



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
15th Conference of the Parties
Copenhagen, Denmark
December 7-18, 2009

Oceans Day at Copenhagen

The Importance of Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States in the Climate Regime

December 14, 2009, 8:00 to 22:00
Venue: European Environment Agency, Copenhagen





Purpose

Oceans Day provides an opportunity for Parties and Observer States, intergovernmental organizations, non-government organizations, and members of civil society to address the implications of the emerging Copenhagen agreement for oceans, coasts, and coastal communities around the globe. Oceans Day will highlight the direct link between climate change, the health of the oceans, and human well-being, as well as the need for sufficient funding to support bold mitigation and adaptation actions that will minimize climate change impacts on coastal communities and ocean resources.

Coastal communities and indigenous peoples, in both developed and developing countries, as well as in small island developing States (SIDS), are at the frontline of climate change impacts. As the global community negotiates, carbon dioxide continues to be emitted at an ever-increasing rate. The ocean, as a result, has experienced an increase in acidity, altered circulation patterns, warming, and a rise in sea level. Weather patterns and precipitation events have also changed. These changes will continue and are leading to increased “risks to global food security, economic prosperity, and the well-being of human populations” (Manado Declaration 2009). Such projected impacts heighten the urgency to develop appropriate response measures, take strong mitigation actions, and implement innovative adaptation measures. At the same time we need to continue ocean observations and impact assessments so we can adapt our actions as conditions continue to change.

Oceans Day targets an audience of negotiators, high level officials, experts, media, and interested members of the public.

Organizers

Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands
Government of Indonesia
European Environment Agency
University of Delaware Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy

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Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme
Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, UK
European Environment Agency
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Oceana
Center for Ocean Solutions
Government of Republic of Korea
Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands
Lighthouse Foundation
United Nations Environment Programme

And in collaboration with the following:

European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Global Change Institute - University of Queensland
Government of Grenada
Government of Seychelles
Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Partnership for Climate, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (comprising twenty intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations)

Plymouth Marine Laboratory/Partnership for the Observation of the Global Oceans
Principality of Monaco
Scripps Institution of Oceanography - UC San Diego
Sea Level Rise Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
United Nations Development Programme
World Ocean Network
World Ocean Observatory
WorldWildlife Fund
WorldFish Center
World Bank

Background

The World Ocean Conference (May 11-15, 2009, Manado, Indonesia) produced the Manado Oceans Declaration (signed by 76 governments), which stresses the importance of having oceans on the climate change agenda at COP15 and beyond. (The Declaration can be viewed at http://www.globaloceans.org/planning/pdf/MOD_ADOPTED_ON_14MAY09_Final.pdf.) The Manado Global Ocean Policy Day (the multistakeholder dialogue organized by the Global Forum and partners) produced the Co-Chairs' Statement Emanating from the Global Ocean Policy Day (<http://www.globaloceans.org/planning/pdf/GOPD-FinalStatement.pdf>) detailing major ocean, coasts, and SIDS issues related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity development and civil society.

The Oceans Day at Copenhagen will bring together in one venue the latest scientific understanding about the impacts of climate change and increased concentration of atmospheric carbon on the oceans. This enhanced knowledge, in addition to the Manado Declaration, underpins the strong need to focus on oceans, coasts, and coastal communities in the climate negotiations and provides the context for charting the way forward.

Climate change is having a profound impact on the world's oceans. Ocean warming directly impacts humans and ocean life – from sea level rise and increased storm intensity to habitat shifts and receding coastlines. This in turn disrupts ocean and coastal foodwebs, making it harder for fish, seabirds, and humans to find the food they need at the time they need it. These changes cause severe impacts to vulnerable coastal areas, sometimes resulting in loss of life, damage to infrastructure and economy, to tourism and fisheries, and possible displacement and resettlement of populations.

In addition, the oceans have absorbed approximately 30-50% of the CO₂ produced by humans over the last 200 years – CO₂ that would have otherwise contributed to global warming. The absorbed CO₂ is fundamentally changing sea water chemistry, resulting in ocean acidification—the other CO₂ problem—with substantial impacts on ocean chemistry and life. (Please see the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) Statement on Ocean Acidification, <http://royalsociety.org/displaypagedoc.asp?id=34007>.)

