



The Sustainable Ocean (SO) Community stems from the need to address key issues and challenges related to ocean health and sustainability and is part of the 'Pathways to Sustainability' (PtS) strategic theme. We are an inclusive and inspiring platform where scholars and stakeholders from a broad range of disciplines meet to facilitate innovative transdisciplinary research and education.

In this June 2023 newsletter you find

- reports on two recent SO events: our official kick-off meeting (12 June) and the PtS café on sea level rise (11 May)
- invitations to upcoming events, including the UU-NIOZ early Career Scientist Symposium (9-10 October)
- announcements of upcoming funding opportunities

We wish you a great summer and are looking forward to getting back together after the break!

Announcements

| Sustainable Ocean kick-off meeting

On 12 June 2023, our Sustainable Ocean community had its official kick-off meeting at the Paushuize in Utrecht – and we were super happy so many of you were able to join!

The event started with an introduction to our Sustainable Ocean community as part of Utrecht University's (UU) strategic theme of Pathways to Sustainability, presented by Erik van Sebille from our leadership team. The attendees – a good mix of stakeholders, academics and students from different disciplines – gained a comprehensive overview of our community's goals, the individuals involved, PtS funding opportunities, past events, and ongoing projects. Moreover, preliminary result of the *Whose Ocean* incubator project were summarized by our student assistant Kiara Lasch. During a lively ice-breaker, led by our other student

assistant Sofia Faure, participants had the opportunity to get to know each other and explore their different connections to the ocean, based on common answers to diverse questions, for example “regarding the sustainable future for the ocean, do you consider yourself: an optimist, a realist, an idealist, or a pessimist”. Distinguished representatives from various organizations, including Arjen Tjallema from the Ocean Clean-up, Tom Diederer from the Dutch Ministry of foreign affairs, and Tanja Stratmann from the DOSI project, then took the stage for a panel discussion titled “Ocean & sustainability actions in the Netherlands”. Each representative shared their experiences with addressing ocean-related challenges. The session prompted an open discussion with the audience, moderated by Sabine Gollner from our leadership team, encouraging exchanges of ideas and perspectives.

After a vegan lunch, the event continued with discussions focused on shaping the future research, education, and outreach agenda of the Sustainable Ocean community, guided by Alex Oude Elferink from our leadership team and our community manager Siren Rühls. Potential ideas for future community topics were proposed with input from the audience and pitches from the leadership team. Topics that gained major interest are climate change impacts, biodiversity issues, ocean governance (marine protected areas and the “Ocean Treaty”), public engagement and education (ocean literacy and empathy), and the *Whose Ocean* project. We then gathered together in smaller groups to further discuss *how* these topics could be addressed by the community, including the identification of the larger context, specific community goals, concrete actions to achieve these goals, and envisioned output. The day concluded with an outlook session, during which we shared ways to stay actively involved, for example, by attending and initiating SO and PtS events (see upcoming SO events below and/or find an overview of all upcoming PtS events [here](#)), and proposing own new projects for incubator grants or seed funding (see funding opportunities below and/or check the details of all PtS funding possibilities [here](#)).

We would like to thank all the attendees, speakers, and organizers for making this event a success. The kick-off brought together a great group of people with different backgrounds and innovative ideas to address ocean sustainability challenges, helping us to further develop a vision of future SO endeavours. But there is certainly much more to do and we would love to learn more about your ideas – please share them with us! Let's continue working together towards a sustainable future for our oceans!

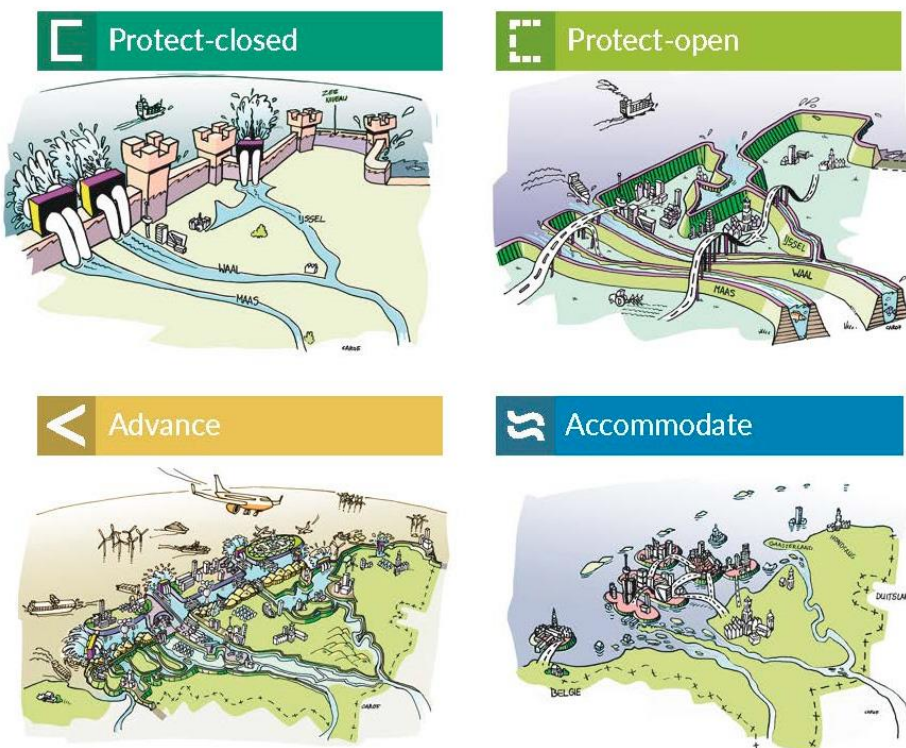
| PtS café: ‘Not just plans but actions – sea level rise adaptation in Pacific nations and the Netherlands’

On 11 May 2023, we came together with the other Pathways to Sustainability Communities within the Bistro of the UU Vening Meineszgebouw for a PtS café on sea level rise adaptation.

