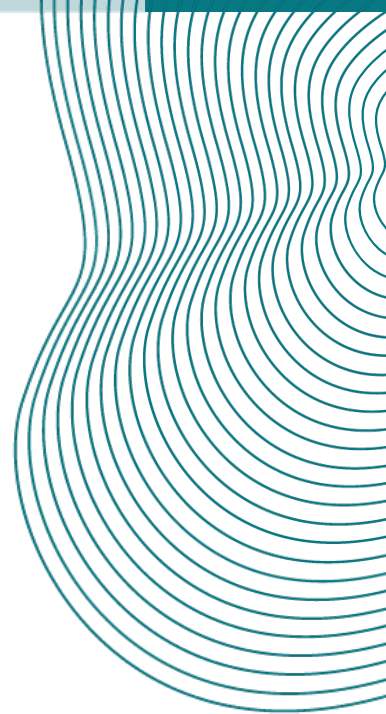




Interim Analysis of Ocean Based Climate Actions Communicated in New and Updated NDCs and NBSAPs



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22 May 2025

Key Messages:

Ocean-based climate action plays a vital role in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, offering meaningful opportunities for countries to enhance their climate ambition while supporting coastal communities and marine ecosystems (Hoegh-Guldberg, Northrop, 2023).

This paper analyses ocean-based climate actions included in the most recent round of new and updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) communicated under the Paris Agreement and new and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) communicated pursuant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

This paper is assessing the 28 NDCs communicated between 1 January 2024 to 21 May 2025, representing the most recent new and updated NDCs and round of NDC communications following the global stocktake in 2023. This analysis will be updated throughout 2025 in advance of UNFCCC COP30.

The analysis found that 20 countries included at least one ocean-based action, with a total of 131 distinct actions identified across all NDCs analysed. Of these, 95 were ocean-based adaptation actions and 26 ocean-based mitigation actions, and 10 were actions that delivered both mitigation and adaptation goals.

The most common sector addressed in NDCs was coastal and marine conservation (51.2%), followed by coastal zone management (26.7%), fisheries and aquaculture (15.3%) and crosscutting actions (9%). Ocean-based renewable energy, transport and shipping, marine and coastal tourism, marine carbon dioxide removal, and offshore oil and gas all had 6% or below.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) demonstrate significant engagement, with five SIDS providing new or updated NDCs, and their committed actions accounted for 41.2% of all identified ocean-based actions.

Of the 20 countries that had communicated an NDC with an ocean-based action, five had also communicated an NBSAP. Upon analysing the relationship between the actions communicated in the NDCs and NBSAPs and vice versa, 74% of the synergies identified were reinforcing or enabling, highlighting the opportunity for cohesive policy and action.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While the ocean and ocean economy are heavily impacted by climate change, they can also play a crucial role in global efforts to limit warming and improve coastal community resilience. This mitigation and adaptation potential extends beyond natural marine ecosystems to include various sectors of the ocean economy such as transport, energy, and food production (Northrop et al, 2020).

The importance of the ocean and ocean economy was further emphasized by the first Global Stocktake of the Paris, stating the critical “importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, [...] in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

As Parties to the Paris Agreement communicate new and updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) pursuant to Article 4, they have

opportunities to incorporate these ocean-based solutions. Simultaneously, these efforts can be aligned with biodiversity goals, as Parties to the CBD revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align with the new GBF.

Including aligned ocean-based targets, policies, and measures in new or updated NDCs and NBSAPs can create cross-sectoral alignment and improve efficiencies in monitoring and reporting. There is also a significant opportunity to utilise alignment in actions across NBSAPs and NDCs to mobilise sustainable finance, given the emerging global priority of nature positive investments consistent with GBF Target 19.

2025 represents an unprecedented opportunity to align these two agendas and strengthen links between national action on biodiversity and climate change, both of which are so critical for the future health of the ocean (Fernández et al, 2024).

FINDINGS

From the 28 new and updated NDCs submitted, 27 were assessed¹, 20 of these came from ocean and coastal countries, with 17 containing at least one ocean-based climate target, policy, or measure. In total, this analysis identified 131 ocean-based climate actions. Out of the 17 countries with at least one ocean-based NDC, five countries had also updated their NBSAPs, which were added to their analysis. The 131 distinct ocean-based climate actions were manually correlated with 134 actions in the NBSAPs assessed.

Action Types: Most ocean-based climate actions take the form of policies (69.4%) rather than specific targets (13%), or measures (18.3%). This suggests that countries are focusing on establishing framework conditions and strategic approaches rather than setting specific quantifiable targets or implementation measures.

