

DOSI and the UNFCCC COP27

(6 - 19 November 2022, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt)

The 27th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP-27) was a platform for 197 states, or 'parties' to discuss lessons learnt from the 6th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, and how they will achieve the goals agreed to in the Paris Agreement to keep global warming below 1.5°C-2°C. The Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) Climate Change Working Group organized a deep-sea delegation in collaboration with the University of Southampton, with many supported by funding from the High Seas Alliance and DOSI Travel Fund.

The goals of DOSI members were to highlight the importance of the deep ocean in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation and to promote the inclusion of the oceans in climate negotiations as well as policy development and implementation.

Specifically, our goals were to:

1. Give a voice for the critical importance of preserving our ocean and especially our deep-ocean ecosystems as they are the most important ally for mitigation of climate change
2. Gain further experience of the UNFCCC COP process in order to explore priorities and strategies for engagement at the international climate policy level in the future
3. Reconnect with colleagues from NGOs, the scientific community, policy makers and others and make new contacts for future collaboration
4. Hear the perspectives of a variety of delegations on key issues in the climate negotiations while increasing our understanding of climate change effects on less represented portions of the human population
5. Identify new research directions that could be beneficial to future climate change policy considerations while also learning to better translate science to policy
6. Support Early-Career Researchers and encourage active participation across the science-policy interface

Member Attendance:

- Maria Baker (DOSI Executive Director and Head of University of Southampton Delegation for COP27, University of Southampton, UK)
- Lisa Levin (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)
- Narissa Bax (ECR - South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, Stanley, Falkland Islands)
- Elva Escobar (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México (UNAM), Mexico) (virtual participation)
- Sonigitu Ekpe (Environmental Multilateral Support and Cooperation, Cross River State, Nigeria)
- Isa Elegbede (ECR - Lagos State University, Nigeria)
- Sarah Seabrook (ECR - National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA), NZ)
- Michelle Guraieb (ECR - Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)

- Olivia Pereira ((ECR - Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)
- Nathalie Hilmi (Centre Scientifique de Monaco)
- Eesha Rangani (ECR - Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)
- Erica Ferrer (ECR - Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)
- Bernadette Snow (University of Stratchclyde, UK)
- Wassim Dbouk (Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute, University of Southampton, UK)
- Kiirah Green (ECR - Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA)
- Torsten Thiele (Global Ocean Trust, Germany)

Summary of COP27 - DOSI Perspectives:

While several DOSI members have participated in UNFCCC COPs for many years, it was the first UNFCCC COP experience for the majority of the deep-ocean delegation. This provided an extremely valuable experience for those DOSI's Climate Working Group members who have been reviewing and analyzing UNFCCC documents and actions, but not yet had the opportunity to contribute to policy development or network with the community.

COP27 was heralded as the "Implementation COP", with negotiations focused on how Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets would be implemented. Loss and Damage negotiations took front and centre stage during COP27, with significant focus on ensuring that developing countries most affected by climate change can seek financial reparations and support from developed nations. Finance and technical capacity to accomplish adaptation and emission reduction goals were featured highly in negotiations as well. There was also emphasis in negotiations on promoting science-based adaptation priorities that can enable responses from the regional/country level down to the community level.

There was more representation of the Ocean than in the past in events that took place in the pavilions. This included the first Ocean Pavilion inside the formal negotiations area (Blue Zone) - a result of joint efforts by global leaders in ocean science and philanthropy (led by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Scripps Institution of Oceanography). The Ocean Pavilion hosted events and discussions aimed at ensuring the ocean is central to climate negotiations and promoted ocean-based climate solutions.

Through previous interactions with climate negotiation processes, DOSI has helped to place the deep ocean on the agenda when it comes to climate discussions. In fact, the deep ocean was mentioned numerous times during COP27 negotiations as well as in relation to impacts such as deep seabed mining (which was a first at COP). Our team members were involved in many panels and presentations, and spoke to as many delegates as possible, driving home the messages about key issues around climate change mitigation and impacts in the deep ocean, including potential impacts from proposed climate interventions. We had interest from a wide variety of delegates including NGOs, Ministers, constituencies and Youth Delegations. Our group also received interest from the ocean scientific community, exploring ways to ensure robust science reaches policy decisions.

