

OFF-SITE SATELLITE  
EVENT FOR  
OCEAN DECADE WEEK  
9 APRIL 2024

# “THE INCLUSIVITY WE NEED FOR THE OCEAN WE WANT”

75 APPROX.  
PARTICIPANTS

This co-hosted satellite event aimed to **identify the systemic barriers that lead to the exclusion of underrepresented groups and communities**, thus **preventing true inclusivity in ocean conservation and governance**. It was exploring this key theme using two lenses (and panels) on **geopolitical** and **intersectorial** inclusivity.

## SHORT FILM SCREENING

The event began with an 8 minute film, showing a compilation of interviews with members of coastal communities from the Global South. Participants were asked about the biggest challenges they are currently facing or likely to face, and if they had a message they would like to share. The film was a call to the rest of the world to respect and value these voices when discussing the future of our shared ocean (the photos below are a few of those featured).



**Malaysia**   **Sierra Leone**   **Honduras**   **El Salvador**   **Costa Rica**   **Brazil**   **India**



The full series, which includes 13 interviews with participants from the countries listed above, can be accessed here: [www.ecopdecade.org/voices-from-the-ocean](http://www.ecopdecade.org/voices-from-the-ocean).

After the introductions and short film, the interactive element in the form of Slido was launched, giving audience members, in person and online, the opportunity, and encouragement, to participate.

The panels were organized to discuss concrete ways to include and amplify the voices of underrepresented groups in high-level national and international forums, spanning from nations in the Global North and the Global South.



Venue: Barcelona Capital Nàutica, Barcelona.



IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society



ECOP  
Early Career  
Ocean Professionals



Protecting the blue planet



# INCLUSIVITY EVENT

## GEOPOLITICAL INCLUSIVITY

PANEL 1

This panel featured speakers from underrepresented geopolitical regions, highlighting barriers to their participation in global ocean events and efforts to tackle Ocean Decade Challenges. The discussion underscored structural obstacles that perpetuate existing inequalities that persist in the international ocean community. The main challenges of geopolitically underrepresented voices that the panelists and participants drew attention to were: economic limitations to attend events, political marginalization due to global political issues, and no access to data from their regions.



**Xochitl Elías**



As moderator

**Laura Khatib**



Lebanon

**Sheyla Ravelo Perez**



Cuba

**Khushboo Jhugroo**



Mauritius

**Ilena Zanella**



Costa Rica

PANEL 2

## INTERSECTORAL INCLUSIVITY

This panel represented different sectors in relation to the ocean, and discussed how bringing a variety of stakeholders “to the table” in order to work towards a common objective is an opportunity to practice inclusivity in action. However, to achieve the Ocean Decade Outcomes and SDG14 targets, all sectors must realize the bigger picture - which may take time. Time is also money, therefore new avenues of funding need to be made available. Integrating and co-creating projects with vulnerable communities is an inclusive way to tackle ocean issues, yet reframing the vulnerable as resilient is a way to show respect and encourage more equal partnerships.



**Allan Krelling**



Research

**Antonella Vassallo**



Policy & Education

**Herland Cerveaux**



Private Industry

**Laura Meyer**



Law/Engineering

**Laura Hernandez Merlano**



As moderator

### The panelists and attendants of this event proposed several key recommendations:

- Changing the location of future events, such as International Conferences, to more accessible areas for both the Global North and South,
- Ensuring timely responses about acceptance to conference participants should be a priority, in order to allow enough time for people from both the Global North and South to obtain visas;
- Decentralizing communication with coastal communities,
- Providing more options in funding requirements that do not marginalize certain communities, countries, and regions,
- Creating greater incentives and opportunities for intersectoral solutions to intersectional problems,
- Ensuring communities are core beneficiaries when transitioning to circularity, and
- Designing solutions through collaboration across various sectors and lived experiences. These proposals aim to enhance inclusivity, accessibility, and effective problem-solving.



THE EVENT ORGANIZERS AND GUEST SPEAKERS



Watch the full livestream recording:  
<https://youtu.be/gaYAo5ZwoDg>