



*The Blue Climate Initiative,
a project of Tetiaroa Society*

Outcomes Report

FRENCH POLYNESIA 2022



“

*E mea hanahana mau ā I te faatupuraa I teie rururaa
rahi no te reva I Porinetia farani nei, māuruuru I te
Hau fenua I te turu pāpuraia I teie farereiraa.*

Òaòa rahi I te fariiraa I te mau ti'a atoà o te ao I nià I te tua o teie nei mau
motu iti to tātou. Àita e vahi hau roa aè no te niu I teie matuturaa òia I te
'uputa o te Moana nui o Hiva, ta'ita'I atu ai I te mau mana'o I te pū o te
fee nui Tumu ra'I fenua 'e te marae o Taputapuata. Mauruuru I to tatou
tahu'a marae nui, Papa Maraihau e tae noa atu I tōna mau rima tauturu tei
faahiroà mai, na roto I te mau òroà e rave rau, te mau òrero, te mau hīmene,
te hōèraa o te nunaa māōhi 'e te aru-tai-ma-reva.

No tatou, te ta'ata o Moana Nui o Hiva, e tupuna te moana, e marae mo'a te
moana e puna ora te moana. Tei iana te taviri o to tatou ora I teie ao.
Ia roaa ia tātou paatoà I te faatura ia Moana Nui o Hiva, ia aupuru, ia aroha
mai tei ravehia e to tatou mau tupuna, ò te 'aveià pāpū mau a teie
no te ora mure 'ore no te uī hou.”

Hinano Teavai-Murphy
President, Te Pu Atitia



Français

“Nous avons eu l'honneur d'organiser le **Sommet Bleu sur le Climat** ici en Polynésie française et, avec le soutien de notre gouvernement local, d'accueillir les participants dans nos îles. L'importance de tenir ce sommet au cœur de l'océan Pacifique et de l'ancrer dans notre culture polynésienne avec la cérémonie au Marae Taputapuatea ne peut être surestimée. Papa Maraihou, notre tahuà marae (prêtre marae) et sa communauté ont magnifiquement exprimé à travers nos òrero, nos chants et rituels notre lien profond avec l'océan, la terre et le ciel.

Pour les insulaires du Pacifique, l'océan est notre atua (ancêtre déifié), notre marae (sanctuaire religieux), notre puna ora (source de vie). Il détient la clé de notre avenir sur cette planète. Si nous pouvons tous apprendre à respecter notre Moana nui o Hiva, à payer aroha (empathie et amour) comme le faisaient nos ancêtres polynésiens, nous garantirons l'avenir de notre planète bleue pour les générations à venir.”

English

“We were honored to host the **Blue Climate Summit** in French Polynesia and, with the support of our local government, to welcome the Summit participants to our islands. The importance of holding this Summit in the heart of the Pacific Ocean and grounding it in our Polynesian culture with the ceremony at Marae Taputapuatea cannot be overstated. Papa Maraihou, our tohuga marae (sanctuary priest), and his community beautifully expressed through their chanting and rituals our deep connection to the ocean, the land, and the sky.

For Pacific islanders, the ocean is our atua (deified ancestor), our marae (religious sanctuary), our puna ora (source of life). It holds the key to our future on this planet. If we can all learn to respect our Moana nui o Hiva (great ocean), to pay aroha (empathy and love) as our Polynesian ancestors did, we will guarantee the future of our blue planet for generations to come.”

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Introduction

Thank you to the scientists, leaders, youth ambassadors and ocean champions who came to the **Blue Climate Summit** to work on ocean-related solutions to climate change. Through your effort we were able to make significant progress in advancing concrete, actionable solutions as described in this Outcomes Report.

And a special thank you to the Government of French Polynesia for its invaluable support and to the Program Committee and Project Leaders who helped shape the agenda, lead the working group sessions and make the outcomes possible.

The setting of the Summit in French Polynesia, the heart of the Pacific, was powerful and impactful. President Édouard Fritch invited the world to come to French Polynesia to listen and, above all, to hear the people of the largest ocean continent. Participants took this to heart and left with an increased understanding and appreciation for traditional wisdom and modern Polynesian approaches. Indeed, many came away with entirely new perspectives and a different and much deeper relationship with the ocean and nature.

A couple of overarching themes ran throughout the Summit. First, the urgent need for better ocean protection in light of the fundamental importance of a healthy marine ecosystem to climate stability, and indeed life on earth. As Dr. Sylvia Earle noted, “the living ocean, all of it, is inextricably connected to Earth’s climate and to the existence of life, humans very much included.” Second, the importance of maintaining a healthy ocean because of the impact of ocean health on human health. The message was clear: we need increased action to control and prevent ocean pollution and exploitation to safeguard human health.



Of the many threats we face, none is more urgent than deep sea mining. The International Seabed Authority (ISA), an obscure organization in Jamaica dominated by mining interests, is preparing to issue mining licenses for the exploitation for personal gain of the common heritage of all mankind. The destruction of large swaths of pristine ocean floor and the unleashing of vast sediment plumes both on the ocean floor and in the water column will have major, but not yet fully known or understood, consequences. Summit participants were united in the need for more scientific research to understand the impact and consequences of deep sea mining before decisions are made that will have irrevocable consequences for marine ecosystems, ocean health and climate.

As Nainoa Thompson said, the Summit was not an event, but rather a beginning. Important initiatives were launched, but now it's critical for all participants and participant organizations to lean in to propel these initiatives forward. The next several months will be crucial to advancing, implementing and scaling these projects. During this critical phase and beyond, the **Blue Climate Initiative** will lend its support and help with devoting and mobilizing resources where needed.

With best wishes for the future,

Stan Rowland

CEO, Blue Climate Initiative

Chairman & President, Tetiaroa Society



The **Blue Climate Summit** was held in the heart of the Pacific, French Polynesia, on May 14–20, 2022. The Summit was co-hosted by the Government of French Polynesia, alongside other public and private institutions, and endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The Summit convened 200+ global ocean leaders and champions and enabled action-based conversations focused on:

- Protecting the ocean and its vital marine ecosystems
- Accelerating ocean-related solutions to climate change
- Galvanizing collaborative task forces
- Providing an international forum for Pacific Islanders to spearhead action on ocean and climate issues

President Édouard Fritch opened the Summit by describing the sea as the ultimate sanctuary and splendor of the world. He invited participants to meet, listen to, and above all hear the people of French Polynesia. Heeding his call, Summit participants met with local communities on the islands of Tahiti, Mo'orea, and Ra'iātea to connect with Polynesian elders, youth leaders and community representatives to ensure that their voices were heard.