In the first week, DOSI members attended SBSTA negotiations and spoke with various delegations and conveners of negotiation sessions about ocean-based issues that require recognition in text development. Additionally DOSI members spoke at Blue Zone panel events as well as Ocean X Climate, a special event series. Members also attended and participated in daily meetings of the Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO) constituency.

Week 1 DOSI Event participation summary:

- Mindaroo Foundation Panel Discussion at the Ocean Pavilion - Addressing the energy transition: Seabed mining - A risky proposition for climate, people and the planet (8 Nov). Levin presented on science gaps and biodiversity loss.
- Climate Education Hub UoS/DOSI/DOOS Event - The deep sea, the climate and the next generation (9 Nov). Elegbede, Bax, Seabrook Levin presented https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tel_pvxhB80&list=PL8_2fly9Hxy-R8XxulTjB1OsVhZV_kLMWp&index=10. Funding provided by JM Kaplan Fund to DOSI (\$5K)
- Centre Scientifique de Monaco - Ocean conservation and climate protection (10 Nov). Levin presented on carbon conservation and sequestration in the deep sea.
- CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) event on expanding the World Ocean Assessment through the Intergovernmental Panel on Ocean Sustainability (10 Nov). Levin presented.
- The Ocean X Climate Summit (11 Nov). Levin presented on seabed mining - scientific elements.
- National Oceanography Centre Southampton UK (NOCS) Ocean Pavilion event on Blue carbon: the ocean's role in fighting climate change (11 Nov). Bax presented on Antarctic blue carbon and the deep sea's role in long-term sequestration.

In the second week, engagements with negotiators and administrators were strengthened. Members met with country delegations, including engagements by (i) Seabrook and Bax with the New Zealand delegation and, Seabrook with the Minister for Climate, James Shaw, Bax with Dr Andrea Brandon New Zealand Ministry for the Environment (ii) Rangani with the India delegation, (iii) Ekpe engaging with the Nigerian delegation, and (iv) Dbouk engaging with the Lebanese delegation. (v) Seabrook met with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator Richard Spinrad, (vi) Levin, Baker and Seabrook engaged with the Vanuatu Minister for Climate, (vii) Seabrook, Levin, and Baker contributed to the development of the text for the high-level plenary given by RINGO, (viii) Bax engaged with the British and their overseas territories delegations, (ix) Bax engaged with the Antarctic Cryosphere pavilion and the Marine Ecosystem Assessment of the Southern Ocean (MEASO) side event and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) delegations.

Week 2 DOSI Event Participation Summary:

- Official UNFCCC Side-Event DOSI/POGO collaboration on: Observing and understanding climate change and biodiversity from the coast to the deep ocean with Levin, Seabrook, Ekpe (15 Nov).

- NOCS Ocean Pavilion event on Ocean Acidification: what is happening in our ocean and why this matters (16 Nov). Levin presented.
- IOC UNESCO Ocean Pavilion event - Responding to ocean deoxygenation: using what the science tells us to motivate policy and management action (16 Nov). Levin presented. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ld_OR1qxH4
- Deep seabed mining and links to climate change in Chile Pavilion (16 Nov). Levin presented.
- DOSI and partners event at Ocean Pavilion: The deep ocean, the decade and climate change: mitigation, impacts, adaptation and interventions. Baker moderated, Levin, Thiele and Snow presented. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3x6Gkhe_U8&t=16s
- Seabed 2030 event Ocean Pavilion 'Seabed 2030: Mapping for People and Planet (16 Nov). Bax and Snow presented. https://youtu.be/CQe_IKSROok

COP27 Outcomes:

The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the final decision text of COP27, saw the ocean represented more than ever. In Article 45, the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue was mandated as an annual event with two conveners appointed to enable effective communication between the Dialogue and COP negotiations. Enhanced ocean observation was called for in Article 26 and a call for research into and the promotion of ocean based actions that promote climate sustainability was also seen in Article 46.

