

Joint Submission to the 2022 UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

Submitted by Conservation International on behalf of IUCN, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Ocean Conservancy, Ocean & Climate Platform and the Marine Conservation Society

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SBSTA 56 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue
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Summary of Recommendations:

We are witnessing increasing support and ambition to take action to achieve a nature-climate-people positive world by 2030, but commitments and ambitions will fall short without support for implementation. The Ocean and Climate Change dialogue series presents a key opportunity to transition from 'making the case for' to 'how to deliver' concrete actions. Building on the outcomes of the first Ocean and Climate Change dialogue in December 2020, Conservation International, IUCN, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Ocean Conservancy, Ocean & Climate Platform and the Marine Conservation Society propose the following recommendations for the dialogue series and the 2022 dialogue:

The dialogue series can help advance ocean-based climate action from the 'what' to the 'how'.

- The dialogue series holds the potential to go beyond a knowledge-sharing platform to developing concrete steps for Parties to act within the relevant processes and ongoing negotiations to fill gaps, build capacity, and strengthen the ocean-climate nexus under the UNFCCC and other UN bodies.
- We propose that each dialogue in the dialogue series is structured around a set of up to three well-defined themes, each with strong connections to existing processes at local, national and international levels.
- Each dialogue could be structured to generate clear outputs that could serve as inputs into a range of other mechanisms and processes, including the financial and technology mechanisms of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Global Stocktake, and the preparing, updating and implementing of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

For the 2022 dialogue, we propose the themes of 1) The Role of Nature, 2) Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action, and 3) Finance.

- Discussions surrounding each theme can explore concrete actions Parties can take within Constituted Bodies and ongoing UNFCCC Processes to strengthen ocean-climate action.
- We also suggest a set of cross-cutting topics that can be integrated into discussions, including blue carbon implementation, leveraging interlinkages with other Conventions and ongoing UN processes, local-to-global ocean-climate action, and more.

Diverse, inclusive participation and breakout discussions can foster peer exchanges and rich discussions.

- The Secretariat could encourage the inclusion of non-ocean UNFCCC staff, Indigenous peoples and local communities, negotiating groups and youth representatives, among other stakeholders.
- A significant portion of the dialogue could be dedicated to breakout discussions, each focused on one of the proposed themes.
- A facilitator and rapporteur in each breakout discussion could utilize a worksheet with guiding questions to assist with guiding the discussion and reporting outcomes after the dialogue (suggested worksheets are included in the Annex to this submission).

Table of Contents:

- I. Background and Context.....3
- II. Strengthening the Ocean-Climate Nexus: A Call to Action.....3
- III. Joint Submission.....4
 - a. Dialogue Series: Proposed objectives and structure.....4
 - b. 2022 Dialogue: Proposed themes.....5
 - i. Theme 1: The Role of Nature.....5
 - ii. Theme 2: Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action.....7
 - iii. Theme 3: Finance.....9
 - c. Cross-cutting topics for the 2022 dialogue and future dialogues.....10
 - d. Proposed structure and participation for the 2022 dialogue.....11
- IV. Conclusion.....13
- V. Annex: Worksheets with guiding questions and space to record actionable next steps for use in breakout discussions.....14

I. Background and Context

As mandated by Decision 1/CP.26 'Glasgow Climate Pact'¹ (paragraphs 58, 60 and 61), the COP requested that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) hold an annual dialogue, starting at the fifty-sixth session of the SBSTA (June 2022), to strengthen ocean-based action. This outcome builds upon the first 'Ocean and Climate Change dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action decision,' mandated by Decision 1/CP.25 at UNFCCC COP 25 and held virtually in December 2020.

Specifically, the decision at COP 26:

- Further welcomed the informal summary reports by the SBSTA Chair on the ocean and climate change dialogue to consider how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action (para. 58),
- Invited the relevant work programs and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandates and work plans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes, as appropriate (para. 60), and
- Requested the SBSTA Chair to "hold an annual dialogue, starting at the fifty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (June 2022), to strengthen ocean-based action and to prepare an informal summary report thereon and make it available to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session" (para. 61).

Climate and ocean efforts have historically been siloed, but there are numerous opportunities and needs to strengthen ocean-climate action at local, national, regional, and international levels. Conservation International, IUCN, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Ocean Conservancy, Ocean & Climate Platform and the Marine Conservation Society are pleased to submit the following input to inform the SBSTA 56 Ocean and Climate Change dialogue. This joint submission provides inputs on the format and topics we recommend are covered during both the recurring, annual Ocean and Climate Change dialogue (hereafter referenced as the dialogue series) and the 2022 Ocean and Climate Change dialogue specifically, to advance action in the ocean-climate nexus.

