

# Integrated Side Event Proposal: Our Ocean Conference 9 - Athens

## Logistics

Date: 17 APR 2024

Time: 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

Location TBD by Greece 9th OOC Hosts

## Context

The US Government and TNC had submitted separate side event proposals to the Greek organizers, titled “Investing in Resilience: Blue Carbon Ecosystems, Communities, and Finance” and “Nature Bonds: as Sustainable Finance Mechanism for the Ocean in Practice” respectively. The Greek organizers have asked USG and TNC to merge these side events into one, with a new proposal due March 25.

## New proposed overarching framing

Title: Scaling innovative and inclusive finance solutions for the ocean and communities – how blue carbon, debt conversions and partnerships can help us usher in a sustainable ocean future

Overview: The ocean is the world’s largest climate regulator, primary food source for over 3 billion people and a driver of many local and national economies. Nevertheless, investment to maintain ocean health and productivity, including in blue carbon ecosystems, lags significantly behind the sums devoted to maintaining other natural resource assets. This puts communities that depend on these ecosystems and resources for food security, livelihoods, mitigation potential, and cultural heritage at risk. This event will showcase how collaboration between multiple partners, including the United States, Palau, Belize, and The Nature Conservancy can unlock new and innovative finance flows for the ocean. In particular, we will focus on examples of innovative solutions for the ocean: blue carbon, debt conversions and large partnerships. While distinct, these solutions and many others, have in common that they rely on similar enabling conditions: effective collaboration on a technical and diplomatic level, inclusive and participatory stakeholder processes, and a solid evidence base for action.

## Potential flow of event

- 00:00 - 00:02
  - o MC for the overall event does brief welcome (Andreas Hansen, Director, Global Ocean Policy, TNC).
- 00:02 – 00:07
  - o Opening remarks: Dr. Jane Lubchenco (Deputy Director for Climate and Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy)
- 00:07 - 00:26
  - o Discussion Panel 1: Investing in Blue Carbon Ecosystems (19 minutes)

- Moderator: Michael Schiffer (Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, USAID)
  - 00:07 - 00:10: Moderator Introduction
  - 00:10 - 00:14: Carlos Correa (Senior Fellow, Conservation International and former Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia), Introduction and Statement
  - 00:14 - 00:18: Susan Ruffo (Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs), Introduction and Statement
  - 00:18 - 00:26: Open Discussion with Moderator
- 00:26 - 00:45
  - Discussion panel 2: Scaling ocean finance (19 minutes)
  - Moderator: Andreas Hansen (Director, Global Ocean Policy, The Nature Conservancy)
    - 00:26 - 00:29 Moderator introduction
    - 00:29 - 00:33: Beverly Wade, Head of the Blue Bonds and Project Finance for Permanence Unit in the Prime Minister's Office, Belize
    - 00:33 – 00:37: US State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Mahlet Mesfin
    - 00:37 – 00:45: Open Discussion with Moderator
- 00:45 - 00:50
  - Closing remarks: President Whipps (Palau)