

— INTEGRATING & STRENGTHENING —

Ocean-Based Action **Within the UNFCCC**

DISCUSSION PAPER | 30 JUNE 2025



S U M M A R Y

This paper aims to inform discussion across the ocean and climate community on approaches to advance the implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact on the integration and strengthening of ocean action within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and how the community, including the Friends of the Ocean and Climate and NGOs, may wish to engage collectively towards this endeavor.

The paper illustrates a range of opportunities and options for Party and Non-Party stakeholders to enhance engagement with UNFCCC processes, in line with Decision 1/CP.26, Para 60. It identifies key entry points for the ocean-climate-nexus within the UNFCCC's Constituted Bodies (CB) and Work Programmes (WP), their workplans and calendar of activities, alongside opportunities for enhancing the transparent reporting of ocean action.

The integral role of the ocean in regulating the climate system; the diverse yet significant impacts of climate change on the marine environment and coastal communities; the potential of coastal and ocean-based solutions to address climate and sustainable development goals, all make it imperative to scale-up and strengthen ocean action.

Driving the identification of these detailed options is the objective to catalyze the implementation of ocean action building on the significant progress in elevating the importance of the ocean under the UNFCCC, following the 'Blue COP25' and establishment at COP26 of annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues (*Decision 1/CP.26, Para 61*), and in response to the first Global Stocktake's call to urgently scale-up action (*Decision 1/CMA.5*) and the Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitator's vision to '*transform ambition into concrete action*'¹.

Key Opportunities for Integrating & Strengthening of Ocean Action

The options presented in this paper focus on opportunities to enhance ocean action under UNFCCC processes - across intersessional work, meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and towards COP30 and COP31 – identifying **entry points to enhance integration and strengthen ocean action, improve transparency and track progress**, and pathways toward **raising ambition** across key moments in 2025-26.

The guiding principle for identifying these options is the implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact decision to integrate and strengthen ocean action within the UNFCCC's existing mandates and workplans of CBs and WPs, and looking to opportunities and synergies across activities.

DECISION 1/CP.26, GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT, PARA 60

Invites the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in their existing mandate and workplans and to report on these activities within the existing reporting processes, as appropriate.

Out of scope – but not out of mind – are the many wider opportunities to strengthen ocean action outside of these negotiations and work areas, including through the complementarity with campaigns and voluntary initiatives, the mobilization of non-state actors, and synergies with other international fora such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Options can be advanced by all actors across the ocean and climate community, including Party, non-Party Observers and CB and WP members, in advocating for, championing and facilitating enhanced ocean action.





A. SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN-BASED ACTION IN NATIONAL CLIMATE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Parties are encouraged to urgently scale-up and strengthen ocean-based **mitigation actions, coastal and ocean-based adaptation and resilience measures, and integrated solutions**, in their national climate goals and in implementation, across but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications, as appropriate, in line Decision 1/CP.27 and the first GST. Alongside this, Parties are encouraged to enhance transparency in reporting on national ocean action and support provided in NDCs, NAPs and BTRs, and where voluntary conventions and reporting guidelines may support more robust and consistent reporting.

Specifically:

- By latest September 2025, to integrate ocean actions into updated NDCs.
- By end 2025, to integrate ocean actions into national adaptation plans, policies, and planning processes.
- To extend international cooperation through the sharing of best practices and support (capacity building, finance and technology).

B. FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION TO INTEGRATE AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION

Integrating and strengthening ocean action within UNFCCC processes could be effectively achieved through **incorporating ocean-related considerations and activities into workplans of CBs and WP**, and through greater coherence, collaboration and coordination to identify opportunities and synergies in line with existing mandates. Many of the UNFCCC CBs and WPs prioritize such collaboration in general terms, but to practically advance this spirit requires facilitation, where **'ocean champions' are required** from across Party and non-Party stakeholders, experts, and where **dedicated ocean focal points within CBs and WPs could play a practical and pivotal role**.

Upcoming milestones and opportunities include:

- Call for Article 6.4 experts in Accreditation, Methodologies and Climate Policy, open until 14th July 2025.
- 38th meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), 10-12th September 2025.
- 28th meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC), 16-19th September 2025.
- 23rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCo), 30th September – 3rd October 2025.

C. IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING ON OCEAN ACTION AND TRACK PROGRESS ACROSS THE UNFCCC

The Glasgow Climate Pact invited as a package the enhanced integration, strengthening and reporting of ocean action within the UNFCCC, and also established the annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues. The 'Ocean Dialogue' has become the central convening point for the ocean-climate community and presents an opportunity to enhance the visibility of the UNFCCC's ocean action. This could be achieved through **inviting systematic reporting and active participation** from across relevant CBs and WPs into the Ocean Dialogue. The Ocean Dialogue's Informal Summary Reports to COP could serve to **track progress on the integration and strengthening of ocean action overtime**, building an evidence base to inform the next Global Stocktake.

Specifically:

- Ahead of COP30, capture in the **Ocean Dialogue's Informal Summary Report** an overview of progress on the integration and strengthening of ocean action within the UNFCCC.

D. ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC

A targeted approach is proposed to advance the integration and strengthening of ocean action, through **deeper engagement of Party and non-Party stakeholders with UNFCCC processes and intersessional work**, illustrated in this paper by the identification of specific opportunities and entry points within UNFCCC CBs and WPs across key thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and cross-cutting topics. This entails a detailed focus on workplans and activities, across intersessional work and at key milestones and moments, to advance ocean action, from responding to calls to submissions, engagement in dialogues and expert panels, building evidence to feed into processes, and through reinvigorating key groups.

Upcoming milestones and opportunities:

- Ideally by end June, or latest end July 2025, provide submissions to guide the next **Mitigation Work Programme** Global Dialogue and Investment-focused Event on Waste, including circular economy approaches (*to be held during Africa Climate Week, 5-6 September 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*)².
- Over July – October 2025, engage experts to support the integration of ocean-considerations into the **Global Goal on Adaptation indicators** (*Final list due August; Final workshop Sept/Oct. 2025; For decision at COP30*).
- Over July – September, provide submissions and input into the SCF's **draft guidance to Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism** to stimulate the mobilization of ocean finance (*For decision at COP30*).
- By end September 2025, submit views on ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and how these should be considered under a proposed **joint work programme for the Rio Conventions**, noting parallel submissions and discussions under CBD (*including at CDB SBSTTA27, October 2025*).
- From September 2025 onwards, respond the SCF call for evidence to integrate ocean-climate finance considerations into the seventh **Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows**, and **third report on achieving the \$100bn finance goal**.

E. RAISE AMBITION FOR OCEAN ACTION

Greater ambition, and political leadership to galvanize greater ambition, is a key lever to enhancing ocean action under the UNFCCC. Options are presented taking a strategic view of opportunities, in synergy with existing high-level initiatives, to build momentum for raised ambition and chart a course to COP31.

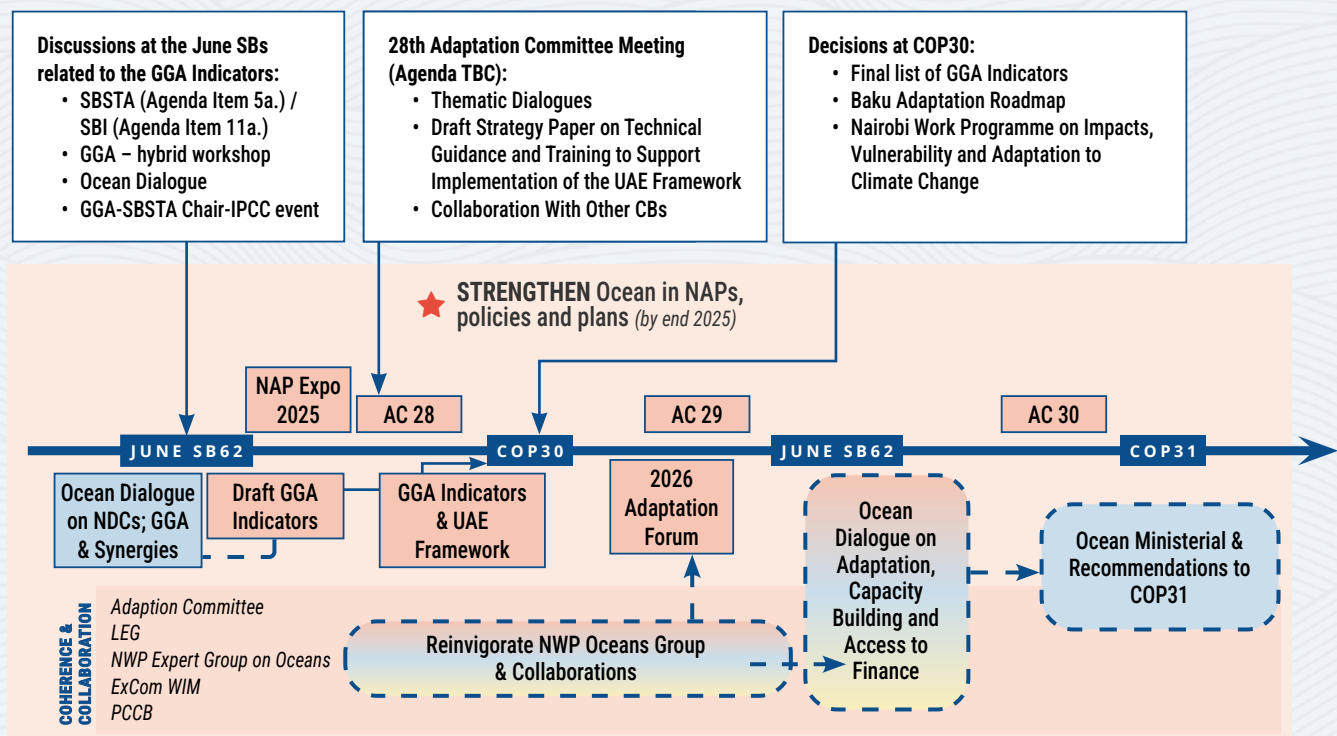
Opportunities for Integrating Ocean Considerations into Adaptation

SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OCEAN-BASED ACTION

- **Encourage Parties** to integrate and strengthen coastal and ocean-based actions into their national adaptation plans, policies, and planning (*By 2025 & Continuous*)
- **Encourage Parties** to highlight ocean-based actions in their national reporting, to track national action, support and needs (*Continuous*)

FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators** to spearhead coordination and stimulate collaborative ocean action through attending priority CB and WP meetings, including to strengthen coordination with the Adaptation Committee (*e.g. AC28 Meeting Sept. 2025 & Continuous*)
- **Ocean representatives** to champion coherence, collaboration and coordination towards ocean action under the UNFCCC (*e.g. AC28 Meeting Sept. 2025 & Continuous*)
- **Adaptation Committee** to appoint an Ocean Focal Point to enhance coordination and coherence (*AC28 Meeting Sept. 2025 & Continuous*)



KEY Scheduled Events/Activities Proposals

ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION

- **Ensure ocean-considerations are integrated into the new Global Goal for Adaptation indicators** under development by the UAE-Belen Work Programme, and proposed Baku Adaptation Roadmap, under Decision at COP30 (*Workshop Sept/Oct. 2025 & COP30*).
- **Reinvigorate the NWP Thematic Expert Group on Oceans** to take stock of coastal and ocean-based adaptation and resilience needs, in collaboration with the AC and other CBs, towards supporting implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (*Continuous*)
- **Advocate for the AC to prioritize a thematic dialogue** in 2026 on coastal and ocean-based adaptation, and integrate ocean-considerations into the 2026 Adaptation Forum (AC28, Sept. 2025)

RAISE AMBITION FOR OCEAN ACTION

- **Consider a focused topic for the 2026 Ocean Dialogue on adaptation and resilience** (*Start 2026*)
- **COP30 & COP31 Presidency and Ocean Leaders to host High-level Ministerial** to raise ambition for the ocean at COP30 & 31