Reaching a Worldwide Audience

A special website (http://www.ceoe.udel.edu/cmp/oceans_day/index.html) has been set up to invite all relevant groups and individuals to participate in the Oceans Day at Copenhagen, manage participant registration, publicize the event, and disseminate the Oceans Day activities through the Internet.

The activities and outputs of Oceans Day will be disseminated through a variety of media:

- Video footage of panel discussions, high-profile speakers, and other Oceans Day events will be streamed online for public viewing
- Posters, pamphlets, and other materials will be disseminated on site and on the Internet

An oceans and climate website, OceanClimate.org, has been developed to build public understanding of the synergy between ocean and climate systems through an Internet-based presentation of the current situation and possible solutions. This website features an interactive forum for individuals to engage in a dynamic conversation about policy and proposed actions to sustain ocean/climate benefit for all mankind.

Registration Information

Space at Oceans Day in the European Environment Agency conference hall is limited and already at capacity. Other participants may view a live broadcast of the Oceans Day proceedings in other areas of the European Environment Agency (outside of the conference hall) and at the World Wildlife Fund exhibition tent in Nytorv Square, Copenhagen.

All participants must be registered to participate in Oceans Day (in the EEA and at the World Wildlife Fund tent) for security reasons. If you wish to register, please write a note to Ms. Caitlin Snyder (csnyder@udel.edu, +1-302-831-8086) with information on your organization and your interest in oceans and climate issues.

All registered participants (in the EEA and at the World Wildlife Fund tent) will receive notification of their registration via email (the proof of registration will be needed to gain admittance to Oceans Day venues).

Please note that the session on Perspectives from World Leaders and Reception from 7:00 – 10:00 PM is by invitation only.

Follow-up Discussions at the 5th Global Oceans Conference, Paris, May 2010

The major climate/oceans topics addressed at Oceans Day in Copenhagen will be the subject of detailed analysis and discussion at the 5th Global Oceans Conference to be held on May 3-7, 2010 at UNESCO in Paris, hosted by the Government of France and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO.

OCEANS DAY AT COPENHAGEN

The Importance of Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States in the Climate Regime

December 14, 2009, 8:00–22:00

European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, Copenhagen, Denmark

8:00 AM Registration

All participants should be seated by 8:45 AM

9:00–9:50 AM Welcome and Opening Ceremony

Welcome Remarks, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

Oceans, Coasts and Small Island Developing States at the Frontline of Climate Change, Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, Co-chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

The Imperative of Linking Climate and Oceans in the New Climate Regime, Dr. Fadel Muhammad, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Keynote Address, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

9:50–10:05 AM Coffee Break

10:05–11:45 AM Panel 1: *Impacts of Climate Change on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Ocean Warming, Sea Level Rise, Extreme Weather Events, Ocean Acidification, Coastal Erosion, Polar Changes, Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Impacts on Marine Biodiversity*

Chair: Dr. Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO

Panelists:

Overview

Dr. Tony Haymet, Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Dr. Susan Avery, Director and President, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Impacts on SIDS

Dr. Leonard Nurse, University of the West Indies (*invited*)

Impacts on Tropical Environments

Dr. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director, Global Change Institute, University of Queensland

Dr. Indroyono Soesilo, Secretary, Coordinating Ministry for Peoples' Welfare, Indonesia

Polar Changes and Impacts on the World

Dr. Martin Sommerkorn, Senior Climate Change Advisor, Arctic Program, WWF

Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, former Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council

Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture

Ms. Cassandra De Young, Fisheries Policy, FAO

Dr. Edward Allison, Policy Director, WorldFish Center

Dr. Svein Sundby, Leader of The Climate-Fish Programme, Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Impacts on Marine Biodiversity

Dr. Gary Borisy, Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory

Mr. Christophe Lefebvre, French Marine Protected Areas Agency

Discussion

11:45–12:30 PM Panel 2: *Ocean Acidification: The Other CO₂ Problem*

Chair: Dr. Carol Turley, Senior Scientist, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, POGO, European Project on Ocean Acidification and the UK Programme on Ocean Acidification

Panelists:

Dr. Victoria Fabry and Dr. Andrew Dickson, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Prof. Meg Caldwell and Dr. Robert Dunbar, Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University

Dr. Scott Doney, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Mr. Tariq Banuri, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA

Dr. Michael Hirshfield and Ms. Jacqueline Savitz, Oceana

Discussion

12:30–1:45 PM Posters and Exhibits

(Lunch sponsored by the government of the Republic of Korea/Yeosu World Expo Oceans 2012)

Korea Exhibit, Yeosu World Expo Oceans 2012

The Importance of the Sea Orbiter project as a Key Tool for Ocean/Atmosphere Monitoring, Jacques Rougerie, France

The Relationship Between Societies and the Environment: Native Land, Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art (art exhibition in Kunsthall Charlottenborg, next door to EEA)

UNEP Exhibit, Blue Carbon

Poster, Plymouth Marine Laboratory - Partnership for the Observation of the Global Oceans

Poster, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Poster, Sustaining the World's Large Marine Ecosystems during Climate Warming, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

1:45–2:45 PM Panel 3. *Ocean-Based Mitigation Responses to Climate Change*

Chair: Dr. Alan Simcock, Former Co-Chair, UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Panelists:

Dr. Ralph Rayner, Vice President, IMarEST

Director, DONG Energy

Ms. Karin Sjölin-Frudd, Senior Adviser, Marine Environment Division, IMO

Dr. David Johnson, Executive Secretary, OSPAR

Mr. Jonathan McDonnell, Project Manager, Danish Yacht

Mr. Carl Lundin, Head, IUCN Global Marine Programme

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2:45-4:00 PM Panel 4. Adaptation Responses to Climate Change

Chair:

Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Director, Energy and Environment Group, UNDP

Panelists:

Global Perspectives

Ms. Lynne Hale, Director, Global Marine Initiative, The Nature Conservancy

Dr. Jacqueline Alder, Coordinator, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UNEP

Mr. Christian Severin, Program Manager, GEF

Regional, National, and Local Perspectives

Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi, Deputy Administrator, Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands

Mr. Fernando E. Ortega Bernes, Governor, State of Campeche, Mexico

Mr. Michael Chrisman, Secretary for Natural Resources, California, US

Dr. Ram Boojh, National Professional Officer, Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, India

4:00-4:15 PM Coffee Break

4:15-5:15 PM Panel 5. Mobilizing Governments and the Public and Private Sectors for Action

Chair: Honourable Kate Jones, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Queensland Government, Australia (*invited*)

Panelists:

National and Regional Initiatives

The Coral Triangle Initiative

Dr. Fadel Muhammad, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Mr. Gordon Darcy Lilo, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands

Mobilizing the Public and Private Sectors for Action

Mr. Philippe Vallette, General Manager, NAUSICAA and Co-President, World Ocean Network

Mr. Morten Lorenzen, CEO, Royal Danish Yacht Club

5:15-6:30 PM Panel 6. Moving Forward on Oceans and Climate in a Post-Copenhagen Regime

Chair: Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador to the UN

Panelists:

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Robert Calcagno, Head, Oceanographic Museum, Monaco

Mr. William Eichbaum, Vice-President, WWF-US

Mr. Tiago Pitta e Cunha, Cabinet of Commissioner Joe Borg, DG MARE, European Commission

Dr. Jung-Keuk Kang, President, Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI)

Prof. Raphael Lotilla, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

7:00-10:00 PM Perspectives from World Leaders and Reception

Moderators:

Dr. Gellwynn Jusuf, Chair, Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Prof. Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Co-chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Speakers:

H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Maldives (*invited*)

Madame Monique Barbut, CEO, GEF (*invited*)

Ambassador Dessima Williams, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, and Chair, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce and Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US

Mr. Karl Falkenberg, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission

Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Dr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ambassador Berengere Quincy, Ambassador of France to Denmark (*invited*)

Youth Leader/representative

Exhibit: Center for Ocean Solutions

Launching of Oceans/Climate Website: World Ocean Observatory and Global Oceans Forum

Oceans Day Pre-Events

Ship Visit to R/V G.O. Sars, Sponsored by the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

Sunday 13 December; 1600-1830 at Langelinie docks, Copenhagen

Bend the trend - a world film premiere and global network event, European Environment Agency

Sunday, 13 December 2009 at 17h45 – 22h30

Stærkassen Theatre, August Bournonvilles Passage, Copenhagen K



Contact Information

For additional information on Oceans Day
please contact:

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