



About the Conference

Palau and the United States
will co-host the 7th Our
Ocean Conference on April
13 and 14 of 2022



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5 March 2022

It is with great pleasure – and urgency – that we invite you to speak at the 7th Our Ocean Conference on April 13 and 14 in Koror, Palau (postponed from February 16 and 17 due to the spread of the Omicron variant). As the first Small Island Developing State to host this Conference, Palau will highlight the realities of islands in the face of the ocean-climate crisis.

Our lives are inextricably connected to the ocean. It regulates our climate and weather, generates half of our oxygen, and provides food and livelihoods for billions of people worldwide. Yet the health of the ocean is under threat. The impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, including ocean warming and acidification, make it clear that the climate crisis is also an ocean crisis and a humanitarian crisis.

At the same time, other human activities, such as overfishing and plastic pollution, are harming ocean ecosystems and coastal communities around the globe. These impacts are devastating in Small Island Developing States such as Palau and all places where the ocean is a primary source of sustenance.

This year's theme, *Our Ocean, Our People, Our Prosperity*, will build on the momentum of previous Conferences to mobilize ambitious new announcements to protect our ocean, people, and planet. We call on the international community to ramp up their actions with significant and compelling new commitments. Profound collective action is necessary to save us all.

Our Ocean, Our People, Our Prosperity will focus on six thematic areas: climate change, sustainable fisheries, sustainable blue economies, marine protected areas, maritime security, and marine pollution. The importance of ocean-based climate solutions and the importance of a healthy ocean to Small Island Developing States and communities around the globe will be cross-cutting themes.

Our Ocean, Our People, Our Prosperity will be a major moment for world leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries to secure the health and sustainability of our ocean for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. We look forward to your participation as a speaker.

For the ocean,

Steven Victor

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment
Republic of Palau

Further details are available at www.ourocean2022.pw.



Our Ocean Conference Final Speaker and Moderator Guidance

Dear Our Ocean Conference Speaker/Moderator,

We look forward to your participation in this year's Our Ocean Conference on Wednesday and Thursday, April 13-14, 2022. To assist you with preparing for your role, we have compiled some important logistical information.

Location:

Palau National Gymnasium (PNG)

Schedule at a Glance:

Wednesday, 13 April 2022

7:00 – 8:30a	Delegation Arrivals, Registration, and Coffee
8:30 – 9:00a	Opening Performance, Video and Keynote Addresses 9:10
– 10:25a	Plenary Session I: Confronting the Ocean-Climate Crisis 10:40
– 11:55a	Plenary Session II: Advancing Sustainable Fisheries 11:55a
– 2:00p	Delegates Lunch
2:00 – 2:15p	Island Communities: Ocean Challenges and Solutions
2:20 – 3:35p	Plenary Session III: Creating Sustainable Blue Economies
3:45 – 4:45p	Featured Panel I: Indigenous-led Conservation
5:20 – 6:20p	Side Events

Thursday, 14 April 2022

7:00 – 8:30a	Delegation Arrivals and Coffee
8:30 – 9:30a	Side Events
9:45 – 10:05a	High-Level Opening: Voices for the Ocean
10:10 – 11:25a	Plenary Session IV: Advancing Marine Protected Areas for Communities, Ecosystems, and Climate
11:25a – 1:00p	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15p	Plenary Session V: Achieving a Safe, Just and Secure Ocean
2:20 – 2:50p	Conversation on Partnerships for the Ocean: New Directions and

3:05 – 4:20p
4:35 – 5:35p

Plenary Session VI: Tackling Marine Pollution
Featured Panel II: Toward a "Super Year" for the Ocean: Leadership

5:40 – 6:10p **and Action**
6:00 – 8:00p **High-Level Closing: Looking to Our Ocean 2023**
 Closing Mixer

Arrival:

Be prepared to go through security screening upon your arrival to the Our Ocean Conference campus. You will be required to show your conference badge. **No large electronics will be permitted in the plenary space. This includes laptops and iPads.** If you need your notes, please bring a hard copy or utilize your phone.