Adaptation vs. Mitigation Balance: in total, 105 actions were included in the adaptation component (80.2%), and 36 included as mitigation (27.5%), of these, 11 could contribute to both adaptation and mitigation (8.4%). Notably, three actions were identified that related to a new category of submission (2.3%), loss and damage. Finally, eight actions related to finance (6.1%). This categorisation was made by assessing the explicit designation or reference in the relevant NDC. Only a handful were designated manually due to unclear references in the NDC itself.

Sectoral Focus: 67 actions related to coastal and marine conservation (51.2%), 35 actions related to coastal zone management (26.7%), 20 actions related to fisheries and aquaculture (15.3%), eight related to ocean-based renewable energy (6.1%), eight related to ocean-based transport and shipping (6.1%), seven related to marine and coastal tourism (5.3%), three related to marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (2.2%), and one action related to offshore Oil and Gas (0.8%).

Funding: The ocean-based actions are split between having 62 actions being contingent (46.3%), 38 as partially contingent (29%), and 31 as non-contingent (23.7 %) on funding from external sources.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS): SIDS show significant engagement with ocean-based climate action, with five SIDS countries (Saint Lucia, Singapore, Marshall Islands, Maldives, and Cuba) including actions in their NDCs. This represents 41.2% of the total actions analysed.

1. Switzerland submitted in November 2024 ‘an update document for its first NDC (2021-2030)’, which was not assessed as they also submitted their new 2031-2035 NDC in January 2025.

Specificity and Measurability: The ocean-based actions vary significantly in their specificity and measurability, with few including quantifiable targets with clear timeframes.

Alignment with NBSAPs: For the five countries that had also submitted a new or updated NBSAPs, with synergies identified between the actions in the NDC and NBSAP - the majority (74%) were assessed as either reinforcing or enabling. This demonstrates the significant opportunity for policy cohesion, where alignment can enhance the effectiveness of both climate and biodiversity outcomes. The few ocean-based climate actions in the NDCs that were assessed as potentially constraining an action or target in the NBSAP (e.g. the UK's goal to protect ecosystems and reduce harm to biodiversity and their plans to further offshore wind supply under the NDC) could be managed through alignment and careful implementation.

Comparison to previous NDC communications: The current analysis reveals that 85% of coastal and island countries (17 out of 20) now include at least one ocean-based climate action, an increase from 73% from the analysis of the last round of NDCs reported in 2022 (Khan et al, 2022). In line with the 2022 analysis, coastal and marine conservation, coastal zone management, and fisheries and aquaculture remain the top three sub-sections. Notably, if fisheries and aquaculture were combined in the 2022 analysis as they are now, they would have been the largest category. Coastal and marine conservation has significantly increased in size and now accounts for approximately 50% of all reported actions. Overall trends in ocean-based climate actions have remained consistent in recent years.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are one of the main mechanisms under the Paris Agreement for countries to communicate their national climate strategies. They represent countries' pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts in line with their national circumstances and capabilities. The ocean and its coastal zones offer significant opportunities for climate action, as further stated by the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, which took place at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2023. The GST outcome emphasized "the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, [...] and by conserving

biodiversity [...] in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In 2023, analysis found that full implementation of ocean-based climate solutions that are ready for action now across the seven sectors could reduce the emissions gap by up to 35 percent on a 1.5°C pathway, and by up to 47 percent on a 2.0°C pathway, in 2050 (Hoegh-Guldberg, Northrop et al 2023).

Several key sectors emerge where there is significant opportunity for coastal and island states to incorporate ocean-based solutions in their national climate strategies:

- **Coastal and marine conservation:** Protection and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- **Coastal zone management:** Developing climate-resilient coastal communities and strengthening coastal and marine infrastructure.
- **Fisheries and aquaculture:** Enhancing both the resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and improving its sustainable use.
- **Ocean-based renewable energy:** Development of offshore wind and ocean thermal energy conversion.
- **Ocean-based transport and shipping:** Developing clean fuel alternatives and reducing shipping emissions.
- **Marine and coastal tourism:** Developing low-carbon and climate resilient tourism.

There are also emerging opportunities, such as marine carbon dioxide removal and phasing out offshore oil and gas, that are beginning to be considered. It's important to consider that certain actions included more than one sector.

Many of these sectors identified in the NDCs are also relevant to the implementation of the CBD and the 23 targets of the GBF, especially Targets 2 (Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems); 3 (Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas); 14 (Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level); and 19 (Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance). On the back of this, in December 2022, Parties to the CBD agreed to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align with the 23 Targets of the GBF.

