



Ocean-Based Climate Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions

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National climate goals under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs) are currently insufficient to address the climate crisis. Yet the promise of the Agreement is that it created not only an initial set of commitments but also a “ratchet” cycle, in which countries submit NDCs every five years.

Until recently, the international climate effort and the ocean conservation effort have been largely siloed. Although a majority of countries referenced the ocean in their first round of NDCs, only a minority discussed ocean actions as climate solutions. Fewer than 20 percent of countries with coastal blue carbon ecosystems, for example, discussed their role as carbon sinks.^{1,2,3}

There is increasing recognition of the linkages between the ocean and climate change. As Parties to the Paris Agreement communicate their second round of national climate goals, this policy brief tracks the inclusion of concrete, ocean-based mitigation and adaptation actions. It sorts commitments first by ocean-based solution and then by country. Updates to this brief will post regularly, as countries submit further NDCs.

➤ [As of this update, which analyzes 40 submissions from coastal countries, 37 include at least one ocean element.](#)

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This update analyzes the 2020/2021 NDC submissions from:

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, European Union, Fiji, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russia, Senegal, Singapore, St. Lucia, Thailand, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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1. Scaling Up Offshore Renewable Energy

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Thailand

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- In its section on support needs (specifically technology development and transfer), Thailand lists research into the potential of offshore renewable energy as a priority area (p. 7).

United Kingdom

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- The United Kingdom (UK) highlights the Welsh National Marine Plan, which includes a strategic framework for offshore renewable energy generation (p. 15).

2. Reducing Emissions from Shipping and Ports

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Cabo Verde

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- Among its mitigation contributions, Cabo Verde mentions that it will shift to “low carbon public transport,” which includes international maritime transport, by 2030 (p. 5).
- Among its goals to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, Cabo Verde includes that by 2023, it intends to determine the national emissions reductions possible with a shift to international maritime transport that is less carbon intensive and Cabo Verde will encourage the international community to scale-up technologies that decarbonize maritime transport (p. 26).
- Among its goals to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, Cabo Verde states that it will develop policy frameworks for decarbonizing international and domestic maritime transport by 2023 (p. 26).

Fiji

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- Fiji enhanced its emissions reduction targets, committing to “reduce domestic maritime shipping emissions by 40%” by 2030 (p. 4).

Japan

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- Among the measures that contribute to its emissions reduction target, Japan includes switching to energy efficient fishing vessels (p. 14).
- Among the measures that contribute to its emissions reduction target, Japan includes promoting energy efficient ships and low-carbon ports (p. 17).

Maldives

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- Maldives mentions establishing a vessel emissions standard in order to achieve its overall emissions reduction target (p. 2).

Monaco

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- Among its strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, Monaco mentions a ban on heavy oil fuels and a shift toward using hydrogen as a shipping fuel (p. 27).

Republic of Korea

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- Among its strategies to reduce emissions in the transportation sector, Republic of Korea mentions expanding ships fueled by “eco-friendly fuels such as LNG (liquified natural gas)” (p. 12).

Republic of the Marshall Islands

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- In its enhanced NDC, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) includes reducing domestic shipping emissions “40% below 2010 levels by 2030 and full decarbonization of the sector by 2050” (p. 3).
- RMI notes that short and medium-term strategies for reducing emissions in the shipping sector include modifications to “ship design, operations, fuel, and docking facilities” (p. 3).
- RMI recognizes the need for more widespread decarbonization of the shipping sector, encouraging ambitious action in the International Maritime Organization and amongst other Pacific countries (p. 3).

St. Lucia

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- Citing mitigation co-benefits of adaptation planning in the fisheries sector, St. Lucia includes implementing “fuel efficient technologies for aquaculture and fishing operations” (p. 11).

Vanuatu

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- Among its mitigation priorities, Vanuatu includes improving the energy efficiency of land and marine transport by 10% by 2030 (p. 3).

Vietnam

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- Among its mitigation actions, Vietnam cites its efforts to mainstream climate considerations in its planning of seaports (p. 5).

3. Reducing Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas

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Brunei Darussalam

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- Among initiatives to reduce emissions in its industrial sector, Brunei Darussalam mentions “rejuvenation projects” that will cut greenhouse gas emission from onshore and offshore oil and gas industry facilities (p. 10).

4. Protecting and Restoring Blue Carbon Ecosystems

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See also sections on advancing marine protected areas and protecting coastal communities, infrastructure and ecosystems for complementary/related actions. There is some repetition of notable and cross-cutting commitments.

Argentina

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- Argentina states it will implement public policy measures to ensure that companies within the country do not cause harm to ecosystems, including wetlands and peatlands (p. 20).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina recognizes the benefits of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for building resilient “infrastructures, city-regions, and habitat”, stating its intention to promote the preservation and conservation of wetlands and peatlands through EbA management strategies (p. 22, 27).

Australia

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- Australia notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 5).

Cabo Verde

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- Recognizing the climate mitigation benefits of natural carbon sinks, Cabo Verde includes studying ocean-based natural carbon sequestration (p. 30).
- Among its priorities to increase natural carbon sequestration, Cabo Verde states that it intends to update its wetlands inventory in order to increase data access and sharing. Cabo Verde also mentions strengthening wetland data collection and management strategies, aiming to integrate wetlands into municipal development plans (p. 30).
- Among its goals to expand marine protected areas, Cabo Verde includes utilizing spatial analysis tools to determine “optimal locations” for marine protected areas, taking into consideration carbon sequestration potential (p. 39).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde includes implementing some form of coastal protection for each island, using “nature-, ecosystem- and landscape-based solutions” combined with (or substituted for) grey infrastructure, taking advantage of carbon sequestration among other adaptive benefits (p. 40).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde notes that by 2024, it will develop an inventory of the island’s seagrass beds and formulate a comprehensive protection plan. Also, Cabo Verde intends to implement a “seaweed germplasm bank” and encourage the “scientific and university community” to enhance knowledge and expertise in this area (p. 40).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde intends to pursue risk mapping, identifying areas with “potential for mitigation and adaptation,” as well as “climate risk hot spots,” listing wetlands as a target area. Cabo Verde also intends to prioritize seagrass areas for conservation and protection (p. 42).