Summit participants also witnessed the landing of the legendary Hōkūle'a canoe on Ra'iātea and participated in a sacred ceremony at Taputapuātea. The ceremony was part of the launch of Hōkūle'a on a Pacific circumnavigation designed to bring people around the world together to set a course for a sustainable future, and to carry a message from the **Blue Climate Summit** about the critical need for a new relationship with the ocean. The Polynesian people's deep and profound connection with the ocean emerged as an underpinning of all Summit discussions and inspired participants to think about healing that relationship in their own countries.



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THE VAST

Ocean-Climate

CHALLENGE



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Throughout the **Blue Climate Summit**, participants explored the scale and complexity of addressing the interlocking climate and ocean crises and the imperative to address these with urgency.

Prince Albert II of Monaco opened the Summit by saying, “Despite scientific warnings, we are letting targets drift. We are acting too slowly to stop the spiral of destruction. We must take action all together. The fate of the ocean is not a far removed concern. It concerns our world; right here, right now.”

Sylvia Earle, President of Mission Blue, went on to say, “The world is blue. Civilization will not likely recover if we exceed the boundaries that we are so perilously close to crossing in terms of temperature and in terms of loss of biodiversity. More than a million species may be gone by the end of this century if we continue to treat wild animals simply as products.”

Scientists, youth and activists all affirmed the role of the ocean as a life support system for the planet with every other breath we take coming from photosynthesis by plankton, and with the oceans sequestering a third of all carbon emissions emitted by humans. In their lifetimes, elders bore witness to declining fish populations, coral bleaching, changing weather patterns and increased pollution — with consequences for human health and well-being as well as degrading nature.

Ocean Protection

Participants attributed much of these negative trends to a global failure to respect the inherent value of nature. Instead, the ocean is discussed in terms of stocks to be exploited and resources to be governed. This is in contrast to Polynesian notions. In the words of Dan Hikuroa, UNESCO Commissioner for Culture in Aotearoa, “We are not separate, we are part of nature. I am the ocean, and the ocean is me.”

Joachim Claudet of CNRS noted that when Marine Protected Areas are fully protected then socio-economic benefits are also maximized, yet too often the progress towards 30% of the oceans getting protected occurs in name only (see MPA Watch project for plans to address this). Michelle Bender of the Earth Law Center introduced the idea of the “Rights of Nature” as a way to embed indigenous

notions of reciprocity into national and international law, and is supporting a campaign for a Universal Declaration on Ocean Rights. Recognizing the ocean's status as the common heritage of humankind, participants discussed strategies to protect the high seas and the deep sea as the planet's last bastion under threat from human exploitation (see the Deep Sea Mining collaboration for planned action).

Blue Economy

Beyond valuing the ocean through law and culture, the Summit also explored how we might better place economic value on the ecosystem benefits from the ocean. For example, the economics of mining rare metals from the deep sea might add up until you internalize the wider environmental costs. Fishing subsidies perversely use public funds to incent over-exploitation, but the World Trade Organization (WTO) is moving to end these. A representative for the tiny island state of Niue invited input on their ocean conservation credit to help pay for their stewardship of a marine area the size of Germany, and even sold their first credits!

There is the potential for carbon markets to invest \$100mn per year into coastal mitigation and sequestration projects if only the architecture was right. Add in co-benefits to nitrogen mitigation, biodiversity or job creation and the sustainable blue economy is a truly compelling proposition (see Blue Ecosystems Exchange for planned action).

Blue Pathways to Net Zero Islands

The climate threat compels island territories to be at the forefront of the transition to net zero and beyond. Dan Kammen of UC Berkeley and USAID cited evidence that 25% of our global emissions gap could be closed by ocean-based mitigation. Many participants sought to drive this transition forward through solutions including wave power, seawater air-conditioning, seaweed farming, mangrove restoration and sustainable tourism. The youth ambassadors at the Summit, representing local voices and the generation who will most suffer the consequences of climate change, led discussions and gained support for educating the youngest Polynesians.



The **Blue Climate Summit** was held aboard the **m/s Paul Gauguin** and in several land-based locations as the ship traveled the South Pacific from Tahiti to Mo'orea to Ra'iātea to Motu Mahana and back.

SUMMIT

Collaborations



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The **Blue Climate Summit** provided a forum for 19 projects to catalyze and accelerate their work while also galvanizing three new collaborations that brought Summit Projects together to work towards a purpose greater than the sum of their parts. The collaborative outcomes included:

Blue Ecosystems Exchange

A new collaboration was formed at the Summit for a Blue Ecosystems Exchange. The objective of this collaboration is to scale-up ocean-related projects that sequester carbon, mitigate emissions and restore biodiversity. The specific outcome from the collaboration was a commitment to create a reference market for:

- Democratizing access to blue ecosystem and blue carbon markets
- Gaining government support by ensuring the integrity of the carbon credit system
- Providing sustainable jobs to the local community while capturing additional carbon

For the collaborators involved, the Summit provided connection, inspiration and transformation. As a result of their discussions at the Summit, the collaborators envision the Exchange to transform how the world values the blue ecosystem and to provide tangible economic benefit through a comprehensive ecosystem and carbon market exchange. While the need is global, the collaborators agreed that it will start in French Polynesia to create a comprehensive ecosystem, ensure an integrated coastal and ocean approach and demonstrate to governments that it is a trusted reference marketplace. Therefore, the exchange will pilot its approach with a Marine Permaculture project in Tahiti that will pump deep seawater for air conditioning and use the nutrient-rich water to feed a seaweed farm.

To ensure integrity of the system, the collaboration will be organized around three streams, including:

- Converting and valuing ecosystems and carbon resources into digital assets for monitoring and transacting
- Facilitating community generation of the supply of ocean ecosystem and carbon assets
- Stimulating demand by de-risking and increasing trust in a robust, certified market for ocean ecosystem and carbon credits

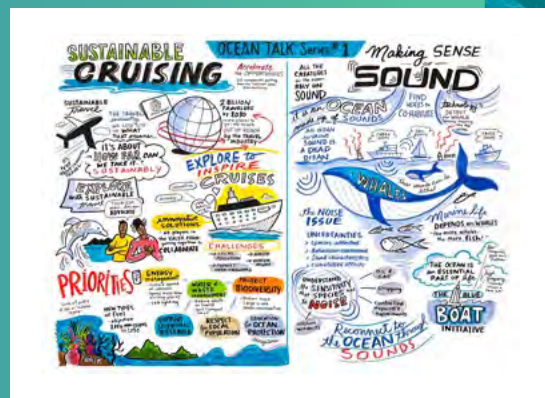
The next steps are to:

- Create an initial funding and partnership proposal
- Create an operational business model in the next 12 months with the goal of offsetting the carbon footprint of One Island Summit in 2023

Key participants involved in these collaborative discussions included the leads from four Summit Projects: **Blue Carbon Lab** (led by World Ocean Council), **Blue Carbon Exchange** (led by 3BL Labs and EarthRise Media), **Digital Earth Pacific** (led by SPC) and **Marine Permaculture for Food Security, Ecosystem Regeneration, and Net Zero Sustainable Tourism** (led by Climate Foundation).

