

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



International Ocean Acidification Initiative

The very chemistry of the ocean is changing faster than at any time in our blue planet's history. Yet, this change, known as ocean acidification, isn't known to many people. Last fall, Animal Collective released their exclusive single, *Suspend the Time*, to support the launch of our website ocean-acidification.org. This was an amazing step towards spreading awareness about ocean acidification and building a case for support and understanding, and the interest and attention of people like you bolsters our efforts to fight ocean acidification. Thank you for joining us!

Our Work Around the World While Listening to Animal Collective

Building a Diverse Coalition of Experts in Latin America



In January, The Ocean Foundation brought together more than 80 scientists, policymakers, and industry practitioners from fifteen countries in Santa Marta, Colombia, for the first ever

Latin American Symposium on Ocean Acidification. During this week-long workshop, delegates from this wide array of Latin American countries covered ocean acidification from the basics to its intricacies, and learned about its impact on the environment as well as what can be done about it. There were no silos at this workshop, as scientists brainstormed policy changes that would support their research, and policymakers practiced measuring the alkalinity of seawater.

Are Mangroves the Solution? Our Project in Fiji is Finding Out



Mangroves are amazing plants that grow along coasts and protect onshore communities by slowing down wave action, providing habitats for fish, and sequestering and storing carbon in their roots. This sequestration of carbon (or "blue carbon," because it's in water), leads scientists to believe that mangroves may be able to locally reduce ocean acidification. To research this theory, The Ocean Foundation partnered with the University of South Pacific in Fiji for a project that planted mangroves to study the resulting chemistry changes of the soil. The scientists conducting this work were trained by The Ocean Foundation at an ocean acidification monitoring training in 2017, and they are using a low cost monitoring kit supplied by The Ocean Foundation to make water chemistry measurements.

Making Ocean Acidification Monitoring Accessible for All



Small islands and coastal nations are going to bear the brunt of ocean acidification, but the majority of those countries don't have programs to monitor, predict, and respond to ocean acidification because the necessary technology has been extremely expensive and difficult to operate. In response, The Ocean Foundation worked with our partners to create a truly accessible world-class monitoring kit for those most affected. Not only is kit the operable by any scientist who has access to electricity and seawater, but it also cuts the cost of monitoring by more than 90%. We have led workshops for more than 100 scientists worldwide to use this kit and have purchased and shipped 17 customized kits to 16

countries. In majority of these countries, we have helped establish the first ever ocean acidification monitoring program.

Training at Mexican Senate Lays Groundwork for Strong Policy



The Ocean Foundation was proud to accept an invitation from the Mexican Senate Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change to provide a training on ocean acidification. Together with our scientific partners in Mexico, we led a training to inform the commission about the threats and effects of ocean acidification, what mitigation options exist, and what policy interventions they can employ. The Commission is currently drafting legislation that they intend to pass this fall. While this will not be the first national legislation to study ocean acidification, it will be the first ever national legislation to do something about it. The Ocean Foundation has been invited to hold a follow-up training for the full Senate in September.

Program Manager, Alexis Valauri-Orton



I was 17 years old when I first learned about ocean acidification. I read *The Darkening Sea*, published by Elizabeth Kolbert in the New Yorker in 2006, and I asked myself, "How could this be happening to our ocean, and why doesn't anybody know about it?"

That question continues to drive me as I enter my fourth year managing the International Ocean Acidification Initiative at The Ocean Foundation. I am proud of the work we have done to ensure that communities around the world have access to the resources they need to reduce their risk in the face of ocean acidification. I am also thrilled that a band I have always loved and admired has championed the cause, and I am filled with hope because of people like you who are joining our fight.

Get Involved in Fighting OA



Being informed and aware of ocean acidification is one amazing step you've already taken. Stay up to date or enhance your support with the following ways!

Refresh Your OA Knowledge

- Interact with ocean-acidification.org
- Visit our [OA initiative page](#)

Visit Our Partners

- [Mauritius Oceanographic Institute](#)
- [Galapagos](#)
- [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network](#)
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