which will be to continue to tell the story of the carbon and GHG nexus particularly with the ocean, thinking about that physical, chemical, and biological environmental change; the regional and coastal science we need; and the solutions and strategies, the frameworks we already have.

That is what the OA Alliance will be working on. There will be several events and partnerships with national governments as well as the US government getting back in and trying to leverage our relationships here in the United States as well as across the state governments to really bring some of those discussions/actors into the ocean fold.

Future Ocean Alliance (Isabel Torres de Noronha)

Future Ocean Alliance would like to deliver a set of events, most likely virtually. For COP26, we will work on the knowledge-to-policy dialogue using the methodology that we have been successfully developing.

FOA is from Portugal so I have been helping draft ocean and climate change in the new framework of climate. This is something that is going to be discussed a lot, especially in Europe, e.g., the Green Deal and what are the countries that are incorporating on ocean and coastal zones. We did it this year. And last year, we produced a strategic objective on ocean and coastal zones, in the strategy of the maritime policy. So, it would be good to bring some of those experiences and to make others aware and other countries a bit more competitive so that they can move in the same direction. So that would also be a contribution that we could do.

Global Ocean Forum (Miriam Balgos)

First, GOF will be pursuing work under the Roadmap to Ocean and Climate Action initiative and that includes the preparation of the 2020-2021 Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action report. Second, we will continue to collaborate in organizing the Oceans Action Day at COP26. And third, we will be planning side events under the UK and UNFCCC managed spaces as part of the UNFCCC official side events and exhibits, which will be focusing on the implementation of the pathway sectors and also in strengthening collaboration among the ocean-climate community in pursuing the ocean agenda.

Virtual Ocean Pavilion at COP26

Carol Turley: Over the years, many of us have discussed possible ways of increasing the visibility of the ocean activities at the COP and for COP26 we have been looking at opportunities for a physical, large Ocean Pavilion, beautiful, in the blue zone, or due to Covid a Virtual Ocean Pavilion. These are proposed to provide a platform for ocean side events as well as exhibits and really to give a voice to the ocean. The majority of the ocean has no owners and therefore no voice and yet about 93% of the living space on the planet is in the ocean and its central to life on earth. It is so important and fantastic to hit those policy makers in the Blue Zone with a fantastic ocean pavilion, and it would bring together all the sectors and all the actors to address climate ocean, biodiversity, the whole thing. we could have themes on each day and really great messaging. Even the sounds of the ocean could be brought in there. However, the uncertainties of the format because of the pandemic - full blown in person, virtual, or hybrid - makes it an organizational and financial risk. I suggest we leave this for a future COP and having said that there's been a lot of support from UN organizations for this idea and it's a shame it would have been great to have this after the blue COP in order to keep up that momentum.

Miriam Balgos: Everyone that I have consulted about an Ocean Pavilion at the COP thought that it's a brilliant idea and so I couldn't help but pick up on it and a Virtual Ocean Pavilion is the

logical option for us to consider pursuing. We can envision it as a platform for raising awareness and sharing information. It could also be used as an organizing framework which will incorporate all virtual and physical ocean events in the lead-up to and during COP26 and could be a concerted push of ocean events at COP26, a concrete way for collaboration and coordination among members of the ocean-climate community. It could of course encompass the Oceans Action Day at COP26; UNFCCC official ocean events and exhibits; ocean events under the UK managed spaces; and ocean events sponsored by countries and civil society including those that are to be held under country and civil society pavilions.

We have brainstormed on how to do it, for example should it run for one or two weeks, should we have a full or half day of live-streamed activities, should it cover a number of ocean and climate themes aligned with the COP26 priorities and the climate action pathway for ocean and coastal zones, and should we have events registered under the Ocean Pavilion and carry messages along the above-mentioned themes. Should we have a dedicated website for the virtual ocean pavilion so that it can track activities leading to the COP and perhaps work with the Ocean Conservancy and Chile who did this in the last COP.