National targets, actions and measures for biodiversity and climate, under the Paris Agreement and GBF, can be designed to maximise synergies between mitigation and biodiversity protection and restoration. When designed properly, these could go beyond simply utilising forests and coastal and marine ecosystems as a source of carbon



For example, biodiversity and climate mitigation and biodiversity and climate restoration through. The impacts of alternative fuel development, opportunities for land reclamation and restoration associated with phasing out fossil fuel expansion (e.g., mines, gas pipeline), and opportunities for nature-positive renewable energy deployment (offshore wind, for example) can all be coordinated across NBSAPs and NDCs. For this reason, NBSAPs and NDCs can be used to support more integrated development across sectors, recognising the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for low-carbon development outcomes.

The inclusion of ocean-based elements in NDCs and NBSAPs indicates recognition of both the vulnerability of ocean systems to climate impacts and biodiversity loss and their potential to contribute to solutions.

METHODOLOGY

We conducted this analysis for new and updated NDCs submitted from 10 September 2024 to 8 May 2025 as the first NDCs submitted in the third update cycle, pursuant to Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. Per the ambition cycle from the Paris Agreement, around the 10th of February 2025 was when countries agreed to submit a new round of NDCs (Decision 1/CP.21, para 25).

We analysed the NDCs submitted in this timeframe², but only the island and coastal states included ocean-based actions. Based on these criteria, we analysed 20 new and updated island and coastal country NDCs. For the purposes of this analysis, an ocean-based climate action is defined as a forward-looking and actionable target, policy, or measure that aims to reduce GHG emissions, sequester and store carbon, or support adaptation and improved resilience to climate impacts in the ocean, coastal, and marine environments (Khan and Northrop (2022)). These are defined as:

- **A target** is an intention to achieve a specific result (e.g., to reduce GHG emissions in a sector to a specific level).
- **A policy** is an intention to implement specific means of achieving GHG reductions and/or building coastal resilience through policies, strategies, or plans.
- **A measure** is an intention to implement specific means e.g. of achieving GHG reductions.

These terms are adapted from Designing and Preparing Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) (Levin et al. 2015). We reviewed and classified NDCs according to a set of

key ocean-based subsectors and mitigation and adaptation actions to ensure comparability with analysis conducted on previous rounds of NDC communication (Tables 1 and 2 in Khan and Northrop (2022)). In addition, we also analysed the inclusion of actions related to marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) and offshore oil and gas to align with the sectors covered by Hoegh-Guldberg and Northrop (2023) and reflect current policy discussions. This analysis also captured cross sectoral approaches such improving ocean literacy, capacity building, and research.

Further, the alignment between ocean-based actions in NDCs and the targets and actions found in NBSAPs were explored. We analysed the new NBSAPs communicated by those countries in the same timeframe as the NDCs and followed the same methodology as Northrop et al (2024). To examine the synergies across the targets, policies and measures identified, we classified the interactions according to the following³:

- **Indivisible:** One commitment is intrinsically linked to the achievement of another and vice versa.
- **Reinforcing:** One commitment directly creates the conditions for achieving another and vice versa
- **Enabling:** One commitment could enable the achievement of another and vice versa.
- **Constraining:** One commitment could set a constraint to achieving another and vice versa.
- **Counteracting:** The pursuit of one commitment may counteract the achievement of another and vice versa.
- **Canceling:** Progress toward a commitment makes it impossible to achieve another commitment and vice versa.

This analysis considers only what has been communicated in the NDC and NBSAP and does not include an assessment of ocean-based actions in other national policy documents. Additionally, the analysis examines the relationship between NDCs and NBSAPs bidirectionally, considering both the influence of NDCs on NBSAPs and the influence of NBSAPs on NDCs, with both directions being classified as one of the interactions listed above.

2. For NDCs submitted in a language other than English, translated English versions, rather than the original, were used for the analysis.

3. Adapted from: Nilsson, M., Griggs, D., and Visbeck, M., "Policy: Map the Interactions Between Sustainable Development Goals", Nature, vol. 534, No. 7607 (2016), pp. 320–322.

2. OCEAN-BASED CLIMATE ACTION IN MOST RECENT NEW AND UPDATED NDCs

2.1 MITIGATION

Ocean-based mitigation actions include targets, policies, and measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from ocean-based industries, utilising renewable sources of energy from the ocean, sequestering and storing carbon in coastal and marine ecosystems, and avoiding GHG emissions from ecosystem conversion.

