COP31 · ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE · 9–20 NOVEMBER 2026

OPRI-SPF Sessions at COP31

Two Ocean Pavilion sessions, two UNFCCC official side events and two pavilion talks at the Antalya EXPO Center

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	SESSION	VENUE	OPRI-SPF ROLE
Tue 10 Nov	14:00–15:30	**Too Much and Too Little Water (HELP)**	Water for Climate Pavilion	Speaker
Wed 11 Nov	09:00–09:50	**S2 From Glacier to Ocean**	Ocean Pavilion	Organizer
Wed 11 Nov	16:45–18:45	**S4 Science in Action: Cryosphere (UNESCO)**	Side Event Room Brown	Invited speaker
Tue 17 Nov	18:30–20:00	**S3 Ocean-Climate-Society**	Side Event Room Orange	Co-organizer
Thu 19 Nov	10:15–11:05	**S1 Zero Waste in Big Ocean States**	Ocean Pavilion	Organizer
Thu 19 Nov	14:00–15:15	**Integrated Ocean Management**	Japan Pavilion	Presentation

ABOUT OPRI-SPF

The Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), Tokyo, brings policy research on the ocean, climate and island states to COP31. Its sessions connect the cryosphere, the ocean and the Big Ocean States to adaptation, finance and Zero Waste action under the UNFCCC.

LEAD ORGANIZER	**Dr. Santosh Kumar Rauniyar** Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF
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LAST UPDATED	5 November 2026

S2 OCEAN PAVILION · BLUE ZONE

From Glacier to Ocean

Climate Risk, Adaptation Finance and Disaster Resilience: a Global Action Agenda from the Himalayas to the Pacific

DATE	TIME (LOCAL)	VENUE	OPRI-SPF ROLE
Wednesday 11 November	**09:00–09:50**	**Ocean Pavilion, Blue Zone**	**Organizer**

PARTNERS	ICIMOD · AMAP, Norway · UNESCO · Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), UK · Government of Fiji · Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (TBC)
UNFCCC LINKS	Global Goal on Adaptation · Adaptation finance · Loss & Damage (FRLD, Santiago Network) · Early Warnings for All · Sendai Framework · NAPs and NDCs

OVERVIEW

Glacier, snow and permafrost loss creates a single chain of risk, from glacial lake outburst floods in the mountains to changing river flows, delta salinisation and sea-level rise on coasts and small islands. The most exposed communities have contributed least, yet adaptation finance and early warning remain far below need, as the Langtang Lirung–Rasuwa disaster in Nepal (August 2026) showed. Building on the OPRI-SPF × AMAP session at COP30, this session links cryosphere science with early warning, adaptation and Loss & Damage finance, and closes with a Glacier-to-Ocean Global Action Agenda.

OBJECTIVES

- Map vulnerability and climate risk from the mountains to the ocean.
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction and people-centred early warning for water-related disasters.
- Show how adaptation and Loss & Damage finance can reach mountain, delta and island communities.
- Elevate climate justice voices of mountain, indigenous, youth and island communities.

SPEAKERS

ROLE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	MODE
Moderator	**Dr. Santosh Kumar Rauniyar**	Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF	In person
Keynote	**Dr. Sivendra Michael**	Permanent Secretary, Government of Fiji	In person
Speaker	**Dr. Rajesh Bahadur Thapa**	Senior Project Coordinator, ICIMOD	In person
Speaker	**Dr. Rolf Rødven**	Executive Secretary, AMAP Secretariat	In person
Speaker	**Dr. Anil Mishra**	Chief of Hydrological Systems, Climate Change and Adaptation, UNESCO	In person
Speaker	**Prof. Matt Frost**	Senior Scientist, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK	In person
Youth voice	**Dr. Lisa Yamasaki**	Harvard University	In person

AGENDA · 50 MINUTES

TIME	MIN	SEGMENT	LEAD
09:00	4	Welcome and framing: the glacier-to-ocean risk chain	Moderator
09:04	4	Keynote: A view from the Pacific — why an island nation cares about a Himalayan glacier	Dr. Sivendra Michael, Government of Fiji
09:08	6	Himalayan cryosphere risk and early warning	Dr. Thapa, ICIMOD
09:14	6	Arctic cryosphere–ocean signals: sea-level rise and coastal risk	Dr. Rødven, AMAP
09:20	6	Water-related disasters, hydrology and adaptation	Dr. Mishra, UNESCO

