

Outline of the side event at UNFCCC/COP30

Tackling climate change impacts and promoting sustainable blue economies in Africa

Date and time: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 from 12:00 to 13:00 pm

Venue: Ocean Pavillon (Blue Zone), COP30 venue, Belém, Brazil

Organizer: Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Outline:

Climate change is adversely affecting marine ecosystems and undermining blue economies due to rising sea temperatures and stronger storms, and prolonged droughts that alter fish stocks habitats and locations and exacerbate local community livelihoods. These impacts differ across countries and communities, while human pressures such as pollution, overfishing, IUU fishing, and weak nutrient management intensify vulnerabilities. To respond effectively, stakeholders must build stronger capacity to assess and communicate climate impacts, tailor adaptation strategies to local realities, and integrate solutions into broader governance frameworks. Improved access to climate adaptation funds and blue financing is essential to foster the resilience coastal and island communities and improve their livelihood. Speakers will address policy and capacity development, innovative approaches, regional cooperation, international partnership and future challenges.

Climate change actions need to be integrated in the policies and ongoing efforts to promote sustainable blue economies in Africa. It is vital to assess climate change impacts, mitigation potential and adaptation needs in Africa in promoting sustainable blue economies. Innovation, social collaboration and equitable benefit sharing are important factors to effectively promote sustainable blue economies in the context of achieving sustainable development and improving the people's livelihood.

Speakers

- Ms. Annelly Haiphene, Executive Director, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Namibia (TBC)
- Ms. Eyram Agbemava, Technical Advisor, SDGs Advisory Unit, Office of the President, Ghana
- Mr. Tobias Ogwen, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN in New York
- Mr. James Kinyangi, Coordinator, Climate & Development Africa Special Fund, African Development Bank
- Mr. Benjamin S. Karmorh, Jr, Chief Technical Advisor(Cta) and UNFCCC Focal Point, Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Liberia
- Mr. Joseph F. Maji, Head of Asset & Liabilities Management, CRDB Bank, Tanzania
- Dr. Amr Zakaria Hamouda, President, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt and Vice Chair of the IOC-UNESCO Africa-Arab States Group
- Ms. Loubna Mohamed Salami Hamidi, Program Officer, Gender and Climate Change Association for Development and Environment Intervention (AIDE), Comoros

- Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

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