Our analysis identified 26 (19.8%) ocean-based mitigation actions (including those categorized as both mitigation and adaptation, there were 36 (27.5%) mitigation actions), coming from 11 Countries (USA, UAE, UK, Saint Lucia, New Zealand, Marshall Islands, Japan, Canada, and Brazil, Namibia, and Madagascar) as found in Figure 1.

The top three sectors were: coastal and marine conservation, ocean-based transport and shipping, and ocean-based renewable energy.

2.1.1 Coastal and Marine Conservation

Coastal and marine conservation represents a significant component of ocean-based mitigation actions, with 12 actions (46.2%) aimed at or relevant to the conservation, restoration and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems for their ability to sequester and store carbon.

These include:

- The United States (USA) committed to "conserve, connect and restore at least 30 percent of its lands and waters by 2030" (USA, 2024).

- New Zealand committed to accounting for wetlands in its LULUCF sector, including coastal wetlands (New Zealand, 2025).
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) committed as the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to endorse the 30x30 biodiversity goal, focussing on conserving ecological areas, and as a mitigation effort see the use nature-based mitigations efforts contribute at least 10 GtCO₂e [reduction] per year (UAE, 2024).

The focus on coastal and marine conservation reflects the growing recognition of blue carbon ecosystems as important carbon sinks. However, most conservation actions remain general in nature, lacking specific targets for area protection, restoration metrics, or carbon sequestration goals.

2.1.2 Ocean-Based Transport and Shipping

The second largest sector, Ocean-based and maritime transportation and shipping accounts for eight actions (30.8%):

- The United Arab Emirates is "exploring green shipping corridors" and plans to "increase the production of e-kerosene and green or blue ammonia or methanol for shipping" (UAE, 2024).
- Canada is "investing in transitory and long-term clean fuels for all transportation modes, including biofuels for the marine and rail sectors" (Canada, 2025).
- The Marshall Islands (RMI) also seeks to "decarbonize its domestic transport sector. As part of the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, RMI already has a national vision to reduce domestic shipping emissions by 40% below 2010 levels by 2030 and full decarbonization of the sector by 2050" (RMI, 2025).

While these actions support international shipping decarbonisation efforts, they mainly explore options

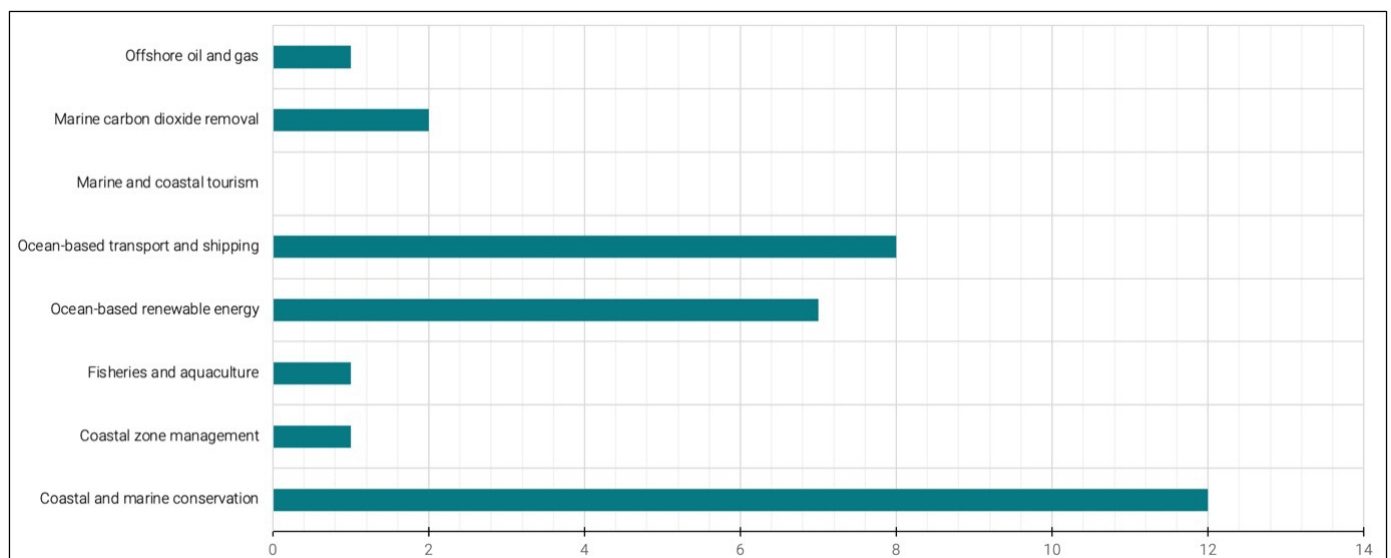


Figure 1: Overview of the numbers of Mitigation focused ocean-based climate actions identified per sector.

for and invest in transitional fuels, rather than setting specific emission reduction targets. This is also in line with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) 2023 goal of achieving net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping by 2050 (IMO, 2023).