II. Strengthening the Ocean-Climate Nexus: A Call to Action

The science is clear that anthropogenic climate change is impacting the ocean to an unprecedented degree: sea levels are rising at alarming rates, ocean temperatures are now the warmest since records began, and increased carbon levels absorbed in the ocean are causing acidification, harming life below water. Simultaneously, the ocean is critical to regulating the Earth's climate, acting as a buffer for both carbon and heat, and provides numerous adaptation benefits – which are in jeopardy if we continue to misuse the ocean's carbon and heat sink as an uncontrolled buffer to human-caused atmospheric changes. Global cooperation is more urgent than ever before.

The relationship between ocean and climate was specifically referenced in the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) published in February 2022, which highlighted the current state of knowledge on the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems for climate adaptation and mitigation and provided solutions to respond to the climate crisis.²

¹Glasgow Climate Pact, Decision 1/CP.26: <https://unfccc.int/documents/310475>

²IPCC. (2022). Climate Change 2022, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers. Retrieved March 5, 2022, from https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

Building on the outcomes of the first Ocean and Climate Change dialogue in 2020 and recent IPCC findings, the 2022 dialogue presents a key opportunity to transition from ‘making the case for’ to ‘how to deliver’ concrete actions within existing UNFCCC processes and ongoing negotiations where coastal and marine ecosystems play a role in climate action. [Specific opportunities for advancing ocean issues under the UNFCCC have been identified](#),³ and this year’s dialogue holds the potential to go beyond a knowledge-sharing platform to developing concrete steps for Parties to act on within the relevant processes and ongoing negotiations at COP 27 to fill gaps, build capacity and strengthen the ocean-climate nexus under the UNFCCC and other UN bodies.

III. Joint Submission

a. Dialogue Series: Proposed objectives and structure

Building on the rich discussions of the 2020 Ocean and Climate Change dialogue, the primary objective of the dialogue *series* could be to explore how ocean-based climate actions can be advanced from the ‘what’ to the ‘how’. The dialogue series can shift collective focus from ‘making the case for’ to ‘how to deliver’ concrete actions and, importantly, bring together the broader ocean and climate community to work together to support the enabling conditions necessary for success. This will include strategies to align targets and measures across mechanisms and processes under the UNFCCC and other UN bodies, including those related to biodiversity, sustainable development and the high seas.

Dialogue Themes: We propose to organize the dialogue series by a set of well-defined themes. We recommend selecting a set of integrated themes with strong connections to existing processes at national and international levels, such as the themes we propose in the sections below: 1) The Role of Nature, 2) Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action, and 3) Finance. Additional future themes could focus on capacity and participation, as well as adaptation themes extending beyond the role of nature (e.g., ethical migration or relocation of peoples, shifting fish stocks, water infrastructure resilience, and more). Selecting integrated themes that align to the timing of ongoing processes will ensure that each dialogue builds upon existing and emerging approaches and will be beneficial in illustrating the multiple co-benefits related to mitigation, adaptation, resilience-building, and ecosystem conservation and restoration that ocean-climate action can achieve. Further, enabling conditions for success across themes operate synergistically and are context dependent.

The well-defined themes and their sequencing could be identified during the 2022 dialogue or preferably, through a Secretariat-organized consultative process. Priority themes could be addressed individually or in suitable combinations across the dialogue series. We recommend that each dialogue focus on up to three thematic areas per year and that themes are identified at the preceding dialogue.

Summary Report to COP: We recommend that each annual dialogue in the series be structured to generate clear outputs (including a report developed by the SBSTA Chair highlighting the key discussion points and recommendations made by Parties during the dialogue) for the mandated summary report to COP. The report contents could also serve as potential inputs into a range of other mechanisms and processes, including the financial and technology mechanisms of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Global Stocktake, and the preparing, updating and

³Building on the Ocean-Climate Dialogue: Options for strengthening action on the ocean under the UNFCCC (2021). https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/publication-pdfs/building-on-the-ocean-climate-dialogue_6-october-2021.pdf?Status=Master&sfvrsn=56072c99_2

implementing of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Each summary report could also include a roadmap of concrete actions for Parties to strengthen ocean-based climate action under the UNFCCC, including establishing the subsequent dialogue's themes.

Integration across conventions and processes: Beyond the UNFCCC, and considering the ongoing deterioration of marine and coastal biodiversity in many parts of the world's ocean due to other anthropogenic stressors, there is also a need to strengthen coherence across institutions and fora including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as with relevant competent international organizations and all other relevant stakeholders. Enhanced cooperation at regional and global scales, as well as increasing the participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), could improve the ability of governance institutions to manage this complex challenge. To facilitate broader participation, it is critical to translate the scientific findings on climate and ocean change into comprehensible materials that identify key impacts facing communities to inform decision making and promote resilient and sustainable development. Such steps would assist with sustainable ocean planning, which may occur at a multilateral, national, sub-national or local scale.

