

# Oceans Day at the UNFCCC COP 21 Paris

December 4, 2015, Rio Conventions  
Pavilion, Le Bourget



## BACKGROUND

The Global Ocean Forum, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO, the Ocean and Climate Platform, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, and the University of Delaware, together with the organizers and co-organizers noted in Box 1 (p.2), are organizing **the Oceans Day at COP 21 in Paris**. The purpose of the Oceans Day is to advance the oceans and climate change agenda at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 21) and beyond. In cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, **the Oceans Day at COP 21 is expected to be held in the Rio Conventions Pavilion (in the Civil Society Zone) at the UNFCCC COP 21 on Friday, December 4, 2015** (date subject to confirmation by the COP 21 Secretariat). The Rio Pavilion is a joint effort of the CBD, the UNFCCC, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Other thematic days will also take place in the Rio Pavilion. The venue is expected to accommodate 350 people.

The Oceans Day at COP 21 builds on **previous UNFCCC Oceans Days**--Oceans Day in Copenhagen (UNFCCC COP 15, 2009); Oceans Day in Cancun (UNFCCC COP 16, 2010), and Oceans Day in Durban (UNFCCC COP 17, 2011)--as well as on the Oceans Day at Rio+20, and the outcome of the **World Ocean Day (8 June 2015) organized by IOC/UNESCO and the Ocean and Climate Platform 2015 held at UNESCO in Paris**. This international event, attended by more than 1000 participants representing IGOs, NGOs, the research community, the private sector and high level country representatives (including several heads of state), concluded with the adoption of the Ocean Call for the Climate from the Ocean and Climate Platform with a view to mobilizing the international community on the essential role of a healthy ocean for adapting and mitigating present and future climate change.

## Rationale

Climate change is the most important issue of our time. Oceans and climate are intertwined, with oceans driving climate and climate change affecting ocean health and coastal and island peoples. Oceans cycle over 93% of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, produce 50% of the oxygen we breathe, store 50% of all naturally sequestered carbon, and absorb 90% of the heat added to the global system in the past 200 years. The resulting effects of climate change on oceans will impact all world inhabitants, whether from a developing or developed State or from a coastal or landlocked State. The oceans are critical as a food source and play a major role

in global trade (oceans support 90% of the global trade via shipping). Oceans, seas, and coastal areas are experiencing an increased frequency and intensity of climate extremes, including stronger hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones. Changes in ocean chemistry and temperature are causing ocean acidification, sea level rise, and fluctuations in ocean circulation and salinity. Coastal populations and small island developing States (SIDS) and other island jurisdictions will be most affected by climate change and typically have insufficient resources to combat these changes.

The global oceans community supports and urges States Parties and observers to the UNFCCC climate negotiations to reach an ambitious legally binding agreement at the COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 adopting stringent and immediate reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This is essential to ensure the continuing functioning of the oceans in sustaining life on earth, and to avoid disastrous consequences on oceans and on coastal and SIDS communities around the world.

## Who Will be Involved in the Oceans Day at COP 21?

High-level leaders from governments (from developing, SIDS, and developing countries), international organizations, regional organizations, and civil society, will be featured in all the panels.

Confirmed high-level speakers as of September 9, 2015 are noted in Box 2 (p. 4).

## Purpose

The Oceans Day at COP 21 will advance the climate and ocean agenda at COP 21 and beyond. The major objectives are to:

- Highlight the major climate and oceans issues, with emphasis on the impacts on the most vulnerable peoples and ecosystems, and suggest next steps, both within and outside the UNFCCC framework
- Foster political leadership and move forward on the major climate and oceans solutions with the engagement of high-level leaders around the world

- Catalyze and share solutions as part of the global portfolio of actions
- Consider and move forward on a five-year strategic plan on oceans and climate to guide policy and action

## Format of the Meeting

The Oceans Day will be one-day in duration—Friday, December 4, 2015, from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in plenary. About 350 people can be accommodated, with preference given to UNFCCC Parties and Observer Organizations. Registration for the Oceans Day at COP 21 will be opened on October 1, 2015. Participants must be registered by November 24, 2015.

