



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.

Highlights of this October 2023 newsletter are

- the Signature project grant awarded to the 'Whose Ocean?' project
- and the upcoming 'Living Oceans' Meeting on November 23rd

## Announcements

### | Goodbye and Hello

From October onwards, Stefanie Ypma will pick up the baton from Siren Rühls as manager of the Sustainable Ocean Community. We would like to thank Siren for her great work in setting up this community and wish her all the best with her Marie Curie Fellowship at UU on the role of South Atlantic heat and salt transport for future climate projections. A small note from Siren:

*Dear Sustainable Ocean Community,*

*during the last 9 months you gave me the chance to meet inspiring people, explore new transdisciplinary research topics, and help shaping our UU-NIOZ contribution to pressing global ocean and sustainability challenges. Thank you for this amazing experience!*

*I really enjoyed exchanging ideas with you on how we can make our research and education more inclusive and impactful and I am curious to see how these ideas will further develop and being implemented in the future. Even though I will now leave the Sustainable Ocean manager position to focus again on research, I am looking forward to keep working together with you in exciting new projects such as the Whose Ocean signature project. Hope to see you soon!*

*Best  
Siren*

*wishes,*

## | ‘Whose Ocean?’ Signature Project granted!

We are happy to announce that the ‘Whose Ocean?’ project got awarded with a PtS Signature Grant. In the coming year-and-a-half, scholars from UU and NIOZ together with various stakeholders will prepare and hold an assembly to explore how the ocean can be meaningfully represented at international and national fora such as courts of law and in diplomacy. They will explore how a voice of such a more-than-human entity as the ocean can be listened to, articulated and amplified for a context of (international) policy development and protection of the ocean. Stay tuned for project updates and outcomes!

## | A recap of UNECSS 2023 – connecting by the sea

Early Career Scientists Daan Reijnders, Miriam Sterl and Michael Denes share their experiences of the UU-NIOZ Early Career Scientists Symposium. We would like to thank the organizers, Barbara Goudsmit-Harzevoort, Pieter Hovenkamp, Meine Boer and Qi Liu for their commitment in organizing another great networking event in Zandvoort! - [read more](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **2 November**      **Lecture on atmospheric politics in the Indian Ocean**

Drift 24, Utrecht,  
room 2.03

During this lecture, Professor of History of the Anthropocene Debjani Bhattacharyya (University of Zürich) will share how the Britain's imperial expansion in the Indian Ocean critically shaped the very parameters of meteorology in the early 19th century. You can find more information and how to register [[HERE](#)].

### **9 November**      **Pathways to Sustainability PhD Café**

Oudean, Utrecht

We warmly invite all PhD Candidates interested in sustainability. During this café we will provide more information on Pathways to Sustainability and how it can assist you in connecting with other researchers, engaging with societal partners, and securing funding through Pathways' funding schemes. You can find more information on the program and how to register [[HERE](#)].

### **15 November**      **Workshop on water quality BES-islands**

Deltaris, Delft

During this hybrid workshop, knowledge will be exchanged on the water quality and flow modeling near the BES-islands and its relevance for policy decision making. Please send an email with the subject “Registration water quality workshop” to [maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl](mailto:maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl) if you would like to register for this event.

#### **Program**

13:15

14:00 Welcome

Coffee

Developments on water quality - Natuur en Milieu Beleidsplan Caribisch Nederland  
Hydrological modeling and research

Sources of coastal nutrients and silt  
Transport, water temperature and nutrient concentration in coastal waters  
Increasing the in-situ measurement capacity  
Impact on coral reef health  
Discussion and planning for coming year

16:30 Wrap up and drinks

## 23 November **Levende Oceanen Overleg | Living Oceans Meeting**

ZZINN The Hague  
Central Station,  
Kon. Julianaplein  
10, 2595 AA Den  
Haag

The next Levende Oceaan Overleg (Living Oceans Meeting) will take place on 23 November 2023! This meeting functions as a platform for ocean experts in research, policy, NGOs and industry to network and discuss the recent developments on the ocean science-policy interface. Please send an email with the subject "Registration Levend Oceaan Overleg" to [maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl](mailto:maarten.heijnen@minienw.nl) if you would like to register for this edition of the Levende Oceaan Overleg.

### Program

13:00 – 13:30 Registration  
13:30 – 13:40 Welcome and vision on the Levend Oceaan Overleg  
13:40 – 13:50 New developments ocean policy (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management)  
13:50 – 14:10 Update ocean research infrastructure (preliminary title - NIOZ)  
14:10 – 14:25 Implementation of the Decade of Ocean Science in the Netherlands  
14:25 – 14:35 Sustainable Ocean Community (Utrecht University)  
14:35 – 15:05 Break  
15:05 – 15:35 Panel discussion: How policy, research, and industry work together in Deep Sea Mining  
15:35 – 15:50 Update from The Ocean Cleanup  
15:50 – 16:05 European collaboration in offshore renewable energy research (Dutch Marine Energy)  
16:05 – 16:25 Open discussion  
16:25 – 17:30 Drinks

## Opportunities

### **No deadline SO Community Building Fund**

For whom:  
Employees and  
students from UU  
and/or NIOZ

We invite employees and students from Utrecht University and NIOZ to apply for the Community Building Fund. We offer small financial support for various short-term initiatives that contribute to SO community building such as seminars, workshops, visiting researchers, outreach activities etc. Submissions are welcome now and throughout the year 2024 and are evaluated by the SO board on a first-come first-serve basis. To apply, fill out the attached application form and send it to [sustainableocean@uu.nl](mailto:sustainableocean@uu.nl).

## January 2024    PtS Incubator Grant

For whom: At least three scholars from different UU faculties

The PtS Incubator Grant offers up to 8k for a period of max. 12 months to build new inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations to jointly explore innovative project ideas - more details can be found [[here](#)]. Please 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](mailto:sustainableocean@uu.nl)

[Sustainable Ocean Website](#)

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