We are witnessing increasing support and ambition to take action to achieve a nature-climate-people positive world by 2030, but commitments and ambitions will be meaningless without support for implementation. Marine conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation policies have thus far been developed in silos, resulting in a failure to reach the scale of measures needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts and halt biodiversity loss. With this urgency and opportunity in mind, we provide a set of recommendations for the 2022 dialogue in the sections below.

b. 2022 Dialogue: Proposed themes

For the 2022 dialogue, we propose a set of three themes and outline a non-exhaustive list of potential topics (outlined in Section c., below) to be discussed throughout the dialogue series. We propose a focus on the connection between ongoing UNFCCC processes and negotiations and the actions Parties and stakeholders can take before, during, and after COP 27 to advance ocean-climate action in the thematic areas of 1) The Role of Nature, 2) Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation, and Action, and 3) Finance. We recommend that discussions and reported outcomes for each theme focus on specific actions Parties could request the relevant Constituted Bodies to the UNFCCC incorporate and increase action on how to integrate or promote the role of coastal and marine solutions in climate action.

In addition to the recommendations below, we have provided suggested guiding questions for breakout discussions on each theme in the Annex to this submission.

i. Theme 1 – THE ROLE OF NATURE: Building off the findings from the 2020 dialogue's discussion group 1 on 'strengthening action under the UNFCCC,' we recommend a discussion focused on the role of coastal and marine nature-based solutions (NbS) in climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience efforts, as well as integrated approaches that maximize co-benefits. Discussions could identify priority needs of Parties, as well as specific actions within UNFCCC processes and negotiations where support for coastal and marine NbS for adaptation, mitigation and resilience can be strengthened. Parties could be encouraged to share case studies throughout this discussion, including providing examples of coastal and marine adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies at

national and local levels (e.g., sustainable coastal infrastructure, area-based fisheries and ocean management strategies, and nature-based and hybrid green-gray infrastructure solutions).

From the mitigation benefits of blue carbon ecosystems to the coastal protection value of coral reefs, coastal and marine NbS are cost-effective solutions^{4,5} that can be used as a lever to accelerate ambition, implementation and outcomes. Coastal and marine NbS have a particularly high potential for harnessing synergies across mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts as blue carbon ecosystems often play a significant role in coastal adaptation and resilience for coastal communities, along with their mitigation potential. The dialogue could seek to understand what is needed to further advance and implement these potential synergies and develop recommendations for consideration at COP 27. Initial discussions would need to take the status quo of negotiations on the inclusion of the term nature-based solutions into account.

Discussions could explore actions Parties can take within the following Constituted Bodies and ongoing UNFCCC Processes (non-exhaustive list):

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): A discussion focused on case studies around the formulation, implementation and financing of NDCs and NAPs - specifically those inclusive of ocean and coastal NbS for adaptation, mitigation and resilience - would be a useful focal area for Parties to explore. Further, discussions could explore the option of submitting a national adaptation communication as part of NDCs to maximize cross-cutting climate solutions that deliver both mitigation and adaptation benefits.

While an increasing number of countries are including coastal and marine NbS in their NDCs, countries have also recognized the challenges they face in implementing their commitments. There are, however, viable and immediate opportunities for all 151 blue carbon countries to act and include coastal wetlands in their NDCs— even countries⁶ with limited technical knowledge of the ecosystems scale or carbon value^{7,8}. The 2022 dialogue could be an opportunity to raise awareness in advance of the 2025 revision cycle, sharing best practices and ways forward to further include marine and coastal NbS and keep 1.5°C within reach.

Adaptation Committee (AC): Discussions could also identify ways in which the Adaptation Committee could use their technical expertise to promote ocean-climate action as part of national responses. Predictions for sea level rise, for example, have increased and timelines have been accelerated which could prompt review and revision of existing coastal adaptation plans and an openness to transformative and large-scale planning approaches.

Nairobi Work Programme (NWP): Given the continuation of the NWP Thematic Expert Group on Oceans and the synergies with the Thematic Expert Group on Biodiversity, the NWP Expert Group can understand Parties' needs for which NWP Expert Groups could focus technical support. Discussions could explore how engagement through the NWP Expert Groups provides a good avenue to connect to other relevant constituted bodies and agenda items like the Executive

⁴ Narayan, S. et al. (2016). The Effectiveness, Costs and Coastal Protection Benefits of Natural and Nature-Based Defences.

⁵ Seddon N, et al. (2020). Understanding the value and limits of nature-based solutions to climate change and other global challenges. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 375: 20190120

⁶ The Blue Carbon Initiative. (2021). "Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions." <https://www.thebluecarboninitiative.org/policy-guidance>.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ UNFCCC. (2020) Scaling up adaptation actions and cooperation to build climate resilience of the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems. Policy Brief. Nairobi Work Programme.

Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), Technology Executive Committee (TEC), and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).

ii. Theme 2 – UTILIZING SCIENCE TO INFORM AMBITION, IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION:

Building off the 2020 dialogue's discussion group 3 on 'strengthening action at the national level' and one of the key findings related to the need to invest in ocean science and monitoring, we recommend discussions under this theme explore what additional knowledge and capacity is needed to utilize science – including indigenous science and local knowledge – mobilize national and local action, and enhance climate ambition overall. Dialogue organizers could share a brief overview of ocean science by showcasing a short video of key findings from the latest IPCC reports, however we recommend that this theme *not* focus on a review of the science, but instead explore how science and knowledge can be used to inform ambition, implementation and action. The proposed theme could explore the avenues within the UNFCCC structure where ocean science and traditional and local knowledge can support climate action and help inform emission reductions targets and commitments, deliver more successful and effective climate resilient development, and support local action.

The discussion may wish to consider the opportunities, limitations, and the need for regulations and safeguards around ocean-negative emissions technologies and maladaptation, and could also consider the need for integrated scientific approaches, including consideration of specific measures such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) to ensure that cumulative impacts are taken into account, such as those from warming, deoxygenation and ocean acidification.

Another important aspect the discussion could explore are the linkages between nature, co-production, the availability of knowledge, integration of local and indigenous knowledge and the effectiveness and implementation of action. The transformative change needed to address the ocean and climate crises cannot happen without meaningful engagement and empowerment of people, especially rights holders, marginalized and vulnerable groups, and IPLCs in the design of inclusive and localized mitigation and adaptation measures. This, in turn, requires investment in context-specific co-production, availability and access to knowledge, integration of local and indigenous knowledge, and identification of related action for capacity building and inclusive participation, which the dialogue could explore and advise on processes for, such as meaningful participation of low-lying developing States with large marine areas and IPLCs. Effective responses to climate-related changes affecting the ocean will require intensifying cooperation and coordination among governing authorities, across spatial and temporal scales, and with IPLCs.⁹ Such cooperation can be supported by better translation of the scientific findings on ocean and climate change into comprehensible and actionable knowledge that integrates and values indigenous and local knowledge to support resilience building for coastal communities and ensure equitable benefit-sharing.

Discussions could explore actions Parties can take within the following Constituted Bodies and ongoing UNFCCC Processes (non-exhaustive list):

Research and Systematic Observation (RSO): The reports from the latest Research dialogue (June 2021), particularly those around Theme 2 'Resilience for and by nature: Building knowledge and understanding to weave the protection and restoration of nature into decision making on

⁹ Bindoff, N.L. et al. 2019. Changing Ocean, Marine Ecosystems, and Dependent Communities. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. www.ipcc.ch/report/srocc. See also unfccc.int/files/science/workstreams/the_2013-2015_review/application/pdf/4-sed-3_st.clair_theme_2_climate_resilient_pathways.pdf

mitigation and adaptation,' will serve as useful background and insight into the scientific needs Parties and other stakeholders have identified. Discussions could identify recommendations for future themes of the Research dialogue and identify how the outcomes of the RSO can contribute to ocean data in the Global Stocktake (GST), among other outcomes.

Global Stocktake (GST): The GST is the Paris Agreement's ambition mechanism, designed to assess collective progress made towards achieving long-term goals and to inform future action and ambition. As the information and collection phase of the GST has already commenced, discussions at the 2022 dialogue could use the opportunity to share knowledge on the [role of the ocean in the ambition mechanism](#)¹⁰ and identify any additional capacity needed to champion efforts to appropriately include the ocean in the outcomes of the GST.

The discussion could touch on the importance of the ocean-climate nexus for mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as informing risk and mobilizing finance, to inform the technical assessment phase of the GST. For example, relevant measures and activities that may be included in mitigation priorities and targets in the GST effort include: reducing emissions from the destruction of coastal blue carbon ecosystems through conservation and protection; REDD+ programs (for mangroves) and related investment in a robust MRV system; launching a PES scheme for protecting mangroves and/or seagrasses; and increasing carbon sequestration by restoring coastal blue carbon ecosystems.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): Discussions could explore tools, guidance, workshops or other actions the IPCC could take to strengthen the ocean-climate nexus and the inclusion of coastal and marine ecosystems under the UNFCCC. This could include the need for the IPCC to develop and update GHG inventory guidance for coastal wetland ecosystems based on the best available and most recent peer-reviewed science for the next revision of the Wetlands Supplement. The IPCC could consider including additional coastal ecosystems (beyond currently included mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes), such as kelp, if and when additional scientific evidence demonstrates the role of these ecosystems for mitigation and satisfactory carbon accounting methodologies are available.