## Box 1. Oceans Day at COP 21 Organizers and Co-Organizers

### ORGANIZERS



Global Ocean Forum



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission/  
UNESCO



Ocean and Climate Platform



Ocean Policy Research  
Institute, Sasakawa Peace  
Foundation, Japan



University of Delaware, Gerard  
J. Mangone Center for Marine  
Policy

### CO-ORGANIZERS

#### Governments



Government of Grenada,  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs



Government of  
Indonesia, Ministry  
of Marine Affairs and  
Fisheries



Government of Portugal,  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Ministry of  
Agriculture and Sea, and  
Portuguese Trade and  
Investment Agency



Government of  
Seychelles, Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



Government of South  
Africa, Ministry of  
Environmental Affairs  
and Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs



Government Offices of Sweden

Government of Sweden,  
Ministry of Environment

#### Intergovernmental/International Organizations



Global Environment  
Facility



Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
Secretariat



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



GEF/UNDP/UNEP African  
Large Marine Ecosystem  
Projects



International Atomic  
Energy Agency



Pacific Islands  
Forum Secretariat



Secretariat of the  
Pacific Community



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



World Bank



World Meteorological  
Organization

High-level speakers will be included in the program throughout the day, in all the panels.

## Exhibits/Materials

Relevant organizations are invited to contribute exhibits or other materials related to the major themes of the Oceans Day at COP 21. Please contact Ms. Erica Wales at ewales@udel.edu



### Box 1. Oceans Day at COP 21 Organizers and Co-Organizers, continued.

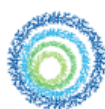
#### Non-Governmental Organizations/Foundations (National/International)



Coastal & Marine Union  
(EUCC)



Forum do Mar, Brazil



Global Island  
Partnership



Institute for Sustainable  
Development and  
International Relations  
(IDDRI, France)



Institut Océano-  
graphique, Fondation  
Albert I<sup>er</sup>, Prince de  
Monaco



International Union  
for Conservation of  
Nature (IUCN)



Partnership for Climate,  
Fisheries, and  
Aquaculture



Prince Albert II of  
Monaco Foundation



The Nature Conservancy



World Ocean Network



World Ocean Observatory



World Wildlife Fund

#### Academic/Scientific Institutions



Center for Coastal  
Studies, Provincetown,  
Mass., USA



Centre National de la  
Recherche Scientifique,  
France



Duke University,  
Nicholas Institute for  
Environmental Policy  
Solutions



Global Change  
Institute, University of  
Queensland



Instituto Politécnico  
Nacional, Mexico



Monmouth University,  
Urban Coast Institute



Plymouth Marine  
Laboratory



Turkish Marine Research  
Foundation



Scripps Institution of  
Oceanography,  
University of California  
San Diego



Tara Expeditions



## Box 2. Confirmed High-Level Speakers

(as of 9/9/15)



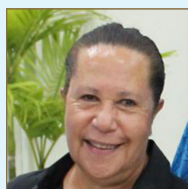
**H.S.H Prince Albert II,**  
Sovereign Prince of Monaco



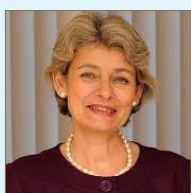
**Ms. Paula Caballero,**  
Senior Director, Environment and  
Natural Resources Global Practice,  
World Bank



**H.E. Minister Ségolène Royal,**  
Minister of Ecology, Sustainable  
Development and Energy, France



**Dame Meg Taylor,**  
Secretary-General, Pacific Islands  
Forum Secretariat



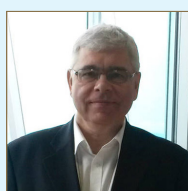
**Dr. Irina Bokova,**  
Director-General, United  
Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural  
Organization (UNESCO)



