

UNFCCC COP25 – GCCA+ Oceans Side Event

Adaptation and Mitigation in Changing Oceans

Madrid, Saturday 7 December 2019

Name(s) of Notetakers: Jane Wilkinson

Facilitation: Christophe Legrand, Team Leader, GCCA+ Support Facility

Agenda:

1. “The Challenges of Adapting Marine Fisheries: To What and Where Do We Start?”
Dr. Manuel Barange, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2. “Sea-Level Change, Migration and the Determining Role of Adaptation and Mitigation Policy” **Dr. David J Wrathall**, Professor and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Sixth Assessment, Working Group II, Chapter 8: Poverty, Livelihoods and Sustainable Development
3. “[Before] [After]: Responses to Climate Ocean Stressors in the Pacific” **Dr. Sylvie Goyet** - Director of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (Noumea), Pacific Community
4. "Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification," **Dr. Robert Duncan McIntosh**, Oceanography Officer, SPREP
5. “The Role of Coastal and Marine Nature-based Solutions in NDCs” **Dr. Dorothee Herr**, Manager Oceans and Climate Change, Global Marine and Polar Program, IUCN

1. Summary of **KEY ISSUES** presented and discussed:

- a) Christophe Legrand, began by setting the context: Oceans have absorbed 90% of global temperature rise since 1970 and are now changing fast with impacts from increased surface acidity, reduced oxygen and mean sea level rise. He noted that we already have great example, including in the GCCA+, of how policies and actions can reduce stressors, improve resilience and livelihoods, and create adaptation pathways that will have reduce risks of chaotic and risky human migration in the future.
- b) Dr Manuel Barange noted it is incumbent upon signatories to the Paris Agreement that climate action must not threaten food production. Using an example of improved fisheries management, he noted that climate change can exacerbate stressors caused by growing population and overfishing which in turn can increase the vulnerability of local populations relying on fish stocks for food and livelihoods. Adaptation actions can therefore have multiple benefits by responding to diverse risk and vulnerability factors. Adaptation actions can for example respond to changes to productivity, distributional changes and seasonal impacts. Indicators must be carefully selected to capture multiple layers of risk and vulnerability across social, environmental and economic sectors. Ultimately the aim is to improve the maximum potential of fish stocks and the FAO is ready to work with multiple

partners especially in Asia and Africa where more than 90% of the world's fish stocks are located.

- c) Dr David J Wrathall noted that sea-level change is a key societal challenge for the next century. In more than 6 countries including the US, China, India, more than 50 million people (each) are exposed to sea-level change impacts. The key element of this presentation argued that while you cannot say when migration caused by rising sea levels will happen, migration is responsive to policy and you can determine how it will happen and to where. Current migration patterns show that in many countries, vulnerable populations are migrating to city centers located in coastal settings, thus moving from one vulnerability context to another. Shaping the direction and flow of future migration trends needs to start from hypothesizing ideal mitigation outcomes, and planning adaptation actions and creating enabling policies aligned with the associated adaptation pathways.
- d) Ms Sylvie Goyet presented some examples of where GCCA+ support had helped to implement adaptation actions that have already improved the resilience of countries located in the Pacific. Livelihoods are being stressed in what is already a continuum of stresses related to extreme uncertainty. Cost benefit analyses are integral to determining the feasibility of adaptation pathways, and community engagement is the cornerstone of successful implementation. The situation is complex but solutions to oceans changes do exist.
- e) Dr Robert Duncan Marsh stressed the importance of developing policies and implementing actions within the context in which changes are happening. Improving resilience in the Pacific is a long-term venture that has capacity building and multi-stakeholder partnerships at its heart. SPREP is working with USP and the SPC with support from the EU, Monaco and New Zealand to build the capacity and expertise of local communities. Examples include research scholarships, peer to peer learning opportunities and equipment and training to design and monitor actions taken across the south pacific.
- f) Dr Dorothy Kerr noted nature-based solutions offer a new range of options for building resilience in oceans. With some support from GCCA+ and with policy as a foundation IUCN has supported several pacific island countries drafting policies, legislation and in holding community consultations among other locations. A key element in acting in oceans and coastal environments is linking the proper valuation of blue natural capital, and where financial support is needed to support resilience, unlocking climate finance. The Blue Natural Capital Finance Facility recognises this need.

2. MAIN TAKE-OUTS/FINDINGS identified in the discussion (including those related to progress, challenges and opportunities):

Mr Legrand highlighted the following main take outs:

- Changing oceans have the potential to speed up the occurrence of climate change impacts, while increasing the vulnerability of communities that are proximate to or which rely upon oceans.
- Improved resource management such as fisheries management needs to incorporate multiple indicators of risk and vulnerability, to deliver distributional, productivity or seasonal benefits.
- Hundreds of millions are vulnerable to sea-level rise. While policies may not determine when migration will happen, migration is responsive to policy and working backwards

GCCA+

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by
the European Union

can allow policy makers to develop adaptation pathways aligned to specific migration outcomes.

- Cost benefit analyses can help prioritize which actions need to be taken now to reverse negative climate change impacts on shorelines, in reefs, and mangroves (for example) which can improve the resilience and livelihoods.
- Partnerships in the Pacific are providing access to training, peer to peer exchanges, scholarships and equipment, all of which can help build resilience to changing oceans.
- Finance for oceans is an emerging concern and the Blue Natural Capital Finance Facility is a leading example.

GCCA+

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by
the European Union