



Grace CATAPANG
Communication and Science Coordinator
Blue Alliance Philippines

Grace is the Communication and Science Coordinator of Blue Alliance Philippines, and the youngest in the team. With her communications role, she has covered and been involved in diverse projects of Blue Alliance extending beyond science. These encompass community engagement, enforcement and compliance, and the establishment of reef-positive businesses in ecotourism, aquaculture, and blue carbon. Growing up in a coastal community in Mindoro Island, Grace developed a strong connection with the ocean and the life it supports. She is a licensed scuba diver majoring in Biology with Specialization in Ecology and Systematics and a Minor in Data Science and Analytics at the Ateneo de Manila University. She previously worked on a research project with the Coral Lab of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington DC through the fully funded NHRE Program. Driven by her passions for science, visual storytelling, and community engagement, she received an outstanding completion in the Paragon One Marine and Community Conservation Externship of the National Geographic Society and The Nature Conservancy, where she developed an ArcGIS StoryMap about MPA management. She also spoke in various sessions at COP28 sharing the on-ground work of Blue Alliance and amplifying the voices of youth and coastal communities as the Global Fund For Coral Reefs (GFCR) Frontline Youth Representative. As an emerging leader in ocean conservation, Grace's aspiration is to drive inclusive, community and science-based marine conservation initiatives that benefit both the people and the planet.