2.1.3 Ocean-based renewable energy

The third largest sector, ocean-based renewable energy had seven actions (26.9%). Notable actions included:

- Brazil committed to approving the "legal framework and regulation of offshore wind energy production" (Brazil, 2024).
- The Marshall Islands (RMI) is "exploring innovative technologies which fit with its environment such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion" (RMI, 2025).

These actions reflect growing interest in ocean-based renewable energy, particularly offshore wind, which has seen rapid growth and cost reductions globally (Hoegh-Guldberg, Northrop et al, 2023). However, the actions remain at the policy level rather than setting specific capacity or generation targets.

2.1.4 Other Sectors

Other mitigation actions include:

- Saint Lucia, was the only country that included an action aimed at coastal and marine tourism, stating that they will "develop a national roadmap for responsible tourism in the circular economy by 2025" (Saint Lucia, 2025).
- Saint Lucia further sought to develop mitigation co-benefits in its National Adaptation Plan through "reduced emissions from implementing fuel efficient technologies for aquaculture and fishing operations" (Saint Lucia 2025).
- Abu Dhabi through its National Oil Company (ADNOC) "is also decarbonizing its offshore operations [by 50%] through the construction of a

first-of-its-kind sub-sea transmission network, that will replace existing gas turbine generators with imported grid power from nuclear and solar sources (UAE, 2024).

- The United Arab Emirates "is also committed to atmospheric CO2 removal through advanced nature-based solutions (NbS) such as extensive mangrove afforestation (UAE, 2024).

2.2 Adaptation

Ocean-based adaptation actions include targets, policies, and measures aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate impacts and increasing resilience of coastal communities and marine ecosystems. Our analysis identified 95 (72.5%) ocean-based adaptation actions (including those categorized as both mitigation and adaptation, there were 105 (80.2%) adaptation actions), from 13 Countries (Uruguay, USA, UAE, UK, Saint Lucia Marshall Islands, Maldives, Kenya, Ecuador, Cuba and Brazil, Namibia, Panama, and Madagascar).

The top three sectors were, coastal and marine conservation, coastal zone management, and fisheries and aquaculture.

2.2.1 Coastal and Marine Conservation

There were 47 actions (49.5%) that included adaptation actions related to coastal and marine conservation, notably:

- Uruguay integrated climate change adaptation into its "National Biodiversity Strategy, the Strategic Plan of the National System of Protected Areas, Marine Spatial Planning and the Land Degradation Neutrality Strategy" (Uruguay, 2024).
- Ecuador committed to promoting "access to and use of historical and future climate and ocean information" (Ecuador, 2025).
- The United Kingdom outlined plans to "protect, restore and create coastal and marine habitats and manage the risks and opportunities to marine species, habitats and fisheries" (UK, 2025).