EXAMPLE

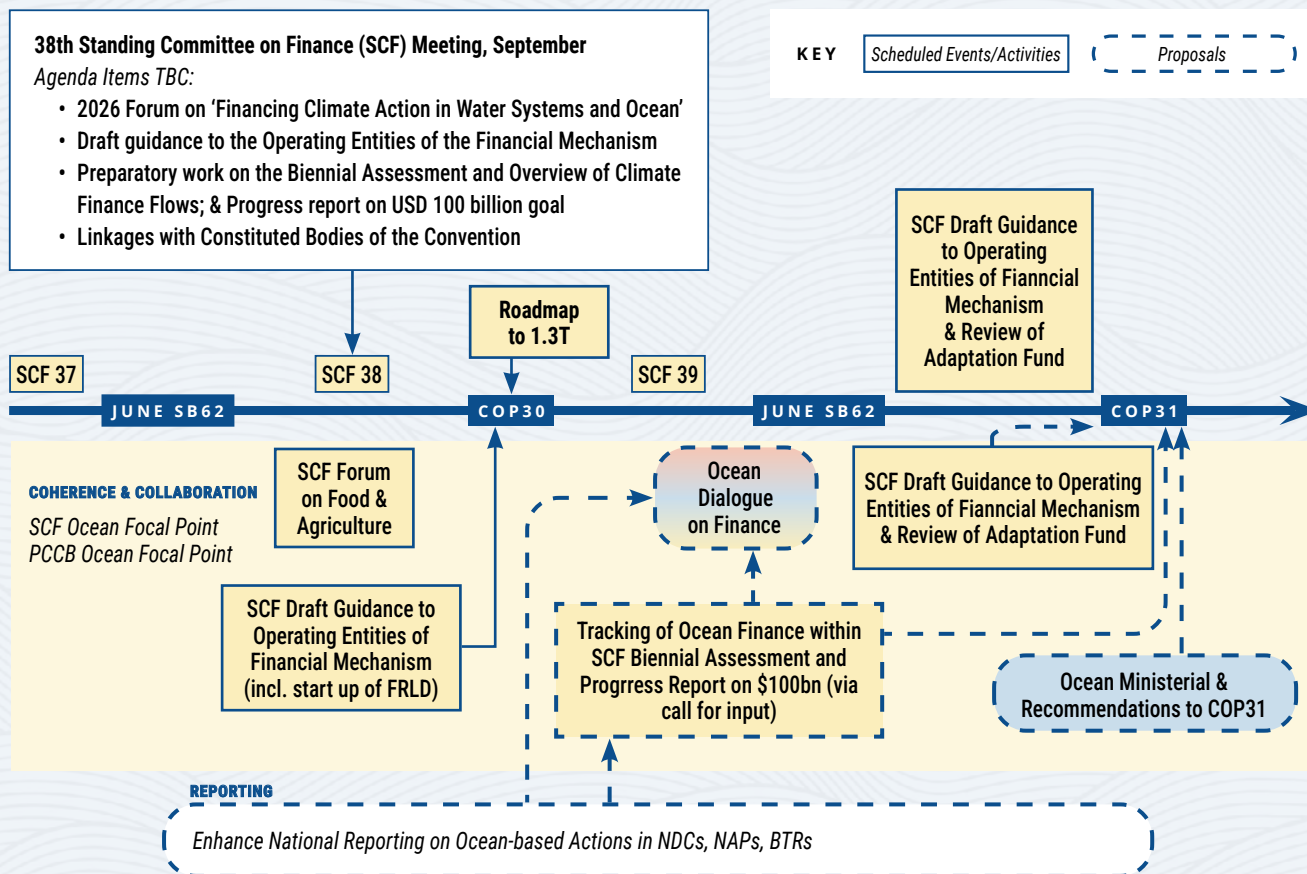
Opportunities for Integrating Ocean Considerations into Finance

SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OCEAN-BASED ACTION

- **Encourage Parties** to highlight ocean-based needs and support in national reporting (*Continuous*)

FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators** to spearhead coordination and stimulate collaborative ocean action through attending SCF meetings, in particular given the SCF's 2026 Forum on '*Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean*' and links to the 2026 Ocean Dialogue (e.g. *SCF38 Meeting Sept. 2025³ & Continuous*)
- **Ocean representatives** to champion coherence, collaboration and coordination towards ocean action under the UNFCCC (e.g. *at SCF38 Meeting Sept. 2025 & Continuous*)
- **Standing Committee on Finance** to appoint an Ocean Focal Point to consider the nexus of ocean-climate finance across SCF activities, and attend the 2026 Ocean Dialogue (e.g. *at SCF38 & Cont.*)



ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION

- Explore opportunities to advance financing sustainable fisheries and aquatic food systems at the SCF's 2025 Forum on Accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture (Forum, Sept. 2025)
- Stimulate the mobilization of ocean finance through integrating ocean considerations into the SCF's draft guidance to Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism (e.g. the GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund and the start-up of the FRLD). (Submissions July 2025; agreed annually at COP).
- Respond to the future calls for input to guide the 2026 SCF Forum on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean' (Expected Submissions under SCF, timing TBC) & consider a complementary deep dive into ocean finance at the 2026 Ocean Dialogue (Start 2026)
- Respond to future SCF calls for evidence on the seventh Biennial Assessment and the USD 100 billion Reports (Expected Submissions under SCF, Sept. 2025 – June 2026).

RAISE AMBITION FOR OCEAN ACTION

- Elevate ambition for ocean action through the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T (over 2025, COP30).



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Introduction

This discussion paper identifies opportunities for catalyzing the implementation of ocean action within key mandates, workplans and activities of the UNFCCC's architecture.

Opportunities and illustrative options are first presented focused on scaling up ocean-specific actions and improving the existing system for engagement on the ocean across the UNFCCC, in particular the Ocean Dialogue (Section I).

Secondly, a detailed approach is taken to identifying illustrative options for integrating ocean action within relevant UNFCCC Constituted Bodies (CBs) and Work Programmes (WPs), considering key thematic areas: mitigation; adaptation and resilience (including loss and damage); means of implementation (capacity building, finance and technology); and cross-cutting topics (Sections II-V).

Each section starts by providing an overview and rationale for why strengthened ocean action is important, reflecting on progress to date on integrating ocean action under the UNFCCC and emerging themes, ahead of highlighting options, identifying specific opportunities and 'routes to impact', within existing mandates and work plans, and across key moments in the UNFCCC's 2025-26 calendar.

Lastly, consideration is given to means to raise ambition for the ocean, in particular taking a strategic look to charting a course to COP31, considering pertinent topics arising under the UNFCCC and pathways towards a potential 'Pacific COP', in complement and synergy with existing initiatives (Section VI).

The detail provided in this paper seeks to serve and inform both Party delegates and NGOs alike, to explore and advance any number of these options, in the spirit of encouraging greater and deeper engagement on ocean topics across the UNFCCC.

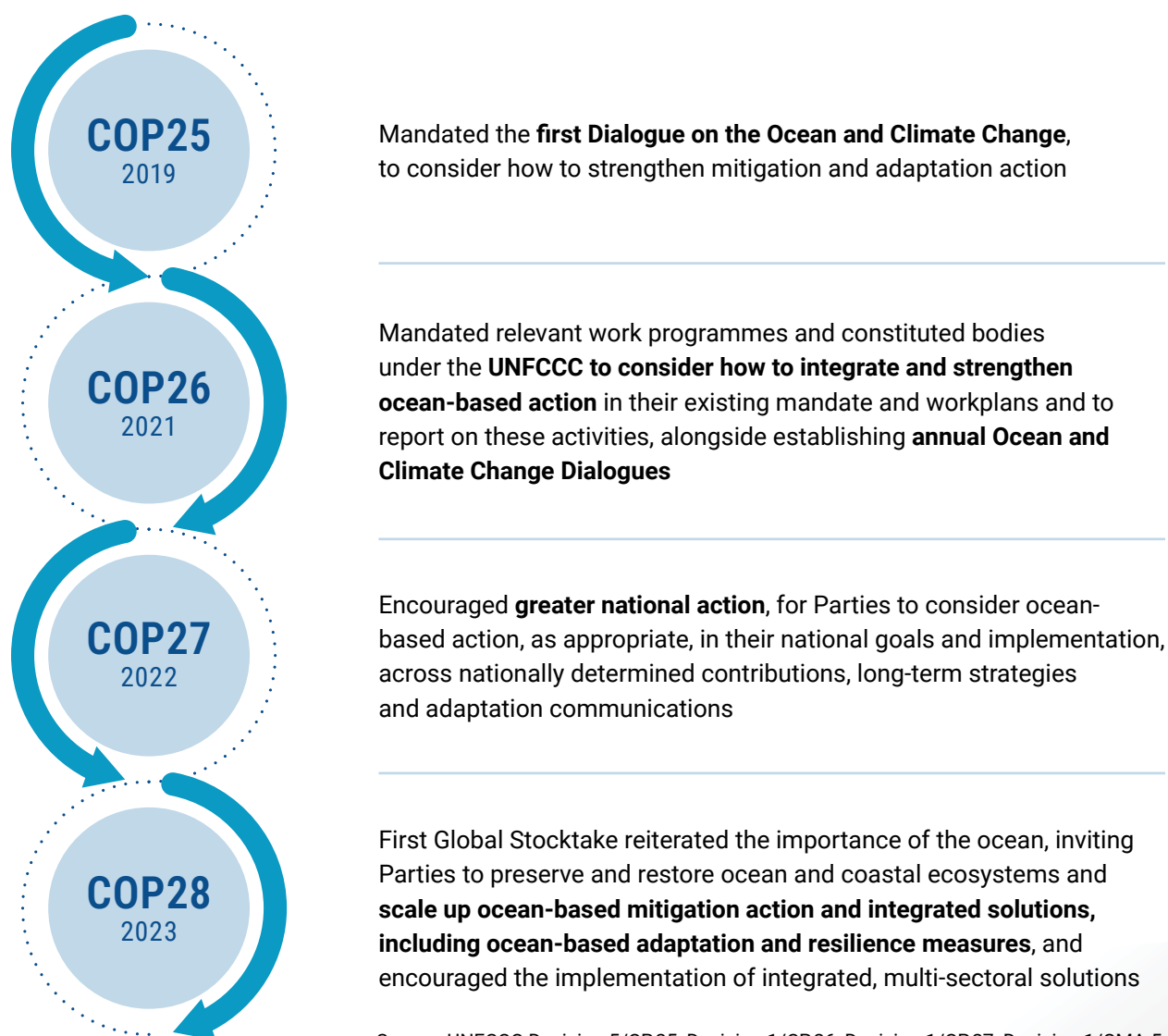
Readers are encouraged to dive into the details captured in this paper, to inform discussion on the practical advancement of the Glasgow Climate Pact – and where tables presented provide a repository of key information on relevant UNFCCC processes (commitments, mandates, CBs, WPs and activities). The information draws on key sources, from UNFCCC decisions, meeting documents, synthesis reports and the UNFCCC webpages, based on the latest information (as of mid-May 2025). Readers are encouraged to use this repository as a starting point, and to search for the very latest UNFCCC decisions and documents, recognizing the evolving landscape of UNFCCC processes.

I. Ocean Action and the UNFCCC

The ocean is acknowledged for its importance to the climate system and in actions to tackle climate change by the UNFCCC, under the Convention (Article 2) and the Paris Agreement. The COP25 Presidency's prioritization of the ocean, and the IPCC's 2019 Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, further highlighted humanity's dependence on the ocean, the connectedness of the ocean to all aspects of sustainable development, and the vulnerability of communities to future ocean change, such as from sea level rise and extreme weather events (IPCC, 2019).

Subsequent and successive Conferences of Parties (COPs) have recognized the integral role of the ocean and placed greater emphasis on the ocean in key decisions – most recently setting clear mandates to strengthen ocean action through dialogue, integration across UNFCCC processes and encouraging greater national action (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Ocean Outcomes in recent UNFCCC COPs



Source: UNFCCC Decision 5/CP.25; Decision 1/CP.26; Decision 1/CP.27; Decision 1/CMA.5.

Since 2022, annual UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues ('Ocean Dialogues') have become the convening point of the ocean-climate community. Over 2023-24 discussions have centered upon strengthening national ocean-climate action, across topics on coastal ecosystem restoration (including blue carbon), marine biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience, fisheries and food security, and technology needs for ocean climate action (including finance links), alongside cross-cutting issues.

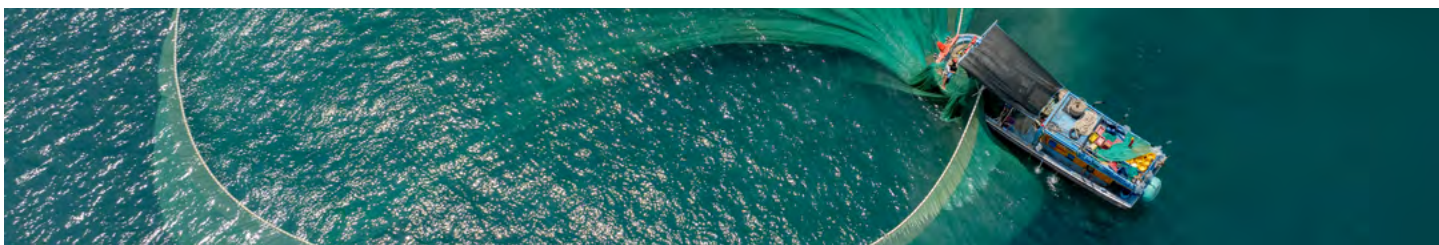
The 2023 Ocean Dialogue concluded that *"It is crucial that Parties mainstream ocean-related mandates from COP 26 and COP 27/CMA 4 into their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, as well as within UNFCCC processes"*, and the 2024 Ocean Dialogue *"encourage[d] the constituted bodies to continue mainstreaming the ocean in their work"* (UNFCCC 2023b; UNFCCC 2024b).