TIME	MIN	SEGMENT	LEAD
09:26	4	Ocean impacts on coastal communities	Prof. Frost, PML
09:30	4	Youth and community voice: climate justice	Dr. Yamasaki
09:34	12	Panel and Q&A: early warning, adaptation finance, Loss & Damage	All speakers
09:46	4	Closing: Glacier-to-Ocean Global Action Agenda	Moderator

GLACIER-TO-OCEAN GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA

ACTION	WHAT IT MEANS	BUILDS ON
1 Understand risk	Assess vulnerability and multi-hazard risk from mountains to coasts	ICIMOD, AMAP, WMO, UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences
2 Prepare and warn	People-centred early warning and transboundary alerts for water-related disasters	Early Warnings for All (2027), Sendai Framework
3 Finance adaptation	Scale up adaptation and disaster risk finance with direct, local access	GCF, Adaptation Fund, NAP financing
4 Deliver climate justice	Loss & Damage support where adaptation limits are exceeded	FRLD, Santiago Network
5 Integrate and cooperate	Build glacier-to-ocean risk into NAPs and NDCs; transboundary water cooperation	GGA, UNFCCC Ocean Dialogue

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Glacier-to-Ocean Global Action Agenda released and shared with UNFCCC adaptation, finance and Loss & Damage processes.
- Proposed GGA indicators: early-warning coverage, local adaptation finance, water-related disaster losses, sea-level trend.
- Policy brief with ICIMOD (Q1 2027) and an expanded AMAP × OPRI-SPF Cryosphere-Ocean Policy Network.

S4 UNFCCC OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT · INVITED

Science in Action

Science for Sustainable Development and the Cryosphere

DATE	TIME (LOCAL)	VENUE	OPRI-SPF ROLE
Wednesday 11 November	**16:45–18:45**	**Side Event Room Brown, Blue Zone**	**Invited speaker (TBC)**

ORGANIZER	UNESCO, UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034)
STATUS	Awaiting confirmation from UNESCO
OPRI-SPF SPEAKER	Dr. Santosh Kumar Rauniyar (proposed)

OVERVIEW

Accelerating cryosphere change is affecting water and food security, ecosystems, cultural heritage and livelihoods, while adding to sea-level rise and loss and damage. The event explores how scientific knowledge can be turned into adaptation and practical climate action.

ANNOUNCED SPEAKERS

- Assistant Director-General for Sciences, UNESCO
- WMO, IAEA and UNU (TBC)
- High-level government, indigenous community and youth representatives (TBC)
- OPRI-SPF (invited, TBC)

OPRI-SPF KEY MESSAGES

- **Warnings must outpace hazards.** The Rasuwa disaster (2026) shows that science must reach people in minutes, not hours.
- **One system, one agenda.** Mountain cryosphere change cascades through rivers and deltas to coasts and SIDS, so cryosphere and ocean planning must go together.
- **From morning to evening.** Carries forward the Glacier-to-Ocean Global Action Agenda launched at S2 that morning with UNESCO's Dr. Anil Mishra.

S3 UNFCCC OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT · CONFIRMED

Ocean-Climate-Society

Delivering Action for Adaptation, Mitigation, Finance and Capacity Building

DATE	TIME (LOCAL)	VENUE	OPRI-SPF ROLE
Tuesday 17 November	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room Orange, Blue Zone	Co-organizer

OVERVIEW

Climate change is increasingly affecting ocean ecosystems and coastal communities, with implications for the ocean's ability to support adaptation and mitigation. The event showcases finance, governance, science and adaptation examples that can accelerate implementation and strengthen ocean integration across the UNFCCC.