Cambodia

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- Among mitigation priorities, Cambodia includes enhancing sustainable management of mangrove conservation areas and improving “ocean capacity to capture carbon from the atmosphere” (p. 99, 110).

Chile

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- In the “integration component” (i.e., the section on actions with both mitigation and adaptation co-benefits) of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its contributions on peatlands), Chile states that it will identify wetlands under a national inventory by 2025 (p. 59).
- In the integration component of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its contributions on peatlands), Chile states that it will create standardized metrics to assess the mitigation and adaptation capacity of wetlands by 2030 (p. 59).
- In the integration component of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its ocean contributions), Chile states that “new protected areas will be established in under-represented marine ecoregions” (p. 64). In the scope of this commitment, Chile includes the following sub-goals:
 - “By 2025, protect at least 20 coastal wetlands as new protected areas.”
 - “By 2030, protect at least 10% of under-represented marine eco-regions (Humboldt, Central Chile, Araucanía and Chiloe), in the framework of a participatory marine spatial planning.”
 - “By 2030, protect at least 10 additional coastal wetlands as protected areas.”

Colombia

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- Emphasizing the importance of its immense biodiversity and critical ecosystems, Colombia states that it will prioritize the conservation and restoration of mangroves, wetlands and the ocean (p. 4).
- Aiming to promote climate-resilient mangrove ecosystems, Colombia intends to “update and implement 50% of the ‘National Program for Sustainable Use, Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems’ by 2030” (p. 20).
- Acknowledging the carbon sequestration potential of marine and coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and seagrasses, Colombia explains that it will work to “create knowledge related to the role of these ecosystems in greenhouse gas mitigation” (pg. 34).

Costa Rica

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- Recognizing the co-benefits of blue carbon ecosystems, Costa Rica notes that it plans to continue leading in conservation, responsible use, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands through enhancing scientific knowledge about ecosystem services that these habitats provide (p. 43).
- Emphasizing oceans as a “principal area of action,” Costa Rica states that it will aim to conserve and protect 100% of its coastal wetlands that are included in the National Registry of Wetlands (for the 2016-2018 period) (p. 44).
- Costa Rica notes that it plans to expand the area of registered estuarine wetlands by at least 10% by 2030 (p. 44).
- Expressing its intention to manage and monitor coastal wetlands effectively, Costa Rica notes that it will continue advancing strategies for the sustainable use and management of vital mangrove areas by communities whose livelihoods depend on them (p. 44).
- Costa Rica states its aspiration to stop and/or revert the loss of coastal wetlands by 2030, focusing on addressing main causes of degradation that pose a threat to their health (p. 45).
- Costa Rica notes that it aims to explore innovative finance mechanisms in order to support the implementation of blue carbon strategies. One possible approach included is to expand terrestrial models for the payment of ecosystem services (p. 46).
- Costa Rica mentions that it will explore the potential of public-private investments to advance mangrove protection and restoration efforts (p. 46).

Cuba

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- Citing its State Plan to confront Climate Change, Cuba states the importance of restoring mangroves to enhance the resilience of vulnerable coastal cities, combat soil erosion and protect water quality (p. 6).

Dominican Republic

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- Among its mitigation priorities, the Dominican Republic includes the conservation and restoration of mangroves, noting their “blue carbon” sequestration potential (p. 29).
- Among priorities to protect and enhance coastal-marine systems, the Dominican Republic includes creating a fund focused on building resilient mangrove and estuarine ecosystems (p. 45).

European Union

[Link to submission](#)

- The European Union (EU) intends to include wetlands in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 16).

Fiji

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- Citing the co-benefits of coastal ecosystems, Fiji includes protecting and restoring mangroves and seagrass beds (p. 6).
- Fiji notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 12).

Iceland

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- Iceland intends to include wetlands in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 10).
- Among its mitigation contributions in the land-use sector, Iceland includes advancing nature-based solutions, discouraging wetland draining and reclaiming drained wetlands (p. 13).

Jamaica

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- Jamaica notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 2, p. 8).

Kenya

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- Among its mitigation initiatives, Kenya aims to explore coastal carbon Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) (p. 8).
- Kenya intends to include wetlands in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 9).
- Highlighting opportunities for nature-based solutions, Kenya:
 - Aims to implement a national mangrove management plan and promote mangrove ecotourism;
 - Notes the need for nature-based solutions in mitigating floods, especially around “informal settlements and selected urban areas;” and
 - Mentions seaweed farming as another nature-based enterprise (p. 15).

- Among adaptation priorities, Kenya aims to “conduct a blue carbon readiness assessment for full integration of blue carbon/ocean-climate action into NDCs” (p. 15).
- Among adaptation priorities, Kenya includes a program that manages flood risk and incorporates nature-based solutions (p. 15).

Lebanon

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- Lebanon notes that it will use the 2013 IPCC Wetlands Supplement for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 20).

Maldives

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- Highlighting multiple adaptation benefits of mangroves, Maldives seeks to protect and restore these critical ecosystems (p. 14).

Mexico

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- Recognizing the importance of wetlands for naturally treating water sources, Mexico intends to advance the “protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems,” including wetlands (p. 8).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Mexico mentions enhancing implementation actions for conserving and restoring marine and coastal systems, in addition to increasing “permeance of carbon reservoirs, emphasizing blue carbon” (p. 17).

