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** |

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|---|---|
| **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.