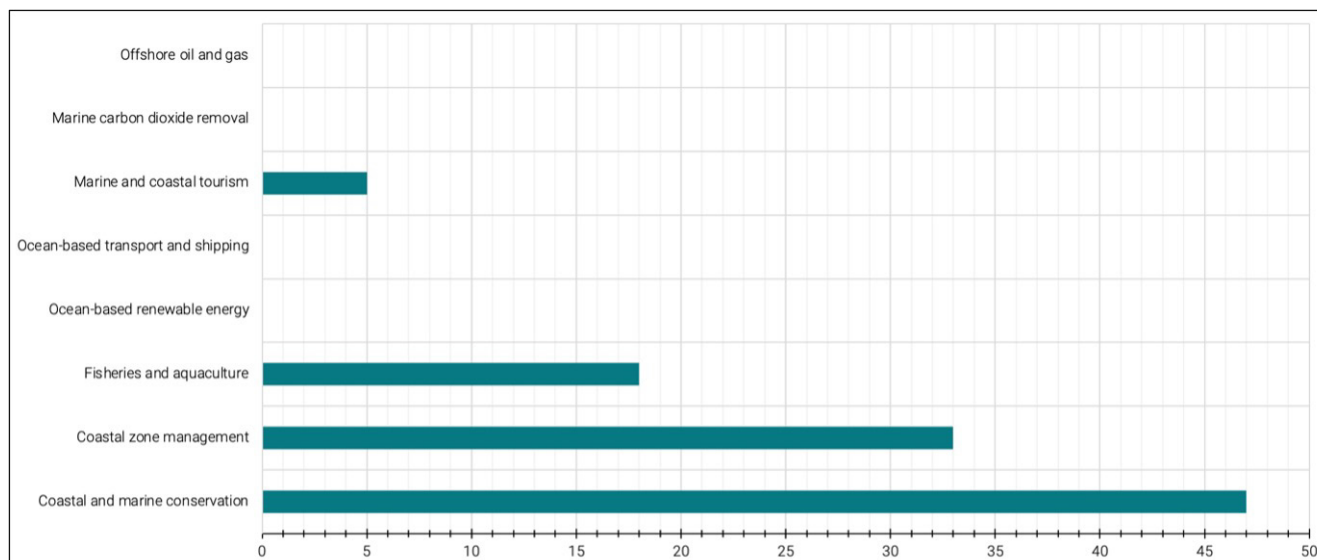


Figure 2: Overview of the numbers of Adaptation focused ocean-based climate actions identified per sector.

These actions aim to enhance ecosystem resilience and provide nature-based solutions to climate impacts such as sea-level rise and increased storm intensity.

2.2.2 Coastal Zone Management

There were 33 actions (34.7%) that included adaptation related to coastal zone management, with notably:

- Cuba committed to "not allow new housing construction in threatened coastal settlements that are predicted to disappear due to permanent flooding" (Cuba, 2025).
- Maldives has "subsidised the provision of safe drinking water and promoted integrated water resource management through safe rainwater harvesting, groundwater use, and desalination" (Maldives, 2025).

These actions focus on reducing vulnerability to sea-level rise and ensuring water security in coastal areas. Further, seeking to limit the damages from increased flooding and climate change related weather events.

2.2.3 Fisheries and Aquaculture

There were 18 actions (18.9%) that included adaptation related to fisheries and aquaculture, notably:

- Saint Lucia addressed fisheries adaptation through "detailed sectoral plans" for "water, fisheries, resilient ecosystems (marine and terrestrial), Infrastructure and Spatial Planning" as part of its National Adaptation Plan (Saint Lucia, 2025).
- The Maldives seeks to address fisheries adaptation by safeguarding the sector to ensure sustainable management of marine resources, focussing on; enhancing the efficiency and improve quality of fish caught through innovative technologies for onboard fish handling and live bait stocking, and; strengthening the monitoring, control and surveillance capacity of fisheries and ocean resource (Maldives, 2025).

This integrated approach recognizes the interconnections between different ocean-based sectors and the need for coordinated action.

2.2.4 Other Sectors

Other adaptation actions are entirely limited to the crosscutting and tourism sectors. Examples include:

- For tourism, Saint Lucia, was the only country who included an action aimed at coastal and marine tourism, stating that they will "develop a national roadmap for responsible tourism in the circular economy by 2025" (Saint Lucia, 2025).

- The Maldives to build resilience within their tourism sector sought to enhance tourism diversification and empower local island communities and improve tourism resilience through ecotourism and nature-based activities (Maldives, 2025).
- Regarding potential crosscutting initiatives, the United Arab Emirates sought to ensure that "Citizens are engaged to increase awareness about the importance of wetlands and to encourage their participation in conservation endeavours" (UAE, 2024).

2.3 Loss and Damage

Although the Paris Agreement and its rulebook do not explicitly require countries to include Loss and Damage sections, almost all NDCs now include it.

As a first for this series of analysis, in this round of assessments two countries (Kenya and Saint Lucia) submitted three (2.3%) ocean-based actions related directly to loss and damage aspects and sections of their new and updated NDCs.

Notably, these related to two sectors, two under the Ocean and marine conservation, and one under coastal zone management. These three actions were:

- Saint Lucia launched in 2024, "the Modelling and Assessment of Coastal Climate Change Impact component of the GCF NAP Project [which] will expand the limited understanding of risks to coastal populations, settlements, infrastructure, and economic activities, from sea level rise" (Saint Lucia, 2025).
- "Kenya commits to achieving the adaptation goal and addressing loss and damage through the implementation of the following key initiatives, inter alia: [...] Improve environmental and ecosystem management through nature-based solutions including, but not limited to the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems with the integration of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge" (Kenya, 2025).
- "Kenya will strengthen investment in vulnerable ecosystems such as mountains, wetlands, ocean and the blue economy (including sea grass and mangroves) to foster adaptation to climate change" (Kenya, 2025).