There is experience in pavilions at the COP that we can draw from including the Rio Conventions Pavilion. We worked with that pavilion at COP21. What is important to keep in mind is that the configuration of this Ocean Pavilion will vary depending on so many factors like whether we will have a virtual, physical, or hybrid COP and the level of resources that we can finance but it really depends on how much we really want to have it at the COP and how we can use it to improve how we're doing things.

Sam Collins: There is frustration over not having a big ocean voice at the climate COPs when it is so essential to the climate. Another aspect of this Virtual Ocean Pavilion can be this ability to bring individual ocean activities acting in isolation together under an overarching umbrella and show the UNFCCC what an Ocean Pavilion could be. The ocean has no state, so we could represent what a potential ocean pavilion could be at COP26 and beyond. This platform could also help to tie these activities together, the interlinkages between events and the different aspects of the ocean, it is all connected in these kinds of things.

We could use online messaging and social media cleverly to do this and this gets us past a virtual or physical event because I believe this would be important in both and would work in both. And just as a good example, the Stop Funding Overfishing campaign that Pew ran recently at the WTO negotiations and an example of what a well-packaged and easy to use social media toolkits can be. They've packed these toolkits, prepared them all and delivered them to the network and I think that the power of that message and therefore the effectiveness of it was very effective at amplifying. We could do something similar at COP26. The COP will be 14 days long and for example we could do 14 reasons why the ocean-climate connection is important and that stops there being individual spikes of ocean action but continued messaging across COP and this would be free-to-use simple messaging for the ocean community to use and align on and amplify. This is still in the infancy stage and we're brainstorming so we're open to any

ideas but obviously the overall purpose is to blueify COP26 and make sure the ocean's voice doesn't go unheard, virtual or physical.

Richard Delaney: I, too, am going back and forth between wanting to be with our colleagues physically and this virtual reality we face but I have learned, like so many of us did, that there are exciting opportunities in this virtual world and Sam mentioned ideas of reaching a much broader group of colleagues and a more diverse group so if we use technology and we have to go virtual, we have to use it creatively. It could present a whole new dimension of efforts for promoting oceans and coasts.

Discussion (Moderator: Richard Delaney, Global Ocean Forum)

Richard Delaney: There is so much going on. There was a time when a number of us in this call said we really need to work harder in putting oceans and coasts in the international agenda, and then we said we need to get oceans on the climate agenda. I just heard from all the colleagues on the call on a wide range of exciting and ambitious activities. We have an awful lot going on and I thank and applaud all of you for doing so much but now the challenge is for us to take time occasionally to ensure that we are: 1) maximizing our collaboration; 2) looking for activities to create synergistic benefits; and 3) ensure that we are aligned in our messaging so that we can be more effective. And that is really part of the reason why the Global Ocean Forum wanted to organize this call today, as stated in the agenda, there are two purposes: 1) to share information, exchange plans and perspectives; and 2) to share ideas on other things we should be doing as a group; are there ways of improving our coordination; are there mechanisms we haven't discovered yet. And are there questions from anyone in the call?

Jessie Turner: Recalling from COP25, having a shared spreadsheet for people to contribute their events to and track, which is simple enough, would be exceedingly useful in identifying collaborations and partnerships.

Isabel Torres de Noronha: The UN Ocean Conference, which was scheduled to take place in June in Lisbon, Portugal, has been postponed to 2022 but another event which is in the planning stage, will be held here in the second half of July; more information will be provided once things shape up.

Carol Turley: I'd like to caution everybody when it comes to a Virtual Ocean Pavilion – we have to find someone who is capable of making it happen (knowledgeable about technology); those platforms can also be very expensive. But the Virtual Ocean Pavilion can be great as a first step to a physical Ocean Pavilion in a future COP.

Ambassador Helen Agren: Two points: 1) Regarding a virtual Ocean Pavilion, it would be worthwhile to have a discussion with Kristian Teleki of the World Economic Forum who organized the Virtual Ocean Dialogues and has a lot of experience on this; 2) On June 1st, there will be an event arranged by the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, a one-day event on SDG 14 looking at

where we are in terms of implementation of SDG 14 and specifically in more detail the four targets maturing in 2020.