CO-ORGANIZERS AND FOCAL POINTS

ORGANIZATION	FOCAL POINT	EMAIL	PHONE
Blue Marine Foundation	Ms. Maddie Millington-Drake	maddie@bluemarinefoundation.com	+44 7527 545343
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POGO	Ms. Fiona Beckman	fbe@pml.ac.uk	+44 1752 633424
Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Ms. Thecla Keizer	tke@pml.ac.uk	+44 7795 692762
OPRI-SPF	Dr. Santosh Kumar Rauniyar	s-rauniyar@spf.or.jp	+81 70 9149 1716

INDICATIVE AGENDA · 90 MINUTES

TIME	MIN	SEGMENT	LEAD
18:30	5	Welcome and framing	Moderator (TBC)
18:35	10	Ocean observation and the state of the ocean	POGO
18:45	10	Ocean science for adaptation and mitigation	PML
18:55	10	Marine protection and ocean stewardship as climate action	Blue Marine Foundation
19:05	10	Finance: aligning capital with ocean resilience	Investor Watch
19:15	10	Asia-Pacific and Big Ocean States: blue carbon, glacier-to-ocean risk, implementation	OPRI-SPF
19:25	25	Panel and open Q&A	All speakers
19:50	10	Closing: key messages for Parties	Moderator

Agenda and speakers to be agreed among the five co-organizers.

OPRI-SPF CONTRIBUTION

- Japan's blue carbon inventory and J-Blue Credit experience.
- Big Ocean States and Zero Waste perspectives (S1); glacier-to-ocean risk and adaptation finance (S2).
- Joint key messages from the co-organizers for Parties and the UNFCCC Ocean Dialogue.

S1 OCEAN PAVILION · BLUE ZONE

Zero Waste in Big Ocean States

Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis: Synergies for Climate, Ocean and Biodiversity

DATE	TIME (LOCAL)	VENUE	OPRI-SPF ROLE
Thursday 19 November	10:15–11:05	Ocean Pavilion, Blue Zone	Organizer

CO-ORGANIZERS	Governments of Palau, Fiji and Japan
COP31 LINKS	Zero Waste and Methane Reduction · Oceans and Seas · Rio Synergies · NDCs and NBSAPs
CONTACTS	Dr. Atsushi Watanabe · Dr. Tomo Shioiri · Dr. Santosh Kumar Rauniyar (s-rauniyar@spf.or.jp)

OVERVIEW

Big Ocean States, island nations with vast ocean territories, are on the front line of the Triple Planetary Crisis of climate change, marine plastic pollution and biodiversity loss. Zero Waste, championed globally by Türkiye, starts with better waste management, from prevention and recycling to the safe handling of residual waste, and so tackles all three at once. The session draws on Japan's J-PRISM experience, OPRI-SPF's Nippon Foundation-supported work (Oceans X; oyster shells for CO_2 reduction), Palau's Koror State Recycling Center and Fiji's waste management to design next-generation resource circulation.

OBJECTIVES

- Show how Zero Waste and resource circulation address climate, ocean pollution and biodiversity together.
- Share best practice and policy options for hard-to-process residual plastics.
- Strengthen partnerships among Big Ocean States, donors and Türkiye's global Zero Waste movement.

SPEAKERS

ROLE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	MODE
Moderator	**Ms. Kelera Savu**	Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF	In person
Welcome and framing	Dr. Atsushi Watanabe	Vice President & Director, OPRI-SPF	In person
Opening remarks	Hon. Lynda Tabuya & Hon. Steven Victor	Governments of Fiji & Government of Palau	In person
Keynote	**High-level representative (TBC)**	Government of Japan	In person
Panelist	**Mr. Anthony Talouli**	Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control, SPREP	In person
Panelist	**Dr. Tomo Shioiri**	Senior Research Fellow, OPRI-SPF	In person

AGENDA · 50 MINUTES

TIME	MIN	SEGMENT	LEAD
10:15	3	Welcome and framing	Dr. Watanabe
10:18	9	Opening remarks	Hon. Lynda Tabuya · Hon. Steven Victor
10:27	7	Keynote: the Triple Crisis, Big Ocean States and innovative resource circulation	Government of Japan (TBC)
10:34	16	Country panel (4 × 4 min): Palau, residual plastics · Fiji, J-PRISM · SPREP, scaling Zero Waste · OPRI-SPF, research into action	All panelists
10:50	10	Q&A and interactive discussion	All + audience
11:00	5	Closing: joint call to action	Ms. Kelera Savu (moderator)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Big Ocean States, including Japan, Palau and Fiji, recognised as leaders in advanced resource circulation.
- Momentum to integrate circular economy principles into NDCs and NBSAPs.
- Joint call to action linked to COP31's Zero Waste Action Agenda and the Pre-COP (Fiji) outcomes.