The, even slight, increase in loss and damage actions demonstrates that countries are becoming more aware of the unavoidable and irreversible impacts of the climate crisis, especially on vulnerable coastal populations and infrastructure, and vulnerable aquatic and marine ecosystems.

2.4 Finance

2.4.1 Ocean-Based Climate Actions

Regarding climate finance, four countries (Brazil, the United Kingdom, the Marshall Islands, and the Maldives) included eight (6.1%) ocean-based climate actions in their new or updated NDCs. Within these, two (25%) were seen as relating to mitigation measures, and six (75%) as adaptation. Climate finance is becoming increasingly important, as also seen through the importance of funding.

Mitigation:

- In Brazil, the “National Bank for Economic and Social Development has focussed on boosting investments for a just climate transition in the country”, including conservation and restoration of marine and coastal biomes. They “launched support initiatives for actions to recover native vegetation in mangrove and restinga areas in Brazil, coastal ecosystems of great ecological, social and economic importance, as well as for the conservation and recovery of shallow coral reefs and coral banks off the Brazilian coast” (Brazil, 2024).
- The United Kingdom seeks to fund restoration of habitats [including coastal and marine] directly – including through Environmental Land management – and we are working to drive private investment into their creation and restoration through initiatives like the Nature Investment Standards programme. The UK has committed to filling the evidence gaps that currently prevent the inclusion of coastal wetlands (including saltmarsh habitats) for mitigation purposes in our Greenhouse Gas Inventory (UK, 2025).

Adaptation:

- Marshall Island’s “The Environmental: Protection Authority (EPA) in coordination with the World Bank is working towards a Sustainable Shoreline Development Policy (SSDP) for Majuro, which will include guidance on nature-based solutions and conservation of seagrasses and nearshore coral habitat conservation” (RMI, 2025).
- The Maldives “to increase access to adequate and effective climate finance” within adaptation measures is exploring “options to foster regional partnerships and attain regional access to international climate finance through the Indian Ocean region, the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea small island developing states, and other groupings” (Maldives, 2025).

In assessing these submitted actions, a difference in focus becomes apparent between developed/developing countries and SIDS. With SIDS focussing on adaptation and international climate finance through the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility. While developed and developing countries like Brazil and the UK focus on mitigation facilitated by internal financing mechanisms.

2.4.2 Funding

When identifying how many of the ocean-based climate actions will be funded, three different options have been identified, contingent on external climate financing, partially contingent on external funding, and not contingent. The ocean-based actions are split as follows, 62 actions are contingent (46.3%), 38 are partially contingent (29%), and 31 are non-contingent (23.7 %) on funding from external sources. The non-contingent categorisations almost entirely came from developed countries. This demonstrates the importance of international climate finance as around 75% of all actions are contingent on some form of climate finance.

An additional finding of note from the NBSAP analysis reveals a strategic emphasis on financial mechanisms within the Global Biodiversity Framework. Specifically, two key targets have been incorporated by several countries: Target 18, which aims to reduce biodiversity harmful incentives by at least \$500 billion annually and scale up biodiversity positive incentives; and Target 19, which focuses on mobilising \$200 billion annually including \$30 billion through international finance. This financial framework creates a compelling incentive structure, motivating countries to secure biodiversity funding for both domestic and international actions. These targets highlight the potential for integrated approaches to finance that could simultaneously support biodiversity conservation and climate action objectives.

3. SYNERGIES WITH BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN THE NBSAPS

Among the countries that updated their NDCs, five of them, representing 21% have also communicated new or updated NBSAPs. To examine the synergies between the ocean-based climate actions in the NDCs and the biodiversity targets within the NBSAPs, an analysis was conducted that classified the type of interaction between the two, bidirectionally (NDC to NBSAP and NBSAP to NDC). The results of the analysis showed that where there was a potential synergy between the NDC and BSAP, the majority (74%) of the synergies were either supporting or reinforcing.

This demonstrates the significant opportunity for policy cohesion between the two, where a practical alignment can enhance the effectiveness of both climate and biodiversity outcomes. From the 74%, specifically 5% of NDCs and NBSAPs have a reinforcing interaction, indicating where one commitment directly creates the conditions for achieving another and vice versa. These reinforcing interactions are valuable, representing entry point for

scaling up integrated climate and biodiversity solutions. The analysis also classified five NDCs and NBSAPs (4%) as having a constraining relationship, specifically found within the UK and UAE's commitments. These constraining classifications indicates that the goals may undermine or pose limitations for achieving another. However, the analysis determines that most of these tensions can often be mitigated through careful policy design. For example, an NDC from the United Kingdom focuses on expanding offshore wind infrastructure, which has a constraining relationship with its NBSAP commitment—to protect 30% of ecosystems, including marine areas, of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions. However, if carefully planned and executed, the offshore wind infrastructure may not pose adverse impacts to the marine ecosystems or its biodiversity.