Miriam Balgos: In response to Peter Rickett's query on the schedule for updating the Roadmap to Ocean and Climate Action (ROCA), part of the work that the GOF will be doing in the lead-up to COP26 is an assessment of how well we are doing in implementing the Roadmap. We will probably incorporate that into our 2020-2021 Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action report.

Next Steps

Richard Delaney: I think this meeting is immensely helpful for all of us just to take an hour and a half or two hours this morning to share our actions and our plans. I hope we've all seen some opportunities to interconnect and partner in different ways among us and as a group together to see the power of collaboration not only at COP26 but beyond. We plan to come back together in a month or two months to keep the dialogue going. With COP26 being eight months away, we need to stay focused and stay in touch, and strengthen our collaboration.

Isabel Torres de Noronha: Further on the knowledge-to-policy dialogue, in a month or so or maybe in the next meeting, we can find a way of contributing to the shaping of contributions to the COP, using an appropriate format for exchanging information, because we all do it in different ways. I would like to discuss FOA's Call for Action on an Ocean Knowledge to Climate Policy with colleagues. The Call for Action has been subscribed and translated but now must be shared to push others into having this conversation.

Miriam Balgos: We thank everyone for their willingness to share their plans for COP26 and ideas on how we can do things better at this COP, as one ocean and climate community. We all know the added value of information exchange. We look forward to hearing about any new collaboration and integration of activities in the next meeting, which we plan to organize two months from now. A summary of salient points emanating from this meeting will be produced and sent out shortly.

Thank you very much to IOC-UNESCO, OPRI, Oceano Azul Foundation, Ocean & Climate Platform, PML, and Nausicaa, for helping GOF in organizing this meeting.

Annex 1. Agenda of the COP26 ocean planning meeting, 26 February 2021

Time (minutes)	Topic	Presenters/Discussion Leads/Moderator
3	Welcome and introductions	Miriam Balgos, Global Ocean Forum
5	Next steps on the Marrakech Partnership programme for COP26	Ian Ponce, UNFCCC GCA Team Co-Lead for Oceans and Coastal Zones
5	Planning for Oceans Action Day at COP26	Loreley Picourt, Ocean & Climate Platform and Tamara Thomas, Conservation International (co-focal points for Oceans and Coastal Zones)
5	Promoting the Climate Action Pathway for Oceans and Coastal Zones at COP26	Kirsten Isensee, IOC-UNESCO and Dorothee Herr, IUCN
5	Update and follow-up to SBSTA Ocean and Climate Dialogue	Joanna Post, UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Focal Point
10	COP26 Priorities and other information from the UK Organizers	Lauren Bevan and Beth Siddons, Defra, UK
40	<p>Ocean planning for COP26 - Blurbs of events/ activities by participating organizations: (2 minutes each)</p> <p>Countries: Fiji*; Sweden; Because the Ocean</p> <p>UN Agencies: IOC-UNESCO; FAO; UNEP; CBD Secretariat; IMO; UN DOALOS</p> <p>Civil Society: Ocean & Climate Platform; Oceano Azul Foundation; OPRI-SPF; Future Ocean Alliance; Nausicaa; IUCN; Coastal Zone Canada Association; UCSO; PML; OA Alliance; Global Ocean Forum</p>	Miko Maekawa, OPRI-SPF and Richard Delaney, Global Ocean Forum (Moderators)
5	Virtual Ocean Pavilion/Coordination of ocean planning for COP26	Thecla Keizer, PML; Sam Collins, Oceano Azul Foundation; and Miriam Balgos

10	Q&A/Discussion	Richard Delaney, Center for Coastal Studies/Global Ocean Forum
2	Any other business; schedule of next meeting	

*Information from an earlier meeting with Fiji will be passed on to this meeting.