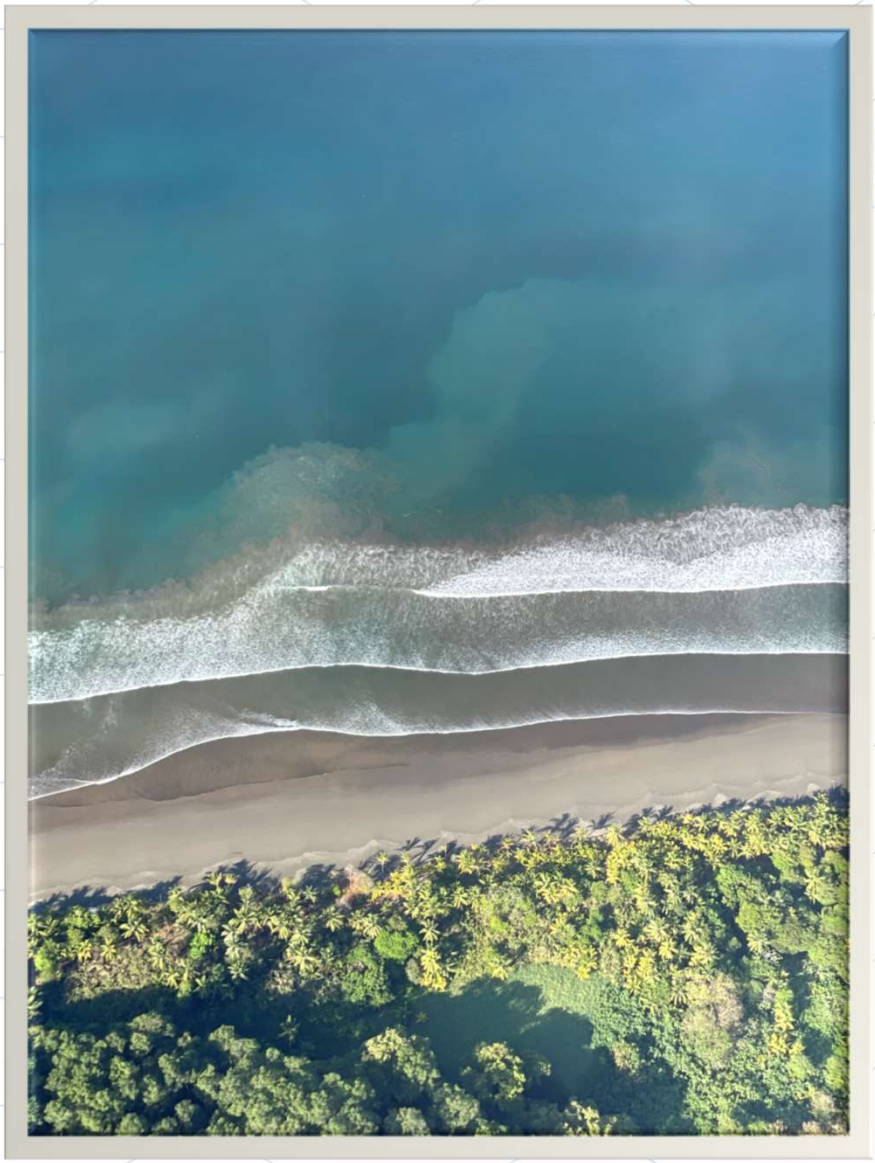
Strengthening Synergies between Climate Change, biodiversity loss and the Ocean: Making the Case for 100% Sustainable Ocean Management