Norway

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- Norway notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 12).

Panama

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- Among its priorities in ocean-based sectors, Panama notes that it aims to develop a “Technical Manual for the Restoration of Degraded Mangrove Areas” (p. 56).
- Panama notes that it intends to use the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals beginning in 2022 (p. 56).

Papua New Guinea

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Papua New Guinea includes expanding and managing mangrove ecosystems to protect coastal infrastructure and prevent damage to coral reefs (p. 24, p. 25).
- Papua New Guinea notes its intention to identify strategies for incorporating blue carbon ecosystems into existing REDD+ initiatives in its 2025 NDC (p. 43).

Republic of Korea

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- Republic of Korea notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 18).

Senegal

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- Outlining strategies for reaching mitigation goals in the forestry sector, Senegal notes that it aims to increase mangrove coverage by 1,297 hectares annually (p. 28).
- Senegal mentions restoring 4,000 hectares of mangroves annually, citing it as a conditional goal (p. 28).

Singapore

[Link to submission](#)

- Singapore notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 8).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on water and floods), Singapore cites its efforts to conserve and restore mangrove forests to protect coastlines (p. 22).

St. Lucia

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- Citing adaptation initiatives that are expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes a project that would solve the “die-back of the largest mangrove in St. Lucia” (p. 15).

United Arab Emirates

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- Among adaptation actions with mitigation co-benefits, United Arab Emirates (UAE) draws attention to its blue carbon initiatives:
 - Due to the success of the Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project, which increased knowledge about blue carbon stocks in UAE, officials have incorporated the value of blue carbon stocks into “federal and Emirate level” policies.
 - Research is being undertaken to estimate soil carbon sequestration rates in mangroves using radiometric dating techniques, with the purpose of developing emission inventories and informing management practices.
 - By 2030, UAE aims to plant 30 million mangrove seedlings to enhance carbon storage.
 - The Emirate of Abu Dhabi intends to “include a minimum of 20% of marine Blue Carbon habitats” within a network of protected areas between 2021 and 2025 (p. 12).

United Kingdom

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- The UK notes its use of the IPCC 2013 Wetlands Supplement in estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals (p. 4).
- The UK includes in its National Adaptation Programme initiatives to conserve natural carbon storage in its network of marine protected areas (p. 14).

Vietnam

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- Among its adaptation actions, Vietnam cites its efforts to protect and restore mangrove and “coastal protection” forests, “aiming to exceed over 30% of the plan to 2020” (p. 19).
- Among its criteria for evaluating the implementation of its NDC, Vietnam includes increasing forest area to 42-42.5% and increasing coastal protection forests, including mangroves (p. 38).

5. Advancing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

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See also sections on protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems and protecting coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems for complementary/related actions. There is some repetition of notable and cross-cutting commitments.

Cabo Verde

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde recognizes the importance of protecting marine natural habitats and biodiversity. In order to expand its marine protected areas and implement “monitoring mechanisms,” Cabo Verde intends to adopt the following measures:
 - Utilize spatial analysis tools to determine “optimal locations” for marine protected areas, taking into consideration carbon sequestration potential.
 - By 2022, manage marine spatial planning by adopting a regulatory law, and/or amend the “basic law of territorial planning and urban planning to include maritime spatial planning.”
 - From 2023-2024, work to raise awareness “among residents, tourists and fishermen associations” to better protect marine species.
 - By 2024, adopt a “national maritime space management plan” focusing on protecting and restoring Cabo Verde’s “blue natural capital.” This plan will include ambitious climate goals and the Special Economic Zone of Maritime Economy in São Vicente (ZEEEM-SV) will assume “an explicit stewardship role.”
 - By 2030, expand the area of coastal and marine protected regions by 50% and create management plans with adaptive strategies for 100% of marine protected areas. Procedures for reviewing management plans will include local populations (p. 39, 40).

Chile

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- In the integration component of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its ocean contributions), Chile states that “new protected areas will be established in under-represented marine ecoregions” (p. 64). In the scope of this commitment, Chile includes the following sub-goals:
 - “By 2025, protect at least 20 coastal wetlands as new protected areas.”
 - “By 2030, protect at least 10% of under-represented marine eco-regions (Humboldt, Central Chile, Araucanía and Chiloe), in the framework of a participatory marine spatial planning.”
 - “By 2030, protect at least 10 additional coastal wetlands as protected areas.”
- In the integration component of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its ocean contributions), Chile states that “all marine protected areas of Chile created up to 2020 will have a management or administration plan under implementation, taking into account actions for adaptation to climate change,” with a range of sub-goals for 2025 and 2030 (p. 65).

- In the integration component of its enhanced NDC (specifically in its ocean contributions), Chile states that it will assess and strengthen mitigation and adaptation co-benefits in protected areas, with the sub-goals that three protected areas will have standardized metrics to evaluate mitigation and adaptation by 2025 and that Chile will apply metrics for monitoring and verifying mitigation and adaptation in at least five protected areas by 2030, “while strengthening co-benefits in their management plans” (p. 66).

Costa Rica

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- Citing the ocean as a “principal area of action,” Costa Rica intends to have 30% of its ocean under an official protection scheme by 2022 (p. 43).

Fiji

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- Among its adaptation targets, Fiji intends to use the National Ocean Policy to:
 - “Establish 30% of our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as Marine Protected Areas” and
 - “Work toward 100% management of our EEZ by 2030” (p. 5).

Papua New Guinea

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- In Papua New Guinea’s initiative to protect coral reefs, it notes the importance of establishing marine protected areas (p. 25).