Please plan to arrive at the PNG backstage Green Room no later than (30) minutes prior to the start of your session/panel. The entrance to backstage is located stage left/audience right. A Protocol Officer will meet you at the entrance to escort you to the Green Room, where you will meet your fellow panelists and receive a quick briefing. You will then receive your microphone and prepare to take the stage for the start of your session/panel.

Credentials:

Conference credentials may be picked up at your hotel if you are staying at one of the official conference hotels. If you are not, you may pick up your credential at the Palau Community Cafeteria. You must wear your credential at all times while on the Our Ocean Conference campus. A credential is also required to access shuttle buses. This credential allows you access to both days of the Conference. **You will be unable to access the Conference campus without your credential.**

Attire:

Attire for the Conference is “island formal”.

COVID-19 Mitigation:

Upon Arrival to Palau (Traveling Participants)

OOC traveling participants will be exempted from Palau’s 4-day restriction of movement (ROM). Traveling OOC participants will not be tested upon arrival at the airport but will be issued a wrist band to indicate that they have not been tested yet. This wrist band will be removed by a health official from the Government of Palau’s Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) once the participant has tested negative for COVID-19 and is cleared to enter the OOC grounds. Please see details for this testing below under ‘OOC COVID-19 Testing Requirements.’

OOC COVID-19 Testing Requirements

All OOC participants – both traveling and local – are required to have a negative COVID-19 (antigen) test in order to enter any OOC event or enter any OOC space. Only one test is needed before the conference; daily testing is not required. The Government of Palau is covering the costs

of all OOC-related COVID-19 testing and participants do not need to pay for routine testing or testing in the case that they experience any symptoms. Please see the schedule below for testing sites for traveling and local participants.

It is the responsibility of each OOC participant to ensure that they have tested and received negative results before they enter the OOC conference grounds. OOC organizers will work with MHHS to identify and ensure that participants who test positive for COVID-19 will follow all isolation and self-monitoring requirements.

Conference Testing Sites - Traveling Participants

All traveling participants are required to bring their passports and itineraries to pre-conference testing sessions for intake for outbound testing, including indication of whether antigen or PCR tests are required. VVIP testing will not be offered for pre-conference testing since testing will take place at hotels.

The wrist band issued to travelers upon arrival at the airport will be removed by a health official from the Government of Palau’s Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) once the participant has tested negative for COVID-19. Traveling participants should not remove the wrist band on their own.

Location	Dates / Times
Palasia Hotel (Central Koror Hotels - Palasia Hotel, West Plaza Lebuu, The Palau Hotel, and Others)	Monday, April 11: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Tuesday, April 12: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Palau Pacific Resort (PPR)	Monday, April 11: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Tuesday, April 12: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Palau Royal Resort (PRR)	Monday, April 11: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Tuesday, April 12: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
COVE Resort Palau	Monday, April 11: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, April 12: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sea Passion Hotel	Monday, April 11: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tuesday, April 12: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Testing Sites - Local Participants

Location	Dates / Times
Belau National Hospital – Please see signage for OOC participant testing	Monday, April 11: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Tuesday, April 12: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

COVID-19 Positive Cases

Traveling participants who test positive will isolate in their respective hotel rooms; local participants will isolate in their respective homes. Participants who test positive are required to isolate for a minimum of five days; after five days, participants can end their isolation if they test negative and will self-monitor for symptoms for an additional five days. Hotel staff will provide all necessities to participants quarantining in their hotel rooms and participants will pay for any extra lodging required. Although isolation can end after five days of quarantining, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not allow traveling on flights until after at least ten days of quarantining.

Participants who test positive should not stay with others in the same hotel room; will discuss special case scenarios on a case-by-case basis, including parents and minor children.

OOO Medical Station – All Participants

The official OOC Medical Station is available for all participants for any medical issues, including if they feel symptoms related to COVID-19. Participants who feel symptoms for COVID-19 should not report to the designated sites for pre-conference or outbound flight testing. MHHS medical staff will be managing the station with Palau EMT on standby to transport any participants to Belau National Hospital’s Emergency Room. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Medical Services' Directorate of Operation is on call for any USG personnel that need to be evacuated from Palau for medical reasons.