Additionally, the IPCC recently adopted the latest report in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) series that assesses the impacts of climate change and how people and ecosystems are both vulnerable and adapting. The WGII report on adaptation will be particularly relevant for coastal communities and ocean nations like Small Island Developing States (SIDS), so it will be critical to have a space to discuss the findings. WGIII on mitigation will also be relevant as it may underline the need for additional research on sustainable ocean-based mitigation options, as well as mitigation ambition overall.

Nairobi Work Programme (NWP): While a number of ocean initiatives at global, regional and national levels have been launched and are in progress in support of ocean action, there are gaps for effective ocean adaptation, which represent challenges, particularly for developing countries. The NWP has a focus on scaling up adaptation actions and co-operation to build climate resilience of the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems and aims to understand the knowledge needs of countries, curate and share knowledge, as well as codesign actions in

¹⁰Schindler Murray, L. et al. (2021). "Unpacking the UNFCCC Global Stocktake for Ocean-Climate Action." IUCN, Rare, Conservation International, WWF, and Ocean & Climate Platform.
https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2021/the_ocean_and_the_unfccc_gst.pdf.

addressing knowledge gaps in collaboration with the IPCC and partners. Discussions at the dialogue could explore ways in which to increase the capacity of coastal developing countries to respond to ocean-related effects of climate change by leveraging support for finance, capacity building, inclusive planning, education and technology transfer.

iii. Theme 3 – FINANCE: Building off the 2020 dialogue’s discussion group 4 on ‘strengthening cross-cutting support for action,’ we recommend further sharing of finance and funding opportunities for ocean-climate action and blue finance, as well as exploring how the relevant finance bodies and work streams can support the mobilization of ocean-climate financing. The proposed approach utilizes the existing UNFCCC structure while providing a space to share relevant case studies of innovative financing opportunities, particularly those that employ innovative financial tools and blend public with private financing. The ocean finance world has seen an explosion of new means and mechanisms being put forward, but there remains a significant funding gap for meeting needs and building capacity. A discussion on the role and focus of UNFCCC mechanisms in the context of the growing ocean finance landscape, including the need for adaptation financing, would be useful.

Discussions could explore actions Parties can take within the following Constituted Bodies and ongoing UNFCCC Processes (non-exhaustive list):

Standing Committee on Finance (SCF): Discussions during the dialogue could work to identify funding gaps and opportunities for the SCF to strengthen climate finance flows to coastal and marine ecosystems on climate solutions, including through a brief opening presentation and a response from a representative from the SCF shared during a breakout discussion. Parties could explore how the SCF could provide more opportunities to fully enable finance for coastal and marine adaptation and mitigation solutions under the UNFCCC, including ways the SCF can strengthen understanding of the landscape of financing opportunities for coastal and marine NbS (e.g., financing for actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore coastal and marine ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively). Additionally, pending the outcome of the SCF Forum on Financing Nature-based Solutions, the SCF could present the key takeaways and elaborate on any mandates, including if an information note was requested to be prepared by the SCF to understand the landscape of ocean and coastal NbS financing.

Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF): One or more of the operating entities of the UNFCCC financial mechanism and UNFCCC special funds could facilitate a discussion on the emerging trends and opportunities to finance ocean-climate mitigation and adaptation solutions. Discussions during the dialogue could also identify the main hurdles for the operating entities of the UNFCCC financial mechanism and special funds (GCF, GEF, AF) to catalyze finance for ocean-climate mitigation and adaptation solutions, challenges faced by Parties surrounding access to finance, and explore concrete steps these bodies could take to strengthen action to support national responses on the ocean-climate nexus. Additionally, discussions could explore the potential for new or elaborated programs with dedicated funding for ‘Resilient, Blue Infrastructure,’ ‘Blue Carbon and Results-Based Finance,’ ‘Resilient Blue Economies,’ and ‘Resilient Coastal Communities,’ among other related topics.

Article 6 (market and non-market approaches): Discussions during the dialogue could focus on strengthening understanding and capacity of the Article 6 decisions from COP 26 and what it means in the context of blue carbon.

c. Cross-cutting topics for the 2022 Dialogue and future dialogues

In addition to the themes proposed for the 2022 dialogue, we outline a selection of additional overarching topics that could be interwoven into breakout discussions, as appropriate, and considered throughout the dialogue series moving forward:

Blue carbon implementation: Coastal blue carbon ecosystems – such as mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes – sequester and store globally significant quantities of carbon in their biomass and underlying soils, which can be released if these ecosystems are disturbed by anthropogenic activities. In addition to climate mitigation benefits, these ecosystems provide a multitude of other services including resilience to climate change impacts (e.g., extreme weather events, coastal erosion and sea-level rise), fisheries habitat and biodiversity benefits. At this time, only mangroves, seagrass and tidal marshes have IPCC approved guidance (the 2013 Wetlands Supplement¹¹) as to the internationally approved methodologies providing a comparable and verifiable extent to which ecosystem protection or restoration can contribute to a country's emission reduction efforts. Future guidance could include additional coastal ecosystems, such as kelp and other marine and coastal ecosystems currently not included, if and when additional scientific evidence demonstrates the role of these ecosystems for mitigation and satisfactory carbon accounting methodologies are available.