Senegal

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- Highlighting adaptation measures in its fisheries sector, Senegal prioritizes expanding and improving marine protected areas, with a goal of “10 MPAs by 2050” in the scenario of a 2-degree Celsius temperature increase and a goal of 15 in the scenario of a 4-degree Celsius temperature increase (p. 31).

St. Lucia

[Link to submission](#)

- Citing adaptation initiatives expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes establishing the Iyanola Park Biosphere Reserve with the purpose of building “ecological and livelihood resilience” (p. 15).

Tonga

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- To achieve several of its adaptation goals, Tonga cites the need to expand marine protected areas and special management areas (SMAs) to 30% of its EEZ (p. 10).

United Arab Emirates

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- The Emirate of Abu Dhabi intends to “build a network of protected areas between 2021 and 2025” with the goal of including “a minimum of 20% of marine Blue Carbon habitats” (p. 12).

United Kingdom

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- The UK includes in its National Adaptation Programme initiatives to conserve natural carbon storage in its network of marine protected areas (p. 14).

6. Protecting Coastal Communities and Infrastructure

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See also sections on protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems and advancing marine protected areas for complementary/related actions.

Angola

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- Among its unconditional adaptation priorities, Angola mentions a project that will enhance coastal adaptive capacities “at the institutional, systemic and community levels” to address urgent coastal needs (p. 15).

Argentina

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina includes further developing strategies to prevent floods by 2030, emphasizing the vulnerability of the agricultural, livestock and forestry industries (p. 21).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina recognizes the benefits of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for building resilient “infrastructures, city-regions, and habitat,” stating its intention to promote the preservation and conservation of wetlands and peatlands through EbA management strategies (p. 22, 27).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina mentions a number of strategies to create coastal zones that are resilient to the effects of climate change, including modeling “impact scenarios” in the industrial sector and enhancing responses of the healthcare system to extreme weather and flooding (p. 56, 58).
- Among goals to create climate-ready transportation infrastructure, Argentina includes maritime transportation, aiming for increased “safety in navigability” in the face of ocean-climate impacts which cause changing ocean conditions (p. 59).
- Among targets focused on building climate-resilient infrastructure, Argentina includes strengthening port design and maintenance (p. 59).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina includes implementing a coastal management program which will protect “ecosystems and populations located in the most vulnerable areas” and Argentina promotes an Ecosystem-based Approach to conserving and sustainably using aquatic ecosystems (p. 64, 65).

Brunei Darussalam

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- Among initiatives to mitigate climate impacts such as flooding and storm surge, Brunei Darussalam cites 56km of coastal protection structures that have been established along its coastline (p. 14).

Cabo Verde

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- Among enhancements focused on the tourism industry, Cabo Verde states that it will work to improve climate resiliency in the coastal and marine tourism industry and increase its “climate and environmental benefits” (p. 28).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde includes implementing some form of coastal protection for each island, using “nature-, ecosystem- and landscape-based solutions” combined with (or substituted for) grey infrastructure, taking advantage of carbon sequestration among other adaptive benefits (p. 40).
- Among its adaptation contributions, Cabo Verde includes creating “all Coastal and Adjacent Seaside Management Plans” which should prepare for adapting coastal zones to impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, the loss of coastal territory and displacement of coastal communities (p. 42).

Chile

[Link to submission](#)

- In its adaptation contribution, Chile states that it will develop and begin implementation of its adaptation plan on coastal areas in 2022 and will update its coastal areas adaptation plan in 2027 (p. 41).

Cuba

[Link to submission](#)

- As part of its adaptation objective, Cuba states its intention to improve the Civil Defense System, using science and technology to enhance coastal resilience in areas vulnerable to sea level rise (p. 4).
- Among adaptation initiatives related to water resources, Cuba notes that its hydraulic program will include sea water desalination (p. 4).
- Citing several actions in its State Plan to confront Climate Change, Cuba plans to adapt coastal infrastructure and agricultural activities in low-lying areas to flooding, taking advantage of low-cost strategies such as nature-based solutions (p. 5, p. 10).

Dominican Republic

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- In order to advance climate-resilient coastal zones, the Dominican Republic intends to consider adaptation strategies in the “zoning and planning of coastal-marine systems” and intends to prioritize Ecosystem-based Adaptation and “green infrastructure” (p. 45).

Fiji

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- To mitigate the effects of flooding and cyclones on public infrastructure, Fiji includes prioritizing nature-based adaptation solutions (p. 5).
- Fiji notes that developing future infrastructure must consider climate impacts (p. 5).

Kenya

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- Among adaptation priorities, Kenya notes the potential of nature-based solutions to mitigate floods, especially around “informal settlements and selected urban areas” (p. 16).
- Kenya notes the need for climate risk assessments of buildings and houses (p. 16).

Lebanon

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- Aiming to reduce the vulnerability of coastal zones to climate change impacts, Lebanon includes improving measures that protect coasts against sea level rise and storm surge (p. 11).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Lebanon mentions evaluating major coastal aquifers for seawater intrusion (p. 11).

Maldives

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Maldives mentions developing resilient coastal infrastructure through enhancement of its National Building Code (p. 13).
- Citing the need for major coastal adaptation efforts, Maldives aims to:
 - “Promote use of evidence-based decision making on coastal adaptation planning and management of coastal zones;”
 - “Facilitate mobilization of financing to reduce exposure of communities to coastal hazards;”
 - “Mainstream climate change risks into coastal development policies;” and
 - “Continue to facilitate investments in coastal protection of inhabited islands, industrial islands and resorts” (p. 16).

