

UN Ocean Conference, New York, 5-9, 2017

SIDE EVENT ON

Addressing Oceans and Climate and Building the Blue Economy: Essential to SDG 14 Implementation

June 8, 2017, 6:15 to 7:30 PM

Conference Room 1



Confirmed Participants

Co-Chairs: **H.E. Ronald Jumeau**, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations
H.E. Dr. Angus Friday, Ambassador of Grenada to the United States, Co-Chair, Blue Growth Network
Moderator Part 1. Perspectives on the Oceans and Climate Issues and the Blue Economy, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum, ROCA
Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chairperson and CEO, Global Environment Facility
H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal and Co-Facilitator, Preparatory Meeting for the UN Ocean Conference
Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Natural Disaster Management, Fiji, High-Level Champion for Climate Change Action, UNFCCC
H.E. Mr. Kees Rade, Ambassador for Sustainable Development. Government of the Netherlands
H.E. Ngedikes Olai Uludong, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to the UN

Mr. Charles Goddard, Editorial Director, Asia Pacific, Economist Intelligence Unit, The Economist
Mr. Tiago Pitta e Cunha, CEO, Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal
Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO
Dr. Keita Furukawa, Director, Ocean Research and Development Department, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
Moderator, Part 2. Recognition of Regional Leaders/Action and of ROCA Partners, Tiago Pitta e Cunha, Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal
Stuart Chape, Director, Division of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, South Pacific Regional Environmental Program
Dr. Yoshihisa Shirayama, Executive Director of JAMSTEC, Japan
Mr. Adrian Ross, Executive Director, PEMSEA
Mr. Hashali Hamaukuaya, Executive Secretary, Benguela Current Commission, Chairman, African Large Marine Ecosystems Caucus

Event Organizers



Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Grenada



Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Seychelles



Portugal



Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
Ocean Policy Research Institute

Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action-- Initial Partners



Recognition of ROCA Partners and Group Photo

Purpose of Side Event

Climate change is the most profound force affecting our lives and our children's lives and the very survival of our planet. If SDG 14 is to be fully realized, the full range of climate change impacts that especially affect 183 coastal and island nations around the world must be addressed, and the opportunities of the low carbon Blue Economy must be enabled.

The Side Event discusses approaches to addressing the effects of climate change on oceans and coasts and SIDS, and highlights experiences on Blue Economy, aiming to define future directions for scaling up of efforts through dialogue between Oceans and Climate leaders. The Side Event highlights, as well, progress being made in advancing the Oceans and Climate agenda in various multilateral fora, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, where the Oceans theme is now one of the major themes of the Global Climate Action Agenda. SDG targets addressed are noted in Box 1.

Box 1. Relevant SDG 14 and SDG 13 targets

--14.2, by 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience...

--14.3, minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification...

--14.7, by 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources...

--14 a (increase scientific knowledge...), 14b (provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets), 14c (...implementing international law...)

All SDG 13 targets

The Side Event will present the cross-cutting Voluntary Commitment for The Ocean Conference to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: **Roadmap to Oceans and Climate Action (ROCA)** which implements a Roadmap for Action on oceans and climate in the next five years, addressing six interrelated oceans and climate issue areas: **The central role of oceans in regulating climate, mitigation, adaptation and the Blue Economy, displacement, financing, and capacity development**, prepared by 37 international experts throughout 2016 and presented at the UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech. The Roadmap emphasizes the necessity of considering the six themes as an "inter-related package" for sustainable development fully addressing climate

change impacts and encouraging innovation to move toward a low carbon economy. It underscores, as well, the importance of adequate financing mechanisms to address the oceans and climate issues, and the imperative of capacity development. *See discussion of ROCA at the end of the leaflet.*

Blue Economy is a concept which should be distinguished from the more generic "ocean economy" in a number of ways. "Ocean economy" refers to any ocean-based industries, regardless of whether they are low carbon or considered sustainable for ocean ecosystems. **Low carbon Blue Economy** can safeguard social and economic prosperity obtained from the ocean economy by addressing the impacts of climate change on the oceans and seas and the attendant need for adaptation, and taking advantage of the powerful mitigation services that the oceans provide.