OCEAN ACTION 2030

LME22 Meeting, Paris,
Session 8
Thursday, July 13th 2023

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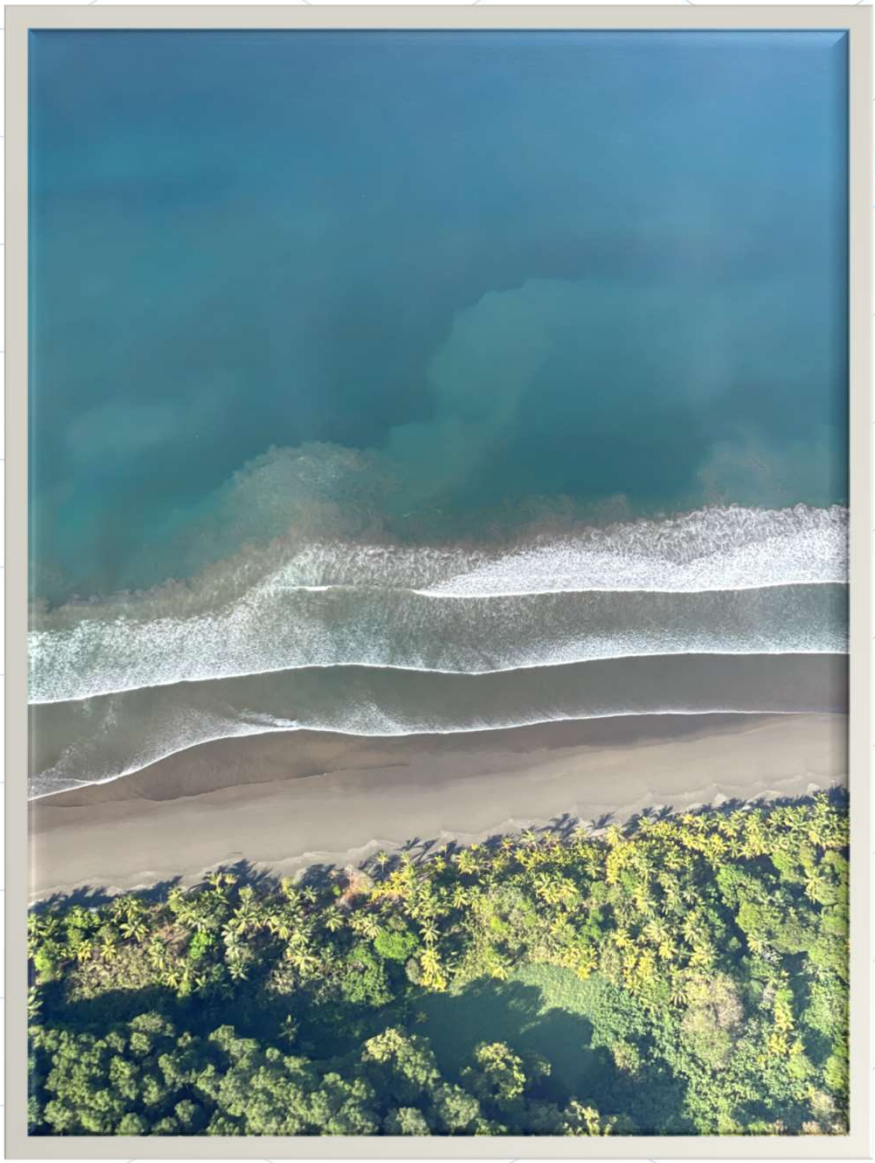

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Introduction

- The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) is a global initiative led by ***serving world leaders aiming to establish a sustainable ocean economy.***
- The Ocean Panel, consisting of **17** world leaders, is dedicated to effectively **protecting** the ocean, promoting sustainable **production**, and ensuring equitable **prosperity**.
- Since its launch in 2018, the Ocean Panel has collaborated with governments, businesses, financial institutions, scientists, and civil society to generate practical solutions in policy, governance, technology, and finance.
- The ultimate goal is to create an action plan for the transition to a sustainable ocean economy.
- Central to this agenda is the commitment of participating nations to sustainably manage 100% of their ocean areas, facilitated by the ***development and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans.***

Sustainable Ocean Plan (SOP)

- A Sustainable Ocean Plan serves as a unifying framework for ocean-related governance.

- The plan outlines policies and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of the ocean and maximize benefits for present and future generations.

- It helps reconcile conflicting uses of the ocean and enables long-term sustainable growth in the ocean economy.

- Mechanisms included in the plan can involve regulatory reform, strategic investments, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal and watershed management, and the establishment of marine protected areas.

- Sustainable Ocean Plans should align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and consider integrated ocean management, ecosystem knowledge, and the predicted impacts of climate change.

- The plans should be developed and implemented through an inclusive, participatory, transparent, and accountable process.