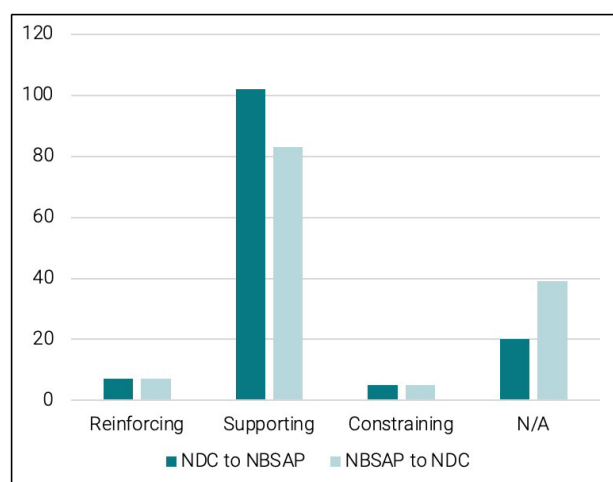


Figure 3: Overview of the classifications of NDC and NBSAP interactions

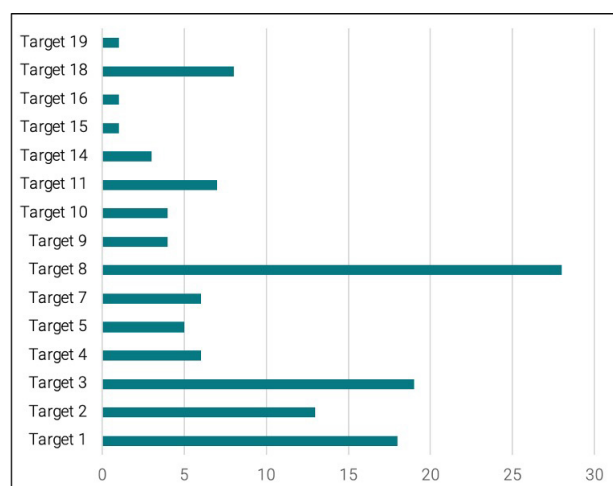


Figure 4: Overview of the classification and number of GBF targets referenced in the NBSAP analysis

Most of the synergies identified for ocean-climate action between the NDC and NBSAP align with Target 8 of GBF which focuses on minimising the impact of climate change on biodiversity and building resilience. Target 8 was referenced 28 times. Further, Target 3, to conserve 30% of land, water and seas, was referenced 19 times and Target 1, to plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss, was referenced 18 times.

4. CONCLUSION

Our analysis of ocean-based climate actions in the new and updated NDCs communicated to date reveals a growing recognition of the value of these actions across all ocean sub-sectors for both mitigation and adaptation. While there is growing recognition of the ocean's role in addressing climate change, with an increasing number of countries incorporating ocean-based actions in their climate strategies, significant challenges remain.

The collective ambition of current ocean-based actions falls short of the scale needed to fully leverage ocean-based solutions to meet global climate goals. To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and Targets of the GBF, ocean-based solutions must be explicitly included and prioritised within international climate and biodiversity negotiations and frameworks.

There is significant opportunity to use GBF Target 14, on integrating biodiversity, to advance aligned governance, data, and national accounting systems that can provide the foundation for greater coordination, coherence and aligned implementation of the biodiversity and climate agendas. This could include establishing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and structures to facilitate alignment across climate and biodiversity strategies and utilising ocean accounts to monitor coastal and marine ecosystem health, including the impacts of climate change, and inform policy and investment decisions. National biodiversity finance plans (Target 19(b)) could be a significant mechanism to promote alignment of domestic financing that delivers on both agendas.

Citation: Northrop, E, Burger, B and Belonje, E. Interim Analysis of Ocean Based Climate Actions Communicated in new and updated NDCs and NBSAPs (Sydney, Centre for Sustainable Development Reform, 2025).

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The authors are grateful to the following peers who provided critical reviews and helpful suggestions to this paper: Angelique Pouponneau (Alliance of Small Island States), Jasdeep Randhawa (UNFCCC Secretariat), Maria Alarcon Blazquez (Global Ocean Accounts Partnership), Troy Beer (UNSW Centre for Sustainable Development Reform), and Liz Hollaway (UNSW Centre for Sustainable Development Reform).

This work has received financial support from the UK government under The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership.

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