

A Global Program Born in French Polynesia



**People**

Building resilient, thriving and equitable communities



**Ocean**

Understanding and protecting the ocean



**Planet**

Restoring a healthy climate



The [Blue Climate Initiative](#) (BCI) – a flagship program of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development – engages scientists, innovators, investors, community members, environmental advocates, cultural leaders, youth, and global change-makers, to harness research and innovation and accelerate ocean-related strategies to combat climate change while protecting our ocean.

In doing so, BCI embraces solutions to urgent global challenges including ocean and human health, sustainable food supplies, renewable energy, and vibrant ocean economies. Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, the BCI advances collective attention, investment and innovative action for People, Ocean, and Planet.

# Selected Accomplishments

The Blue Climate Initiative advances concrete action towards its mission in several ways

## *Inspiring Action on Transformational Opportunities*



In 2021 the BCI published a book with supporting background papers, *Transformational Opportunities for People, Ocean and Planet*, featuring input from 60+ global ocean experts across six focus areas: Health and Well-Being, Food and Nutrition, Marine Energy and Transportation, Mineral and Genetic Resources, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions, and Sustainable Tourism. The BCI works through its network and communication activities to promote collaborative action around these 40+ evidence-based solutions.

## *Global Community Awards Program*



BCI sponsored a global challenge entitled “Community Awards for Ocean-Related Climate Solutions” to support grassroots programs around the world. In 2021, BCI granted awards and now supports community programs in Palau, Peru, Tanzania, Philippines, French Polynesia and The Bahamas, selected from among 82 organizations in 45 countries.

## *\$1 Million Ocean Innovation Prize*



In 2021-2022, BCI raised funds for and conducted an incentive challenge. Its purpose was to inspire and support innovations that mitigate climate change through ocean-related strategies. The challenge was run in collaboration with the UN’s Ocean Decade and Sustainable Ocean Alliance. BCI presented 21 semi-finalists at COP26 in 2021, competitively selected from 236 applicants in 60 countries, and awarded the three winners at the Blue Climate Summit in French Polynesia in May, 2022.

## *BCI Climate Change Education Program in French Polynesia*



Between August 2021 and May 2022, BCI and its fiscal sponsor Tetiaroa Society led a climate change program for local schools in collaboration with the French Polynesia Ministry of Education. The curriculum was developed by a committee of Polynesian educators and community leaders and combines traditional knowledge and scientific understanding. The program culminated in a school competition offering prizes for the best community climate change mitigation programs for which the winners were celebrated at the Blue Climate Summit.

## ***Blue Climate Summit***



The inaugural Blue Climate Summit was held in French Polynesia on May 14-20, 2022, and was a key event on the global calendar. Co-Conveners included H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Richard Bailey, Marc Benioff, Sylvia Earle, Andrew Forrest, French Polynesia President Edouard Fritch, Nainoa Thompson and Laura Turner Seydel.

The 250 person, carbon-negative event accelerated programs and initiatives, matched investors with opportunities, and galvanized task forces. 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 Summit kick-started BCI's campaign for a moratorium on deep sea mining and Voice of the Ocean initiatives, among several others.

## ***Campaign for a Moratorium on Deep Sea Mining***



BCI is working on an urgent and critical campaign to stop plans to permit deep sea mining. Since February 2023, BCI has been supporting a call by Indigenous leaders against

this nascent industry. A petition led by these leaders has garnered signatories from over 70 Indigenous groups in 50 countries. Leaders of the petition brought it to the floor of key International Seabed Authority negotiations in Kingston, Jamaica, achieving a significant impact on country delegates. BCI has also been heavily engaged in conducting research and garnering evidence that deep sea minerals are not needed for a green revolution and that alternatives exist, speaking on panels at multiple events, and publishing an op-ed and a white paper on the topic.

## ***Voice of the Ocean***



From the 2022 Blue Climate Summit has emerged a movement to develop and elevate a consensus among the Indigenous people of the Pacific and beyond concerning their relationship to and the future of the oceans. The Polynesian Voyaging Society's Moananuiakea voyage is one of the platforms used to carry this project. This advocacy and education effort involves elders and youth addressing ocean issues - spiritual, cultural, historical, modern, practical, legal, future - starting with IMPAC5 in Vancouver in February 2023, followed by interventions at two critical ISA meetings. A collaboration with Sealegacy will produce a documentary series elevating these voices.





# Blue Climate Summit 2024



Building on the success of the 2022 Blue Climate Summit, the BCI is proceeding with its plan to organize a second summit two years following the last Summit. Like the last one, the next Summit will bring together both international and local stakeholders from a diversity of backgrounds: science and research, private sector, investment, policy and government, civil society and communities, with special attention to Indigenous and youth representatives. The Summit will be anchored around *Blue Pathways to Net Zero: Uniting Science and Indigenous Voices for Ocean and Climate*.

## Sponsors and Contact Information

Tetiaroa Society, which hosts scientific research and carries out conservation and education programs on the island of Tetiaroa in French Polynesia, is the fiscal sponsor of the Blue Climate Initiative. Other sponsors include The Brando and Pacific Beachcomber. For additional information about the Blue Climate Initiative, visit [www.blueclimateinitiative.org](http://www.blueclimateinitiative.org) or contact:

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## How to Support Us

The Blue Climate Initiative is a program of Tetiaroa Society, a US 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To make a donation [click here](#) or scan the QR code.