There is now evidence that Parties are increasingly targeting ocean-based climate solutions in their national goals – but the level of action is far below the need and the potential of ocean-based solutions - and challenging to track (*see Sections II & III*).

To date, it is also challenging to track and gain an overview of progress on the integration of ocean-based action within the UNFCCC, given the breadth and depth of the UNFCCC and the inherently diverse nature of ocean-climate impacts, needs, and solutions, with considerations cutting across thematics from adaptation and mitigation, to means of implementation, science, and of multisectoral scope.

Whilst clear mandates exist for the integration and strengthening of ocean action, and transparent reporting within existing processes, there is no established basis to consider and coordinate ocean action across the UNFCCC. 'Information Notes' issued ahead of the annual Ocean Dialogues provide a valuable resource for some updates on ocean-related activities across UNFCCC processes (UNFCCC 2022a; UNFCCC 2023a; UNFCCC 2024a), from which an increase in ocean activities planned and implemented by CBs and WPs is observed (UNFCCC 2024c). There is also evidence that the Information Notes and Ocean Dialogue participation are prompting greater consideration of ocean action across CBs (e.g., the Adaptation Committee's 2024 reporting included suggested opportunities for collaboration, and SCF participation in the 2024 Ocean Dialogue highlighted means to submit evidence to the SCF's future reports).





Options for Ocean Representatives and the Ocean Dialogue to enhance existing processes

The following options relate to scaling-up ocean actions, and enhancing existing processes for engaging on ocean topics, in particular the Ocean Dialogue and facilitating collaboration and co-ordination across the UNFCCC towards integrating and strengthening ocean action.

A. SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN-BASED ACTION IN NATIONAL CLIMATE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION

- **Parties are encouraged to urgently scale-up and strengthen ocean-based action and implementation**, including by embracing the Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators' vision to drive forward impactful action through the exchange of best practice and learning. (A1)

B. FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Focus future Ocean Dialogue topics towards advancing the integration and strengthening of ocean action within the UNFCCC**, drawing on the convening power of the Dialogue to focus on relevant upcoming negotiation topics of CBs and WPs, and **consider a three-to-five-year roadmap for the Ocean Dialogue** to facilitate long-term planning and ensure a coherent progression of topics addressed over the years⁴. (B1)
- **Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators to spearhead coordination and stimulate collaborative ocean action through attending priority CB and WP meetings⁵**, to highlight ocean-based needs, solutions and actions (drawing on findings from Ocean Dialogues), with a view to integrating ocean action into future workplans and activities, within existing capacity. (B2)
- **Ocean representatives within Party and non-Party delegations to champion coherence, collaboration and coordination towards greater ocean action under the UNFCCC**, including through internal delegation coordination, drawing on key findings from the Ocean Dialogue and utilizing key initiatives (such as the Friends of Ocean and Climate Group) to build consensus and develop collective priorities. (B3)
- **Establish Ocean Focal Points within CBs and WPs to enhance coordination and coherence** towards integrating and strengthening ocean action across the UNFCCC, including the reporting into, and participating in, the Ocean Dialogue. (B4)

⁴ As suggested by Rochette et al (2024).

⁵ For example, as welcomed under the AC's 2025-27 flexible workplan and WIM ExCom's [Second five-year rolling workplan](#).

C. IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING ON OCEAN ACTION AND TRACK PROGRESS ACROSS THE UNFCCC

- **Invite annual reporting and updates on ocean-related activities across all relevant CBs and WPs to systematically inform the annual Ocean Dialogue**, in writing in advance (through the existing *Information Notes*⁶) and through attendance and active participation of representatives from relevant CBs and WPs, to spotlight key considerations and actions, in line with existing mandates and workplan activities related to collaboration, co-ordination and engagement. (*Annual*)(C1)
- **Transparently report and track progress on the integration and strengthening of ocean action within relevant CBs and WPs through the Ocean Dialogue**. The dialogue should play a strong role in tracking progress overtime towards Decision 1/CP26 on the integration and strengthening of ocean action under the UNFCCC, drawing on annual updates from CBs and WPs. Progress should be reported in the Ocean Dialogues' annual *Informal Summary Reports to COP*, raising awareness of UNFCCC ocean-related activities, and providing an evidence base for contributions to future GSTs. (*Annual*) (C2).

II. Ocean-based Mitigation

The overarching goal of the Paris Agreement is to hold “*the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels*” and pursue efforts “*to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.*”

There is a **five-year cycle** for countries to ratchet up increasingly ambitious climate action, through national climate action plans, known as **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**. Updated NDCs (NDC 3.0s) were due in February 2025, with Parties strongly encouraged to submit by September 2025 to inform COP30 discussions. The strengthening of action and ambition is encouraged through

the Mitigation Work Programme, the **Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C and COP Presidencies Troika**. (See Table 1 for further details).

Ocean-based climate solutions can contribute significantly to emission reduction efforts, alongside unlocking a wide range of benefits towards SDGs. For example, analysis commissioned by the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy finds that full implementation of ocean-based climate solutions that are ready for action now could reduce the ‘emissions gap’ by up to 35 percent on a 1.5°C pathway in 2050 - an estimated reduction of up to 14 GtCO₂e in 2050 (Hoegh-Guldberg *et al*, 2023).

Progress on integration and strengthening of ocean-based mitigation action under the UNFCCC:

The first Global Stocktake (GST) concluded that climate action needs to rapidly accelerate, noting that achieving net zero requires system-wide transformations across all sectors and contexts, and called for a scale up and strengthening of ocean-based action (UNFCCC 2023c).

The latest 2024 NDC Synthesis Report concludes that Parties continue to increasingly report ocean-based measures to demonstrate climate action. Of the 21 per cent of Parties including ocean or blue carbon as a priority sector for reducing GHG emissions, 71 per cent highlight specific ocean-based mitigation measures (UNFCCC, 2024d).

There has been a particular focus in UNFCCC ocean discourse on Nature-based Solutions, including blue carbon ecosystems, following the spotlight provided by recent COP Presidencies, the 2023 and 2024 Ocean Dialogues, and initiatives such as the Mangrove Breakthrough⁷. Key sectors such as offshore renewable energy, fisheries and

aquatic food, and coastal tourism also offer mitigation potential, and are identified by the Ocean Breakthroughs under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action as key sectors to mobilize non-State actors, alongside Governments⁸.

More broadly, historic commitments at COP28 for transitioning away from fossil fuels signal the start of a phase-out of offshore oil and gas production, and under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) important steps have been made towards establishing a legally binding framework towards net-zero emissions from shipping⁹ (noting the Paris Agreement does not directly include international shipping, but where the IMO reports biannually to SBSTA). Other topics of note include emerging technologies for marine Carbon Dioxide Removals (mCDR). It is widely recognized that certain mCDR solutions are not yet ready for implementation¹⁰, with a need for further research to address environmental, policy and governance concerns.

Table 1: Ocean-based Mitigation across the UNFCCC

UNFCCC MANDATES FOR CONSTITUTED BODIES, WORK PROGRAMMES, AND RELATED AREAS	
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Paris Agreement, Article 4	<p>To meet the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, Parties are to pursue domestic mitigation measures and submit NDCs every five years, whereby successive NDCs will represent progression and reflect the highest possible ambition. In communicating NDCs, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding.</p> <p>Updated NDCs (NDC 3.0s) were due in February 2025, with Parties strongly encouraged to submit by September latest, for the UNFCCC Secretariat to reflect on progress in the annual NDC Synthesis report due ahead of COP30. The subsequent cycle will be in 2030.</p>

7 See webpage: [The Mangrove Breakthrough](#)
8 See webpage: [Ocean & Climate Platform - Launch of the Ocean Breakthroughs](#)
9 See IMO webpage: [IMO approves net-zero regulations for global shipping](#)
10 See for example Hoegh-Guldberg *et al* (2023), Doney *et al* (2025). [Principles for Responsible and Effective Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Development and Governance](#)

UNFCCC MANDATES FOR CONSTITUTED BODIES, WORK PROGRAMMES, AND RELATED AREAS

Global Stocktake (GST)

Paris Agreement, Article 4

[Note: GST is also relevant to all thematic areas]

The GST serves to take stock and chart a way forward regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement, assessing the collective progress towards its long-term goals, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science. The first global stocktake was undertaken over 2021-23, and hence every 5 years.

The outcome of the first GST **encouraged further strengthening of ocean-based action**, as appropriate (Decision 1/CMA.5 para. 180), established the **“Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C”** and the COP Presidencies Troika *“to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs)”*, alongside **annual dialogues** to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practices on how the outcomes of the GST are informing the next NDCs.

Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)¹¹

Glasgow Climate Pact

The MWP aims to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation this decade, complementing the global stocktake (Decision 1/CMA.3, para 27). Most recently guided by the **Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work program**, work is to be conducted through **two global dialogues and investment-focused events held annually**¹² until 2026, with possible extension (Decision 4/CMA.4). The dialogues provide a platform for parties, observers, and stakeholders to identify actionable solutions, share best practices, and address challenges on focus topics, and the opportunities for matchmaking between project proponents and potential financiers. The MWP reports annually into COP, with SBSTA and SBI requested to recommend draft decisions for consideration and adoption by COP.

Past Global Dialogues have focused on energy, transport, buildings and infrastructure, technology, and finance mobilization. The focus in 2025 is on forests, and waste (including circular economy approaches), with intent for 2026 topics to focus on industrial processes and product use.

Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)

Paris Agreement, Article 6.4

This **new international market-based carbon mechanism** was established to enable international cooperation to tackle climate change and unlock financial support for developing countries. An **Article 6.4 Supervisory Body** is tasked with developing and supervising the requirements and processes needed to operationalize the mechanism, including developing and approving standards, tools, and guidelines (Decision 3/CMA.3), supported by a **Methodological Experts Panel (MEP)**.

Under the MEPs 2025 Workplan a concept note on the Applicability of removal guidance to emission reductions activities and vice versa is to be developed, informed by a call for inputs (expected June 2025), for consideration by the MEP (July 2025), with recommendations considered by the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body (August 2025). Wider work related to removals is also planned for 2025. Membership to the MEP will be revisited in early 2026, with calls for experts on various panels open until 14th July 2025¹³.

11 See UNFCCC webpage: [Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work program](#).

12 The Mitigation Work Programme is overseen by the CMA, led by two co-chairs appointed every two years. Topics are set by March based on submissions received by February. Parties, observers, and stakeholders can submit views 4 weeks before each dialogue.

13 See: [Call for Article 6.4 experts in Accreditation, Methodologies and Climate Policy](#).

Ocean-Based Mitigation Options

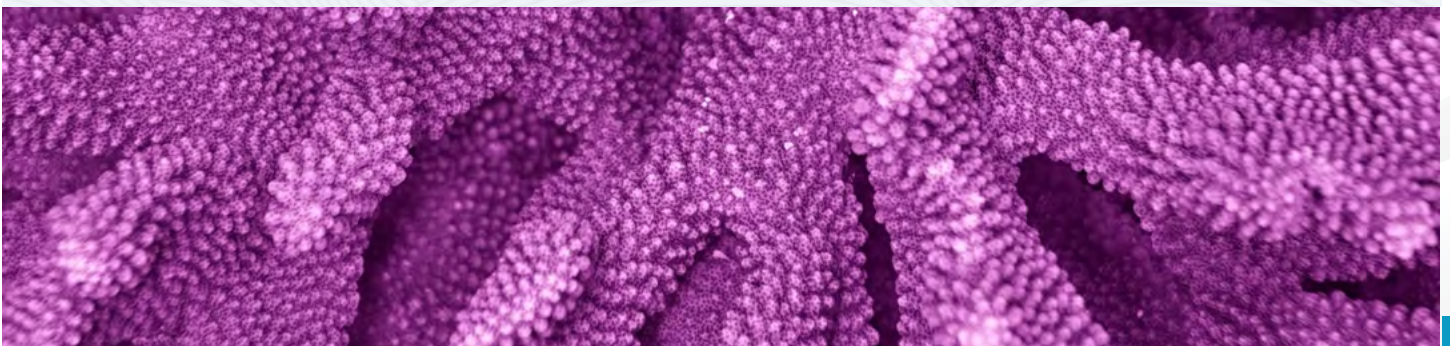
The following options, alongside underscoring the importance of national action, illustrate targeted approaches for Party and Non-Party stakeholders to advance the integration and strengthening of ocean action within intersessional work of the relevant CBs and WPs.

A. SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN-BASED ACTION IN NATIONAL CLIMATE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION

- **Encourage Parties to integrate ocean-based mitigation strategies and actions into their updated NDCs**, towards urgently scaling-up ocean-based climate solutions (*by Sept. 2025*), including through active participation in the 2025 Ocean Dialogue sessions on ocean-based measures in NDCs (*June 2025*). (A1i)

B. ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC

- **Advance ocean-based mitigation action through exploring opportunities under the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) Global Dialogues and Investment-focused Events**, to identify actionable solutions and support financial matchmaking, building on discussions related to **forests**, including mangroves (*Panama Climate Week, May 2025*) and future dialogues on **waste**, including circular economy approaches (*5-6th September, Africa Climate Week 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, submissions on views on opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers due ideally by end-June 2025*). Consider the integration of ocean-considerations into future MWP Global Dialogues (*call for submissions on topics due in early 2026*). (D1)
- **Engage with GST annual dialogues in sharing knowledge and best practice on integrating ocean actions into NDCs and implementation**, including reflecting on the 'Global Stocktake NDC Dialogue 2025' (*June 2025*). (D2)
- **Ensure the best available ocean science and expertise contributes to the development of cooperative approaches and new credit mechanisms**, including the forthcoming guidance and concepts under the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body and its Methodological Expert Panel (*Call for Inputs, June 2025, and consideration of the concept note and recommendations, by the Art 6.4 SB in August 2025*). (D3)



III. Ocean-based Adaptation and Resilience, including Loss & Damage

Adaptation is a critical component of the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods, and ecosystems, through adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and fostering climate resilience. The Paris Agreement (Article 7) defines a **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**, with an objective “*of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal*”.

COP28 called on Parties that have not yet done so to have in place their **national adaptation plans, policies, and planning processes by 2025** and to have progressed implementation by 2030 (Decision 1/CMA.5). It established the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the GGA and the review of overall progress in achieving it with a view to reducing the increasing adverse impacts, risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, as well as to enhance adaptation action

and support. A key next step is the establishment of indicators for the GGA (under the UAE-Belem Work Programme), which will be critical to track progress and guide future policy and investment (see Table 2).

The latest IPCC Assessment Report (AR6) concludes that anthropogenic climate change has exposed ocean and coastal ecosystems to conditions that are unprecedented over millennia, greatly impacting life in the ocean and along its coasts from sea level rise to ocean acidification and deoxygenation, to ocean warming and increasing intensity of marine heatwaves. Climate-driven impacts on ocean and coastal environments have caused measurable changes in specific industries, economic losses, emotional harm and altered cultural and recreational activities around the world. Impacts are forecast to escalate, and where impacts on local communities will depend on local context and development pathways, with low-lying Small Island Developing States identified as particularly at risk from sea level rise¹⁴.

Progress on Integration and Strengthening of Ocean-Based Adaptation Action Under the UNFCCC

It is recognized that adaptation planning and implementation efforts are being increasingly undertaken by Parties towards enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability, as set out in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communications (AdComs) and NDCs (Decision 1/CMA.5). Analysis by the Secretariat shows that over half of NAPs (29 NAPs out of all issued by end March 2024, 53%) identify sea level rise as a significant climate hazard, with some also mentioning ocean acidification, saltwater intrusion, increasing sea surface temperatures and coastal erosion. 22 NAPs identified coastal

and low-lying zones as a priority area for reducing vulnerability to climate change¹⁵.

The outcome of the first GST (Decision 1/CMA.5) underlined that, despite overall progress on adaptation, the UNFCCC is not yet collectively on track towards achieving the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, noting with alarm and serious concern the finding of the AR6 that most observed adaptation responses are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions, and that, significant adaptation gaps exist. It called for urgent, transformational, and country-driven adaptation action.

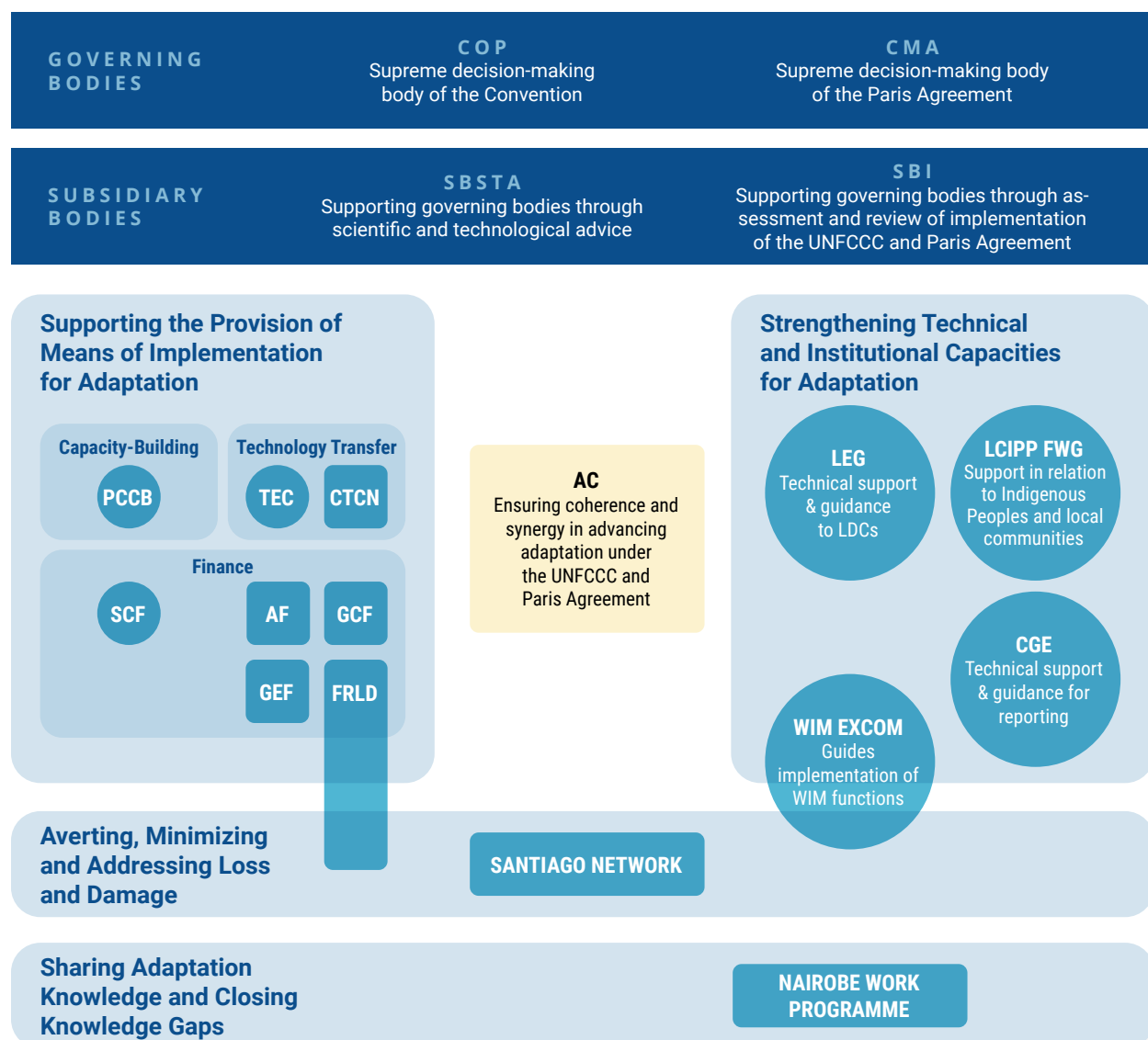
¹⁴ For example, as highlighted in recent report, [UN \(2024\), Surging Seas in a Warming World](#).

¹⁵ UNFCCC SBI (2024), [Progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, as well as experience, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received](#)

Parties are encouraged to utilize the technical guidance, support and resources provided by the UNFCCC-related bodies and workstreams in submitting their NAPs and AdComs, of which there is now a significant network (see Fig.2): The Adaptation Committee (AC) works to drive forward coherence and synergies, and in contributing to the 2024 Ocean Dialogue the AC highlighted its focus on leveraging ongoing initiatives that can provide tools for advancing adaptation action, and opportunities for collaboration (UNFCCC 2024a). The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on impacts,

vulnerability and adaptation presents a key opportunity to further strengthen ocean action through reinvigorating its Thematic Expert Group on Ocean and Coastal Zones. The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage includes a range of ocean-relevant activities, including a 2025 technical guide on sea level rise¹⁶ and slow onset events database (incl. sea level rise, ocean acidification etc.), developed through its expert group¹⁷. (See Table 2).

Figure 2: The Adaptation Landscape under the UNFCCC: a network of institutions



Source: UNFCCC (2024e)

16 UNFCCC (2025) [Technical guide on sea level rise](#).
17 See [WIM ExCom Slow Onset Events Database](#)



Table 2: Ocean-based Adaptation and Resilience

UNFCCC Mandates for Constituted Bodies, Work Programmes, and related areas	
<p>National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Adaptation Communications & Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)</p> <p>Cancun Adaptation Framework</p>	<p>National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) were established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework at COP16 (2010). The process was designed to help Least Developed Countries (LDCs) formulate and implement medium- and long-term adaptation strategies. Since, NAPs have become the primary UNFCCC instrument for adaptation, to help governments analyze climate risks, identify and implement adaptation options, and integrate those options into planning. The Paris Agreement also initiated the process of Adaptation Communications (AdComs), where Parties provide an overview of adaptation priorities, plans, and efforts.</p> <p>The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was first established in 2001 and has evolved to provide technical guidance and accelerate support on NAPs to LDCs. In 2023, the LEG was requested to update the NAP technical guidelines to reflect the AR6 and the adaptation targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (Decision 2/CMA.5).</p>
<p>Adaptation Committee (AC)¹⁸</p> <p>Cancun Adaptation Framework</p>	<p>Established in 2010 under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, the Adaptation Committee (AC) serves as the principal body to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation and drive forward coherent action under the UNFCCC.</p> <p>The activities of the AC include providing technical support and guidance (including for AdComs and NAPs); sharing of information; strengthening engagement; providing recommendations on means of implementation; and the monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received. The AC works to promote collaboration and coherence with CBs and beyond, and its 2025-2027 Workplan¹⁹ notes of the requirement to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action.</p>

18 See UNFCCC webpage: [Adaptation Committee](#)
19 See [Flexible workplan of the Adaptation Committee for 2025–2027](#) (in Annex).

