



Session 6: Thursday 4th April

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ROADMAP FOR OCEANS AND CLIMATE ACTION (ROCA) AND COP 28

Key lecture topics

- The ocean featured in many negotiations around the climate crisis at the U.N. climate summit known as COP28.
- Yet, many climate crisis discussions to date have overlooked the importance of the ocean and neglected to protect the life-supporting functions of marine ecosystems.
- The main agreement to come out of COP28 was the first version of the Global Stocktake (GST), a document meant to illustrate how the world will achieve the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement. It refers to the importance of protecting and preserving the ocean and coastal ecosystems, and called for “ocean-based action.”
- However, experts say the GST does not capture the necessary urgency to curtail fossil fuel emissions and may encourage the launch of controversial and still-untested geoengineering techniques that aim to lock away carbon in the ocean.
- COP28 was also the stage for several large pledges to support the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Preparatory materials

Global Ocean Forum. 2023. [Report on Assessing Progress on Ocean and Climate Action: 2022-2023](#). Prepared for UNFCCC COP28, Dubai, UAE – but you’re not expected to read all 112 pages!.

[Decisions from Dubai: A review of COP28 outcomes](#), December 2023.

United Nations – Climate Change, [Matters relating to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#), December 2023.

Optional extra material (*not compulsory*)

[Integrating the Ocean: Options for the CMA 5 Decision on the Global Stocktake](#)

Question (*for reflection only, not written response*)

What can you do in your country and/or in your spheres of influence, to strengthen the mainstreaming of ocean ecosystems, services and restoration in climate change negotiations and commitments?