



The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in association with the Global Environment Facility, the Secretaries of Environment and Natural Resources of the Mexican States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan, and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico announce:

The Oceans Day at Cancún

Oceans: Essential to Life, Essential to Climate

**at the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
Cancún, Mexico
Saturday, December 4, 2010, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Now Jade Riviera Cancún, Mexico**

Purpose

The world's oceans play a central role in climate, akin to the Earth's lungs and circulatory system--generating oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide and regulating climate and temperature. Oceans already absorb over 80% of the heat added to the climate system and nearly 50% of all CO₂ added to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels over the past 250 years.

But, the oceans' ability to provide these life-sustaining services is now at risk. Rising ocean temperatures trigger broad-scale effects, such as melting polar ice, rising sea levels, shifting species distribution and abundance, erratic weather patterns, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and changes in ocean currents. Moreover, rising levels of CO₂ absorbed by seawater has caused a 30% increase in acidity, posing serious threats to marine ecosystems and the millions of people dependent upon them. The more than 50% of the human population that lives in 183 coastal countries, including 44 small island nations, are at the frontline of climate change and will suffer disproportionate impacts.

Oceans and coasts, however, have not yet figured on the agenda of the UNFCCC.

Oceans Day at Cancún, which is co-organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, in association with the Global Environment Facility, the Secretaries of Environment and Natural Resources of the Mexican States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan, and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico, in collaboration with UN-Oceans and the United Nations Development Programme, will bring together Parties and Observer States, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the scientific community, and members of civil society to emphasize the role of ocean and coasts in climate and focus high-level attention to the importance of addressing oceans issues at the climate talks at COP16 in Cancún.

Oceans Day at Cancún 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 measures



Oceans Day at Cancún is part of the virtual Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion.



to minimize climate change impacts on coastal communities and ocean resources. Additionally, Oceans Day will feature working group sessions to advance strategic thinking on aspects of a comprehensive agenda on oceans and climate, and special sessions on adaptation needs and related financing.

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

The Global Forum has made climate change and its impacts on oceans and coastal ecosystems and communities a major theme of its work. The Global Forum co-organized the Global Ocean Policy Day at the World Ocean Conference (May 11-15, 2009, Manado, Indonesia), which produced the Manado Oceans Declaration, stressing the importance of having oceans on the climate change agenda at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen and beyond. The Global Forum organized the first-ever Oceans Day at the UNFCCC Fifteenth Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, on December 14, 2009, which highlighted the need to focus attention on oceans, coasts and SIDS in the climate negotiations beyond Copenhagen. At Oceans Day in Copenhagen, more than 300 leaders from governments, UN agencies, NGOs, science and industry from 40 countries underscored that the UNFCCC should recognize that oceans play a central role in climate and that an integrated oceans and coasts program within the UNFCCC be developed by 2013 (<http://www.oceansday.org/pdf/summary.pdf>).

Climate and oceans was also a central theme at the Fifth Global Oceans Conference 2010, held in Paris, UNESCO, May 3-7, 2010, co-organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, the Government of France, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, with 67 other organizations around the world, and involving 850 leaders from 80 countries. The Conference concluding statement emphasized the need to launch a comprehensive ocean and climate initiative within and outside the UNFCCC process, including elements of mitigation, adaptation measures, programs focusing on capacity development, public education and awareness, and measures to address the issues associated with the possible displacement of coastal populations (see <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Co-ChairsStatement.pdf>).

Oceans Day at Cancún At the UNFCCC COP 16

(November 29 – December 10, 2010)

December 4, 2010, 9:00AM – 6:00PM

Now Jade Riviera Cancún, Mexico

DRAFT AGENDA

(PLEASE NOTE THAT KEY SPEAKERS AND PANEL SESSIONS INCLUDED ARE PRELIMINARY; NOT ALL SPEAKERS ARE CONFIRMED)

9:00-10:15AM

Panel 1. Welcome and Opening Ceremony

Introduction by the Co-Chairs:

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

Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations

Dr. Evelia Rivera Arriaga, Secretary, Environment and Sustainable Development, State of Campeche, Mexico

Ms. Jaime Webbe, Programme Officer for Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat

Special Address:

Hon. Benny Allen, Minister for Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea

10:15-10:30AM

Coffee Break

10:30-11:45AM

Panel 2. Implementation and Financing Strategies for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Communities and Small Island Developing States

Chair: Dr. Youssef Nassef, Manager, Adaptation Sub-Programme, UNFCCC

Speakers:

Dr. Mannava Sivakumar, Director of the Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, World Meteorological Organization

Mr. Denis Vasseur, Head, Climate Change, French Global Environment Facility

Ms. Janot-Reine Mendler de Suarez, formerly GEF IW:LEARN

Ms. Grit Martinez, Ecologic Institute

Dr. Toni Ruchimat, Director of Small Islands Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Ms. Sara Aminzadeh, Program Manager, California Coastkeepers Alliance

Mr. Alejandro Callejas, Subsecretary of Environment, Government of Chiapas, Mexico