Monaco

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Monaco cites flooding as a major climate threat and states that it has mapped the entire coastal zone for sea level rise risk, identifying coastal regions most vulnerable to floods and submersion (p. 31).
- Highlighting strategies to adapt its coastal infrastructure to climate impacts such as sea level rise, Monaco states the need for short-term, localized raising of structures (p. 31).

Panama

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- In order to identify and monitor slow-progressing impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and ocean acidification, Panama states that it intends to improve, expand and strengthen its SIREM Platform (System for the Collection and Evaluation of Damages) (p. 128).

Papua New Guinea

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Papua New Guinea includes relocating and resettling vulnerable coastal populations, practicing “community-based flood simulation exercises,” and scaling up successful coastal protection measures countrywide (p. 24).
- Papua New Guinea notes its intention to adapt transportation infrastructure, including transportation by sea, “according to climate-resilient codes and standards” (p. 30).

Russia

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- Russia mentions constructing dams and forest protection belts as strategies to increase resilience against floods (p. 3).

Senegal

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- Specifying adaptation priorities for its coastal zone, in the scenario of a 2-degree Celsius temperature increase, Senegal identifies the following measures:
 - Integrated management and increased regulations in the coastal zone; and
 - Identification of zones most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and restoration of degraded ecosystems with benefits for adaptation (p. 31).
- Specifying adaptation priorities for its coastal zone, in the scenario of a 4-degree Celsius temperature increase, Senegal identifies the following measures:
 - Models of waves and swells;
 - Further identification of risks from sea level rise;
 - Analysis of coastal risks and vulnerable infrastructure and communities; and
 - Improved regulations for use of the coastal zone (p. 31).

Singapore

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- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on research investment), Singapore states that the Centre for Climate Research Singapore will develop a National Sea Level Rise Programme to create better projections and improve understanding of long-term sea level rise (p. 20).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on sea level rise), Singapore notes that “minimum platform levels for new development projects have been raised to four metres above the Singapore Height Datum (SHD)” since 2011; it also states that “new critical infrastructure, such as the Tuas Port and Changi Airport Terminal 5, will have platforms raised even higher, to at least five metres above the SHD” (p. 21).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on sea level rise), Singapore notes that it has “installed coastal erosion protection measures on more than 70% of its coastal areas” (p. 21).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on sea level rise), Singapore notes that it has developed a national sea level rise protection plan and states that it will continue researching coastal protection approaches, which may combine nature-based solutions as well as engineering solutions such as sea walls. Given that Singapore expects its coastal protection projects to cost “S\$100 billion over 100 years,” it has created a Coastal and Flood Protection Fund with S\$5 billion of preliminary funding (p. 21).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on water and floods), Singapore states that it will incorporate floodplains into coastal and riverine parks to “protect coastal and low-lying regions from sea level rise or flooding” (p. 22).
- In its accompanying information on adaptation efforts (sub-section on biodiversity), Singapore states that it will “conserve more native plants and animals,” including by “enhancing 30 hectares of forest, marine and coastal habitats” by 2030 (p. 24).

St. Lucia

[Link to submission](#)

- Citing adaptation initiatives expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes evaluating “shoreline stabilization technologies,” targeting specific vulnerable coastal areas (p. 15).

Thailand

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Thailand notes its aim to “reduce loss and damage from water-related disasters” (p. 4).

Tonga

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Tonga notes its target to “prevent any permanent loss of land to rising sea levels on Tonga’s four main islands” (p. 9).

United Arab Emirates

[Link to submission](#)

- Among adaptation priorities, UAE cites “urban masterplans,” which provide guidance for adapting existing infrastructure to and protecting new developments against impacts of climate change such as sea level rise (p. 9, p. 10).
- UAE mentions upgrading flood monitoring and management systems (p. 10).

Vietnam

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation actions, Vietnam cites its efforts to “prevent and mitigate impacts of high tides, inundation, and saline intrusion due to sea level rise,” as well as efforts to create flood risk maps and take flood prevention actions for coastal cities, with a focus on the Mekong River Delta (p. 19).
- Among its adaptation actions, Vietnam cites its efforts to protect and restore mangrove and “coastal protection” forests, “aiming to exceed over 30% of the plan to 2020” (p.19).
- Among the adaptation elements highlighted for its updated NDC, Vietnam includes developing coastal protection / wave prevention forests, including bamboo forests (p. 20, p. 21).
- Among the adaptation elements highlighted for its updated NDC, Vietnam includes building housing in the North-Central and South-Central regions that is resilient to typhoons and floods, creating drainage projects for metropolitan areas, preventing coastal erosion and creating resilience to saltwater intrusion (p. 21).
- Among the adaptation elements highlighted for its updated NDC, Vietnam includes resettling communities in areas “frequently affected by natural disasters” (p. 21).
- Among its criteria for evaluating the implementation of its updated NDC, Vietnam includes increasing forest area to 42-42.5% and increasing coastal protection forests, including mangroves (p. 38).

7. Protecting Coral Reefs and other Ecosystems

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Argentina

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- Outlining its intended contributions to marine research, specifically in the area of sustainable resource and ecosystem management, Argentina describes its Pampa Azul initiative. The Pampa Azul initiative is a “project coordinated between various ministries and national organizations” that is intended to produce scientific knowledge and technological innovations for strengthening “industries linked to the sea” and “economic development of the Argentine maritime regions” while prioritizing responsible natural resource use (p. 22).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina includes implementing a coastal management program which will protect “ecosystems and populations located in the most vulnerable areas” and Argentina promotes an Ecosystem-based Approach to conserving and sustainably using aquatic ecosystems (p. 64, 65).

