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EVENT RARECAP:

UNFCCC COP25 – Oceans & Climate at the Blue COP in Madrid

Under the presidency of Chile, the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25) took place from the 2nd – 13th of December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. Hailed by many as the ‘Blue COP’, this year’s summit promised to have a particular focus on the linkages between oceans and climate. In the context of the negotiations, one of the key outstanding items was an agreement on how to structure market mechanisms to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, COP25 was unable to deliver the concrete results needed to frame and drive the ambitious action required to tackle the global climate crisis. This means, there will be increased pressure on COP26 that will take place in Glasgow in November 2020.

However, while on the negotiations front there was disappointment, as has been the case in recent COPs, there was considerable momentum and energy in the parallel events led by civil society and private sector. In this arena, Rare was able to make important contributions to the Blue COP. Among others, these are our highlights:

1. *More than 90 oceans related side-events were hosted at the ‘Blue COP’ calling for stronger integration of ocean and climate related discussions;*
2. *The government of Indonesia **put forward a request to the UNFCCC** to host a dialogue on oceans and climate during the upcoming SB52 meetings in May 2020 in Bonn, Germany;*
3. *Global leaders called for smart financial commitments to oceans and climate as well as increased integration of the UNFCCC processes with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD);*
4. *GLISPA and Rare co-launched the working group on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Fisheries at the NDC Partnership Pavilion;*
5. *Together with other civil society partners, Rare presented a **voluntary submission to the UNFCCC** that calls for support of adaptation efforts in coastal fishing communities.*

Rare at UNFCCC COP25 – A Deep Dive

Overall, there was tremendous momentum around the significance of the oceans for climate. World leaders such as Norway, Germany, France, Indonesia, the Seychelles, Fiji and many others underlined the importance of oceans for climate mitigation and adaptation. In partnership with the Friends of the Blue COP, GLISPA, FEBA and other partner organizations, Rare was proud to be part of what we believe to be a positive step forward.

German Pavilion - Blue climate action: Marine nature-based solutions for NDCs



Picture 1: From left to right – Dorothee Herr (IUCN), Pauliane Basil (Ministry of Climate Change, Vanuatu), James Kairo (KMFRI), Arwandrija Rukma (Rare), Gilles Kleitz (Blue Action Fund)

Co-hosted by Blue Solutions, Blue Action Fund, Save our Mangroves Now! and Rare, various high-level partners including the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the German Federal Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ) were brought together with implementers such as Rare. The event presented existing finance mechanisms and platforms for Nature-based Solutions (NBS), while quick ‘fire rounds’ gave tangible examples of NBS and EbA on the ground. Together, speakers built a compelling case for sound, locally-led NBS in coastal and marine areas as a good investment, not just for climate but also for people. Key demands for integrated management, Blue Natural Capital as well as an integration of CBD and UNFCCC processes were important to all participants.

Indonesia Pavilion - Developing Ecosystem-based Adaptation in marine and coastal communities

In partnership with the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Rare took local implementation of EbA in the marine and coastal communities sector to center stage at the Indonesia Pavilion.

Following an introduction by H.E. Hermono, Ambassador of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Spain, Helen Ågren, Sweden’s Ambassador for the Oceans, spoke about the importance of the Blue COP and urged stakeholders to move from political dialogue to smart financial commitments to oceans and climate that would emphasize EbA. Strengthening her plea, Rare, GIZ, and MMAF presented case studies of EbA integration in smart oceans and fisheries management.



Picture 2: Rare Indonesia’s Director for Programmatic Policy, Arwandrija Rukma, presenting Rare’s regional Fishing for Resilience Project.

“Ecosystem-based Adaptation [...] is a people-centric concept, but one that acknowledges that human resilience depends critically on the integrity of ecosystems” – H.E. Hermono, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Spain

NDC Partnership Pavilion – Fishing for climate resilience

Co-hosted by Rare and GLISPA at the NDC Partnership Pavilion, this side event invited speakers from BMU, MMAF and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), as well as the NDC Partnership and other civil society partners. Panelists discussed how to scale local action to the national level and how to strengthen global policy leadership. Building on its regional project “Fishing for Climate Resilience” that is part of the German International Climate Initiative, Rare provided examples of how EbA measures could be mainstreamed into relevant plans and policies of the small-scale fisheries productive sector.



Picture 3: Ronald Jumeau, (GLISPA) announcing the Working Group on EbA and Fisheries. With him on stage (left to right), representatives of Rare, NDCP, BMU, Indonesia MoEF, Indonesia MMAF

Rare, along with Christian Aid, Environmental Defense Fund, Institute of Social Order, NGOs for Fisheries Reform, Save Philippine Seas, and the Tambuyog Development Center, presented a **position paper that was submitted to the UNFCCC** which calls on increased support for adaptation efforts in coastal fishing communities that face extreme weather events. In particular, the submission recognized the important role of oceans in countries’ NDCs.

Following two weeks of COP, the session closed with a brief stock taking of the participants and invited them to announce their commitments and next steps moving forward to a ‘Blue 2020’. In addition, Ronald Jumeau formally launched the working group on EbA and Fisheries that GLISPA and Rare are hosting under the Fishing for Climate Resilience project.

“Everybody should have access to financial services Irrespective of their level of education and language” – H.E. Ronald Jumeau on financial inclusion in Seychelles’ fisheries sector

Partnerships for scale

Recently, Rare became an Associate Member to the NDC Partnership. This allowed the organization to showcase its approach to the integration of EbA into the small-scale fisheries sector at the NDCP Pavilion this year. More importantly, we look forward to exploring how to leverage this membership to better support our partner countries, such as the Philippines and Indonesia in achieving their NDCs and NAPs. As such, Rare kicked-off initial conversations during the NDCP annual Member’s meeting that took place on the side lines of COP25.

In addition, we engaged our partners at the Friends for Ecosystem-based Adaptation Network (FEBA). Under the project, ‘Fishing for Climate Resilience’ Rare will host a regional workshop around EbA and fisheries with the goal to share lessons learned and inspire attendees to integrate EbA approaches in their work. During COP25, Rare also held initial meetings with partners such as FEBA to discuss timing and logistics of the event. Stay tuned for more information!

What's Next

While there is much left to do and no formal recommendation on a way forward beyond a summary document, we want to acknowledge the determination of our government and NGO partners that we have witnessed during this COP25.

Through our ongoing projects, we look forward to working closely with our country partners continue mainstreaming EbA and climate adaptation measures into the small-scale fisheries sector. In this way Rare aims to raise the importance of coastal eco-systems on the international level and to provide tangible support to our government partners in realizing their ambitious NDC and NAP targets.

Additional materials:

- [PowerPoint slide deck](#) – Indonesia Pavilion Side event “Developing Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Marine and Coastal Communities”
- [Video recording](#) – NDCP Pavilion Side event “Fishing for Climate Resilience”
- [Blogpost](#) – Fishing for Climate Resilience
- [Fishing for Climate Resilience](#) – Project entry on the website of the International Climate Initiative
- [Access link](#) – GLISPA, Rare co-hosted Working Group on EbA and Fisheries
- [IPCC Special Report on Oceans](#) – On the relevance of ocean for climate

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