Unfortunately, our invited guest presenter Sybil Seitzinger, who wanted to share her perspectives on actions to address sea level rise in Hawaii, Singapore and Taiwan collected during her sabbatical travels over the past year, got sick and could not join us.

However, Jos van Alphen from the [Delta Programme](#) pitched in and presented an overview on already existing and envisioned future sea level rise adaptation measures in the Netherlands.

Jos van Alphen emphasized that it is crucial that current actions are implemented in a way that keeps options open for various future adaptation strategies (including 4 very different scenarios: protect-closed, protect-open, advance, accommodate; see figure below, source: [van Alphen et al. 2022](#)). This inspired follow-up discussions on whether a certain strategy should be preferred over the other ones from a sustainability perspective. However, it appears that this question cannot be unambiguously answered (yet). A topic that we could address further together with Deltares and the [Water Climate and Future Deltas Community](#)?



Cartoons developed by Carof for Deltares

Upcoming events

Sept 23

PtS Lunch Café: Innovation in Sustainability Education

Location:
Academiegebouw –
Westerdijkkamer,
Domplein 29, 3512

Several colleagues from different faculties, including [Jeroen Oomen](#) and [Flora Roberts](#), will deliver pitches on how to establish new educational initiatives centered around sustainability. Following the presentations, a

JE, Utrecht

lunch will be served, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussions regarding the future of sustainability education at Utrecht University. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

The PtS (Lunch) Cafés provide an easy way to get to know, inform and inspire each other within and beyond the Sustainable Ocean community. You don't need to be actively involved (yet). Fancy a drink, snack, and a chat? Join us, we look forward to see you there!

Oct 9-10

UU-NIOZ early Career Scientist Symposium (UNECSS)

For whom: early career marine scientists

Location: Hotel NH Zandvoort

Are you an early career marine scientist (PhD candidate or postdoc) at UU and/or NIOZ? Then this event is for you! The UU-NIOZ Early Career Scientist Symposium (UNECSS) is organized by early-career marine scientists for early-career marine scientists with the aim to build and strengthen collaborations between UU and NIOZ. It is a great opportunity to get to know your colleagues and develop new ideas, perspectives, and projects.

This year's symposium will take place 9-10 October at the Hotel NH Zandvoort, located directly at the Dutch coast. It will begin with an exciting night including dinner, drinks and a social event to break the ice. The following day will include plenary talks, parallel workshops and science speed-dating coupled with a poster session, addressing the questions: What role can, or should a young scientist take in the urgent topics of climate and biodiversity? How do we focus our science to be most relevant? How do we communicate to a broader audience?

program and more detailed information, check out the [UNECSS website](#). For any further questions, feel free to contact the organizing committee (Barbara Goudsmit-Harzevoort, Pieter Hovenkamp, Meine Boer & Qi Liu) via unecss@nioz.nl.

We hope many of you can make it! This is also a great opportunity to explore potential new collaborations and ideas to apply for PtS seed funding or a new SO incubator project next year (check out upcoming funding possibilities listed below!).

Opportunities

**Deadline
Sept 25**

For whom:
interdisciplinary

Seed Fund

up to 10k euro per initiative

For What: individual initiatives that contribute to the PtS mission and goals
Through the [seed funding scheme](#), PtS looks to stimulate interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary interactions and create impact guided by the 'rigor meets relevance' principle. It can be used for, e.g., the organisation of meetings,

teams of UU and NIOZ scholars

workshops and other events; travel and accommodation costs; student assistants; trainers and coaches; visiting fellowships; education, outreach and communication activities.

**Deadline
Oct 3**

For whom: previous awardees of incubator projects

Signature Projects

up to 50-150k euro for a period of maximum 24 months

For What: new interdisciplinary and innovative projects that are difficult to get funded via other channels The [Signature Project Grant](#) is the PtS instrument to spur radical innovation in university practices with the aim of enhancing our impact. Signature Projects are challenge-based, interdisciplinary in nature (preferably cross-community) and directed at fostering the radical innovation that PtS seeks to achieve.

Our SO community, together with the [Critical Pathways Community](#), is currently preparing a proposal to apply for a signature project following up on the Whose Ocean incubator project. If you would like to get involved, please directly contact Erik van Sebille (e.vansebille@uu.nl)!

**Deadline
February**

For Whom: interdisciplinary teams of UU and NIOZ scholars from at least three disciplines

New Incubator Projects

up to 8k euro for a period of max 12 months

For What: building new inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations to jointly explore innovative project ideas (eventually resulting in a signature project)

The [Incubator Project Grant](#) is the PtS instrument to invest in community building, offering interdisciplinary teams of UU scholars the opportunity to take the time to collaborate on innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary ideas. It aims at facilitating new collaborations, building trust and understanding for each other's perspectives, and further develop project ideas for larger follow-up Signature Projects.

Contact us if you have ideas for new SO incubator projects – we can help you to further develop your idea and connect you to other potential collaborators!

About this newsletter

The Sustainable Ocean Community is an initiative born out of the imperative to tackle critical challenges in ocean sustainability. Aligned with Utrecht University's 'Pathways to Sustainability' strategic theme and formed in collaboration with NIOZ, we strive to be an inclusive, diverse, and inspirational national platform. Our mission is to unite scholars and stakeholders across disciplines to craft and implement regional solutions for urgent global ocean and sustainability issues.

Contact

sustainableocean@uu.nl

[Sustainable Ocean Website](#)

Please contact us if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.



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