Cabo Verde

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- Among enhancements focused on the tourism industry and circular economy, Cabo Verde includes promoting strict “reuse and recycling” practices, banning single-use plastics and planning beach cleanups (p. 29).
- Among enhancements focused on the tourism industry, Cabo Verde includes implementing its National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in order to avoid oil leaks from ships (p. 29).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde notes that by 2023, it will conduct a study that analyzes the socio-economic and ecological impacts of “collecting and extracting sand from beaches,” and it will work to determine alternative opportunities for those who rely on sand collection. By 2024, the results of the study will be used to inform policy (p. 40).

Cambodia

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Cambodia includes sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal zones, as well as building resilience against pollution from land-based activities, in order to promote productive ecosystems and oceans (p. 35).

Colombia

[Link to submission](#)

- Emphasizing the importance of its immense biodiversity and critical ecosystems, Colombia states that it will prioritize the conservation and restoration of mangroves, wetlands, coral reefs and the ocean (p. 4).

Cuba

[Link to submission](#)

- Citing its State Plan to confront Climate Change, Cuba includes restoring sandy beaches and protecting coral reefs in the archipelago, including actions to prevent overfishing of species that utilize reef habitat (p. 6, p. 10, p. 11).

Dominican Republic

[Link to submission](#)

- Among priorities to adapt coastal marine species and ecosystems to the effects of climate change, the Dominican Republic includes institutionally strengthening “research, management and monitoring” practices and making “marine data, products, and metadata” more readily available to the public (p. 45).
- Among priorities to protect coastal-marine systems, the Dominican Republic includes creating a fund for “the recovery of mangroves, estuaries, coral reefs, and other coastal-marine ecosystems” and working to prevent pollution on beaches, pushing for better “compliance and enforcement” (p. 45).
- Among actions related to the tourism sector, the Dominican Republic includes establishing a “carrying capacity” for coastal marine systems, limiting amounts of “acceptable change for recreational uses” to promote better adaptation to climate change (p. 46).

Fiji

[Link to submission](#)

- Citing the co-benefits of coastal ecosystems, Fiji includes protecting and restoring mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs (p. 6).

Lebanon

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Lebanon includes establishing measures to “control the introduction and diffusion” of non-native species into the marine environment (p. 11).

Maldives

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Maldives emphasizes multiple services coral reefs provide. To protect coral reef ecosystems, the following strategies are included in its enhanced NDC:
 - Establish measures to prevent pollution, such as developing suitable waste management and water treatment facilities;
 - “Phase-out” single-use plastic products;
 - Promote best management practices and policy tools for increasing resilience of coral reefs;
 - Strengthen the coral reef monitoring program to better estimate vulnerable species and effects of climate change on reefs; and
 - Promote research and address existing knowledge gaps (p. 16, p. 17).

Mexico

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Mexico mentions enhancing implementation actions for conserving and restoring marine and coastal systems, in addition to increasing “permeance of carbon reservoirs, emphasizing blue carbon” (p. 17).
- Recognizing the importance of a climate-resilient ocean, Mexico notes that it intends to implement actions to advance conservation and restoration strategies, targeting key ecosystems like coral reefs (p. 17, 31).

Panama

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- Among its priorities regarding watersheds, Panama includes the following:
 - By 2022, the Panama Canal Authority will have developed the Indicative Plan for an environmental planning initiative that targets the Panama Canal Watershed; and
 - By 2025, Panama will have a “Climate Change Plan for the Integrated Management of Watersheds” that incorporates climate adaptation and mitigation elements (p. 26).
- Panama states that it intends to create a Technical Guide for climate change adaptation and mitigation for coastal marine systems by 2025 (p. 29).
- Panama includes its intention to identify and design preliminary actions that will implement its Guide for Climate Change for the Biodiversity Sector by 2025. Panama notes that these actions will focus on adaptation and mitigation and will be informed by guidance from its Office of Protected Areas and Biodiversity and the office of Coasts and Seas (p. 117).
- In order to identify and monitor slow-progressing impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and ocean acidification, Panama states that it intends to improve, expand and strengthen its SIREP Platform (System for the Collection and Evaluation of Damages) (p. 128).

Papua New Guinea

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- In Papua New Guinea’s initiative to protect coral reefs, it notes the importance of expanding mangrove and seagrass ecosystems, establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and “locally managed marine areas” (LMMA), and re-planting corals (p. 25).

St. Lucia

[Link to submission](#)

- St. Lucia notes that a Sectoral Adaptation Strategy Action Plan (SASAP) has already been developed for marine ecosystems, and names resilient marine ecosystems as one of its adaptation priority areas (p. 5).
- Citing adaptation initiatives expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes a project that aims to reduce water pollution by decreasing runoff from pig farms (p. 15).
- Citing adaptation initiatives expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes a project that lays the foundation for addressing coastal erosion and improving beach management (p. 15).

United Arab Emirates

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation initiatives, UAE outlines the following actions being taken to strengthen the resilience of coral reef ecosystems:
 - Monitoring and rehabilitating existing coral reefs;
 - Deploying artificial reefs and cultivating new reefs;
 - More than 3,000 coral fragments have been transplanted, and UAE expects to transplant more than 10,000 fragments over the next 10 years;
 - Launched the Fujairah Coral Reef Gardens project in 2019, which aims to cultivate 1.5 million coral reef colonies in 5 years;
 - 4,5000 artificial reefs have been deployed and are being observed for increased biodiversity (p. 11).
- Among its adaptation initiatives, UAE mentions the creation of natural rock barriers in coastal areas, with the intention of developing habitat and breeding grounds for marine organisms (p. 11).

8. Creating Climate-Ready Fisheries

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Angola

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- Among its unconditional adaptation priorities, Angola mentions its involvement in a project intended to enhance the adaptive capacity of the Benguela Current marine fisheries systems to the impacts of climate change (p. 15).

