

From Problems to Solutions: Stewarding Our Oceans between major climate change impacts and nature-based solutions to adaptation and mitigation

Wednesday, 7 June - 1:15pm – 2.30pm - Conference room 6 UNHQ

Welcoming Remarks

Karolina Skog

Minister for the Environment, Sweden (TBC)

Opening Reflections – Climate Change Impacts on the Oceans

Prof. Dan Laffoley

Marine Vice-Chair, IUCN-World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA)

Dr. Frédéric Ménard

Scientific Director, Oceans and Climate

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

will highlight the current state of knowledge on climate change impacts on the Oceans in advance of the IPCC Special Report on Oceans.

Presenting the unique role of Mangroves For the Future (MFF)

Aban Marker Kabraji

Regional Director, Asia, IUCN

will share her experience and success developing and implementing MFF

During a Quick Fire round and a following Round Table

various country representatives and project implementers

will provide a reality check on using Ecosystems-based Mitigation (coastal blue carbon) and Adaptation (EbA) solutions in coastal and marine environments, and the opportunities to achieve SDG 14 using UNFCCC process, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and

will discuss actions and partnerships towards fast-tracking implementation

This session will include representatives from the Governments of Bangladesh, Vietman, Pakistan, Mexico and French Polynesia¹ as well as representatives from the financial sector.

Moderated by: Carl Gustaf Lundin, Director, Global Marine & Polar Programme, IUCN

Concluding Remarks

Serge Segura

Ambassador of the Oceans, Government of France

¹ Names to be confirmed and updated closer to the date.

IUCN, together with Sweden and France, and in cooperation with IRD and Mangroves For the Future, is happy to invite you to our joint side event.



For those who do not hold a UN grounds pass, please RSVP with name on government-issued ID and affiliation to Evaline Cho (evaline.cho@iucn.org) by Tuesday, 30 May 2017, COB



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Side Event during UN Oceans Conference

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Background Information

The Oceans are taking the brunt of climate change impacts, they are “taking the heat” so to speak. The latest IUCN report on ocean warming finds that 93% of human-induced heat has been absorbed by the ocean since the 1970s. Warming is already affecting ecosystems from polar to tropical regions, driving entire groups of species such as plankton, jellyfish, turtles and seabirds up to 10 degrees of latitude towards the poles, causing the loss of breeding grounds for turtles and seabirds, and affecting the breeding success of marine mammals. The main findings of this report will be discussed at the Oceans and Climate Change event alongside other recent scientific findings in terms of impacts of ocean acidification and deoxygenation on the Oceans.

But while the Oceans are a clear and often unrecognized victim of climate change impacts, coastal and marine environments also have many solutions to offer - to help buy us time while countries increase their efforts to drastically cut greenhouse emissions. The restoration and protection of coastal ecosystems have proven to be an extremely effective strategy in both climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Such nature-based solutions (NBS) value nature’s capital whilst benefitting our long-term future and can be deployed to contribute not only to climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also disaster risk reduction and the safeguarding of food security. Apart from providing effective solutions to major global challenges, nature-based solutions also deliver clear biodiversity benefits in terms of diverse, well-managed and functioning ecosystems. A recent study by IUCN and partners showed that currently 28 countries include coastal wetland nature-based solutions as part of their mitigation effort under their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), while 59 countries include coastal ecosystems and the coastal zone in their adaptation strategies. Additionally, there are 151 countries worldwide which contain at least one ‘blue carbon’ ecosystem (seagrasses, saltmarshes or mangroves).

A critical opportunity presents itself. A key question for discussion at this side event, therefore, is how can we get all relevant countries to include and increase their efforts on coastal ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation in NDCs – which at the same time can help implement Agenda 2030, and in particular SDG 14 (14.2 and 14.3) as well as SDG 13?

This side event is also supported by