<p>Global Goal for Adaptation Paris Agreement, Article 7</p> <p>UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience & UAE–Belém Work Programme UAE Consensus</p>	<p>The 2015 Paris Agreement established the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response.</p> <p>In 2023 Parties adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, to guide the achievement of the GGA and the review of overall progress towards reducing the increasing adverse impacts, risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, as well as to enhance adaptation action and support. Eleven global thematic and dimensional targets for climate adaptation and resilience were established, to be achieved by 2030 and progressively beyond (Decision 2/CMA.5).</p> <p>A two-year UAE–Belém Work Programme on indicators was also established, focused on developing a manageable, globally applicable set of no more than 100 indicators to assess progress toward the UAE Framework’s targets. A draft list of 490 indicators was published end May 2025²⁰, with further workshops scheduled in 2025 to reflect on a final list of 100 potential indicators.</p>
<p>Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change (NWP)²¹</p>	<p>The Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change (NWP), established since 2005, assists all Parties, in particular developing countries, to improve knowledge and assessment of impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation, toward informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures, through the provision of information.</p> <p>The NWP Thematic Expert Group on Ocean and Coastal Zones²² has prepared knowledge products in collaboration with organizations and constituted bodies such as the GEF, LEG and the TEC²³, and contributed to the first two Ocean Dialogues, yet has been inactive since 2023.</p>
<p>Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Warsaw & Paris Agreement, Article 8</p>	<p>The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom), was established at COP19 to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, including extreme and slow onset events. The Executive Committee guides the enhancement of knowledge and understanding of risk management, strengthens stakeholders dialogue, coordination, coherence; and enhancing action and support, including finance, technology, and capacity building, through a five-year rolling workplan (2023-27)²⁴ and five thematic expert groups.</p> <p>Santiago Network contributes to the effective implementation of the functions of the WIM by catalyzing the technical assistance to developing countries.</p>

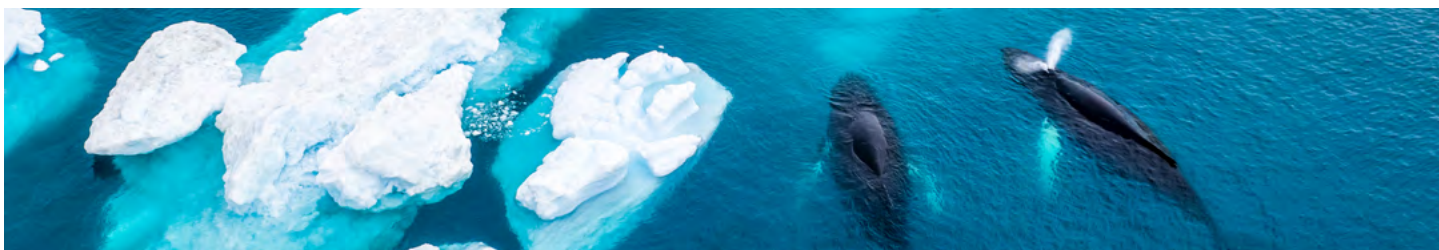
²⁰ See: [Consolidated list of indicator options, UAE–Belém work programme on indicators](#)

²¹ See UNFCCC webpage: [The Nairobi work programme: UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience](#)

²² See UNFCCC webpage: [Nairobi work programme \(NWP\) priority area oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems](#)

²³ See for example: UNFCCC (2020) [NWP Policy Brief on the Ocean: Scaling up adaptation actions and co-operation to build climate resilience of the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems](#); UNFCCC (2021). [Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs: Considerations for GCF proposal development. A supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical guidelines. Prepared by the NWP Expert Group on Oceans](#); UNFCCC and IUCN (2021): [Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation - Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solution](#)

²⁴ See [Second five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism](#)



Ocean-Based Adaptation and Resilience Options

The following options, alongside underscoring the importance of national action, illustrate targeted approaches for Party and Non-Party stakeholders to advance the integration and strengthening of ocean action within intersessional work of the relevant CBs and WPs.

A. SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN-BASED ACTION IN NATIONAL CLIMATE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION

- **Encourage Parties to integrate and strengthen ocean, coastal and ecosystem-based adaptation actions into national adaptation plans, policies, and planning processes**, (including through AdComms and NDCs, as appropriate), and to progress implementation by 2030 (*aligned with Decision 1/CMA.5, by 2025*). (A1ii)

B. FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators to strengthen coordination with the Adaptation Committee** (and LEG), including through responding to its standing invitation to provide information on activities addressing gaps and needs related to NAPs²⁵, drawing on information exchanged under the Dialogues and suggestions from the AC²⁶, and through providing input into the AC strategy paper to guide the AC's work on technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (in collaboration with the CGE and LEG)²⁷. (B2i)
- **Suggest the Adaptation Committee (AC) appoints an ocean focal point** to facilitate alignment with the ocean agenda, toward advancing adaptation action and fostering resilience in marine and coastal ecosystems, including through future AC workplans²⁸. (B4i)
- **Suggest the WIM ExCom appoints a thematic ocean focal point** to integrate ocean actions across the WIM ExCom's rolling workplan to enhance resilience to climate impacts on the ocean, e.g., across activities from sea-level rise to early warning systems.²⁹ (B4ii)

25 See details on UNFCCC webpage: Adaptation Committee : By decision 9/CP.27, para 10, the COP invited other UNFCCC CBs and relevant organizations to provide information to the AC and the LEG on activities addressing gaps and needs related to NAPs.

26 Suggestion from the AC submitted to the Ocean Dialogue (UNFCCC 2024a): To focus on gathering information on ocean-based adaptation action, integrating data into the ACs State of Adaptation and expanding efforts to track progress towards UAE Framework targets. This could draw on the compilation of [Case Studies and Good Practices](#) from the 2024 Ocean Dialogue.

27 See [AC37 meeting outcomes](#), including invitation for other adaptation-related bodies to provide further inputs into draft strategy paper intersessionally.

28 See suggestions from AC's submission to the Ocean Dialogue (UNFCCC 2024b).

29 Building on activities of the [WIM ExCom's five-year rolling workplan \(2023-2027\)](#) to enhance engagement and partnerships, which includes nominated thematic focal points. See [list of WIM ExCom Thematical focal points](#).

C. ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC

- **Ensure ocean-considerations are integrated into the new Global Goal for Adaptation, including in indicators under development by the UAE-Belen Work Programme** (through the inclusion of ocean indicators alongside mainstreaming ocean-considerations across relevant indicators), and **securing ocean-related recommendations within the proposed 'Baku Adaptation Roadmap' to support implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.** (*Workshop Sept/Oct. 2025 & For decision at COP30³⁰*). (D4)
- **Reinvigorate the NWP Thematic Expert Group on Oceans to inform needs for coastal adaptation and resilience, including toward the implementation of the UAE Framework and NDCs.** This could initiate a stocktaking exercise, compile information and identify gaps in the context of the GGA Targets, Indicators and future implementation, in collaboration with relevant CBs and WPs, with a view to identifying specific opportunities to strengthen ocean action within existing and future workplans, to enhance country action. (D5) (*For consideration under GGA and NWP decisions at COP30, noting potential need for additional resources to reinvigorate the existing group*).
- **Advocate for the AC to prioritize a thematic dialogue in 2026 on coastal and ocean-based adaptation** to explore cross-cutting mandates³¹, and integrate ocean-considerations into the 2026 Adaptation Forum and its focus on 'technical support and guidance, assessing adaptation progress and innovation frontiers for adaptation'³² and wider activities of the AC. (*Next AC Meeting, September 2025*). (D6)



30 See SBSTA/SBI62 outcomes: [Matters relating to the global goal on adaptation . Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs](#)
31 See Option 3 in AC's [Thematic dialogues Draft options paper](#), for ongoing discussion.
32 See Adaptation Forum [Concept Note](#), discussed in the AC'S 27th meeting in May 2025, and for ongoing discussion.

IV. Means of Implementation and Support (Finance, Capacity Building and Technology)

The Convention and Paris Agreement commit developed countries (Annex I Parties) to the provision of financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer, recognizing their essential role in supporting developing countries to advance climate action, and in the context of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The **Financial Mechanism** of the Convention was established in 1992 to support the mobilization of finance, including the establishment of operating entities such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF). Most recently, at COP29, a new collective quantified goal for climate finance was adopted, of **at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035** for developing country Parties for climate action, with developed country Parties taking the lead,

alongside a call to all actors to enable the scaling-up of financing to at least **USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035**, to be informed by the **Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T**.

Established initiatives such as the **Durban Forum on Capacity-building and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)**, serve as platforms for addressing capacity gaps and needs, enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts undertaken across the UNFCCC.

The **Technology Mechanism** of the Convention was established in 2010 to support technology development and transfer for climate action, through the **Technology Executive Committee** (the policy arm) and the **Climate Technology Centre and Network** (the implementation arm).

Progress on Integration and Strengthening of Ocean-Related Support Under the UNFCCC

Climate finance includes financing for ocean-based activities, as evidenced by funding and projects under the GEF and GCF (see UNFCCC 2024a, b), and most recently the SCF's decision to focus its 2026 Forum on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean'. The nexus of ocean-climate finance is however challenging to assess, given its cross-cutting nature, and there is no overview of the extent to which finance for climate action is allocated to ocean-based solutions (Ocean & Climate Platform 2024). The SCF and its Biennial Assessments have particularly noted insufficient data on sector-specific issues, including ocean finance.

Across the significant landscape of UNFCCC capacity building activities there are a number

of relevant and likely to be opportunities to strengthen ocean action through greater integration, coordination, and collaboration³³. The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) will focus in 2025 on *Capacity-building for holistic investment strategies, bankable projects, and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the implementation of NDCs and NAPs in developing countries*. This provides a potential opportunity to consider the nexus of ocean action and support, related to both capacity and finance (see Table 3). COP29 requested a fifth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, to be initiated at SBI62 (June 2025) for consideration at COP30.

The integration of ocean action into activities under the Technology Executive Committee provides a strong example of the implementation of Decision 1/CP.26.Para 60. Specifically, under its workplan the TEC took forward dedicated activities on *Innovative*

Ocean Climate Solutions, and strengthened partnerships, alongside producing a number of knowledge products (See *Table 3*). Continued integration and ocean-related activities will be valuable going forward, in addition to collaboration across the UNFCCC.

Table 3: Ocean-related Means of Implementation (Finance, Capacity Building, Technology)

UNFCCC Mandates for Constituted Bodies, Work Programmes, and related areas	
New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)	<p>The NCQG adopted at COP29 established a climate finance goal of at least USD 300 billion per year by 2035 for developing country Parties for climate action, with developed country Parties taking the lead (and as an extension of the \$100bn goal). This is to be from a wide variety of sources (public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources), and in the context of meaningful and ambitious mitigation and adaptation action, and transparency in implementation, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development.</p> <p>COP29 also called on all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing country Parties for climate action from all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035, and launched the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T (Decision 1/CMA.6), under the guidance of the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies to produce a report summarizing the work to scaling up climate finance by CMA 7 (COP30).</p>
The Financial Mechanism Convention	<p>The Financial Mechanism was established to facilitate the provision of financial resources for developing country Parties. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism since the Convention's entry into force in 1994. At COP 16 (2010) the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established. In addition, there exist two special funds – the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), both managed by the GEF—and the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001.</p> <p>The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)³⁴, established in 2022 (Decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4), set new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change including extreme weather events and slow onset events, in responding to loss and damage. Currently, in the start-up phase (July-December 2025), the focus is on developing the required policy frameworks, processes, and systems to operationalize the fund, including developing a results management framework, a monitoring and evaluation plan, an operational manual, and a resource mobilization strategy³⁵.</p>

34 See UNFCCC webpage: [Fund for responding to Loss and Damage](#)

35 See UNFCCC (2025) FRLD [Workplan and administrative budget for 1 July to 31 December 2025](#)

Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)³⁶

At COP 16 in 2010, the **Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)** was established to assist the COP in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism of the Convention, through improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate finance; assisting the rationalization of the financial mechanism; supporting the mobilization of climate finance; and supporting the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of support provided to developing country Parties.

The Committee organizes an annual forum on climate finance, provides draft guidance for the operating entities, provides expert input into periodic reviews of the financial mechanism and prepares a biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, alongside improving coordination across climate finance actors within and outside of the Convention (decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 11, including through the appointment of focal points)³⁷.

The SCF's 2021-22 Forum focused on 'Finance for Nature-based Solutions', where submissions highlighted various coastal and ocean-based activities and the need to scale-up support³⁸.

The SCF's 2025 Forum will focus on **accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture** (including linkages with sectoral issues such as fisheries), and over 2025 the SCF will be **drafting guidance to the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism** (including, for the first time, guidance for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage)³⁹. The **SCF's 2026 Forum will focus on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean**. And over 2026, for COP31, the SCF will produce its next *Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows*, and *Progress Report on the USD 100 billion per year goal*. In 2028 the SCF will begin reporting on the NCQG and produce the *Third Determination of Needs Report*.

Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB)⁴⁰

Paris Agreement

One of many established capacity building initiatives under the Convention⁴¹, the PCCB, established at COP21 (1/CP.21), addresses current and emerging gaps and needs in implementing and enhancing capacity-building in developing countries, including coherence and coordination⁴².

The PCCB fosters collaboration between actors (local, national, regional and global), strengthening networks and partnerships to enhance synergies and promote knowledge- and experience-sharing, and facilitates access to information for enhancing climate action in developing countries.

The PCCB annually focuses on a more specific topic or theme, with a focus in 2025 on *Capacity-building for holistic investment strategies, bankable projects, and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in developing countries*⁴³, to support mobilizing and scaling finance; enhance skills and knowledge for accessing finance; and strengthening institutional capacities.