Moving toward a low carbon Blue Economy in the context of oceans and island and coastal nations around the world, represents a major avenue for fulfilling SDG target 14.7 and is also relevant to 14.2, 14.3, and 14a, 14b, and 14c. Blue Economy can be realized through, e.g., the development of offshore renewable energies and algae based bio fuels; clean vessels for maritime transport; aquaculture and blue biotech; sustainable fisheries. To achieve a low carbon Blue Economy, policymakers must consider the long-term health of ocean ecosystems, particularly in terms of mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Some tangible policy guidance relevant to the low carbon Blue Economy is offered by the OECD in its work on "a global green growth strategy, defined as *"fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies,"* including through, inter alia,

--enhancing efficiency in the use of resources and natural assets, and reducing waste;

--spurring innovation to simultaneously create value and help solve environmental problems;

--creating new markets by stimulating demand for green technologies, goods and services;

--boosting investor confidence through greater predictability and continuity in addressing environmental issues (*discussed in the Blue Economy section of the Roadmap, authored by Dr. John Viridin*).

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available to participants of the Side Event, sponsored by the Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

About the ROCA Initiative

The ROCA works to implement the **Strategic Action Roadmap on Oceans and Climate: 2016-2021**, first discussed at the Oceans Day at COP 21 in Paris 2015, and then prepared in detail by 37 international experts throughout 2016 and highlighted at the Oceans Action Day at COP 22 Marrakech (November 12, 2016). The Oceans Action Day at COP 22 was organized by the Governments of Morocco, the Prince Albert II Foundation of Monaco, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Ocean Forum, the Ocean and Climate Platform, as well as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, and the Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal.

The **Roadmap** presents analyses and recommendations in six major areas: Central of role of oceans in regulating climate, mitigation, adaptation and Blue Economy, displacement, financing, and capacity development, for implementation in the next 5 years.

For each of these issues, the Roadmap addresses:

- 1) the current status of the issue (and, as relevant, the science related to the issue)
- 2) the current state of play of the issue within the UNFCCC
- 3) the opportunities and pathways that may be available within the UNFCCC to advance the issue in the next five years
- 4) the opportunities and pathways that may be available outside of the UNFCCC to advance the issue
- 5) financial considerations regarding each issue

The Roadmap report features a Foreword by H.E. Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues, Republic of Seychelles; H.E. Ambassador Caleb Otto, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations; and H.E. Ambassador Angus Friday, Ambassador to the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and the Organization of American States, Embassy of Grenada, Washington DC.

Type of Partners involved: Governments, international agencies, provincial and local governments, civil society (NGOs, private sector, academic/scientific institutions)

ROCA Leadership

Global Ocean Forum * Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO * Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan * Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal

Initial Partners

Coastal Zone Canada Association * Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative * Duke University * EUCC * Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations * IUCN * Global Ocean Forum * Government of Grenada * Government of Palau * Government of Seychelles * Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO * International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification* Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan * Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal * Ocean Recovery Alliance, Hong Kong* Pacific Community * Plymouth Marine Laboratory * Scripps Institution of Oceanography * South Pacific Regional Environment Programme * The Nature Conservancy * University of Delaware * UN Environment * World Ocean Network * World Ocean Observatory *

Full report version of the Roadmap:

<https://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/strategic-action-roadmap-on-oceans-and-climate-november-2016.pdf>

Summary version of the Roadmap:

<https://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/final-roadmap-summary-nov-7-2016.pdf>

Expressions of Interest in ROCA

Expressions of interest to participate in the ROCA initiative will be considered by the ROCA leadership. Please send a note regarding your interest to Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum, bilianacicin-sain@globaloceans.org

Box 2. Side Event Organizers

Global Ocean Forum

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Grenada

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Seychelles

Oceano Azul Foundation, Portugal

Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Side Event Contact: Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Global Ocean Forum, bilianacicin-sain@globaloceans.org