

ACTION PROGRAMME

2025-2028



Table of contents



Challenges and **Genesis** of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition



Pillars of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition
June 2025 - June 2028

1. Mobilisation
2. Knowledge
3. Capacity Building
4. Finance
5. Advocacy



Challenges and Genesis of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

The **Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition** is an initiative led by the City of Nice, the Ocean & Climate Platform, and the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM), with the support of the French Government and the Government of Costa Rica. The Coalition is spearheaded by the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM) and its secretariat, which is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The Coalition mission is to **“accelerate adaptation and resilience to ocean changes by fostering exchanges of best practices and collaboration between coastal cities and regions, scientific institutions, financial players, and committed stakeholders”**.

To do so, the Coalition brings together local representatives of coastal cities and regions who want to take action on ocean changes, bringing them to their attention and facilitating access to the full range of activities and solution that can benefit them.

The Coalition is structured around Members, a Steering Committee, a secretariat, and partner organizations with whom specific agreements are signed for targeted actions. Coastal local governments become Members by endorsing the Coalition’s Charter. Working Groups, composed of diverse stakeholders, support strategic thinking and provide recommendations to the Steering Committee, which oversees the Coalition’s governance decisions.



Challenges and Genesis of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Challenges addressed

Coastal cities and regions face a multitude of interrelated challenges, exacerbated by both **climate hazards and human activities**. Among these :

- **Erosion and submersion** pose a severe threat, gradually wearing away beaches, deltas, and cliffs, while tidal flooding and land submergence compromise infrastructures and disrupt communities.
- **Extreme climate events** further heighten these risks, with tropical and extratropical cyclones, storms, and extreme sea-level variations inflicting widespread damage on coastal settlements.
- **The degradation of ecosystems** compounds these vulnerabilities, as the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity undermines the ecological balance and weakens the natural defenses that protect shorelines.
- **Water and soil salinisation** driven by saltwater intrusion, contaminates freshwater supplies, jeopardises agricultural productivity, and accelerates infrastructural decay.
- **These environmental stressors translate into significant economic and social repercussions**, as key industries such as tourism, maritime trade, and fisheries suffer disruptions, while public health, cultural heritage, and overall community well-being are placed at risk.

Further compounding these challenges, subsidence and tsunamis introduce additional threats, increasing the urgency for coordinated adaptation action and resilience-building initiatives.



Challenges and Genesis of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Genesis of the Coalition

The Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition for cities and regions ("the Coalition") was born out of a growing international recognition of the urgent need to address the challenges posed by rising sea levels and ocean changes due to climate change, and their socio-economic and environmental impacts on coastal cities and regions. This initiative aligns with the Sea'ties Declaration, launched in February 2022 at the One Ocean Summit, Brest, France by the Ocean & Climate Platform. The Declaration brings together over 70 mayors and governors worldwide committed to the adaptation of their coastlines and calling for international support in their endeavors.

Building on this momentum, the Coalition was formally announced at the One Planet – Polar Summit in November 2023, when the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, entrusted the Mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, to lead the initiative and the Ocean & Climate Platform to coordinate its preparation, aiming to unite 1,000 representatives of the one billion people globally affected by rising sea levels by 2050. The Coalition will officially launch during the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit, June 7, 2025, at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), Nice, France.

Pillars of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

To achieve its mission, the Coalition supports and accelerates coastal cities and regions' adaptation and resilience by fostering collaboration, promoting knowledge-sharing, and providing strategic guidance through **five key Pillars**:



Mobilisation

Building a dedicated ecosystem around regular convenings of local elected representatives and stakeholders to foster the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and solutions.



Knowledge

Strengthening cooperation between scientific entities and coastal local governments to improve the production, access and uses of data and knowledge.



Capacity building

Enhancing the capacities and skills of coastal local governments through targeted training, expert exchanges, and connections with partner-led programs to support adaptation efforts.



Finance

Engaging public and private financial stakeholders to design, implement and provide tailored coastal adaptation financial mechanisms.



Advocate

Collecting and conveying the demands of coastal local governments for better integration of their interest and the well-being of their citizens in international negotiating bodies and processes.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028

Between the launch of the Coalition on June 7, 2025, at the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit, Special Event of the UNOC3, and the next Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit in 2028 at UNOC4, the following activities will be implemented as part of an initial three-year Roadmap to drive action, support, and accelerate coastal local governments' adaptation and resilience efforts.

Each activity is designed to deliver tangible impact, strengthen capacities, foster collaboration, and unlock solutions to adapt and preserve our coastal communities. Specific targets will be set for each activity, ensuring measurable progress and accountability as we move forward together.