36 See UNFCCC webpage: [Standing Committee on Finance \(SCF\)](#)

37 See UNFCCC (2025) [Background paper on mandates from COP 29 and CMA 6 and updated workplan of the SCF for 2025](#)

38 UNFCCC (2021), [Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance for Nature based Solutions - Synthesis paper by the secretariat](#)

39 See UNFCCC (2025) SCF [Background paper on draft guidance to the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism](#)

40 See UNFCCC webpage: [Paris Committee on Capacity-building \(PCCB\)](#)

41 See webpage: [Capacity-building Initiatives for Climate Action](#) and [2025 Compilation and synthesis report](#)

42 See PCCB Working Group 1: coherence and coordination on capacity-building under and outside the convention.

43 See UNFCCC webpage: [PCCB Focus Area 2025](#)

Technology Mechanism⁴⁴

Cancun

In 2010, the COP established the **Technology Mechanism** to accelerate and enhance climate technology development and transfer through two complementary bodies:

The **Technology Executive Committee (TEC)**⁴⁵ acts as the policy-arm of the mechanism, to provide recommendations to COP to support country efforts to enhance climate technology development and transfer. It holds climate technology events that support efforts to address key technology policy issues and produces policy briefs and other technical documents to enhance information sharing.

Under its rolling workplan⁴⁶, on 'Transformative and innovative solutions' (Workstream 3), sectoral focuses related to ocean-based measures include Water-Energy-Food systems; Transformative industry; and Nature and ecosystems, alongside a focus on collaboration and engagement with UNFCCC processes and CBs, and other UN agencies (Workstream 4).

The TEC has actively integrated ocean action into its past workplans and reported into the Ocean Dialogue (e.g. UNFCCC 2024a,b.) including activity on *Innovative Ocean Climate Solutions*, advancing collaborations IUCN, ICO and GEO on early warning systems, and producing ocean-related knowledge products⁴⁷. In 2023, the TEC provided key messages and recommendations to COP and CMA on innovative technologies and integrated adaptation solutions in ocean and coastal zones⁴⁸.

The **Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)**⁴⁹, hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), acts as the implementation-arm of the mechanism, to accelerate the development and transfer of technologies through: Providing technical assistance; Creating access to information and knowledge on climate technologies; Fostering collaboration among climate technology stakeholders through its network of has a network of national, regional, sectoral, and international organizations.

44 See UNFCCC webpage: [Technology Mechanism](#)

45 See UNFCCC webpage: [Technology Executive Committee \(TEC\)](#)

46 See [Rolling workplan of the Technology Executive Committee for 2023–2027](#)

47 See for example the 2022 TEC Policy Brief "Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation: Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solution" and 2022 [Joint WIM ExCom/TEC policy brief - Technologies for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones](#)

48 See UNFCCC (2023) [Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network for 2023](#), Section D.2.

49 See UNFCCC webpage: [Climate Technology Centre and Network \(CTCN\)](#)

Options for advancing Ocean-related Support

The following targeted options illustrate approaches for Party and Non-Party stakeholders to advance the integration and strengthening of ocean action within intersessional work of relevant CBs and WPs.

A. FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Suggest the SCF appoints an ocean focal point⁵⁰** to consider the nexus of ocean-climate finance across SCF activities, including within future SCF Biennial Assessments and Progress reports on \$100bn and the NCQG. (B4iii)
- **Suggest the PCCB appoints an ocean focal point** within its Working Group 1 on collaboration, to support synergies with ocean action across its activities. (B4iv)

B. ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC

- **Explore opportunities to advance sustainable fisheries and aquatic food systems through climate finance, under the SCF's 2025 Forum on Accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture**, drawing on insights from the 2023 Ocean Dialogue (September 2025). (D7)
- **Stimulate the mobilization of ocean finance through integrating ocean considerations into the SCF's draft guidance to Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism** (e.g. encouraging increased support to ocean-related projects under the GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund, LDCF, SCCF) (*agreed annually at COP*), through the fifth review of the Adaptation Fund (over 2026, by COP31). (D8)
- **Integrate coastal and ocean-based considerations related to loss and damage into the start-up and operationalization of the FRLD**, including through its results management framework⁵¹ (*FRLD Board meetings, second half of 2025; SCF Draft guidance, annually*). (D9)
- **Respond to the future calls for input to guide the 2026 SCF Forum on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean'** (*Expected Submissions under SCF, timing TBC*). (D10).
- **Respond to future SCF calls for evidence** on the seventh Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows, and the USD 100 billion reports (*from Sept. 2025 to June 2026*), and third National Determination Report (*in 2028*)⁵². (D11)
- **Request the PCCB review capacity gaps and needs for coastal and ocean-related adaptation, mitigation and financing**, in synergy with its focus for 2025 on *Capacity-building for holistic investment strategies... to strengthen the implementation of NDCs and NAPs*, and in line with activities to support coherence and co-ordination (*under discussions on the PCCB 2025-2029 Workplan. The "2025 focus area will be extended until July 2026, with the 2026 focus area to be decided at the tenth meeting of the PCCB in June 2026" per the outcomes report from the ninth meeting of the PCCB, June 2025*). (D12).

50 See for example current SCF focal points as agreed February 2025 ([Report of the SCF 36 – Section 8](#)) and [Background paper on linkages with constituted bodies](#) which highlights opportunity to appoint other focal points for other thematic matters.

51 For example, Ocean & Climate Platform (2024) suggest the use of ocean-based indicators and parameters to allow for a focus on loss and damage in marine and coastal environments and support for the appropriate corresponding responses.

52 As highlighted by SCF representative at the 2024 Ocean Dialogue (UNFCCC 2024b).

V. Sectoral, Thematic and Cross-cutting Topics & Engagements

The Paris Agreement recognizes the need for UNFCCC process to be based on, and supported by, the best available **scientific knowledge** – including the latest research and observations from organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The SBSTA Research and Systematic Observation agenda continues to discuss gaps and needs in relation to ocean science, and COP27 noted with concern the existing gaps in the global climate observing system, including ocean observation. Parties and relevant organizations are encouraged to strengthen ocean observations and research, including the understanding of gaps in knowledge on tipping points and incremental transformations in the climate system (UNFCCC 2022a; UNFCCC 2023a).

The UNFCCC and Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of **inclusivity**, in involving **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples**, and of involving **women** in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are inclusive and gender-responsive. Dedicated frameworks and action plans seek to support this, such as the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and Gender Action Plan (see Table 4).

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity and climate change synergies, under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 (2024), the CBD and UNFCCC Secretariats were requested to, through the Joint Liaison Group (see Table 4) identify opportunities for cooperation, including exploring a potential joint work programme of the Rio Conventions. Submissions

were invited, under CBD, by May 2025 on views on options for enhanced policy coherence⁵³, to be considered at CBD SBSTTA in October 2025.

Transparency arrangements under the UNFCCC enable the availability of regular data to assess progress (across GHG emissions, policies and measures, towards NDCs, climate change impacts and adaptation, levels of support and capacity-building needs). Transparency of climate action and support is key to building mutual trust among Parties, and where MRV can reinforce the realization of national climate goals, alongside measuring collective effort.

Overall, it is challenging to track progress on national ocean action in NDCs and NAPs, and assess ocean-related needs and support provided. Currently, ocean-based action is not explicitly reported on nor directly trackable under existing reporting guidelines (e.g. under BTRs), given it is neither a sector, nor a thematic, with explicit reporting requirements. However, reporting in specific areas is encouraged, e.g., integrated plans for coastal management are an example of information that should be provided under *Adaptation strategies, policies, plans*.

Limitations to tracking ocean action at national level also translate to limitations in providing evidence into synthesis reports and assessments, including key processes such as the Global Stocktake and SCF's Biennial Assessments and Determination of Needs, which could provide major opportunities to highlight the importance of the ocean and raise ambition for ocean action through political outcomes (UNFCCC 2023b).

Table 4: Ocean-related Sectoral, Thematic and Cross-cutting Topics and Engagements

UNFCCC MANDATES FOR CONSTITUTED BODIES, WORK PROGRAMMES, AND RELATED AREAS		
Science	Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) ⁵⁴	<p>The Convention calls on Parties to promote and cooperate in research, systematic observation, and the development of data archives. The Paris Agreement identifies the need to enhance and strengthen systematic observation, climate services and knowledge sharing (Article 7) and that systematic observation and early warning systems are areas of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action, and support (Article 8). The first GST recognizes that one third of the world does not have access to early warning and climate information services, as well as the need to enhance coordination of activities by the systematic observation community.</p> <p>The RSO convenes experts, Parties, and non-Party stakeholders under the Research Dialogue⁵⁵ and the Earth Information Day, to discuss the latest and best available science.</p>
	Cooperation with the IPCC ⁵⁶	<p>The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assesses scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information, producing comprehensive assessment reports and summaries for policymakers, widely recognized as the most credible sources of information on climate change. The IPCC has now begun its seventh assessment cycle (AR7), with the Synthesis Report due second half of 2029.</p> <p>Relevant upcoming activities include a joint GGA-SBSTA Chair-IPCC event on Adaptation in June 2025, and an IPCC Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage activities produced by the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) by end 2027. This will include an update to the 2013 Wetlands Supplement i.e. GHG inventory guidelines for blue carbon on other coastal wetland types not previously included. Discussions are ongoing on if this will include 'Direct Removal of CO2 from Waterbodies', expected to be considered at the IPCC's sixty-third meeting⁵⁷, (last quarter of 2025).</p>
Gender	Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender ⁵⁸	<p>COP 29 extended the enhanced Lima work programme on gender, and SBI62 in June 2025 will kickstart the development of new gender action plan (GAP), including through an in-session workshop for Parties and observers to discuss activities, for consideration and adoption at COP 30⁵⁹.</p>

⁵⁴ See UNFCCC webpage: [Research and Systematic Observation](#).

⁵⁵ See compendium of past Research Dialogue topics, and suggested future topics: [Contributors, themes and presentations from all meetings of the research dialogue to date1 and suggested themes for future meetings](#)

⁵⁶ See UNFCCC webpage: [Cooperation with the IPCC](#).

⁵⁷ See [IPCC Scoping of the Methodology Report on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage](#) (Draft outline, noting this was not agreed at the 62nd session. See report [IISD Summary report, 24–28 February 2025](#)).

⁵⁸ See UNFCCC webpage: [Introduction to Gender and Climate Change](#)

⁵⁹ See [Review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its GAP](#)

Communities & Indig. Peoples	Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities & Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)⁶⁰	<p>Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is a constituted body established at COP 24 (2018) to facilitate knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions towards transforming global climate policies and actions, including by weaving in concepts and terminologies that embody Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, values and worldviews, and by sharing the perspectives of local communities (Decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 6).</p> <p>The Baku Workplan of the LCIPP (2025-2027)⁶¹ includes focus on an annual thematic priority, and enhanced collaboration with constituted bodies and workstreams of the UNFCCC.</p>
Synergies	Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Convention Secretariats⁶²	<p>The Joint Liaison Group (JLG), established in 2001 between the secretariats of the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, promotes synergies in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, with a particular focus on enhancing coherence across national implementation efforts with a view to supporting integrated approaches to climate action, biodiversity conservation and land restoration. Going forward, the JLG is exploring opportunities to support countries with integrated planning and reporting under the three Conventions with a view to achieving more coherent and effective implementation thereof at the national and global level.</p>
	Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme⁶³	<p>The Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme is a collaborative initiative by the secretariats of the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It aims to strengthen capacities to enhance synergies across climate, biodiversity and sustainable management through integrated planning, policy development, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Activities include in-person training events and webinars, in addition to information briefs.</p>
Engagement	Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA)⁶⁴	<p>Global climate action is encouraged and facilitated under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA), with the support of the UN High-Level Climate Champions, brings together stakeholders working in key sectors and themes. The focus is on enabling collaboration between national governments and non-Party stakeholders such as cities, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society including youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities to enhanced climate ambition and inspire greater action on climate change. The 2030 Breakthroughs are a key tool established to set targets and milestones towards collaborative efforts⁶⁵.</p> <p>The MPGCA on Ocean and Coastal Zones has established the Ocean Breakthroughs⁶⁶, which act as a blueprint to fast-track action and investments in five key sectors: marine conservation, aquatic food, shipping, renewable energy, and coastal tourism, for the benefit of Climate, Nature and People.</p>

60 See UNFCCC webpages: [The Facilitative Working Group | Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#)
61 See [Baku Workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#)
62 See UNFCCC webpage: [The Joint Liaison Group](#); See CBD webpage: [Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions](#)
63 See UNFCCC webpage: [Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme](#)
64 See UNFCCC webpage: [Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action](#)
65 See Climate Champions webpage: [Breakthroughs](#)
66 See webpage: [Ocean & Climate Platform - Launch of the Ocean Breakthroughs](#)

Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)⁶⁷

Paris Agreement, Article 13

The Paris Agreement established a new universal reporting instrument – the **enhanced transparency framework** (Article 13) to promote effective implementation. COP24 agreed modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs)⁶⁸, to operationalize the ETF, including guiding principles and defining the reporting information to be provided by all parties (i.e. on GHG inventories, progress towards NDCs, policies and measures, climate impacts and adaptation, levels of support and needs), the technical expert review, transitional arrangements, and a facilitative multilateral consideration of progress. Parties are required to submit biennial transparency reports (BTRs) that provide information on climate change action and support provided and received by end of 2024 (with SIDS and LDCs to submit BTRs at their discretion).