During the first Ocean Talk, Charles Gravatte discussed **Sustainable Cruising** and Michel Andre presented **Making Sense of Sounds — Developing Bioacoustics Solutions to Address Human-Nature Conflicts**.

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Deep Sea Mining

Deep concern about the threat of Deep Sea Mining to marine biodiversity and ecosystem health was widespread across participants at the Summit. Several discussions focused on this topic, including an evening talk featuring a preview of the film “Deep Rising” by Matthieu Rytz.

Central to the Summit conversations on Deep Sea Mining was the International Seabed Authority’s (ISA) issuance of more than 30 licenses to governments and companies to explore the deep ocean of the high seas with the intent to mine the seabed for rare metals. Participants expressed deep concern about the irreversible and potentially catastrophic impact to delicate and poorly understood ecosystems over vast areas of the ocean if the ISA decides to issue licenses for exploitation.

A coalition formed at the Summit to push for a Deep Sea Mining (DSM) moratorium. The output from their collaboration generated three streams of work, including:

Litigation: A group of legal experts will prepare an advisory paper for the International Tribunal for the Law of Seas in order to challenge the legal basis for the right to mine the seabed, which is recognized as the common heritage of humankind. Work that is underway to develop a Universal Declaration on the Rights of the Ocean will integrate a position on deep sea mining. At national level, work will address regulatory framework gaps, offer templates for DSM moratoriums and ensure the cost of ecological damage is included into liability valuations.

Key participants involved in these collaborative discussions included representatives from **Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Oxygen Project, Stockholm Resilience Centre, CNRS** and **SpeSeas**.

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Healthy Blue Communities

The formation of a collaboration in Fiji was developed at the Summit to embrace integrated management for food and water systems that drive sustainable ocean outcomes and healthy blue communities. Specifically, the collaborators envisioned an integrated, sustainable management of watersheds and coastal fisheries, thereby reducing water-borne diseases and increasing the supply of local, nutritious foods.

Together the collaborators committed to establish a fund to enable transformative action, including:

- Establish a fund to enable movement beyond existing sites and transform action from reactive to proactive in watersheds with high risk and high opportunity
- Create a pilot to integrate Blue Foods interventions, such as bringing blue foods into school meals and into Watershed Interventions for Systems Health (WISH) sites to monitor improvements
- Scale by developing a model that provides the framework and informs silo-breaking in other countries

The merger of two Summit projects into the **Healthy Blue Communities** projects encapsulated their organizations' desire for a future where everyone has equitable opportunities for human and environmental health. Inspired by the Polynesian concept for the interconnectedness of people, land, sea and sky, the collaborators discussed how issues relating to fisheries, health, agriculture, nutrition and natural resource management are often managed separately by governments. The aim of **Healthy Blue Communities** is to break silos and bring the pieces together in a systems approach to deliver outcomes for people, ocean and planet.

By combining efforts, the collaborators will:

- Simultaneously address issues associated with access to clean water and nutrition
- Advance 13 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Bring the watershed to the sea
- Embrace an integrated management for food and water systems that drives sustainable ocean outcomes and healthy blue communities

The next steps are to:

- Strengthen the evidence that there are links between nutrition and susceptibility to water disease and the role of blue foods in providing nutrition; shoring up the evidence of such links is essential to conveying to the government the importance of integrated management
- Host convening the days before Oceania Planetary Health Forum with experts, community, scientists and others to review data analysis and design interventions that will include blue foods in a system approach to address issues of environmental degradation, disease and malnutrition
- Develop a business plan to quantify investing in blue food and blue health interventions that will make a significant reduction for the healthcare cost from water borne diseases, non-communicable diseases and malnutrition

Key participants involved in these collaborative discussions included the leads from two Summit Projects: **Blue Foods: Nourishing & Supporting Blue Communities** (led by Environmental Defense Fund and SPC) and **Watershed Interventions for Systems Health** (led by Wildlife Conservation Society, University of Sydney, Edith Cowan University, and Fiji National University).

Marine Protection Atlas / MPA Watch

The target of monitoring progress towards effective conservation of 30% of the ocean by 2023 is science-based and provides a path to rebuilding biodiversity. Efforts will be made to have it adopted by the Convention on Biodiversity this year. The atlas reflects the work that needs to be done and there are a variety of future scenarios based on the degree of protection (full to minimal).

The plan is to integrate science-based assessments that measure progress toward protecting 30% of the global ocean in fully and highly protected areas by 2023, apply science-based frameworks to independently categorize and report MPAs and MPA zones, and track protected areas and identify designated “pending” areas and work to advance those areas to fully managed/protected.

Next steps include:

- Share the “pathway” to fully protected areas with managers, governments and agencies
- Incorporate coastal blue carbon metrics
- Work towards “live” real-time monitoring

During the fourth Ocean Talk, Louie Schwartzberg presented his film “**We Protect What We Love**” followed by a conversation on human behaviors needed to protect the ocean.

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Seaflower Biosphere Reserve

The Seaflower Biosphere Reserve is one of the six most important places in the Western Hemisphere for maintaining the health of the planet. Residents of Seaflower relied entirely on tourism for over five decades, putting enormous stress on its outstanding biodiversity. Climate change brought additional threats with coral bleaching, beach erosion and increasing hurricanes like Iota in 2020 that swept the islands, endangering ecosystems and the livelihood of residents.

The acceleration achieved at the Summit for this project included:

- Expanding their current goal of reef restoration of 100,000 fragments/ year to a full marine trail
- Reframing tourism as a tool for good — a million tourists a year could mean a million opportunities for reef conservation
- Bringing scientific talk and knowledge to a consumer level
- Realizing their vision of creating an incubator for Net Zero and Sustainability Tours in the Southwest Caribbean

Tahiti Wave Energy Challenge

The Tahiti Wave Energy Challenge will engage local communities, scientists, economic stakeholders and worldwide technology providers to bring wave energy technology to Tahiti. French Polynesia has a goal of 75% renewable energy by 2030 — this will be a very challenging goal and is limited by solar and hydro grid constraints, a constraint shared by much of the South Pacific.

The eyes of the world will be on French Polynesia in 2024 during Olympic Surfing events. Our goal is to use this opportunity to showcase the wave energy sector generally and to create a specific launch pad for wave energy in the Pacific region. To proceed, we need \$500k in funding to:

- Support local employment opportunities
- Educate the community
- Select and coordinate with technology partners
- Select a site location
- Conduct initial environmental and engineering studies
- Build communications and public relations to establish partnerships

Key participants involved in collaborative discussions included representatives from the **French Polynesian Ministry of Economy and Finance, University of French Polynesia**, and global wave energy developers.