Across the proposed themes of the Role of Nature, Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action, and Finance, we encourage the dialogue to discuss opportunities to strengthen the integration of blue carbon ecosystems into existing UNFCCC processes and frameworks for both their mitigation and adaptation potential. Participants could consider needs and opportunities for increasing capacity for blue carbon implementation, inclusion of blue carbon in NDCs and REDD+ strategies and strengthening technical and financial support for blue carbon accounting and reporting.

Leveraging interlinkages with other Conventions and ongoing UN processes: As illustrated in the Glasgow Climate Pact, which underscored the interlinkages between climate and biodiversity, issues concerning the ocean are discussed in a myriad of international agreements and necessitate a cross-cutting approach from Parties and stakeholders. Meaningful outcomes in the ocean-climate nexus cannot be achieved without tackling issues across ongoing processes and Conventions, including the CBD, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, IMO, Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the potential plastic treaty, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the UN Decade on Ocean Science and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, among others.

Discussions in the dialogue series could explore how to go beyond simply an 'information exchange' between Conventions to an action-oriented approach that collectively raises ambition, builds capacity and mobilizes finance. Such an approach could aim to raise ambition (e.g., identifying steps to jointly identify, assess, and set ambitious global goals and reduce stressors), accelerate implementation and measure progress to avoid duplicative reporting and build upon existing data and scientific information. In light of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference, we encourage the 2022 dialogue to explore strategies for alignment with relevant targets under SDG14 and to develop recommendations for the UN Ocean Conference, especially regarding the

¹¹ IPCC. (2014). "2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands." https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/wetlands/pdf/Wetlands_Supplement_Entire_Report.pdf

renewal and update of relevant targets that expired in 2020. Similar attention could be paid to protecting marine biodiversity and CBD COP 15, including the development of indicators in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the targets for emissions reduction from international shipping being set by the IMO and/or the targets related to ocean protection and sustainable use.

Local-to-global ocean-climate action: The dialogue provides a unique and vital opportunity to share the experiences and lessons learned from coastal communities with regards to understanding the climate impacts felt daily. We propose using this cross-cutting topic to ensure the voices of local leaders and their communities are heard across climate topics, demonstrating how they serve as important stewards and knowledge holders of their natural resources and can be vital champions for climate action.

Ensuring the dialogue has a participatory approach that enables local voices to be present will be important for a successful dialogue. To that end, dialogue organizers could facilitate the participation of representatives from relevant networks such as [Coastal 500](#), a global network of coastal mayors focused on small-scale fisheries and NbS or [Sea'ties](#), a mayor/governor network focused on sea-level rise, as well as Indigenous peoples groups.

Climate vulnerability and climate justice: Accelerating the pace and ambition of emissions reductions, and financing adaptation to the impacts of climate change, is vital to address issues of climate injustice and protect vulnerable communities, particularly IPLCs. For example, in the Pacific, increasing global temperatures are expected to progressively shift the geographical distribution of tuna stocks, essentially pushing tuna populations from the waters of 10 Pacific SIDS into the high seas and the waters of adjacent states. This is estimated to result in a net loss of 10% in tuna biomass within 10 Pacific SIDS by 2050, which will devastate many island economies. While Pacific SIDS contribute less than 0.03% to global greenhouse gas emissions, they will lose substantial government revenue, on average 37%, as tuna shift from their waters. Increasing global temperatures will also affect the health and productivity of vital coral reef fisheries that feed island communities, making them even more reliant on tuna and other pelagic fish for food security and protein.

Central to the discussions on climate vulnerability and climate justice includes acknowledging the issue of EEZ security in the face of rising sea levels, and the gaps in UNCLOS related to this issue. Consensus is needed on pathways to secure the existing EEZs of Pacific Island countries as inundation due to sea-level rise occurs. Discussions on climate vulnerability and climate justice for island states and coastal communities could be encouraged within broader dialogue conversations surrounding finance, science, adaptation and other themes in the series.

d. Proposed structure and participation for the 2022 Dialogue

To facilitate rich discussions at and conclude with concrete outcomes from the 2022 dialogue across the proposed themes, we propose the below set of recommendations:

On time: Our suggestions reflect a dialogue that is three hours in length. However, if time allows, we recommend lengthening the dialogue to a total of six hours (three hours each for two days, or a morning and afternoon session the same day).