Location	Dates / Times
OOO Medical Station	Monday, April 11: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Tuesday, April 12: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Wednesday, April 13: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Thursday, April 14: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Belau National Hospital	Outpatient Department Monday – Friday: 7:30am – 4:30pm Emergency Department Daily, All Hours

Conference (Outdoors) – Participants / Speakers

Masks are strongly recommended but not required outdoors for both participants and speakers. When unmasked, participants will socially distance at their discretion; no social distancing required if masked. Social distancing is not required when eating outdoors.

Conference (Indoors) – Participants / Speakers

Masks are always required indoors except when actively drinking. Food is not allowed indoors but water will be provided. Speakers will be socially distanced from others by at least 3 feet and have the option to remove masks only when actively speaking. Social distancing is not required when masked indoors. The only exception to this rule is the VVIP seated lunch in the Alii Lounge where participants will be socially distanced by 3 feet.

Inside Vehicles

All participants are required to always wear masks inside vehicles. When weather is permitting, windows should be rolled down in vehicles.

Photographs

All participants must wear their masks during group photographs indoors. Participants may remove their masks if (1) photographing outdoors and (2) are at least 3 feet apart.

Testing for Outbound Flights

COVID-19 testing for outbound flights will be available on a walk-in basis for traveling participants in the Palau Community College Basketball Gymnasium. Participants have the choice of waiting for their results or having them delivered later to their respective hotels. Please see below for the testing schedule.

All travelers must bring their passports and itineraries to their testing session. VVIP participants will be tested at their respective hotels; their testing results will be delivered to them according to their departure schedule.

Traveling participants that need outbound flight testing after Sunday, April 17, 2022 at 12:00 PM will test at the Belau National Hospital.

Outbound Testing Sites

Palau Community College Basketball Gymnasium (Walk-in Appointments)

Date	Time
Wed, April 13, 2022	7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Thurs, April 14, 2022	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Fri, April 15, 2022	7:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sat, April 16, 2022	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sun, April 17, 2022	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Belau National Hospital (Walk-in Appointments)

Date	Time
Mon, April 11, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Tues, April 12, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Wed, April 13, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Thurs, April 14, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Fri, April 15, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Sat, April 16, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Sun, April 17, 2022	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Monitoring Palau's COVID-19 Situation

In case of a change in COVID-19 cases at the OOC or the country of Palau, MHHS and CDC reserve the authority to implement heightened COVID-19 mitigation measures, including increased requirements with masking, social distancing, and testing.

Questions/Communications:

Please do not hesitate to contact Meaghan Cuddy (CuddyMR@state.gov) with any questions or special needs concerning your session/panel. Main communications will be through the session WhatsApp group. If you have not been added to the WhatsApp group for your session, please contact Meaghan Cuddy at cuddymr@state.gov or +1 973 975 7385 as soon as possible.

Thank you again for agreeing to participate in the 2022 Our Ocean Conference!



The Involvement of Indigenous people

Indonesia

1. Sustainable Development Goal 14 is about "Life below water". SDG 14 aims to prevent and reduce marine pollution, promote the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, address the impacts of ocean acidification, regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices;
2. Indonesia has 201 conservation areas totaling 24,11 million ha. In 2021, 16,8 million ha that have been appointed by the Ministry and 7,3 million ha in the process of establishment with local government (kkp.go.id). The target for 2030 is to have 32,5 million ha in total protected.
3. Papua's contribution to the national target includes 10 conservation areas (4 national parks and 6 local marine conservation areas) that have been appointed, and some conservation areas in the process of establishment.
4. The objective of marine conservation is to bring socio-economic and cultural benefits to local communities in conservation areas in addition to protecting biodiversity.
5. West Papuan communities that live within marine conservation areas are communities that live traditionally and practice traditional livelihoods. Conservation programs have to protect cultural values and cultural traditions to steward the ocean and promote local livelihoods. An example of this is *sasi*.