**Dr. Hashali Hamukuaya,**  
Executive Secretary, Benguela Cur-  
rent Commission, GEF/UNDP/UNEP  
African Large Marine Ecosystem  
Projects



**Mr. Ronald Jumeau,**  
Ambassador for Climate  
Change and Small Island  
Developing State Issues,  
Seychelles



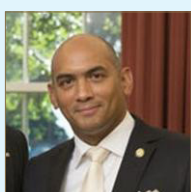
**Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin,**  
Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO



**Mr. Luke Daunivalu,**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Fiji, Member, SIDS, UNFCCC  
Adaptation Committee



**Dr. Colin Tukuitonga,**  
Director General, Secretariat of  
the Pacific Community (SPC)



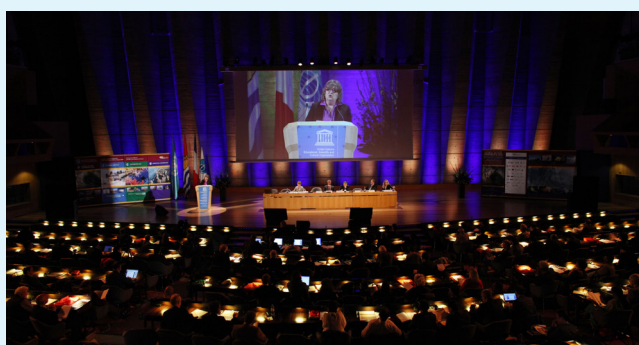
**Dr. Angus Friday,**  
Ambassador to the United  
States, Grenada



**Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza  
Dias,** Executive Secretary,  
Convention on Biological  
Diversity Secretariat



**Mr. Karmenu Vella,**  
Commissioner on Environment,  
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,  
European Commission



## Draft Program and Panels for Oceans Day at COP 21, December 4, 2015

For each of the major climate and oceans topics, speakers are asked to:

- 1) Evaluate where we are on the issue (status of the issue)
- 2) Note what opportunities are available within and outside the UNFCCC to move forward on the issue
- 3) Define the next steps on each issue, both within and outside the UNFCCC
- 4) Showcase examples of successful policy measures or experiences in specific cases

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### 9:00-10:15 AM

#### Panel 1. Setting the Stage: The Climate and Oceans Context—Challenges and Opportunities

*High-level leaders present the imperative of recognizing, and acting on, the central role of oceans in planetary survival and in human economic and social well-being, in the global context of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Oceans and Seas, the 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and other developments in the global agenda.*

Leaders speak about the problems as well as the opportunities that lie ahead such as Blue Economy approaches emphasizing renewable energy.

The policy brief summarizing findings by the international working group to develop a strategic five-year action plan on oceans and climate is presented.

This panel will also feature presentation of the major findings emanating from the June 8, 2015 World Ocean Day and the Ocean Call for the Climate (organized by the IOC/UNESCO, the Ocean and Climate Platform, and other sponsors), and from the Ocean and Climate Forum (organized by the Ocean and Climate Platform to be held on December 3, 2015 in the Civil Society zone (date TBC)).

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### 10:15-10:30 COFFEE BREAK

### 10:30-11:45 AM

#### Panel 2. Addressing the Effects of Climate Change on Oceans and on Coastal and SIDS Populations: The Scientific Evidence, Scenarios, and Choices for Decisionmakers

*The challenges oceans and coastal and SIDS populations are facing due to climate change, including choices for decisionmakers, are highlighted, featuring leaders and noted natural and social scientists.*

The environment/people issues, challenges, and opportunities, are illustrated, using some salient examples:

- Fisheries and food security
- Responses to ocean warming and acidification
- Blue Economy approaches

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### 11:45 AM-1:00 PM

#### Panel 3. Mitigation and Financing for Mitigation

*Leaders address how to accelerate mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and evaluate, accelerate, and finance promising mitigation efforts relevant to the oceans, coastal areas, and SIDS and other island jurisdictions.*