DOSI recognizes the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue as critical mechanisms to advance action on the ocean-climate nexus. As such, we are working stridently to enable members to attend the 2023 Ocean and Climate Dialogue to provide scientific translations of critical risks, and participate in the discussions of capacity building, financing, and mitigation.

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC from 30 November to 12 December 2023 (TBC) in the United Arab Emirates. Our learnings from this event will put us in a much better position to integrate deep ocean science and priorities with climate action and policy formation.



DOSI members meeting with Peter Thompson (United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean) and Vladimir Ryabinin (Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO).



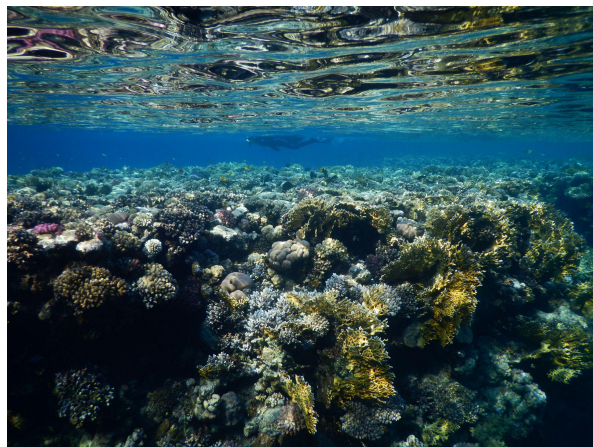
NOCS Ocean Pavilion event on Blue carbon: the ocean's role in fighting climate change (11 Nov). Left to right Narissa Bax, with co-panelists Dr Jim Edson and Dr Anya Waite © Wassim Dbouk



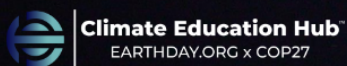
High-level panel discussion: SEABED 2030: mapping for people and the planet left to right Dr Bernadette Snow, Dr Sophie Seeyave, Dr Narissa Bax and Dr Rick Spinrad with Dr Steve Hall as moderator. © Eliza Poloczanska



Ocean Pavilion event on The Deep Ocean, The Decade and Climate Change (17 Nov). Left to right Ken Buesseler, Lisa Levin, Torsten Thiele, Maria Baker, Bernadette Snow.



Beautiful coral reefs of the Red Sea, Ras Muhammad National Park south of Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt @Narissa Bax



The Deep Sea, the Climate, and the Next Generation

Wednesday, November 9, 2022
4.30pm-5:30pm GMT+2 (10:30am EST)
Climate Education Hub, Blue Zone COP27
Watch online: earthday.org/climateeducationhub/



Dr. Sarah Seabrook
National Institute of Water and
Atmospheric Research, New Zealand



Dr. Narissa Bax
South Atlantic Environmental
Research Institute, Falkland Islands



Dr. Isa Elegbede
CEESP/TGER/IUCN, Switzerland
Lagos State University, Nigeria



Olívia S. Pereira
Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, USA



Michelle Guraieb
Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, USA



Dr. Lisa A. Levin
(moderator)
Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, USA

Photo: ROV SuBastian/Schmidt Ocean Institute (FK210726/PI Levin)

Deep Ocean, the Decade, and Climate Change:

Mitigation, Impacts, Adaptation, and Interventions



Nan-Chin Chu,
IFREMER



Lisa Levin,
Scripps Institution
of Oceanography,
UC San Diego



Torsten Thiele,
Global Ocean Trust



Bernadette Snow,
One Ocean Hub



Hélène Leau,
IFREMER



Ken Buesseler,
WHOI



Maria Baker,
University of
Southampton
(Moderator)

COP27 Ocean Pavilion November 17th, 9:00am - 10:15am



Image courtesy of NOAA Ocean Exploration