There are government policies that encourage engaging with Indigenous people to support marine conservation.

- National
- Provincial
- Regional

Inclusion of Indigenous people in conservation programs

- Participated in zoning in marine planning documents (RZWP3K and RPZ). No take zones are not only established based on ecological data, but based on a community's traditional stewardship of the area.
- Participated in the development of indicators that outline what activities can and cannot be done within a conservation area.
- Participated in the planning of a **new conservation area in North Misool** (zoning & management plan)
- Participated in the preparation of **Village Regulations & Customary Regulations**, eg. Natural Resources Management, Ecotourism Management, Waste Management, Use of destructive fishing gear.





- Blue Abadi Fund (BAF)
- BAF Established in **2017**, BAF aims to provide a secure and steady **long-term flow of funds** to ensure that the **marine ecosystem and species** of the Birds' Head Seascape (BHS) in West Papua **are sustainably managed and protected** by local stewards
- Aims to build the capacity of existing local organizations and to encourage Indigenous West Papuans in conservation areas to create organizations that support conservation activities by providing funding. More than 25 local organizations are supported by BAF.
- Conservation programs have to include a gender component including the promotion of women as heads of local organizations or leaders of conservation programs.

3. Participation of community-based patrol (POKMASWAS) in marine conservation areas (national & regional) and customary marine conservation areas with customary sanctions



Pictures illustrate that BAF supports:

- **capacity building** of the patrol team,
- active participation of **community-based patrol (POKMASWAS)** in NTZ and Customary MPAs with Customary Sanctions

RESULT:

The 2020 status of management effectiveness of all MPA showed majority improvements, based on MMAF Technical Guidelines for “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Conservation Area Management” (commonly referred to as “Evika Guidelines”)

- Kep. Raja Ampat MPA: Optimally Managed (improved)
- Kaimana MPA: Optimally Managed (improved)
- Jeen Womom-Tambrau Coastal Park : Optimally Managed (improved)
- Fakfak Coastal Park of Teluk Berau and Teluk Nusalasi Van Den Bosch: Minimally Managed (stable)

4. Environmental Education & Outreach



Pictures illustrates:

- **Conservation Goes To School** - environmental education activities in elementary and high school levels,
- Awareness for **personal hygiene**,
- Afternoon **reading for children** in the communities,
- River school in Sorong,
- **Gardening** by kids,
- “**Nonton Bareng**” - watching movies on conservation actions, marine biodiversity, plastic waste impacts, etc.

5. Capacity Building of Local Communities for the Development of Sustainable Fisheries Management, Tourism & Economics

Pictures illustrate several trainings on alternative livelihoods, including:

- training for making & packaging mangrove crab chips by crab fisherwomen,
- Noken (traditional bag) making for youth,
- Training on waste processing & composting; making crafts from plastic & glass waste
- Intensive English language course for selected ecotourism guides
- Salted fish making, packaging & labelling.
- 324 local West Papuans including 223 West Papuan women received training to support economic development and alternative sustainable livelihoods, such as **sustainable tourism, fisheries management, and other sustainable economic development** using local resources.



6. Seascape-Level Networking & Capacity Development



- Marine conservation and resource management capacity development trainings and programs are conducted for at least 50 MPA practitioners, fisheries, and other resource users and stakeholders, with a minimum of **25% women** and **50% Indigenous West Papuans**.
- Women's role as conservation practitioners are still limited at this initial stage of BAF implementation. In general, the **active participation women in West Papua is a challenging task as men dominate customarily**. However, women's participation in activities or trainings on alternative sustainable livelihoods shows a significant proportion (above 50%).

Challenges

- Market mechanisms to support decent livelihoods of Indigenous people living in conservation areas.
- **Modernizing sasi.**
Indigenous communities are transitioning from traditional sasi to modern sasi.
- **Minimal participation and inclusion of Indigenous West Papuan women in capacity building training to practice conservation.**
- **Legislation at the national government level to follow traditional Indigenous laws in traditional territories located in conservation areas.**
- **Need for funding sources aside from BAF; for example, government or businesses that support conservation programming.**