Subsequent COP decisions have invited further work and collaborations to enhance transparency and reporting, including for example related to Adaptation.

⁶⁷ See UNFCCC webpage: [Transparency](#)

⁶⁸ See [Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement](#)



Cross-Cutting Options

The following options are for Party and Non-Party stakeholders to advance the integration and strengthening of ocean action through enhancing engagement, and greater transparency in reporting.

A. FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

- **Encourage greater ocean representation across the UNFCCC's expert panels and expert rosters**, including for example the WIMs Roster of Experts⁶⁹, and Article 6.4 Methodological Expert Panel. (B10)

B. IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING ON OCEAN ACTION AND TRACK PROGRESS ACROSS THE UNFCCC

- **Encourage Parties to highlight ocean-based actions in their national reporting**, for example under NDCs, NAPs and Biennial Transparency Reports, as appropriate, to enhance the tracking of national ocean-based actions, support provided (across finance, capacity building and technology transfer), and identification of needs. (C3)
- **Develop voluntary conventions and reporting guidelines to support reporting on ocean action** (e.g. use of common definitions, taxonomies, keywords and subsections⁷⁰) in line with existing reporting and proportionality, to support robust aggregation of information and consistent tracking overtime, and to inform the Second GST and third Determination of Needs reports (due in 2028). (C4)

C. ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC

- **Engage with the SBSTA Research Dialogue to integrate ocean considerations** into discourse on scientific advances, research gaps and needs. Note draft conclusions for COP30 to request the SBSTA Chair prepare an information note mapping how research gaps are being addressed by the scientific community, for presentation at the 18th Research Dialogue, June 2026. Parties and relevant organizations are expected to be invited to submit views on possible themes for the research dialogue (*Decision COP30, Submissions by March 2026*). (D13)
- **Note the forthcoming 2027 IPCC Methodological Report** expected to include updated wetlands guidance, and the need to accelerate nature-based solutions (D14).
- **Acknowledge, including under the IPCC AR7, consideration of the precautionary principle**, environmental and governance safeguards with respect to nascent marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) solutions⁷¹. (D15)
- **Submit views on ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and how these should be considered under a proposed joint work programme for the Rio Conventions**, to SBSTA, in context of the agenda item on 'cooperation with other international organizations' (*By September 2025*). (D16)

⁶⁹ See suggestion from Conservation International & IUCN (2023).

⁷⁰ For example, Conservation International & IUCN (2023), suggest options and guidance for BTR reporting on ocean and coastal ecosystems, whilst recognizing this is not mandatory; Ocean & Climate Platform (2024) suggest establishing a common understanding of ocean-related climate finance, and develop a common methodology for tracking.

⁷¹ Noting the outline/focus of the 2027 Report is still to be agreed under the IPCC with respect to the inclusion of 'Direct Removal of CO₂ from Waterbodies. Alkalinity Enhancement of Waterbodies', and in context of concerns, as highlighted by Rochette et al (2024), [Plymouth Marine Laboratory](#) (2023) and wider views as captured by [UNFCCC Information note: Summary of the views submitted by Parties and observers on activities involving removals](#).

VI. Charting a Course to COP31

Greater ambition, and political leadership to galvanize greater ambition, is a key lever to enhancing the integration and strengthening of ocean action across the UNFCCC, and where momentum needs to be built across key moments to COP31.

Recognizing the convening power of the Ocean Dialogue, and in the spirit of the Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators' vision for action, suggestions are made for topics for the 2026 Ocean Dialogue, to focus on emerging and pertinent topics under the negotiations and towards a Pacific COP31.

Figure 3 presents key moments for enhancing ocean action across the UNFCCC's 2025-26 calendar, and charts a course to build momentum to COP31, where:

- Continuous efforts are called for towards enhancing ambition and the strengthening of national ocean-climate action and implementation, through the integration of ocean into NDCs, NAPs and across support provided.
- Raising ambition through existing leadership moments is integral to integrating and strengthening ocean action, including through the Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C and Roadmap to 1.3T. To this end, an Ocean Ministerial is also suggested for COP30 & 31.
- Targeted actions are required over 2025 to integrate and strengthen ocean action within work areas and activities of CBs and WPs, such as the GGA indicators; and where all representatives can champion the integration of ocean action alongside empowering ocean focal points to facilitate greater coherence and collaboration.
- Ocean action could be significantly advanced over 2026 through reinvigorating the NWP Expert Group on Oceans; bringing together under the Ocean Dialogue key activities and discussions on adaptation and resilience, capacity building and access to finance; and diving deep into the ocean-climate finance nexus.
- The annual Ocean Dialogues should serve to provide greater transparency and report on progress in integrating and strengthening ocean action across the UNFCCC, including through informal reports to COP. The Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators could undertake a 5-year Review of Progress, reporting to COP31, to guide future recommendations.
- Looking beyond 2025-26, efforts now to lay the foundation for improved reporting and tracking of national ocean-climate actions will be key to providing evidence and secure greater consideration of the ocean in major future processes, such as the Second GST and Third Determination of Needs Report.



Options to Raise Ambition

The following options focus on opportunities, in synergy with existing high-level initiatives and the vision of the Ocean Dialogue, to build momentum for raised ambition and to elevate the political profile of the ocean under the UNFCCC, charting a course to COP31.

A. RAISE AMBITION FOR OCEAN ACTION

- **Elevate ambition for ocean action through the Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C and Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T**, spotlighting the significant potential of ocean-based climate solutions to enhance international co-operation and NDC ambition, and mobilize funds and alignment of finance flows towards ocean action (*Roadmap to 1.3Tn – draft expected September, final report October; Key moments at COP30*). (E1)
- **Consider a focused topic for the 2026 Ocean Dialogue on adaptation and resilience, towards the effective future implementation of the UAE Framework**, drawing on reinvigorated NWP activities and in synergy with the AC and finalized GGA indicators, to explore collaborative opportunities to identify and address coastal and ocean-related needs within CBs and WPs (*for consideration early 2026*). (E2)
- **Consider a deep dive into ocean finance at the 2026 Ocean Dialogue** to inform future SCF draft guidance to the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism, and fifth review of the Adaptation Fund (*over 2026, by COP31*), towards scaling-up and improving access to ocean-related climate finance. (E3)
- **Undertake a 5-year review of progress towards integrating and strengthening ocean action**, to inform future recommendations to guide effective implementation of Decision 1/CP.26, Para 60. **Suggest COP30 to invite the Co-facilitators of the Ocean Dialogue to report to COP31 on progress since 2021** (*aligned with tracking progress, C1 & C2*), with a view to providing future recommendations to CBs and WPs towards strengthening ocean action within their existing mandates and workplans and informing the second GST. (E4)
- **COP31 Presidency and Ocean Leaders (i.e. convened under Friends of the Ocean and Climate) to host High-level Ministerial to raise ambition for the ocean at COP31**, focusing on adaptation, capacity building and finance, given the nexus of relevant activities, and reflecting on 5-years of progress since the Glasgow Climate Pact's ocean outcomes, and the vision for the next 5-years. (E5)



VII. Next Steps

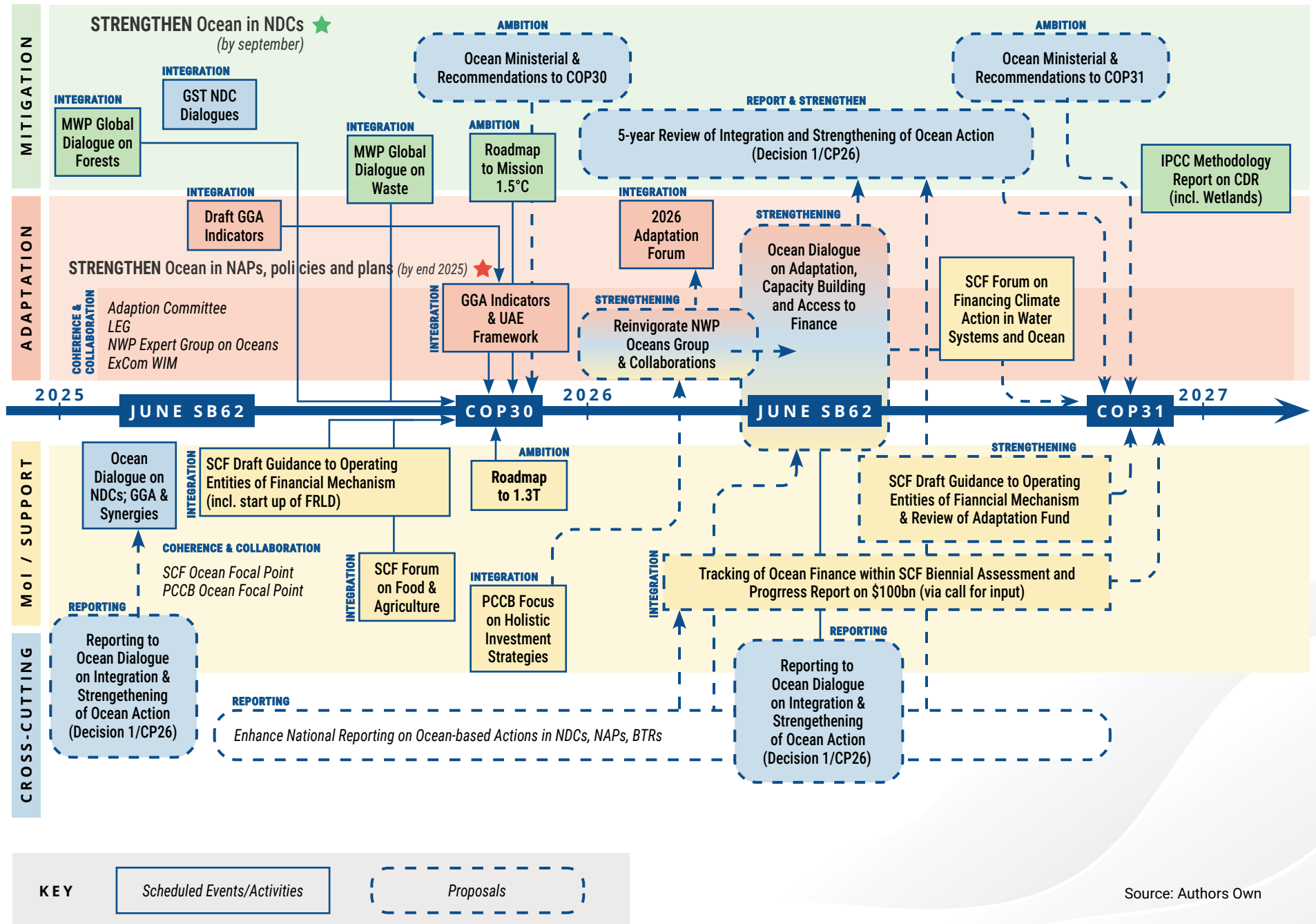
This paper takes a strategic, detailed, and pragmatic approach to the identification of opportunities and synergies to advance ocean-climate action across UNFCCC processes, to inform the ocean and climate community, and for consideration by Party and non-Party stakeholders.

The illustrative options for integrating and strengthening ocean-based action include specific and actionable suggestions to: accelerate national action and implementation; enhance existing systems; align with existing workplans and activities within CBs and WPs; and chart a course to COP31, building momentum across key moments in 2025-26. Critical next steps will require identifying priorities and determining how best to take these forward.

Advancing such options requires both Party delegates and NGOs alike to champion greater ocean action, through enhanced engagement across the UNFCCC, in particular with intersessional work. Recognizing the range of engagement opportunities and capacity constraints, collaborative working to identify points of consensus, collective priorities, and to coordinate the championing of ocean action will be vital to success, and where groups such as Friends of the Ocean and Climate may play an invaluable role.



Figure 3: Charting a Course to COP31



Annex

Summary of Options

THEMATIC

Mitigation

Adaptation & Resilience

Means of Implementation

Cross-cutting & Sectoral Engagement

Transparency & Reporting

Options for integrating and strengthening ocean-based action within the UNFCCC's existing mandates and workplans (implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact, Decision 1/Para 60).