Argentina

[Link to submission](#)

- Aiming to adapt its fishing sector to the impacts of climate change, Argentina states that “fishing activities will be strengthened sustainably” by 2030 (p. 22).

Cabo Verde

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde highlights the importance of maintaining sustainable fisheries. Cabo Verde intends to adopt the following measures:
 - By 2025, create a robust monitoring and surveillance system to track legal and illegal fisheries activities, including activity by foreign fishing vessels. This system will leverage a “digital traceability” tool.
 - Establish “science- and ecosystem-based” plans to restore depleted fish stocks and promote fisheries management that advances adaptive responses to the effects of climate change.
 - Prioritize security of small-scale fisheries and local fish consumption in Cabo Verde.
 - Establish safeguards to prevent overfishing using strategies such as conditioning “fishing subsidies, quotas and authorizations to sound screening of available fishing resources and replenishment rates, endangered and vulnerable species and habitats, including with respect to the risk for habitats (including seabeds) and by-catches” (p. 39).
 - By 2027, create and implement a label for fishery products that indicates quality and environmental sustainability (p. 39).
 - Adopt “fiscal and regulatory incentives” for the establishment of management frameworks that work to mitigate negative environmental impacts of aquaculture (p. 39).
- Emphasizing the necessity of “climate empowerment”, Cabo Verde states that, from 2023 onwards, it will implement “training programs, create job opportunities and offer financial support” to those interested in “sustainable aquaculture” (p. 51).

Cambodia

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- Among priorities to build resilience in the fisheries sector, Cambodia includes advancing climate-ready aquaculture practices in order to “reduce fishing pressure on fisheries resources” (p. 72).
- Among priorities to promote climate-resilient fisheries, Cambodia includes restoring fish refuges and protecting mangrove forests, which serve as “the spawning, nursing and feeding habitats for fish” (p. 109).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cambodia aims to “strengthen livelihoods and safeguard food and nutrition security of small-scale fishermen” (p. 109).

Chile

[Link to submission](#)

- In its adaptation contribution, Chile states that it will update its fisheries and aquaculture adaptation plans in 2022 and 2027 (p. 41).

Costa Rica

[Link to submission](#)

- Emphasizing oceans as a “principal area of action,” Costa Rica mentions promoting sustainable fisheries activities, including aquaculture, “of value-added” artisanal and traditional fisheries, and strategic marine spatial planning (p. 46).

Cuba

[Link to submission](#)

- As part of its objective to reduce Cuba’s vulnerability to the effects of climate change, it cites developing sustainable fishing practices (p. 3).

Fiji

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation targets, Fiji includes adopting climate-smart practices in the fisheries sector (p. 5).

Jamaica

[Link to submission](#)

- Jamaica notes its project Promoting Community-Based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector (p. 3).

Kenya

[Link to submission](#)

- Among adaptation priorities, Kenya aims to build resilience in fisheries through sustainable management practices while including insurance and other “safety nets” (p. 15).

Lebanon

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Lebanon states that it will promote sustainable fisheries management practices while increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of its fisheries (p. 9, 11).

Maldives

[Link to submission](#)

- Among adaption strategies related to the fisheries sector, Maldives includes the following:
 - Pursue fisheries research and development strategies in preparation for the management of fish stocks that change and migrate with climate change;
 - Promote sustainability by reducing emissions from fishing vessels and land-based fisheries facilities; and
 - Increase access to financing opportunities and insurance schemes, promoting better adaptive capacity for vulnerable, small-scale fishers (p. 17, p. 18).

Papua New Guinea

[Link to submission](#)

- Fisheries are included in Papua New Guinea’s list of priority sectors for adaptation (p. 29).

Peru

- Among its adaptation priorities, Peru includes establishing adaptation targets for its fishery and aquaculture activities (p. 15).

Russia

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- Citing its National Action Plan for the period up to 2022, Russia intends to adapt the fishing sector to the impacts of climate change (p. 3).

Senegal

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- Highlighting adaptation measures in its fisheries sector, in the scenario of a 2-degree Celsius temperature increase, Senegal specifies the following as priorities:
 - Sustainable fisheries management;
 - Expand and improve MPAs, with a goal of “10 MPAs by 2050;”
 - Promote sustainable aquaculture;
 - Enhance security for fishing communities and fishery-related infrastructure; and
 - Increase sustainable management and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, which can serve as important fish habitat (p. 31).
- Highlighting adaptation measures in its fisheries sector, in the scenario of a 4-degree Celsius temperature increase, Senegal specifies the following as priorities:
 - Sustainable fisheries management;
 - Expand and improve MPAs, with a goal of 15 MPAs;
 - Promote sustainable aquaculture;
 - Enhance security for fishing communities and fishery-related infrastructure; and
 - Increase sustainable management and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, as well as improve research for mangroves and connected ecosystems (p. 31).

St. Lucia

[Link to submission](#)

- St. Lucia notes that a Sectoral Adaptation Strategy Action Plan (SASAP) has already been developed for the fisheries sector, and names it a priority sector for adaptation (p. 5).
- Citing mitigation co-benefits of adaptation planning in the fisheries sector, St. Lucia includes implementing “fuel efficient technologies for aquaculture and fishing operations” (p. 11).
- Citing adaptation initiatives expected to have mitigation co-benefits, St. Lucia includes a project that upgrades fisheries data management and Early Warning Systems to allow fishers to better manage climate risks (p. 15).

Tonga

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Tonga includes a goal to conserve existing fish stocks (p. 9).

United Arab Emirates

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- Highlighting advances in technology development and innovation, UAE mentions its Seawater Energy and Agriculture System, which is described as “a first-of-its-kind research facility” that grows fish and shrimp “using desert land irrigated by sea water” (p. 14).

