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WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION



GLOBAL COMMONS AND CLIMATE ACTION

Date: 16 September 2022 (Friday) | Time: 2-4 PM IST

COP27 Compass

Framing Presentation and Preliminary Findings of TERI Study

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COP27 Compass

Act4Earth was launched at the WSDS 2022 valedictory session with an objective to drive ambitious and urgent action on climate change and sustainable development through knowledge, dialogue and capacity building

Act4Earth platform's two components:

- COP Compass
- SDG Charter

COP27 Compass: Amplifying perspectives from the Global South crucial for equitable climate action



What are Global Commons?

- Extensive resource domains that do not fall under the jurisdiction of any single country.
- Two characteristics of common pool resources:
 - High difficulty of barring others from using them (exclusion)
 - High subtractability (depletion)
- International law recognizes four global commons:
 - Oceans/ high seas
 - Atmosphere
 - Antarctica
 - Outer space
- Governance of global commons remain contentious since there is no single state or region having complete responsibility for their governance.



Why Global Commons?

- Vital for the survival of all species on this planet
- Linkages to climate change: Rising sea temperature and sea levels/ overfishing, acidification, marine litter/ pollution
- Under-researched in terms of:
 - Governance structures – delineate the national and global jurisdiction
 - Their role in climate action



Scope and Rationale

Scope

Oceans (marine areas beyond national jurisdiction - ABNJ) and climate action by examining the interface between climate and ocean governance

Rationale

- Magnitude
 - 70% of Earth's surface is covered by oceans; Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) make up 40 percent of the surface of our planet, comprising 64 percent of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95 percent of its volume
 - Only global common shared by all at the same time
- Relevance to climate action
 - Oceans absorbs heat and regulates temperature of the planet
 - Climate change impacts such as sea level rise, acidification and loss of marine biodiversity and integrity of ecosystems

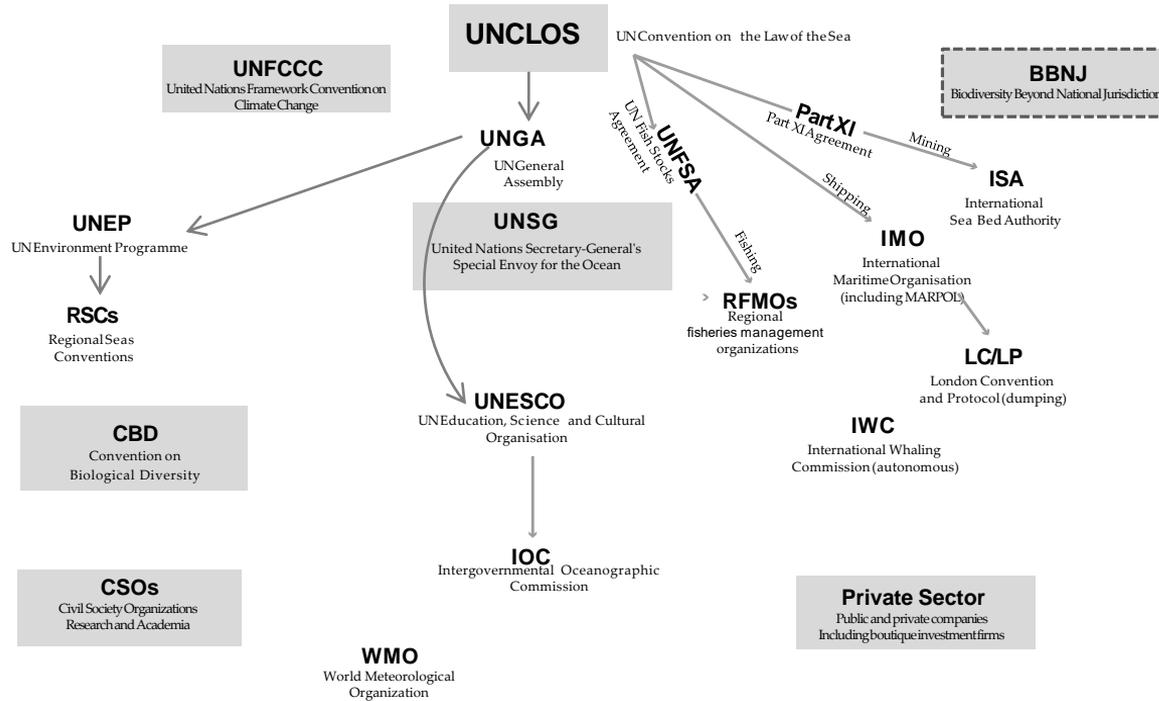
Governance of Global Commons

	Key Treaties/Convention/Agreements	Relevance to Environmental Action
Climate governance	UNFCCC + Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement	Acid deposition, GHG emissions, ozone depletion
Ocean convention	UNCLOS + BBNJ*, CBD	Address sea level rise, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, marine pollution

**ongoing negotiations*

The interface between climate governance and ocean governance is an important topic for policy and research consideration.

Emerging interface between Ocean and Climate Governance



(under negotiations)

Following more than a decade of discussions, UN General Assembly in 2017 convened an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate a new International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

UNFCCC and Oceans

- Climate and ocean policies have been historically siloed in the global climate negotiations.
- This oversight is conflicting with the incredible role that the ocean plays in regulating Earth's climate as well as the numerous manifestations of climate change in the marine environment (IPCC, 2019).
- Until COP21 the ocean was mostly omitted from negotiations altogether; Paris Agreement mentions the importance of oceans in the Preamble.
- Following COP23, spearheaded by Fiji and increase in indigenous representation, a concerted focus on the ocean-climate nexus is noticed.
- The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue was mandated at COP25.
- A major outcome of COP26 was governments permanently anchoring the inclusion of strengthened ocean-based action under the UNFCCC multilateral process in the Glasgow Climate Pact 2021.

Glasgow Climate Pact and Oceans

- Noted the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including forests, the ocean and the cryosphere
- Emphasized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including marine ecosystems
- Invited the relevant work programs and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action

Recommendations

- One of the outcomes of COP26 is holding an annual ocean and climate change dialogues. **Participation and inclusion of other stakeholders** is key in these dialogues.
- There is a need for definite goals, targets and indicators (beyond what is covered under SDG 14), institutional and enforcement mechanism to steer the ocean-climate action. Indicators should include input, output and outcome indicators.
- International cooperation and financial resources is critical to actionability of the outcomes of COP26 and beyond. Key question of coordination and reforms in the multilateral systems.
- Sustained global ocean observations and projections of ocean physics, chemistry and biology are essential to inform better short and long-term policy making for the benefit of people, nature and the economy. Invest in international coordination and integration of ocean observations.
- Important to understand the interface between international climate governance and ocean governance (UNFCCC and UNCLOS+CBD).

Thank You 😊