Niue Ocean Wide (NOW)

The Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) Project has developed an innovative Sustainable Financing Mechanism that seeks to monetize the value of robust ocean conservation via an 'Ocean Conservation Credit' (OCC). An OCC's price is based on the costs associated with the effective conservation of 1 square kilometer of Ocean.

The acceleration achieved at the Summit for this project included:

- Commitment to partnering with Blue Ecosystem Exchange
- Supporting Polynesian Voyaging Society to help establish long-term sites/projects

NOW also acknowledged that they need help with marketing, reaching investors and acquiring support for a proof of concept.

Ocean Guardians: Radical Collective Action that Scales and Improves the Success of Community-led Climate Solutions

Pacific island communities are some of the best people to help us address climate change. There we find powerful nature-based climate solutions when implementing community-led partnership and ecosystem management models integrating scientific and traditional approaches to ecosystem stewardships.

The acceleration achieved at the Summit for this project included:

- Realization of a set of small but significant revelations and explicit plans for investments over the next 10 years

Key participants involved in collaborative discussions hosted by CNRS CRILOBE included representatives from **OneReef** in Palau and the **Rahui Forum & Resource Center** in French Polynesia. A partnership is already under way with **Locally-Managed Marine Area** (LMMA) network in the Pacific region and synergies were also apparent with the **Reinventing Marine Resources: Community Management in the Marquesas Islands** project also featured at the Summit.



Unlike the format of most multi-stakeholder conferences, the Blue Climate Summit's program was primarily designed around small group conversations and collaborative design discussions that yielded actionable outcomes.

Digital Earth Pacific

The Pacific Community (SPC) serves over twenty small island states that are uniquely vulnerable to climate change, and yet struggles to access the timely and accurate data they need for good decision-making. A new initiative, Digital Earth Pacific, will curate a data stack combining satellite and terrestrial sources as a public good. A similar initiative in Africa generated \$2.3bn in economic returns due to more informed decisions.

At the Summit, Digital Earth Pacific established partnerships with potential users through which to demonstrate proof-of-concept and then go to scale. These included:

- Monitoring, reporting and verification of credits for the **Blue Ecosystem Exchange**
- Monitoring and reporting on fishing and biodiversity for the **MPA Watch**
- Data on nutrition, water quality and fisheries for **Creating Healthy Blue Communities**

Forests of the Sea

Forests of the Sea is a global campaign to conserve and protect kelp forests that recognizes their ecological significance and contribution to addressing the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

The **Blue Climate Summit** was instrumental in:

- Providing exposure for the campaign
- Facilitating new relationships with interested donors and possible collaborators with **Minderoo Foundation** and several private donors

Forests of the Sea will officially launch in 2022. It is a collaboration between **Parley for the Oceans**, **Sea Change** and **Mission Blue**, who will bring scientific expertise, communications power and political know-how to safeguard these majestic ecosystems.



Youth Ambassadors at the Blue Climate Summit were engaged in two-way conversations to both learn from ocean experts and provide perspective on their role as advocates for our ocean.

ReefOS

ReefOS addresses the urgent need for climate adaptation measures in tropical island and coastal areas, particularly those with coral reefs. We address bottlenecks in current research and conservation methodologies that can be overcome with emerging technologies, including genomics, acoustics, computer vision, robotics, data science and high-performance computing. The project is a core element of Coral Gardeners' Odyssey 2025 that aims at scaling up coral reef restoration around the world and planting 1 million corals by 2025.

Collaboration at the Summit enabled the ReefOS team to:

- Connect with international organizations that can help support Coral Gardeners' international expansion and ReefOS deployment
- Create strategic relationships in ocean science to keep developing the technology and scientifically validate Coral Gardeners' coral reef restoration results
- Find new sources of funding to support Coral Gardeners' development
- Get access to new locations to open Coral Gardeners' branches and deploy the ReefOS technology

Net Zero Tahiti

Net Zero Tahiti's goal is to decarbonize the footprint of travelers to Tahiti. This will be one of the first efforts to decarbonize the footprint of all travelers to a major tourist destination and will create a robust model for others. The project will involve both carbon reduction (through energy efficiency, renewable energy and other programs) and local carbon offset and sequestration. It relies heavily on the development and implementation of "Blue Pathways to Net Zero" which will provide ocean-related strategies for carbon reduction and sequestration. Funding support could include a "Net Zero Travel Fee," which if marketed properly could be viewed positively by tourists.

At the Summit, several discussions advanced the following elements of this Project:

Measurement: The need for cataloging and measuring the Tahiti lodging industry's footprint was identified as a priority. Key discussion points included what should be measured, how to organize the data and who should collate the data. There was consensus that the Tahiti Tourism Promotion Office would be best suited for this crucial set of tasks, and follow-up meetings were planned with this in mind. Additionally, three scopes were identified for measurement — emissions, energy and supply chain. It was agreed that focusing on emissions and energy would yield earlier success with supply chain measurements, being more difficult and time consuming, being the third priority.

Finance: Summit discussions about the best mechanism for financing the Blue Pathways to Net Zero Islands leaned toward privately supported funding rather than any kind of government carbon tax. One example discussed was an "opt-out" carbon fee added to guest folios. Funds would then be deployed at the property level (but on or off-property) in local reduction and sequestration projects. It was

acknowledged that this framework presents difficulties but has the advantage of being quickly implemented, and that the Tahiti Tourism Office could recognize properties participating in the project as a means of incenting participation.

Integration: The need to integrate with local sequestration projects was also discussed and advanced. Each property may or may not be able to neutralize their footprint, meaning that there will be a need for compensation with other local projects such as Marine Permaculture. This factor solidified the need to coordinate with multiple projects.

During the fifth Ocean Talk, **Community Awardees** of the Blue Climate Initiative Community Awards for Ocean-Related Climate Solutions took part in a panel discussion to update participants on their progress.

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Ocean Ventures Studio

The Ocean Ventures Studio aims to establish a unique mechanism to accelerate the creation of Ocean Ventures by driving the creation, from ideation to minimum viable product, and development, from incubation to acceleration, of blue conservation enterprises that deliver at-scale socio-economic and conservation outcomes. The way forward is clear: we need to find new ways to unlock private capital and channel it into bankable Ocean Ventures that will achieve impact at scale, and fast.

At the Summit, the participants' collaboration with the Ocean Ventures Studio team:

- Enabled an exchange of ideas with the entrepreneurs in attendance that yielded advice on how best to respond to their needs
- Enabled discussions with representatives from academic institutions to further explore how to establish stronger collaboration with these institutions
- Provided an opportunity for conversation with President Fritch and his office to discuss the inclusion of an OVS-enabled venture called Great Blue Wall in the upcoming One Island Summit

FADfree Belt

In the international waters of the South Pacific, fishing vessels launch drifting “Fish Aggregating Devices” to increase their catch of tuna. These nets illegally float into the waters of French Polynesia, only to crash onto reefs, entangling protected species, destroying corals and creating navigation hazards. French Polynesia seeks a FAD free zone in the international waters around its EEZ, creating a buffer belt that prevents FAD’s from entering its waters.