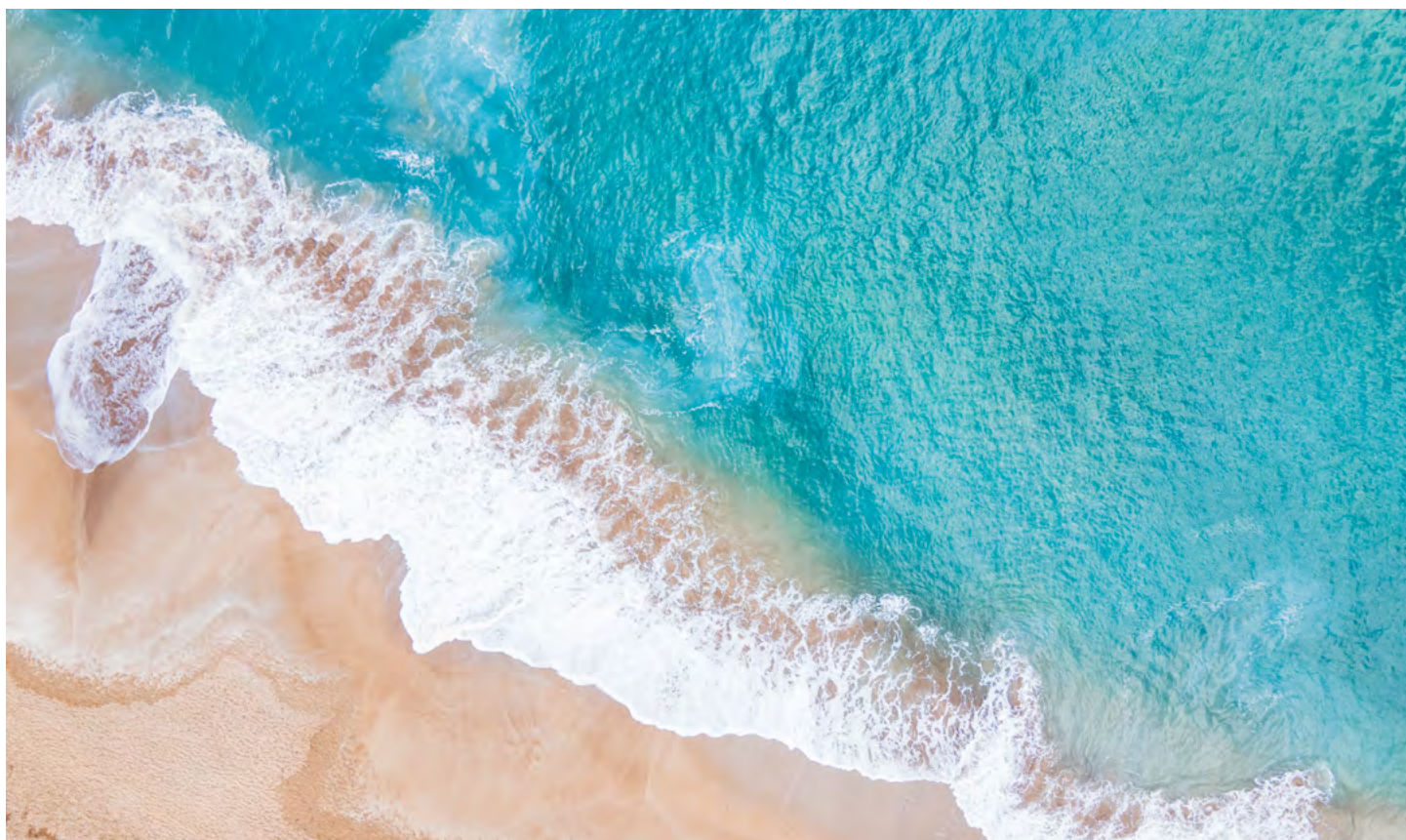
No.	Grouping	Timing	Theme
A	SCALE-UP AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN-BASED ACTION IN NATIONAL CLIMATE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION		
A1	Parties are encouraged to urgently scale-up and strengthen ocean-based action and implementation , including through utilizing the Ocean Dialogue to drive forward focused and impactful action	<i>Continuous & Annual Ocean Dialogues (June)</i>	
A1i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Parties to integrate ocean-based strategies and actions into their updated NDCs 	<i>By Sept. 2025 & Continuous</i>	
A1ii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Parties to integrate and strengthen coastal and ocean-based actions into their national adaptation plans, policies, and planning 	<i>By 2025 & Continuous</i>	
B	FACILITATE COHERENCE, COLLABORATION & COORDINATION TO INTEGRATE AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION		
B1	Focus future Ocean Dialogue topics towards advancing integration and strengthening of ocean action <u>within</u> the UNFCCC and consider a three-to-five-year roadmap to guide future Ocean Dialogues	<i>Annual (Pre-June)</i>	
B2	Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators to spearhead coordination and stimulate collaborative ocean action through attending priority CB and WP meetings	<i>Continuous</i>	
B2i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean Dialogue Co-facilitators to strengthen coordination with the Adaptation Committee (and LEG) 	<i>Continuous</i>	
B3	Ocean representatives to champion coherence, collaboration and coordination towards ocean action under the UNFCCC	<i>Continuous</i>	
B4	Establish Ocean Focal Points within CBs and WPs to enhance coordination and coherence towards integrating and strengthening ocean action within the UNFCCC	<i>Continuous</i>	
B4i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest the AC appoints an ocean focal point 	<i>Next AC Meeting, Sept. 2025</i>	
B4ii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest the WIM ExCom appoints a thematic ocean focal point 	<i>WIM ExCom, Sept. 2025</i>	
B4iii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest the SCF appoints an ocean focal point 	<i>SCF, Sept. 2025</i>	
B4iv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest the PCCB appoints an ocean focal point 	<i>PCCB Nov 2025</i>	
B5	Encourage greater ocean representation across the UNFCCC's expert panels and expert rosters	<i>Continuous</i>	

C	IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY IN REPORTING ON OCEAN ACTION AND TRACK PROGRESS ACROSS THE UNFCCC		
C1	Invite annual reporting and updates on ocean-related activities across all relevant CBs and WPs to systematically inform the annual Ocean Dialogue (via Information Notes)	<i>Annual (Pre-June)</i>	
C2	Transparently report and track progress on the integration and strengthening of ocean action through the Ocean Dialogue (via Informal Summary Reports)	<i>Annual (Post-June)</i>	
C3	Encourage Parties to highlight ocean-based actions in their national reporting , to track national action, support and needs	<i>Continuous</i>	
C4	Develop voluntary conventions and reporting guidelines to support reporting on ocean action	<i>Continuous</i>	

D	ENHANCE INTEGRATION AND STRENGTHEN OCEAN ACTION WITHIN THE UNFCCC		
D1	Advance ocean-based mitigation action through exploring opportunities under the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) Global Dialogues and Investment-focused Events	<i>Waste (sub July, 5-6th Sept); 2026 topics (sub start '26)</i>	
D2	Engage with GST annual dialogues in sharing knowledge and best practice on integrating ocean actions into NDCs and implementation	<i>Annually, June</i>	
D3	Ensure the best available ocean science and expertise contributes to the development of cooperative approaches and new credit mechanisms , including the forthcoming guidance and concepts under the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body & Methodological Expert Panel.	<i>Call for Inputs, June 2025</i>	
D4	Ensure ocean-considerations are integrated into the new Global Goal for Adaptation indicators under development by the UAE-Belen Work Programme	<i>Workshops Sept/Oct; Decision COP30</i>	
D5	Reinvigorate the NWP Thematic Expert Group on Oceans to take stock of coastal and ocean-based adaptation and resilience needs	<i>Continuous</i>	
D6	Advocate for the AC to prioritize a thematic dialogue in 2026 on coastal and ocean-based adaptation , and integrate ocean-considerations into the 2026 Adaptation Forum	<i>AC, Sept. 2025</i>	
D7	Explore opportunities to advance financing sustainable fisheries and aquatic food systems at the SCF's 2025 Forum	<i>September 2025</i>	
D8	Stimulate the mobilization of ocean finance through integrating ocean considerations into the SCF's draft guidance to Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism, & review of the Adaptation Fund	<i>Subs July 2025; Next SCF Sept, annually at COP</i>	
D9	Integrate coastal and ocean-based considerations related to loss and damage into the start-up and operationalization of the FRLD	<i>FRLD Board, Q3-4 2025; & SCF</i>	
D10	Respond to the future calls for input to guide the 2026 SCF Forum on 'Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean'	<i>Under SCF, Subs TBC</i>	
D11	Respond to future SCF calls for evidence on the seventh Biennial Assessment and the USD 100 billion reports	<i>Under SCF, Sept. 2025 – June 2026</i>	
D12	Request the PCCB review capacity gaps and needs for coastal and ocean-related adaptation, mitigation and financing	<i>PCCB, June 2025</i>	

D13	Engage with the SBSTA Research Dialogue , on scientific advances, research gaps and needs, and suggesting future topics	<i>Annually, June, Sub March 2026</i>	
D14	Note the forthcoming 2027 IPCC Methodological Report including updated wetlands guidance	<i>2027</i>	
D15	Acknowledge, including under the IPCC AR7, consideration of the precautionary principle with respect to nascent mCDR solutions	<i>Continuous</i>	
D16	Submit views on ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and proposed joint work programme for the Rio Conventions	<i>September 2025</i>	

E	RAISE AMBITION FOR OCEAN ACTION		
E1	Elevate ambition for ocean action through the Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C and Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T	<i>2025, COP30</i>	
E2	Consider a focused topic for the 2026 Ocean Dialogue on adaptation and resilience	<i>Start 2026</i>	
E3	Consider a deep dive into ocean finance at the 2026 Ocean Dialogue , in complement with the SCF 2026 Forum.	<i>Start 2026</i>	
E4	Undertake a 5-year review of progress towards integrating and strengthening ocean action , suggest COP30 to invite the Co-facilitators of the Ocean Dialogue to report to COP31	<i>Decision COP30</i>	
E5	COP30 & 31 Presidencies and Ocean Leaders to host High-level Ministerial to raise ambition for the ocean at COP30 & 31	<i>COP30 & COP31</i>	



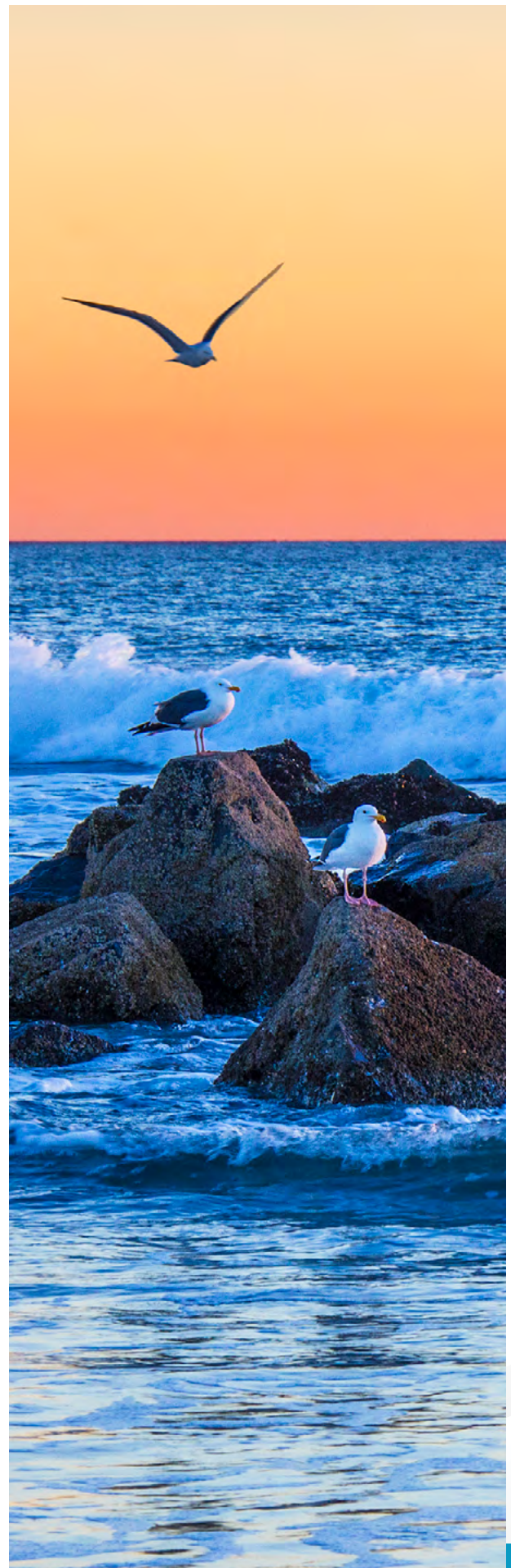


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