- Achieve stringent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to avoid disastrous consequences on coastal communities, marine ecosystems, and ocean chemistry;
- Accelerate efforts to reduce emissions from marine industries, including efforts by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and others;
- Conserve and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems (e.g., mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes) as major carbon sinks, and further integrate the management of the coastal carbon ecosystems (Coastal Blue Carbon) into the policy and financing processes of the UNFCCC as a major tool for climate change mitigation;
- Sustainably develop ocean-based renewable energy (such as offshore wind power, wave energy, tidal power, and aquatic biofuels); and accelerate efforts to implement these approaches through integrated marine planning and enhanced regulatory frameworks;
- Consider, and, if appropriate, further develop regulatory systems for carbon capture and storage using the oceans.

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### 1:00-2:00 LUNCH

### 2:00-3:15 PM

#### Panel 4. Adaptation and Financing for Adaptation

*Leaders address how to ensure successful adaptation efforts, at what costs, and with what financing.*

- Carry out detailed and comprehensive assessments of the costs of adaptation in coastal countries and in SIDS to inform planning and implementation of adaptation programs. Existing estimates of the costs of adaptation in coastal areas and SIDS underestimate the investment needed, and are fragmented and incomplete, e.g., most cost estimates for sea level rise focus on infrastructure damage but do not address saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers and the destruction of habitats that support fisheries and aquaculture;
- Implement ecosystem-based adaptation strategies through integrated coastal and ocean management institutions at national, regional, and local levels to reduce vulnerability of human settlements and build the preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacities of coastal and island communities;
- Restore coastal ecosystems to provide natural system defenses to sea level rise, storms, and flooding;
- Establish and effectively manage networks of marine protected areas to protect marine biodiversity and to enhance resilience of marine ecosystems to climate change,





with the aim of achieving the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity Target of conserving at least 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020;

- Develop and finance measures to address the issues associated with the displacement of coastal and island populations as a result of climate change.

**Financing Prospects:** Existing and projected climate financing. What kind of support will communities need to be able to adapt? How much will be going to coastal and SIDS communities? What other financing options may be needed?

- How to ensure the provision of sufficient funding to support adaptation for coastal and island communities that are at the frontline of climate change in 183 coastal countries and SIDS, e.g.: considering the creation of a special coastal adaptation fund; directing a significant portion of the current climate funds to coastal and SIDS issues; designing and implementing innovative financing solutions.

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**3:15-3:30 PM**

### **Special Address: Moving Forward on Oceans and Climate**

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**3:30-3:45 PM COFFEE BREAK**

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**3:45- 5:00 PM**

### **Panel 5. Capacity Development, Scientific Monitoring, and Public Education**

*Leaders address financing of capacity development for mitigation and adaptation measures related to oceans and coastal and SIDS communities as essential elements of success, including the building of scientific monitoring capacity, management capacity, and public education*

- Provide technical and financial assistance to SIDS and developing countries to build capacity to implement mitigation and adaptation measures, early warning systems, and disaster risk reduction, in the context of integrated coastal and marine planning and management;
- Enhance scientific capacity in all countries for marine environmental assessment, monitoring, and prediction, including the implementation of a global ocean acidification observing network as part of the global ocean observing system;

- Expand public outreach and education efforts to enhance public understanding of the ocean's role in planetary survival and in global and national well-being, of the risks posed to SIDS and coastal communities by climate change and to catalyze support for mitigation and adaptation responses, echoing the call on education and awareness-raising made by the Lima Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising (COP 20, 2014);
- Improve awareness and understanding among policy-makers, especially at the UNFCCC and other high-level decision making bodies, of the importance of oceans and climate issues and the need to take bold policy measures to avoid disastrous impacts on the world's coastal and island communities.

