

Blue Carbon Finance Workshop

9-11 February 2026

Room VII (floor -1), UNESCO, Paris, France

ZOOM REGISTRATION: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/Rvxtt2UdQIKVyCIAlhBWBA>

Workshop webpage: <https://www.oceanexpert.org/event/4956#overview>

Programme

Timetable

Monday, 9 February 2026	
<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
13.15-14.00	Arrival and registration (Entrance located at 7, Place de Fontenoy)
14.00-14.15	High-level Opening
14.15-15.30	Session 1: Scene-setting
15.30-16.00	Coffee break (Mall, floor -1)
16.00-17.30	Session 2: Integrity of blue carbon finance
18.00-20.00	Cocktail reception (UNESCO Restaurant, 7th floor)

Tuesday, 10 February 2026	
<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
09:30 -11.00	Session 2: Integrity of blue carbon finance (continued)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break (Mall, floor -1)
11.30-13.00	Session 4: Examples of investments in blue carbon
13.00-14.00	Lunch break (not provided)
14:00-14.30	Session 3: Keynote speech
14.30-15.30	Session 5: Deep dive into carbon markets
15.30-16.00	Coffee break (Mall, floor -1)
16.00-17.30	Session 5: Deep dive into carbon markets (continued)

Wednesday, 11 February 2026	
<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
09.30-10.30	Session 6: Practical activity
10.30-11.00	Coffee break (Mall, floor -1)
11.00-12.00	Session 6: Practical activity (continued)
12.00-12.30	Wrap-up and Closing

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. **Promote the streamlining of blue carbon action in countries:** Provide the participating countries with the knowledge and tools to align their political commitments (ie Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs) with implementation on the ground, including how blue carbon finance fits into Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
2. **Foster and structure demand and offer:** Provide an opportunity for finance experts, finance providers, policymakers and project developers to connect and discuss challenges and opportunities related to the financing of activities that contribute to ecosystem services and the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.
3. **Generate and disseminate new knowledge:** Introduce participants to the information and recommendations included in the [Blue Carbon Finance Toolbox](#) (BCFT) and collect user feedback for the update of the BCFT.

Sessions

High-level Opening (15')

MC: Kirsten Isensee, Programme Specialist, Ocean Carbon Sources and Sinks, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (5')

Speakers:

- Salina Grenet-Catalano, Director for global affairs (French MFA) (5')
- Karen Evans, Head of the Ocean Science Section, IOC (5')

Session 1: Scene-setting (75')

Moderator: Kirsten Isensee, Programme Specialist, Ocean Carbon Sources and Sinks, IOC

Speakers:

- Marine Lecerf, Head of International Policy, Ocean and Climate Platform (15') – Blue carbon in the global climate agenda, including reflections from COP30
- Q&A (5')
- Olivia Rendon, Senior environmental economist, Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) (15') – Overview of finance options available for blue carbon activities
- Q&A (5')
- Samuel Henry, Blue Carbon Facility Coordinator, French Development Agency (AFD) (20') – The Blue Carbon Finance Toolbox explained
- Q&A (15')

Session 2: Integrity of blue carbon finance (up to 3 hours)

Moderator: Elizabeth Francis, Principal Associate, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Speakers:

Introduction by Experts

- Élise Rebut, Conservation International (15') – High Quality Blue Carbon Principles and Guidance
- Q&A (5')
- Leah Glass, Silvestrum Climate Associates (15') – Blue Carbon Methodologies
- Q&A (5')

Countries perspectives

- Edward Donaldson-Balan, Ocean-climate policy adviser, Department for environment, food and rural affairs, United Kingdom (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Cinthia Jazmín López Nájera, Head of Department in the Blue Agenda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico (15')
- Q&A (5')

Examples of on-the-ground actions to protect and restore blue carbon ecosystems

- Samuel Henry, Blue Carbon Facility Coordinator, French Development Agency (AFD) (15') – The AFD Blue Carbon Facility
- Q&A (5')
- Élise Rebut, Conservation International (15') – The Verra-certified Vida Manglar project in Colombia
- Q&A (5')
- Elizabeth Francis, Principal Associate, The Pew Charitable Trusts (15') – Pew Blue Carbon programme
- Q&A (5')
- Lisa Schindler Murray, Director, Blue Carbon and Natural Climate Solutions, Rare (15') – Parametric insurance project in the Philippines
- Q&A (5')

Session 3: Keynote speech (0.5 hour)

MC: Gabrielle Larricq, Policy Advisor, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Speaker:

- David Obura, Chair, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – Blue carbon as a Nature-based Solution (20'), online
- Q&A (10')

Session 4: Examples of investments in blue carbon (up to 1.5 hours)

Moderator: Xiaoting JIN, Ocean and Biodiversity Expert, French Development Agency (AFD)

Speakers:

- Bethany Cosgrove, Environment Specialist (Finance), Asian Development Bank (ADB) (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Dorothée Herr, Advisor, Ocean & Climate, International Processes & Sustainable Finance, German Development Cooperation (GIZ) (*remote*) (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Sylvia Michele Diez, Worldbank (15')
- Q&A (5')

Session 5: Deep dive into carbon markets (up to 3 hours)

Moderator: Olivia Rendon, Senior environmental economist, Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)

Speakers:

Experts

- Kendall Damon, Climate Policy Associate, The Nature Conservancy (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Catherine Bodart, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Environment, France (15')
- Q&A (5')

Countries' perspectives

- Jacklyn Rivera-Wong, Technical adviser, Comisión Nacional para la gestión de la Biodiversidad (CONAGEBIO), Costa Rica (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Schmoi McLean, Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Denzel Atumurirava, Oceans Officer I, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji (15')

- Q&A (5')
- Frida Sidik, Principal Researcher, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Disaorn Aitthiariyasunthon, Forestry Technical Officer, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand (15')
- Q&A (5')
- Tsiramby Félicien Ndrenambinina, Head of Blue Economic Service, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar (15')
- Q&A (5')

Session 6: Practical activity (2 hours)

Facilitators:

- Marine Lecerf, Head of International Policy, Ocean and Climate Platform
- Lisa Schindler Murray, Director, Blue Carbon and Natural Climate Solutions, Rare

Practical activity where participants divide into two groups. 1) Project implementation: Blue carbon guidance and collaboration across stakeholder groups – lessons learned and challenges, 2) Policy and finance: Finance mechanisms and policy frameworks, drivers of blue carbon action.

Each group will have the possibility to discuss both topics.

30' + 30' rotating groups for different questions

15' + 15' reporting back from the 2 groups

30' open discussion

Wrap-up and Closing (30')

MC: Gabrielle Larricq, Policy Advisor, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Speakers:

- Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of IOC and ADG UNESCO