At the Summit, officials from the Government of French Polynesia were able to engage with international experts in marine protection to explore legal and technical solutions.

Navigating Toward Sustainability

French Polynesia, with 118 islands spread across an area the size of Western Europe, is dependent upon commercial vessels for inter-island travel and the fishing industry. These ships burn imported fuel that carries both a significant financial and climate cost. Hence, the country seeks low or no carbon ship solutions as it pursues a net zero future.

At the Summit, officials from the Government of French Polynesia explored financial and technical options to accelerate this transition to a sustainable transport sector.

Focused rounds of discussion at the Blue Climate Summit were designed to build from standalone ideas and expertise to a collective understanding of how individuals and projects could collaborate for greater impact.



Relationships

BETWEEN PEOPLE, OCEAN AND PLANET



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An additional outcome of the **Blue Climate Summit** was forging new relationships between people, ocean and planet, all of which was heavily influenced by our immersion in Polynesian culture and traditional wisdom and approaches.

Polynesia: The Heart of the Pacific

The opening remarks by President Édouard Fritch marked the beginning of an immersion in the timeless wisdom of Polynesia: a culture in which sea, land and sky are intrinsically connected; in which people belong to nature, not nature to people; in which we must steward our environment to honor ancestors; and in which we must be good ancestors to future generations.

As the Summit voyaged from Tahiti to the sacred site of Taputapuātea, participants were profoundly inspired by the recurrent message from elders, Pwo Navigators and the youth. Messages centered on the need for the western world to renew our relationship with the ocean, land and sky by discovering, understanding and appreciating the ocean. Nainoa Thompson said, "This is a land of people who protect the ocean. We are not here to extract nature, but to be part of it. This Summit allows us to come together with one thing... love."

The Moananuiākea Voyage: Giving Voice to the Ocean

At Marae Taputapuātea, the Summit's participants were honored to be joined by the Polynesian voyaging canoes Hōkūle'a, Hikianalia and Fa'afaite. On this sacred site we committed to work together during their circum-Pacific Moananuiākea Voyage to carry solutions to climate change to communities around the Pacific rim. In particular we aim to engage indigenous Pacific cultures, with their traditional connection to nature, to help all of us to change our relationship with the ocean, respect its right to a healthy future and protect it from harm.



The ceremony held at Marae Taputapuātea was an opportunity for participants to pay respect to and ground their work in Polynesian culture.

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Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge: Better Together

The Summit wove together the latest evidence from leading scientists with indigenous wisdom on how to sustainably manage coastal ecosystems. This blend emerged as best practice for responding to global challenges whilst being anchored in local complexities and nuance. The Cultural Sanctuary Foundation committed to establish or enhance ten cultural centers in global locations where indigenous communities intersect with high marine biodiversity. Their work will start with the Atitia Center in Mo'orea that hosted a cultural event during the Summit involving the local community.

Youth: An Intergenerational Partnership

The Summit included youth leaders from across the Pacific and the Americas. It was stated frequently during the Summit that their generation has the greatest stake in a sustainable future, and the youth called for an intergenerational partnership in which they were given a seat at the table as decisions are made about how to protect and restore oceans. The Summit also generated support for the youths' work as activists, including assistance with establishing golden rules for responsible tourism in Polynesia and for mentoring youth-at-risk in island communities.

Polynesian youth leaders joined substantive conversations, educated participants on the needs of their local communities and advocated for concrete action to protect the ocean and our future.

[Click to read more](#)



Philanthropy: Funders Align Behind a Blue Climate Future

The Summit was attended by foundations who collectively invest hundreds of millions of dollars each year on a healthier future for people, planet and ocean. They highlighted that SDG14 (oceans) was the least funded, especially by the public sector, and there was a need to better leverage public and private funding for ocean-climate work. They also committed to aligning their own funding strategies behind the Summit outcomes, with the expectation of millions of dollars to follow. For example, the Bertarelli Foundation will back MPAs, MERI Foundation will fund acoustic science to reduce noise pollution and whale strikes, the Mindaroo Foundation seeks an expansion of blue carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation, the Captain Planet Foundation is backing youth activists, Baum Foundation was ready to support research on the risks from Deep Sea Mining and IUCN has a series of funds to accelerate nature-based solutions and blue carbon projects.



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During the second Ocean Talk, Minna Epps moderated a panel with Alison Carlson, Patricia Morales, Laura Turner Seydel, Florence Tercier and Tony Worby on Funding the Blue Climate Future.

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SUMMIT

Journey

The **Blue Climate Summit** followed a journey highlighted by hours of small team conversation and focused collaboration between scientists, environmental activists, business leaders, policy makers, financial experts, influencers, community leaders and youth leaders towards accelerating projects and creating new collaborations. The week's agenda included:

Sunday, 15 May

The Vast Ocean-Climate Challenge

The Summit's call to action was laid down during a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace where President Édouard Fritch, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Prime Minister Marc Brown, Secretary General Henry Puna, Nainoa Thompson, Stuart Minchin, Dr. Sylvia Earle and Richard Bailey spoke eloquently about the reality of the climate crisis.

Following the formal opening, participants immersed themselves in the Summit's work via an orientation of the missions, projects and collective challenges that formed the structure of the Summit.

Monday, 16 May

Project Acceleration

Project Leaders representing the 19 diverse projects selected for catalyzation and acceleration during the Summit conducted four rounds of iterative conversations for context-setting and discovery with the Summit's participants. In these conversations, everyone benefited from the exposure to scientific knowledge, technical expertise and interest in funding.

Tuesday, 17 May

Collective Challenges

Three unique yet connected conversations were brought to life by provocative firestarters who articulated a challenge to all Project Leaders and participants regarding cross-cutting topics that are essential to supporting successful ocean-

climate outcomes, including Marine Protection for Healthier Oceans & Communities (hosted at CRILOBE and Te Fare Natura), Equitable Blue Carbon Finance (hosted at Hotel Kaveka) and Blue Pathways to Net Zero Islands (hosted at UC Berkeley's Gump Research Station). Following these conversations, the group met at Te Pu Atitia Center on Mo'orea for the first of four significant encounters with the indigenous youth and elders of Polynesia.

Wednesday, 18 May

People, Ocean, Planet: A Relationship Renewed

Summit participants joined Polynesian voyagers at Marae Taputapuātea to commit to developing a new relationship with the ocean based on traditional knowledge and stewardship. The day enabled all participants to personally explore a renewed relationship between people, ocean and planet. Conversation continued after the ceremony that enabled the group to identify collaborations across projects and the specific needs within projects.

