

BLUE CLIMATE COALITION  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

November 19, 2010

Mrs. Monique Barbut  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility  
1818 H Street, NW, MSN G6-602  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mrs. Barbut,

We applaud your recognition of the grave threat climate change poses to global coastal and marine environments, particularly the adverse impacts on coral reefs, fisheries and food security, foremost impacting vulnerable communities in developing countries. The Global Environment Facility's support of the Save Our Species (SOS) initiative and climate change mitigation projects in developing countries represents the constructive and positive direction that is required to bring our blue planet on a long-term sustainable path.

As members of civil society, representing marine environmental stakeholders, we write to provide our recommendations and support for addressing climate change through including natural coastal and marine ecosystems into climate change mitigating strategies.

The Earth's oceans are critically important to the global carbon cycle. Our oceans, and the coastal and marine ecosystems they support, are natural carbon sinks. In fact, healthy ocean ecosystems represent the largest active carbon sink on Earth. Scientists recognize that some coastal and marine ecosystems, including tidal marshlands, mangrove ecosystems and seagrass meadows, play a natural role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.

Sadly, the global loss of coastal ecosystems is occurring at an alarming rate – as much as 7% annually, and most could be gone within two decades. Such degradation decreases the ocean's existing carbon stock and its natural capacity to mitigate climate change.

Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems are also vital to the livelihood and cultural identity of many coastal and island communities, and critically important to marine biodiversity and many endangered species.

We ask the Global Environment Facility to consider the following recommendations:

- Include coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and restoration in GEF funded climate change mitigation projects;
- Support scientific research coupled with socio-economic analysis that further explores and develops natural marine ecosystem solutions to climate change; and
- Support the coordination and development of protocols and methodologies that include coastal and marine carbon sinks in greenhouse gas mitigation efforts.

Thank you for considering our views, and for your continued commitment to addressing the threat of climate change.

Sincerely yours,

Signed by the following seventy-four marine stakeholders and conservation groups, together from seventeen countries (Blue Climate Coalition):

**- Aruba -**

**Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation (Rainbow Warriors International)** Milton Ponson, President, Oranjestad, Aruba, Dutch Caribbean

**- Australia -**

**TierraMar Consulting Pty Limited** Anissa Lawrence, Director, Sutherland, NSW, Australia

**WetlandCare Australia Ltd** Anissa Lawrence, Director, Ballina, NSW, Australia

**- Bahamas -**

**Andros Conservancy and Trust (ANCAT)** Peter Douglas, Executive Director, Fresh Creek, Andros, Bahamas

**Friends of the Environment** Kristin Williams, Executive Director, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas

**- Belize -**

**Peninsula Citizens for Sustainable Development** Mary Toy, Co-Chair, Placencia, Belize

**- Canada -**

**Sierra Club British Columbia** George Heyman, Executive Director, Victoria, BC, Canada

**- Colombia -**

**Cartagena's Youth Declaration on Climate Change Group** Viviana Mourra, Representative, Cartagena, Republic of Colombia

**- Cook Islands -**

**CIANGO: Cook Islands Association of Non-Government Organizations** Mrs. Tuaine Marsters, President, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

**- Mauritius –**

**MAUDESCO: Mauritius Council for Development Environmental Studies and Conservation** Rajen Awotar, Executive Director, Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius

**- México -**

**Centro Ecologico Akumal** Paul Sanchez-Navarro, Director, Quintana Roo, México

**- Niue Island -**

**NIUANGO: Niue Island Association of NGOs** Mr. Hiva Levi, Representative, Niue Island

**- Palau -**

**Palau Conservation Society** Mr. Elbuchel Sadang, Executive Director, Koror, Republic of Palau

**- Papua New Guinea -**

**Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL)** Ms. Margaret Sete, Port Moreby, Independent State of Papua New Guinea

**- Saint Lucia -**

**Saint Lucia National Trust** Bishnu Tulsie, Director, Castries, Saint Lucia

**- Samoa -**

**SUNGO: Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations** High Chief Vaasiliifili Moelagi Jackson, SUNGO National President, Apia, Independent State of Samoa

**- Tonga -**

**TNYC: Tonga National Youth Congress** Miss Siaila Jagroop, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

**- United Kingdom -**

<b>Blue Ventures Conservation</b>	Alasdair Harris, Ph.D., Research Director, London, United Kingdom
<b>Global Islands Network</b>	Graeme Robertson, Executive Director, Inverness, Scotland, United Kingdom
<b>Marine Conservation Society</b>	Mrs. Sam Fanshawe, Director, Herefordshire, United Kingdom

**- United States of America -**

<b>Blue Climate Solutions</b>	Steven J. Lutz, Executive Director, Founder, Blue Climate Coalition, Miami, FL, USA
<b>The Ocean Foundation</b>	Mark J. Spalding, Ph.D., President, Washington, DC, USA
<b>Mangrove Action Project</b>	Alfredo Quarto, Executive Director, Port Angeles, WA, USA
<b>Pew Environment Group Campaign for Healthy Oceans</b>	Chris Mann, Director, Washington, DC, USA
<b>Sierra Club</b>	Bruce Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director, San Francisco, CA, USA
<b>Seagrass Recovery</b>	Jeff Beggins, President & CEO, Indian Rocks Beach, FL, USA
<b>Restore America's Estuaries</b>	Jeff Benoit, President, Arlington, VA, USA
<b>350.org</b>	Bill McKibben, Co-founder & Global Organizer, Ripton, VT, USA
<b>Greenpeace USA</b>	Phil Kline, Senior Oceans Campaigner, Washington, DC, USA
<b>The Blue Carbon Project</b>	John Bruno, Ph.D., Director, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Sciences, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
<b>Surfrider Foundation</b>	Chad Nelsen, Environmental Director, San Clemente, CA, USA
<b>American Littoral Society</b>	Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, Highlands, NJ, USA
<b>Ocean Conservation Research</b>	Michael Stocker, Executive Director, Forest Knolls, CA, USA

