

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

Venue: European Environment Agency, Copenhagen



Indonesia



LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION



GLOBAL CHANGE INSTITUTE



PaCFA





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

In collaboration with the following:

Center for Ocean Solutions
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK
European Commission Directorate-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Food and Agriculture Organization
Global Change Institute – University of Queensland
Global Environment Facility
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)
Oceana
Partnership for Climate, Fisheries, and Aquaculture
(comprising eighteen intergovernmental organizations,
nongovernmental 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

United Nations Environment Programme
World Ocean Network
World Ocean Observatory
World Wildlife Fund
WorldFish Center

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 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>.)

Major Topics to be Addressed

The Role of the Oceans in Climate Change Phenomena
The Implications of Climate Change for the World's Oceans and Coastal Communities
Crafting and Financing Mitigation and Adaptation Responses
Moving Forward from Copenhagen: Next Steps for the Oceans Community

Revised Draft Schedule

10:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Ceremony The Role of the Oceans in Climate Change Phenomena Implications of Climate Change for the World's Oceans and Coastal Communities
12:00 to 2:00 PM	Posters and Exhibits (lunch on your own)
2:00 to 6:00 PM	Crafting Mitigation and Adaptation Responses Moving Forward from Copenhagen: Next Steps for the Oceans Community
6:00 to 9:30 PM	High-level Segments: Perspectives from World Leaders and Reception (by invitation)

Reaching a Worldwide Audience

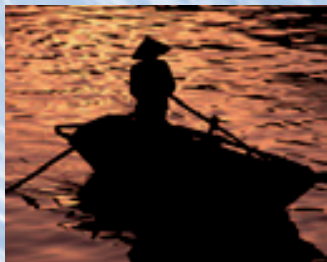
A special website (http://www.globaloceans.org/Oceans_day/index.html) has been set up to invite all relevant groups and individuals to participate in the Oceans Day at Copenhagen, manage participant registration, publicize the event, and disseminate the Oceans Day activities through the Internet.

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

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.





Contact Information

For additional information on Oceans Day
please contact:

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands
E-mail: bcsl@udel.edu

Dr. Tonny Wagey, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
E-mail: t.wagey@fisheries.ubc.ca

Dr. Jacqueline McGlade, European Environment Agency
E-mail: Jacqueline.McGlade@eea.europa.eu