On preparatory materials: To allow participants to thoroughly prepare, we recommend that delegates receive any relevant materials prior to the dialogue, including a summation of the

themes identified in both Party and non-Party submissions and how the inclusion of coastal and marine NbS evolved in the last round of NDCs, among other materials. To facilitate broader participation, it is critical to translate scientific findings on ocean and climate change into comprehensible implications for communities and individuals and risks to sustainable development.

Additionally, in response to the mandate establishing this dialogue from the Glasgow Climate Pact, the UNFCCC Secretariat launched a [new webpage focused on the ocean](#).¹² We strongly encourage Parties and other stakeholders to utilize this valuable resource when preparing for the dialogue as well as identifying other themes going forward.

On participation: We propose that the Secretariat encourages a high level of inclusion of diverse stakeholders in this year's dialogue, including inclusion of non-ocean UNFCCC staff, representation from negotiating groups (AOSIS and others), and Parties that have shown leadership in the ocean-climate space in previous years, among other stakeholders. Youth representation, representation from IPLCs, and additional diverse stakeholder groups could be supported and encouraged to attend. Ensuring the dialogue has a participatory approach that enables local voices to be present will be important for a successful dialogue. We also encourage that the dialogue has limited overlap with negotiating times to enable small delegations to attend.

On opening presentations: We recommend that the dialogue open with short context-setting presentations by the Secretariat, Parties, observers and/or other leaders (4–5-minute presentations maximum, to leave time for breakout discussions). We suggest that the Secretariat provide a brief summary of the outcomes of the 2020 Ocean and Climate Change dialogue, the ocean-related outcomes in the Glasgow Climate Pact, the goals of the 2022 dialogue, the recent IPCC findings and the proposed vision for the entire dialogue series. This presentation could frame how the annual Ocean and Climate Change dialogue can help achieve outcomes at COP 27 and subsequent COPs, noting the importance of focusing on concrete action items for Parties as outcomes from the dialogues.

Additionally, to encourage high-level participation and buy-in, we propose that following the opening presentations, a subset of champion countries in the ocean-climate space provide brief remarks (2-3 minutes) on their efforts to incorporate ocean-climate ambition and action into their national planning, to serve as an example and case study for others.

On structure – Breakout discussions: Following opening remarks, we recommend that a significant portion of the dialogue be dedicated to breakout discussions, or potentially small roundtable discussions if space allows, to foster peer exchanges and rich discussion. We suggest that each breakout discussion be assigned a theme mentioned in Section b above: 1) The Role of Nature, 2) Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action, and 3) Finance. Each breakout discussion could be assigned one facilitator and one rapporteur. Additionally, we strongly recommend that UNFCCC Secretariat representatives from the relevant Constituted Bodies and ongoing UNFCCC processes join the breakout discussion most relevant to their role to discuss and advise on potential action items within relevant Constituted Bodies and ongoing processes (e.g., a representative from the Standing Committee on Finance joins the breakout discussion on Finance).

¹² <https://unfccc.int/topics/ocean>

Additionally, we recommend that each facilitator be given a worksheet with guiding questions, and a space to record recommendations, to assist with reporting outcomes after the dialogue (sample worksheet included in the Annex to this submission). This worksheet could also be used to solicit thoughts and participation from virtual attendees and external partners who were not able to attend the dialogue.

Alternative setting – If COVID restrictions make breakout discussions too difficult, we propose the dialogue be structured as three 45-minute sections on each theme. Each section could feature a presentation with a high-level of interaction from participants using Mentimeter or a similar software.

On closing remarks and reporting outcomes: Following breakout discussions, we recommend that the facilitator from each table share the key discussion points and takeaways from each discussion, including recommended steps for Parties to take in the lead-up to COP 27. The Annex to this submission provides a worksheet for facilitators to utilize. Following the close of the dialogue, the Secretariat could prepare an informal summary report to share at the COP that includes key discussion points and focuses on the action items identified by Parties to achieve in the lead-up to, at, and after COP 27.

IV. Conclusion

There are numerous areas within UNFCCC processes, bodies and ongoing negotiations where Parties may advance efforts to address ocean-climate challenges and strengthen recognition of the role of coastal and marine NbS in addressing climate change. The Ocean and Climate Change dialogue series, and the first dialogue in June 2022, represents a key moment to shift collective focus from ‘making the case for’ to ‘how to deliver’ concrete actions and, importantly, bring together the broader ocean and climate community to work together to support the enabling conditions necessary for success.

V. Annex: Worksheets with guiding questions and space to record actionable next steps for use in breakout discussions

We recommend that each facilitator be given a worksheet with guiding questions, and a space to record recommendations for actionable next steps, to use during their breakout discussion and to assist with reporting outcomes after the dialogue. The sample worksheets below are provided for this purpose, and can also be used to solicit thoughts and participation from virtual attendees and external partners who are not able to attend the dialogue.