Thursday, 19 May

Scaling for Impact

Participants formed small teams and continued to address dependencies, identify synergies and tackle underlying constraints within collaborative initiatives and projects. A conversation with the youth of Polynesia marked the third interaction with Polynesian culture and enabled our next generation's hopes and concerns to come to life as participants personally connected with the ocean on Motu Mahana.

Friday, 20 May

A Message to the World

The Summit concluded with a briefing for visibility to the project acceleration, commitments and outcomes from the work of the Summit. Then participants were honored by a warm welcome from the village of Arue. The Summit concluded with a public concert on the Tahiti waterfront, bringing together international and local artists to raise public awareness and inspire action for ocean and climate.

Seventy-three organizations and individuals signaled their support of a message from French Polynesian environment groups to Summit participants and Polynesian leaders.

[Click to read the message](#)



SUMMIT

Co-Conveners

AND SPONSORS



FRENCH
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2022

The Co-Conveners of the **Blue Climate Summit** included:

- H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco: Sovereign of the Principality of Monaco and Founder of Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco
- Édouard Fritch: President of French Polynesia
- Sylvia Earle: President and Co-Chair, Mission Blue / The Sylvia Earle Alliance
- Nainoa Thompson: President, Polynesian Voyaging Society
- Richard Bailey: Chairman and CEO, Pacific Beachcomber S.C.
- Andrew Forrest: Co-founder of Minderoo Foundation
- Laura Turner Seydel: Chair, Captain Planet Foundation
- Marc Benioff: Founder, Chairman and CEO, Salesforce and Owner, Time Magazine

The **Blue Climate Summit** is deeply grateful to the Government and people of French Polynesia. The Summit's success was made possible by their practical support and heart-felt advocacy for shared goals around ocean protection. Upon departing the heart of the Blue Continent, Summit participants have new perspectives and will continue to work around the world to restore a healthy relationship between people, ocean and planet.

The Sponsors of the **Blue Climate Summit** included:



Appendix

Blue Climate Initiative at Taputapuātea

Marae Taputapuātea on the island of Ra'iātea is one of the most important religious sites in Polynesia, and it has always played a central role in Polynesian voyaging. The original voyages that settled Hawai'i, New Zealand and Easter Island left from this site after departure rituals and set onto the open ocean through Avamo'a pass in front of the marae. The Society Islands remained the core of Polynesia for centuries and voyagers returning from across the Pacific would always stop at Taputapuātea first before going to Tahiti, Bora Bora or other islands. This ritual of entering Avamo'a Pass and being welcomed by local elders was what we planned for the **Blue Climate Summit**.

As soon as the early planning for the Summit was done and we decided to hold the summit on a cruise ship, it was decided that we had to go to Taputapuātea in order to pay respects to, and ground the summit in, local culture. By an amazing coincidence the Hawai'ian voyaging canoes Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia had also planned to be at Taputapuātea at the same time. They were coming to ask permission of the elders and ancestors to begin their circum-Pacific Moananuiākea Voyage next year. Nainoa Thompson, the president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society (the organization that operates the canoes), was already a convener of the Summit, and we had also invited other Pwo Navigators to take part in our meeting on the Voice of the Ocean. So our planned homage to Polynesian culture took on greater significance now with the participation of these modern voyagers and our growing partnership.

What occurred onsite then was that the canoes invited a representative group from the Summit to re-create an arrival by sea, as has been done for centuries by visiting voyagers. The canoes sailed into Avamo'a Pass and the passengers and crew were brought to Taura'a Tapu, the marine entry point to the marae complex. There they were greeted there by local elders and government officials including the President of French Polynesia and the Minister of Culture and Environment. They were then taken in procession to the entrance of Marae Hauviri. This marae is used only for visiting chiefs and has not been used since 2007. In this case the elders recognized that the Summit had the participation of Prince Albert and Pwo Navigators and for the first time in 15 years held a short ceremony on this marae. Then the procession continued to Marae Taputapuātea where the group was greeted by a traditional orero



Prior to visiting Taputapuātea, Nainoa Thompson and Pwo Navigators met onboard the m/s Paul Gauguin to discuss the Voice of the Ocean and the importance of its protection through preserving and teaching traditional knowledge.

[Click to see larger version](#)

and short speeches by local chiefs. Our group was then able to respond, and Jack Thatcher spoke (in Māori) for himself, his tribe and the Summit to explain our purpose there. This purpose, forged in a powerful meeting on the m/s Paul Gauguin two days before, was to join together BCI, Polynesian Voyaging Society and the French Polynesian government to commit to working together to unify communities and indigenous cultures across the Pacific during the four-year Moananuiākea Voyage. The idea is to develop a declaration of the Voice of the Ocean, a voice that ensures that the ocean is protected and respected by all cultures.



Summit representatives who participated in the re-creation of the arrival by sea at Taputapuātea included President Edouard Fritch, Solomon Kaho'ohalahala from Hawai'i, Dr. Sylvia Earle, Minister Heremoana Maamaatuaiahutapu, Nainoa Thompson from the Polynesian Voyaging Society and Jack Thatcher, master navigator from New Zealand.

The ceremony on Marae Taputapuātea concluded with representatives entering the marae and placing offerings at the ahu. These included rocks from New Zealand, Hawai'i and Teti'aroa. Speeches afterwards by Nainoa Thompson, Richard Bailey and President Édouard Fritch addressed Jack's pledge and joined in the call to protect the ocean as a Polynesian atua, or deified ancestor.

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A Statement from the Summit's Youth

WE, the youth of the Pacific, were invited by the Tetiaroa Society to join the Blue Climate Summit that was organized in French Polynesia from the 14th to the 20th of May 2022.

WE, the youth, were asked to be the voice and the ears of our communities as ambassadors of our islands. Each of us came to the Summit from different backgrounds and with different vocations... fishermen, navigators, singers and dancers, story tellers, fighters and teachers. We also came with different missions... environmentalist advocates, sustainable tourism professionals, defenders of our islands and youth mentors. From the start of the Summit, we humbly thought that we were here to listen and learn from ocean leaders and to be spectators of this ocean of knowledge.

After the opening speeches from distinguished thought leaders like Dr. Sylvia Earle, Richard Bailey and Hinano Murphy, we introduced ourselves and kindly asked our team of ambassadors to hold hands, to create a hei (crown) that connected everyone together. All of the excitement of being at the Summit suddenly turned to silence as we looked up at a clear sky full of stars and started singing a song, a song of Peace, Hope and Love for our ocean, for our land, and for our people. This is how we began our week.

As islanders, most of us were quite shy and scared to speak out. For a long time since the arrival of the Europeans, our elders were not able to speak their own language, to dance and sing our songs or to wear tattoos on their bodies. This is a moment in history that is still living amongst us with pain while also rekindling our love for our culture and heritage.