Mr. Emmanuel Guérin, Director, Climate Programme, IDDRI

Special Address:

Hon. Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Housing, Transport and Environment, Maldives

11:45-1:00PM

Panel 3. Climate Change and Ocean Acidification

Chair: Dr. Carol Turley, Knowledge Exchange Coordinator of the UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK

Speakers:

Dr. Tony Haymet, Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Vice Chancellor, Marine Science, University of California, San Diego

Ms. Ellycia Harrould-Kolieb, Marine Scientist, Oceana

Mr. David Warrilow, Head of Climate Science and International Evidence, Department of Energy and Climate Change, UK

Special Address:

Hon. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa

1:00-2:00PM

Lunch

2:00-2:45PM

Panel 4. Linking the Science and Economics of Blue Carbon

Chair: Dr. Brian Murray, Director for Economic Analysis, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University

Speakers:

Ms. Dorothee Herr, Marine Programme Officer, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN

Dr. Stephen Crooks, Climate Change Director, ESA PWA

Dr. Hendra Yusran Siry, Deputy Director for Technical Services, Research Centre for Marine and Fisheries Socio-Economics (RCMFSE), Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research and Development (AMFRD), Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Dr. Jorge Herrera Silveira, Researcher, Center of Research and Advanced Studies of the Instituto Politecnico Nacional (CINVESTAV), Mexico

2:45-5:00PM

Workshops on Developing an Integrated Approach to Climate and Oceans and Preparation for Rio+20

Chairs:

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Global Oceans Forum

Dr. Miriam C. Balgos, Global Oceans Forum

Dr. Edward Allison, The WorldFish Center

2:45-3:00PM

Introduction, Objectives, Expected Output, and Mechanics of the Workshops

3:00-5:00PM

Breakout Sessions (Mitigation, Adaptation, Financing and Capacity Building, and Rio+20)

5:00-6:00PM

Panel 5. Closing Ceremony

Reports from the Workshop Chairs, Breakout Sessions (Mitigation, Adaptation, Financing and Capacity Building)

Special Addresses:

Mr. James Warren Evans, Director, Environment Department, The World Bank Group

Dr. Antonio Diaz de Leon, Director-General, Environmental, Regional Integration and Sectoral Policy, Environment and Natural Resources Ministry (SEMARNAT), Mexico

Closing Remarks from the Co-Chairs

Venue:

Kukulcan III

Now Jade Riviera Hotel (One of official COP 16 hotels)

Unidad 19 Mz. 20 Lote 1-1 SM.3, Puerto Morelos, Benito Juarez Quintana Roo 77580

10.6 km South of Cancun Messe, on Bus Route 6

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Miriam C. Balgos, Program Coordinator
Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands,
Tel: 1 302 831-8086; Fax: 1 302 831-3668
Email: mbalgos@udel.edu



**Global Forum on Oceans,
Coasts, and Islands**



About the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands was first mobilized in 2001 to help the world's governments highlight issues related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the agenda of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and was later formalized at the WSSD in Johannesburg. The Global Forum is a response to perceived needs:

- for fostering cross-sectoral dialogue on ocean issues among governments, NGOs, international organizations, and the private and scientific sectors
- for constant advocacy for oceans at the highest political levels
- for taking an ecosystem-based and integrated approach to oceans governance at national, regional, and global levels

Since 2001, the Global Forum has involved ocean experts representing all sectors from 105 countries to advance the global oceans agenda by: 1) promoting the implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS, especially the goals emanating from the 2002 WSSD; 2) analyzing new emerging issues such as improving the governance regime for ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction and addressing the impacts of climate change; and 3) promoting international consensus-building on unresolved ocean issues.

The Global Oceans Conferences provide the major opportunity for all sectors of the global oceans community-- governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and scientific groups-- to address the major policy issues affecting the oceans at global, regional, and national levels and to make progress in advancing the global oceans agenda.

The Global Forum has organized five Global Conferences (in 2001, 2003, 2006, and 2010 at UNESCO in Paris and in 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam); co-organized the Global Ocean Policy Day with the Government of Indonesia during the World Ocean Conference 2009; organized the Oceans Day at Copenhagen during the UNFCCC climate negotiations in December 2009; organized the Ocean Policy Summit in Lisbon in 2005 documenting experiences with integrated oceans governance in countries and regions around the world; prepared a number of "report cards" on the implementation of the WSSD ocean targets and of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS; reports on ocean issues in island states; reports on capacity development needs on ocean and coastal management in different world regions; and provided a series of Internet information services, including periodic newsletters.

In late 2006, the Global Forum began a strategic planning effort in collaboration with governments, United Nations agencies, NGOs, industry, and scientific groups, to advance the global oceans agenda over the ten-year period to 2016. Twelve Multi-national Expert Working Groups, involving 254 experts from 72 countries, are considering the major global oceans issues, identifying strategic opportunities for advancing the global goal/target in the next decade, and recommending priority action steps for implementation by national and international decisionmakers.

See <http://www.globaloceans.org>