<b>American Fisheries Society (AFS)</b>	Gus Rassam, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bethesda, MD, USA
<b>Alliance for Earth Observations</b>	Nancy S.A. Colleton, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Arlington, VA, USA
<b>EarthEcho International</b>	Philippe Cousteau, Jr., Co-founder & CEO, Washington, DC, USA
<b>NAUI Worldwide</b>	Jed Livingstone, Vice President , Tampa, FL, USA
<b>Forest Trends</b>	Mr. Michael Jenkins, President & CEO, Washington, DC, USA
<b>Blue Ocean Institute</b>	Carl Safina, Ph.D., President, East Norwich, NY, USA
<b>Oceanic Defense - Florida</b>	Samantha Whitcraft, Director, Conservation Biology & Research, Miami, FL, USA <i>Activation Through Education</i>
<b>Fauna &amp; Flora International</b>	Katie Frohardt, Executive Director, Washington, DC, USA
<b>Trees, Water &amp; People</b>	Stuart Conway, International Director, Fort Collins, CO, USA
<b>Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment</b>	Mike Skuja, Executive Director & Founder, Washington, DC, USA
<b>Urban Paradise Guild</b>	Sam Van Leer, Executive Director, Miami, FL, USA
<b>CORALations</b>	Mary Ann Lucking, Director, Culebra, PR, USA
<b>Environment Florida</b>	Sarah Bucci, Federal Field Associate, Miami Beach, FL, USA
<b>Repower America Florida</b>	Lance Orchid, Florida State Director, St Petersburg, FL, USA
<b>The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)</b>	Rick MacPherson, Interim Executive Director and Conservation Programs Director, San Francisco, CA, USA
<b>Earth2Ocean Inc.</b>	Ellen Prager, Ph.D., President, Miami, FL, USA
<b>Endangered Habitats League</b>	Dan Silver, Executive Director, Los Angeles, CA, USA
<b>ECOMB: Environmental Coalition of Miami &amp; the Beaches</b>	Luiz Rodrigues, Executive Director, Miami Beach, FL, USA
<b>Florida Conservation Alliance</b>	Ilysia Shattuck, Director, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

<b>Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument</b>	Mr. Ignacio V. Cabrera, Chairman, Saipan, CNMI, USA
<b>Global Coral Reef Alliance</b>	Thomas J. Goreau, Ph.D., President, Cambridge, MA, USA
<b>Guanaja Mangrove Restoration</b>	Scott Duncan, Director, South Portland, ME, USA
<b>Island Resources Foundation</b>	Bruce G. Potter, President, Washington, DC, USA
<b>KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance</b>	Miwa Tamanaha, Executive Director, Honolulu, HI, USA
<b>The Ocean Project</b>	Bill Mott, Director, Providence, RI, USA
<b>Malama Kai Foundation</b>	Terry O'Halloran, Executive Director, Kamuela, HI, USA
<b>Ocean Defenders Alliance</b>	Scott Sheckman, Executive Director, Huntington Beach, CA, USA
<b>Ocean Revolution</b>	Wallace J. Nichols, Ph.D., Founder & Co-Director, Davenport, CA, USA
<b>Pro Peninsula - Ocean Connectors Program</b>	Frances Kinney, Director, San Diego, CA, USA
<b>SandyHook SeaLife Foundation</b>	Mary M. Hamilton, Executive Director, Highlands, NJ, USA
<b>Save Our Seas</b>	Capt. Paul Clark, President, Hanalei, HI, USA
<b>ScienceFish.com</b>	Refik Orhun, Ph.D., Founder, Miami, FL, USA
<b>Sea Turtle Conservancy</b>	David Godfrey, Executive Director, Gainesville, FL, USA
<b>South Carolina Coastal Conservation League</b>	Dana Beach, Executive Director, Charleston, SC, USA
<b>Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island</b>	Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph. D., President, Long Island, NY, USA
<b>Beautify CNMI!</b>	Cinta M. Kaipat, Founder, Saipan, CNMI, USA
<b>The Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature (ICPAN)</b>	Lewis Regenstein, President, Atlanta, GA, USA

**Khaled bin Sultan Living  
Oceans Foundation**

CAPT Philip G. Renaud, USN (ret), Executive Director,  
Landover, MD, USA

**The Snorkel Bob  
Foundation**

Robert Wintner, Executive Director, Kihei, HI, USA

**WIDECAST: Wider  
Caribbean Sea Turtle  
Conservation Network**

Karen Eckert, Ph.D., Executive Director, Beaufort, NC, USA

---

Copied to: Robert Dixon, Team Leader, Climate Change  
Gustavo A.B. Fonseca, Team Leader, Natural Resources  
Alfred Duda, Sr. Advisor, International Waters

Contact: Steven J. Lutz, Blue Climate Solutions, Email: [steven.lutz@blueclimatesolutions.org](mailto:steven.lutz@blueclimatesolutions.org)  
Web: <http://sites.google.com/site/blueclimatesolutions/>