Breakout discussion 1: The Role of Nature. As the impacts of climate change increase in frequency and intensity, the role of coastal and marine Nature based Solutions (NbS) in climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience is an urgent priority for populations most vulnerable to climate impacts, including many coastal communities. Coastal and marine NbS provide critical adaptation and mitigation solutions and improve resilience against storm surges, sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification. This breakout discussion will explore what is needed to accelerate the role of nature in global adaptation, mitigation and resilience efforts to support clear national strategies for addressing these needs. Potential topics to be explored include:

- Around 70 countries have included coastal and marine NbS for adaptation in their new or updated NDCs.¹³ What are the lessons learned and further actions under the UNFCCC framework needed for Parties to improve commitments in their national responses under the UNFCCC including NAPs and NDCs?
- How could the Adaptation Committee and the NWP's Expert Group on Oceans use their technical expertise on ocean issues, including protection and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems, to enhance integrating the ocean into climate change action and support understanding, synergies and action as part of national responses?
- How could mitigation and adaptation measures be implemented in an integrated manner to maximize co-benefits, and how can this be supported via ongoing processes and negotiations?
- **Next steps:** What actions could Parties take in the lead-up to, at, and after COP 27 to accelerate the role of nature in global adaptation, mitigation and resilience efforts to support clear national strategies for addressing these needs?
 - *[Provide space on the worksheet for facilitators to note the top actions identified in the discussion]*
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Breakout discussion 2: Utilizing Science to Inform Ambition, Implementation and Action. The relationship between ocean and climate was specifically referenced in the IPCC Assessment Report (AR6) published in February 2022, which highlighted the scientific advances of coastal and marine ecosystems across climate adaptation and mitigation, and that coastal and marine NbS are cost-effective and provide myriad benefits to society.¹⁴ In tandem, the AR6 identifies that the integration of scientific knowledge with indigenous and traditional knowledge and citizen science delivers more successful, localized, appropriate and effective actions for climate resilient development¹⁵. We recommend that this

¹³ Lecerf, M., Herr D., Thomas, T., Elverum, C., Delrieu, E. and Picourt, L., (2021), Coastal and marine ecosystems as Nature-based Solutions in new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions, Ocean & Climate Platform, Conservation International, IUCN, GIZ, Rare, The Nature Conservancy, Wetlands International and WWF.

¹⁴ IPCC. (2022). Climate Change 2022, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers. Retrieved March 5, 2022, from https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

¹⁵Ibid

discussion go beyond a review of current science, and instead explore what additional knowledge and capacity is needed to utilize science and mobilize national and local action to enhance climate ambition overall. Potential topics to be explored include:

- What support, including practical accounting tools, is needed for countries to strengthen ocean-climate action in their national responses under the UNFCCC?
- What support is needed for countries to adopt the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and improve the inclusion of coastal wetlands (namely mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes) into national inventories and communications?
- What tools and processes are needed to better integrate indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation planning and delivery to ensure inclusive, localized and successful climate resilient development?
- How can scientific findings on climate and ocean change be better translated into comprehensible and actionable knowledge for communities and individuals?
- How can indigenous and local knowledge be better integrated into global climate science, and are global guidelines needed to establish and mainstream these processes?
- **Next steps:** What actions could Parties take in the lead-up to, at, and after COP 27 to utilize scientific processes to inform ambition and on-the-ground action for coastal and marine ecosystems?
 - *[Provide space on the worksheet for facilitators to note the top actions identified in the discussion]*
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Breakout discussion 3: Finance. IPCC's WGII contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), published in February of 2022, clearly states that current financial flows are globally uneven and overall insufficient to meet the projected costs of climate impacts on coastal and marine socio-ecological systems, with substantial gaps in global adaptation financing.¹⁶ This breakout discussion will explore gaps and opportunities to increase finance flows to harness the full potential of the ocean across mitigation and adaptation. Potential topics to be explored include:

- How could the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) provide opportunities to fully enable finance for coastal and marine adaptation and mitigation solutions under UNFCCC?
- What are the main hurdles for the UNFCCC financial bodies (GCF, GEF, AF) to catalyze finance for ocean-climate mitigation and adaptation solutions? What are concrete steps these bodies could take to strengthen action to support national responses on the ocean-climate nexus?
- How could market and non-market approaches help countries develop cost-effective coastal and marine NbS?
- **Next steps:** What actions could Parties take in the lead-up to, at, and after COP 27 to address gaps and opportunities to increase finance flows for coastal and marine ecosystems?
 - *[Provide space on the worksheet for facilitators to note the top actions identified in the discussion]*
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¹⁶ Ibid