United Kingdom

[Link to submission](#)

- The UK notes its intention to introduce a Sustainable Fisheries Policy as part of its National Adaptation Programme (p. 14).

Vietnam

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation actions, Vietnam cites its efforts to implement “sustainable and organic” aquaculture practices (p. 19).
- Among its criteria for evaluating the implementation of its updated NDC, Vietnam includes improving “the system of fishing ports and typhoon shelters for fishing boats on islands, especially forefront islands,” among other climate resilience measures, such as fostering information connectivity among fishing ports, boats and storm shelters (p. 38).

9. Advancing Ocean-Climate Justice

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Argentina

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- Among its adaptation priorities, Argentina recognizes the benefits of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for building resilient “infrastructures, city-regions, and habitat”, and it intends to adopt “community-based approaches” to include and prioritize the needs of frontline communities (p. 22).

Cabo Verde

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- Cabo Verde states that it intends to create a “gender analysis” of people in the blue economy by 2022 and then “identify priority gender-specific actions”, with a goal of women making up at least 40% of employment in the “blue economy” by 2030 (p. 39).
- Among its strategies to expand marine protected areas, Cabo Verde mentions that procedures for reviewing protected area management plans will include local populations (p. 39).

Cambodia

[Link to submission](#)

- Among priorities to create climate-ready fisheries, Cambodia notes that half of the workforce tasked to restore fish refuges and mangrove forests will be women, and more women will “gain access to fisheries resources,” among other benefits (p. 109).
- Among its adaptation priorities, Cambodia aims to “strengthen livelihoods and safeguard food and nutrition security of small-scale fishermen” (p. 109).

- Among priorities to build resiliency in the fisheries sector, Cambodia notes that half of “beneficiaries in improved aquaculture production” will be women, increasing their access to markets and other benefits (p. 109).

Maldives

[Link to submission](#)

- Among strategies to promote the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, Maldives cites the importance of community resource-management and considering the livelihoods of local resource users before establishing conservation programs (p. 16).
- Among adaptation strategies related to the fisheries sector, Maldives includes increasing access to financing opportunities and insurance schemes, promoting better adaptive capacity for vulnerable, small-scale fishers (p. 18).

Monaco

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- Emphasizing the ways in which Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, Monaco states that the Principality will increase climate finance for LDCs and SIDS. This is expected to be a bi-annual increase of 100,000 euros from 2020 through 2030, with a focus on initiatives that have co-benefits for climate, biodiversity and the ocean (p. 32).

Russia

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- Included in capacity-strengthening initiatives for developing countries, Russia intends to continue training specialists in oceanography “within the framework of relevant international agreements” (p. 4).

St. Lucia

[Link to submission](#)

- Expressing its commitment to gender equality, St. Lucia states that it will include gender considerations in adaptation actions plans from the fisheries sector (p. 8).

United Kingdom

[Link to submission](#)

- The UK mentions initiatives to promote women’s participation in the offshore wind sector, included in “UK’s Sector Deal on Offshore Wind” (p. 10).

10. Creating a Blue Economy

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Argentina

[Link to submission](#)

- Outlining its intended contributions to marine research, specifically in the area of sustainable resource and ecosystem management, Argentina describes its Pampa Azul initiative. The Pampa Azul initiative is a “project coordinated between various ministries and national organizations” that is intended to produce scientific knowledge and technological innovations for strengthening “industries linked to the sea” and “economic development of the Argentine maritime regions” while prioritizing responsible natural resource use (p. 22).

Cabo Verde

[Link to submission](#)

- Among its adaptation priorities, Cabo Verde includes developing a “blue fund” by 2023 in order to finance the domestic and international blue economies. Cabo Verde states that it is working to develop a National Blue Economy Investment Plan (PNIEB) (p. 38, 40).
- In order to promote engagement with the maritime sector, Cabo Verde intends to connect the “Cabo Verde Ocean Observatory, the Cabo Verde Atmospheric Observatory and the Ocean Science Center in São Vicente” with the goal of training executives to carry out work and research related to the maritime sector. Cabo Verde also includes investing in “high-impact research on marine resources and marine biology in collaboration with international research centers” (p. 40).
- Among priorities related to expanding and strengthening marine protected areas, Cabo Verde includes the following targets:
 - From 2023-2024, work to raise awareness “among residents, tourists and fishermen associations” to better protect marine species (p. 40).
 - By 2024, adopt a “national maritime space management plan” focusing on protecting and restoring Cabo Verde’s “blue natural capital.” This plan will include ambitious climate goals and the Special Economic Zone of Maritime Economy in São Vicente (ZEEEM-SV) will assume “an explicit stewardship role” (p. 40).
- Emphasizing the necessity of “climate empowerment,” Cabo Verde states that, from 2023 onwards, it will implement “training programs, create job opportunities and offer financial support” to those interested in “marine protection and technology” and “sustainable aquaculture” (p. 51).

Citations

¹ D Herr and E Landis. Coastal blue carbon ecosystems: Opportunities for Nationally Determined Contributions. 2016. International Union for Conservation of Nature et al. Available from: http://www.mangrovealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BC-NDCs_FINAL.pdf.

² ND Gallo, DG Victor, LA Levin. Ocean commitments under the Paris Agreement. *Nature Climate Change* 7 (2017): 833–838 and supplementary material. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3422>.

³ G Taraska. Integrating ocean and climate policy: A next step forward in the global climate effort. 2018. Center for American Progress. Available from: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2018/12/19/464467/integrating-ocean-climate-diplomacy/>.

This document includes direct links to the 2020/2021 NDC submissions.