PILLAR 1 - MOBILISATION

1. **Establish a high-level summit** to elevate the advocacy of coastal local governments, ensuring their priorities on urban transformation, ocean conservation, climate action, and biodiversity preservation are integrated into the international agenda, including the triannual UN Ocean Conference (UNOC).
2. **Develop the website of the Coalition** as a digital platform providing useful resources for leading coastal adaptation efforts. The website will act as a repository for 1) disseminated knowledge, best practices and case studies; and 2) share vulnerability assessment, data-sharing and policy-decision tools.
3. **Inform and communicate** about the Coalition Members on a regular basis to share publications and up-coming activity agenda, as well as highlight innovative projects and solutions.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028



PILLAR 2 - KNOWLEDGE

1. **Conduct the synthesis and knowledge dissemination** of complex scientific findings and analysis ensure the uptake of knowledge and science on coastal adaptation by decision-makers.
2. **Host workshops for coastal local governments** to gather and enhance data-sharing and policy-decision tools answering their specific needs and promote the best uses of scientific data services.
3. **Support the development of an AI-powered,** user-friendly platform capable of delivering query-based, relevant information to empower data-driven decision-making for coastal resilience.
4. **Support and emphasise the importance of Ocean Literacy** to raise awareness among all stakeholders involved and the general public to ensure acceptance and informed engagement of societies.
5. **Contribute to the advocacy efforts,** ensuring they are grounded in robust and credible scientific knowledge.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028



PILLAR 3 - CAPACITY BUILDING

1. **Enable coastal local governments to present their challenges, showcase innovative responses, and engage with experts** for direct feedback. These workshops will provide access to:
 - Specialized expertise for port cities and regions, ensuring tailored solutions to their unique challenges.
 - Scientifically validated initiatives proposed by the private sector, offering innovative and practical approaches to enhance coastal resilience.
2. **Facilitate peer-to-peer exchange of practices and returns of experiences** between local governments through both virtual exchanges and in-person visits:
 - Virtual exchange enabling local governments to share experiences and solutions.
 - In-person exchange visits where city officials and stakeholders can learn directly from peers who have successfully implemented innovative solutions to similar challenges.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028



PILLAR 4 - FINANCE

1. **Support the creation of national project funding calls** dedicated to coastal local governments.
2. **Support and assist in the creation of a dedicated fund** allowing national governments to finance local community adaptation, including Official Development Assistance (ODA).
3. **Lead an effort to institutionalise a dialogue** bringing together States, local governments, and financial experts, including multilateral, bilateral, national, and subnational development banks as well as financing institutions, philanthropies and the private sector, to establish common priorities and develop shared roadmaps for funding adaptation and resilience measures.
4. **Conduct the review of funding mechanisms** dedicated to financing adaptation and resilience efforts for coastal cities and regions; promote and showcase financial initiatives at forums and events, encouraging the adoption of the most effective models and practices.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028



PILLAR 5 - ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

The Coalition's advocacy objective is to elevate the unique challenges faced by coastal cities and regions in international discussions and ensure that the interests and needs of these coastal areas are fully considered in global decision-making processes. The primary advocacy priorities are as follows:

- Promoting a sustainable vision for the adaptation and resilience of coastal areas;
- Advocating for a better use of knowledge by local authorities; public engagement, citizen science, and ocean literacy;
- Localising financing and enhancing public and private investment in adaptation and resilience initiatives.
- Improving local governance to address risks, vulnerabilities, and the implementation of appropriate responses.

To do so, the Coalition ensures that national governments integrate coastal resilience measures of coastal cities and regions into their climate and biodiversity strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), while ensuring effective alignment across these frameworks.



Activities of the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Initial phase June 2025 - June 2028

1. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Advocate for a better integration of coastal resilience across mechanisms and bodies, through key entry points including the following:

- National climate strategies and planning, including NDCs and NAPs;
- The Global Goal on Adaptation and Loss & Damage;
- the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and the Just Transition Work Program, and the Nairobi Work Program Expert Group on Ocean;
- Non-state actors' campaign and initiatives, including Race to Resilience and Race to Zero, and their respective agenda the Sharm-el Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and 2030 Breakthroughs.

2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Ensure effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets relevant for coastal resilience (T1 on Spatial Planning, T8 on Climate Action, T11 on Nature-based Solutions and T12 Urban Planning), mobilising key levers:

- NBSAPs and national targets;
- Programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, currently under revision;
- Indicators under the Global Biodiversity Framework's monitoring framework.

3. SDG Agenda

Generate significant political momentum and highlighting the importance of coastal cities et regions adaptation and resilience during the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Summit, in parallel to the UNOC and in a dedicated segment for local and regional governments at the UN Water Conference.

4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Advocate for a comprehensive analysis of ocean changes impacts and local governments adaptation measures to be included in the IPCC's Special Report on Cities and Climate Change and IPBES reports

OCEAN RISE

& COASTAL RESILIENCE

COALITION FOR CITIES & REGIONS

An initiative of



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