We were honored and dazzled to share time with our superheroes Nainoa Thompson, Jack Thatcher and Uncle Sol, who spent two hours listening to our stories. Their humility struck us all and gave us room for thought, especially when Nainoa asked, "Who are you? Do you know who you are?"

During the week of the Summit we wanted to share the love for our identity and we wanted to learn from other leaders and cousins about how we could protect our beautiful, yet fragile islands. We were told that we could attend all plenary sessions and working group discussions. It didn't take us long to realize that we were not here as spectators, but rather part of a bigger mission to become the actors of the movement to save our planet.



Youth Ambassadors discussed their role as ocean protectors, traditional storytellers, active learners, influential connectors and advocates for tangible future change.

[Click to see larger version](#)

The week's experiences exceeded our expectations. Each one of us was able to choose the topics and working groups that fit our own stories, personalities, interests and expertise. Some of us had the opportunity to lead working groups on youth empowerment, pathways to net zero islands and raising awareness through the media. Some of us had the opportunity to pitch our projects in front of an honorable audience. Each one of us was sitting in our flowerful outfits and conversing with scientists, innovators, policymakers, business and financial experts, government representatives, community leaders and environmental activists.

To be honest, we did not know much about the subject matter, culturally speaking. With science-based discussions, the conversations tended to become complicated and we felt scared to ask questions or share opinions. However, the Summit participants began asking US questions and ensured that we had time to speak up. Our interventions were not about numbers, but rather about values and interconnection. We spoke about all being ONE, we shared our bright ideas and we talked about remembering where we came from so that we can move forward. Sometimes just our tears and trembling voices said it all.

During the week, we were invited to have a real seat at the table. For the first time in our lives, WE, the youth, and the youth from our islands, were being heard and listened to regarding our love for our land, people and oceans. We expressed our fear of losing our islands and our hope of finding concrete dialogue and actions.

As a result of the Summit, we are not just hopeful for a brighter future, but we are asking to be part of it. We are the Present and we will be the Future. We may not have many years of experience, but we are eager to learn. We may not have investment, but we are fearless to find resources.

We believe that youth leadership should be present in constructive and engaging discussion at every level of decision making. Together, we are raising our hands to co-create solutions. We want to be recognized and build intergenerational action and leadership so that youth can be in a rightful place. We ask that every Summit partner form a youth delegation so that the youth of all islands are included and heard.

At the Summit, those people that we saw as unreachable became our friends, our mentors, our family. We are in this va'a (canoe) together, and each one of us has a major role to play. WE are not just the youth of the Pacific anymore. At the Summit, WE became someone, we became a voice, we became part of the conversation.

WE are members of the Blue Climate Initiative and advocates for our ocean.

Māuruuru

Thank you



Blue Climate Summit

The message of the Polynesian environmental groups for the Blue Climate Summit

Because Polynesia is a vast oceanic country, at the center of the Polynesian cultural world:

Polynesians are intimately tied to their environment and its conservation.

The nature, on the sea as well as on the land, is our first richness.

With a surface of 5 millions kilometers square, the ocean is at the core of our culture and our way of life.

With 118 islands, two-thirds of which are atolls, we are in the front line of the impacts of the climate change.

Let's join in the sustainable development of our maritime space, integrating the preservation of our traditional culture and the protection of our ocean.

We, environmental protection associations and citizens of French Polynesia, wish to solemnly address the Polynesian leaders and the participants of the Blue Climate Summit the following message:

Together, let's further ***integrate the traditional Polynesian culture*** and our ancestral knowledge into the decisions relating to the climate and the protection of our ocean.

Together, let's ***protect the endemic terrestrial and marine biodiversity of French Polynesia***, by strengthening actions to safeguard the endangered species.

Together, let's ***protect 30% of the ocean and our lagoons***, including a third highly protected.

Together, let's ***sustainably manage subsistence, coastal and industrial fishing***, by creating exclusive artisanal fishing zones, highly protected zones, and actively fighting against overfishing in the Pacific.

Together, let's act quickly to ***limit the global warming to 1.5 degrees*** and guarantee a viable future for our islands and our people.

Together, let's ***protect the ocean floor***, the source of all life on earth, by establishing a moratorium on seabed mining.

We support the official designation and implementation of the *Rahui Nui*, a new strong protection zone of more than 500,000 km², and of artisanal fishing areas around all the islands of French Polynesia over 500,000 km², as announced by the President of French Polynesia.

----- Signatories -----

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The participants of the Blue Climate Summit experienced an immersion in Polynesian culture through direct connection with local communities.

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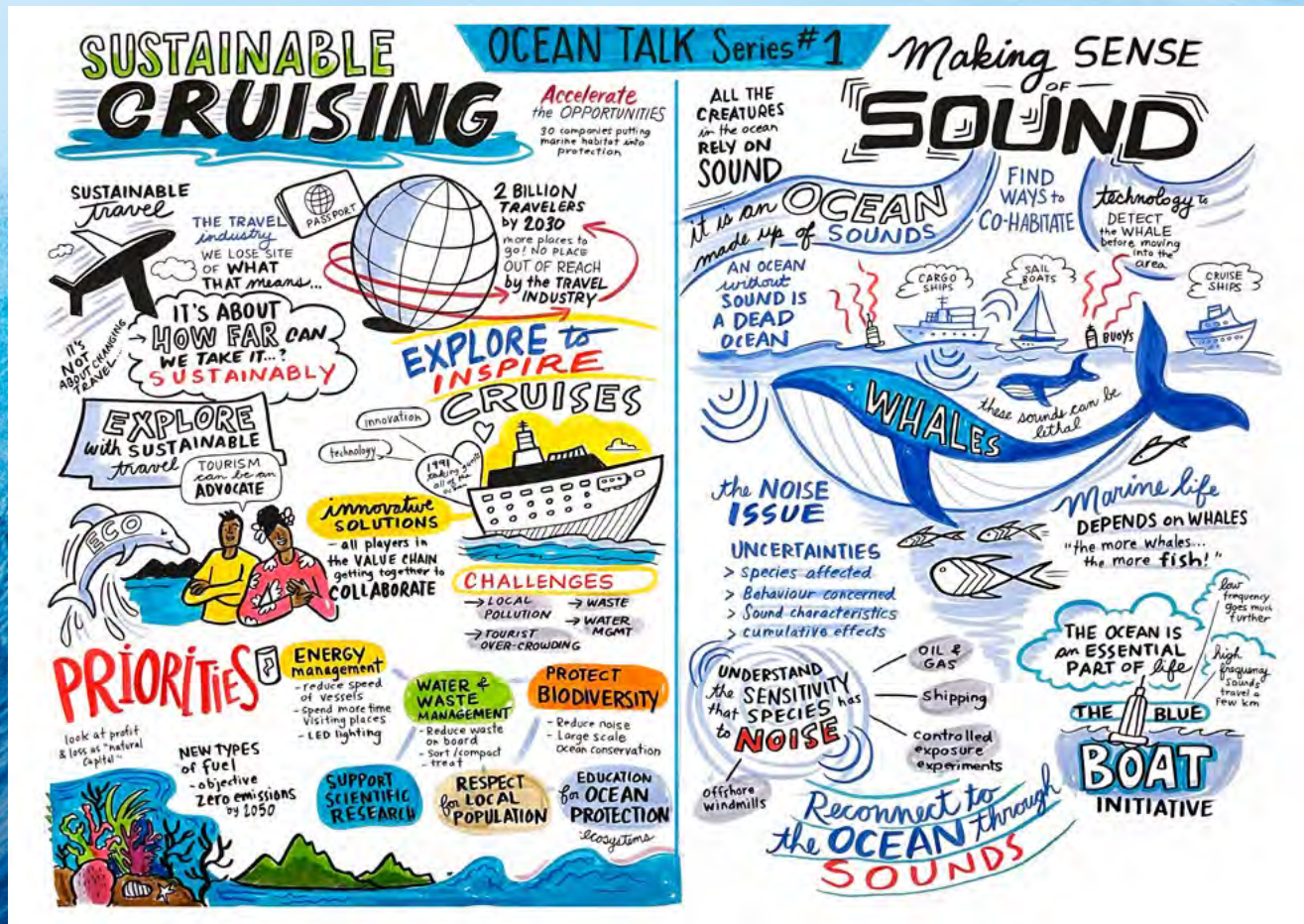
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TIARE FM radio