- They serve as a foundation for a sustainable ocean economy and support compliance with various international commitments and agreements.

- Sustainable Ocean Plans can achieve positive outcomes for ocean biodiversity, people, climate, and the economy, while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement.

Connecting the dots...

- The connection between the ocean and climate change is often overlooked in UNFCCC discussions, impeding progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The Global Biodiversity Framework presents an opportunity to address sustainable ocean management.
- SOPs can address biodiversity loss, climate change and start the process of de risking investment in the ocean creating regulatory certainty that can support investment and unlock private sector funding for sustainable ocean action.

Integration of Ocean Action 2030

- Ocean Action 2030 is a voluntary coalition dedicated to supporting countries in building a sustainable ocean economy through the development and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans.
- Coalition members, including leading institutions such as ADB, Blue Prosperity Coalition, FAO, EDF, EBRD, GEF, IDB, IOC-UNESCO, Ocean Conservancy, CBD Secretariat, The Nature Conservancy, World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, WRI, WWF, SDR Hub, and CAF, can provide technical and financial assistance based on country demand and member capacity.
- The coalition was formed in response to the new ocean action agenda launched by the Ocean Panel in 2020, aiming for effective protection, sustainable production, and equitable prosperity in the next decade.

Ocean Panel and Member Countries:

Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

- Together the Ocean Panel represents 50% of global coastlines, 44% of the world's EEZ, 26% of the world's fisheries and 20% of the world's shipping fleet.

Importance of Ocean-Based Actions

- Ocean-based climate actions can contribute up to ***21% of annual GHG emissions*** cuts needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2050.

- Sustainable Ocean Plans empower countries, strengthen coastal and ocean governance, and avert conflicts.

- These plans showcase transformative governance, evidence-based decision-making, and long-term sustainability of the ocean and its ecosystems.

Calls for Action

We need to ensure that the holistic vision of SOPs is fully integrated into the NDCs and NAPs. SOPs can serve as a valuable ocean-based solution.

Collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders are essential to avoid working in silos and maximize the effectiveness of nature-based solutions.

NBSAPs should be integrated with climate change and sustainable ocean management strategies to achieve synergistic outcomes.

Sustainable Ocean Plans can provide a unifying framework that incorporates biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable ocean management.

Importance of Integrated Solutions

- Biodiversity loss, climate change, and sustainable ocean management are interconnected challenges that require a comprehensive approach.
- Integrated solutions can lead to multiple benefits, including enhanced ecosystem resilience, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.
- Addressing biodiversity loss can contribute to climate change mitigation, resilience building, and the long-term health and wealth of the ocean.

Key Messages

1. The ocean-climate relationship must be articulated to prioritize and understand ocean-climate actions as vital for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and consider the new Global Biodiversity Framework and not work in silos.

2. Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOP) play a crucial role in managing 100% of a nation's ocean area sustainably, offering a unifying framework for existing and new ocean-related plans and policies.

3. There is an opportunity to leverage the ocean's potential in addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and achieving global ambitions.

Opportunities to deep dive into SOPs as part of the solution

- UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- UN Ocean Conference (UNOC)
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- COP28 and Beyond
  - Climate Ocean Dialogue

Building momentum for SOPs and 100% approach is increasing and the coalition stands ready and willing to support all countries in taking forward this ambitious agenda (with resources, tools, partnership etc.)

Conclusions

- A Sustainable Ocean Plan serves as a unifying umbrella for ocean-related governance, facilitating sustainable use of the ocean and maximizing benefits.
- A Sustainable Ocean Plan is a foundation for achieving a sustainable ocean economy. It builds and improves upon current practice by bringing existing ocean plans and processes together, filling in gaps and creating an integrated whole. It bridges sectors and stakeholders, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and interests are considered. And it focuses on a triple win for people, nature and the economy.
- These plans align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and address the impacts of climate change.
- Sustainable Ocean Plans are providing a credible basis for safeguarding the long-term health and resilience of the ocean, attracting investment and creating jobs to the benefit of coastal communities and national economies.
- Developing and implementing plans through an inclusive and participatory process is crucial for long-term economic and social development.

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