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**5:00-6:00 PM**

### **Panel 6. Bringing it All Together: A Five-Year Agenda for Action**

*Leaders present the way forward on the challenges and solutions, and on mobilizing the political will and the financing that will be needed to implement the solutions effectively.*

Next steps for priority oceans and climate issues, including mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity development, public education, and scientific monitoring, are outlined.

The Ocean and Climate Platform will present the collected signatures on the Ocean Call for the Climate to the assembled leaders.

### **Policy Brief and Strategic Action Plan on Oceans and Climate Issues**

An international working group, composed of participants from the organizing and co-organizing entities of Oceans Day at COP 21, is preparing a policy brief, to be available to all Oceans Day at COP 21 participants, providing information on the major oceans and climate issues and on possible courses of action for their resolution/advancement, and charting a strategic action plan for the next five years.

The end result of the Oceans Day at COP 21 will be a strategic action plan to take the oceans/climate agenda forward, within and outside of the UNFCCC, in the next five years. The plan will focus on priority oceans and climate issues, including mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity development, public education, and scientific monitoring.

### **Meeting Reports**

Arrangements will be made for reporting by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin. A summary report will be produced, including the strategic oceans/climate plan. A press conference will also be held.

## Coordination with Other Ocean Events

In addition to the Oceans Day at COP 21, the following major ocean events are planned:

- **Ocean and Climate Forum** (civil society space at COP 21) on Thursday, December 3 (*date to be confirmed by COP 21 Secretariat*), organized by the Ocean and Climate Platform
- **Speaking with the Media in collaboration with Place to B**, Saturday, December 5 (in Paris);
- **Armada for the Climate, Sunday, December 6**, Paris, on the Seine, near Le Petit and Le Grand Palais and the Pont Alexandre III, visit the Tara ship and other boats, other water-oriented activities for UNFCCC delegates
- **UNFCCC Side Event on Oceans and Climate, Monday, December 7, 2015**, organized by the Global Ocean Forum and partners

As well, the Global Ocean Forum and the Oceans and Climate Platform will put together a list of other ocean-related activities and side events taking place at COP 21 for public distribution to achieve maximum synergy among all the efforts focusing on the central role of oceans, coasts, and SIDS in the climate negotiations. To add an event to the list, please contact Dr. Miriam Balgos ([miriambalgos@globaloceans.org](mailto:miriambalgos@globaloceans.org)) and Ludovic Frere Escoffier ([secretariat@ocean-climate.org](mailto:secretariat@ocean-climate.org)).

**For more information on Oceans Day at COP 21 Paris, please contact Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain ([bilianacicansain@globaloceans.org](mailto:bilianacicansain@globaloceans.org)) or Dr. Miriam Balgos ([miriambalgos@globaloceans.org](mailto:miriambalgos@globaloceans.org)).**

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### For information on past Oceans Days, please see:

Oceans Day in Copenhagen:  
<http://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/summary.pdf>

Oceans Day in Cancun:  
[http://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/cancun\\_summary.pdf](http://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/cancun_summary.pdf)

Oceans Day in Durban:  
<http://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/gofdurbansummary-2.pdf>

## LINKAGES AMONG THE MAJOR OCEAN EVENTS AT COP 21

### OCEAN AND CLIMATE FORUM DECEMBER 3, 2015

- Scientific and technical recommendations
- Public mobilization

#### Scientific and technical recommendations

### THE OCEANS DAY AT COP 21 DECEMBER 4, 2015

- Policy emphasis, high-level decisionmakers address 5-year strategic plan on oceans and climate
- Signatures on the Ocean Call for Climate presented

#### Action plan and signature of the Ocean Call for Climate

### Speaking with the media, in collaboration with Place to B, December 5, 2015

- Summary of findings and recommendations

### ARMADA FOR THE CLIMATE, DECEMBER 6, 2015

- Hands-on education about oceans and climate for UNFCCC delegates and the public

### UNFCCC SIDE EVENT ON OCEANS AND CLIMATE, DECEMBER 7, 2015

- Presentation of findings and recommendations to UNFCCC delegates