Opening Ceremony

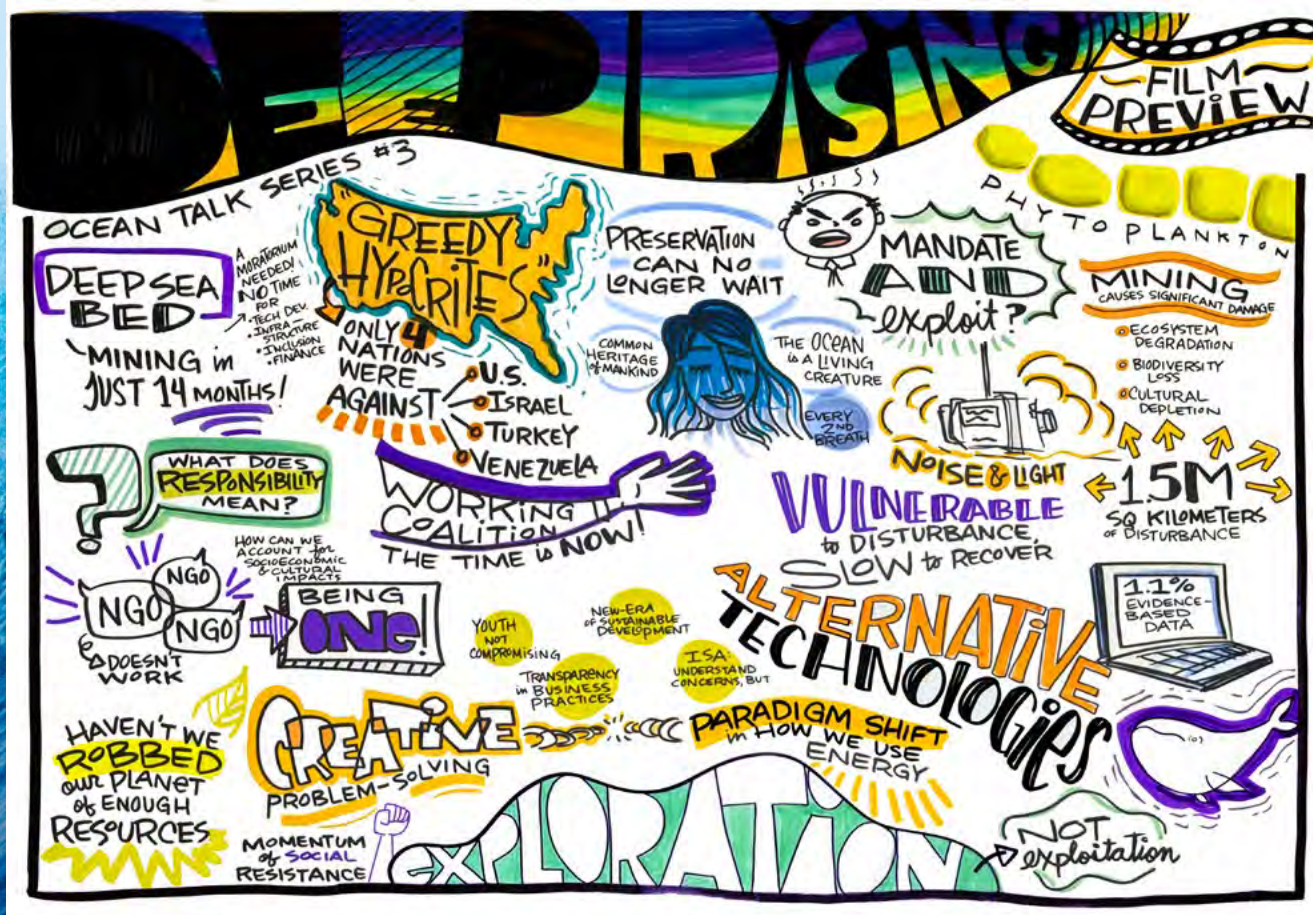
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Ocean Talk 1

During the first Ocean Talk, Charles Gravatte discussed **Sustainable Cruising** and Michel Andre presented **Making Sense of Sounds — Developing Bioacoustics Solutions to Address Human-Nature Conflicts**.

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Ocean Talk 3

During the third Ocean Talk, Matthieu Rytz presented a preview of his film “**Deep Rising**” followed by a panel discussion on the topic of Deep Sea Mining with Diva Amon, Laura Clarke, Vasser Seydel and Francis Vallat.

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Ocean Talk 4

During the fourth Ocean Talk, Louie Schwartzberg presented his film “**We Protect What We Love**” followed by a conversation on human behaviors needed to protect the ocean.

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Ocean Talk 5

During the fifth Ocean Talk, **Community Awardees** of the Blue Climate Initiative Community Awards for Ocean-Related Climate Solutions took part in a panel discussion to update participants on their progress.

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Voice of the Ocean

Prior to visiting Taputapuātea, Nainoa Thompson and Pwo Navigators met onboard the m/s Paul Gauguin to discuss the Voice of the Ocean and the importance of its protection through preserving and teaching traditional knowledge.

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Youth Ambassadors Discussion

Youth Ambassadors discussed their role as ocean protectors, traditional storytellers, active learners, influential connectors and advocates for tangible future change.

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*The Blue Climate Initiative,
a project of Tetiaroa Society*