



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Interim Decade Advisory Board

Meeting No. 02/2021

19 May 2021

REPORT



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

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2030 of Ocean Science
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Interim Decade Advisory Board Meeting No. 02/2021

19 May 2021

MEETING NOTES

1.0 Opening

The IOC Executive Secretary welcomed the participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the day. Representatives of United Nations (UN) agencies were encouraged to introduce themselves, including the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

2.0 Agenda and Operational Procedures

The IOC Secretariat reviewed the agenda in more detail and shared the objectives for the day. Participants were reminded of the operational procedures for making interventions during the meeting, including the procedure for declaring conflict of interest vis a vis proposal submissions that involved IDAB members.

3.0 Communities of Practice Guidance Presentation and Discussion

The IOC Secretariat presented the draft Communities of Practice guidance note and the premise behind it had generally positive support from members of the Board. Members of the Board felt that the Communities of Practice provide a good opportunity for collaboration among proponents. There were clarifying questions about whether a Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) could be part of the Communities of Practice, and whether their scope could evolve over time and/or whether new Communities of Practice would be created. There were also questions about resourcing for the coordination of the Communities of Practice.

The IOC Secretariat indicated that it would review the text in the draft note to better capture the collaborative nature and flexibility of the Communities of Practice. It confirmed that Communities of Practice are not intended to be Decade structures or entities but should be considered as mechanisms to help make connections amongst Decade Actions and Decade structures. They are essentially networks or groups of partners working on similar issues or in similar areas. Decade

Collaborative Centres, other Decade coordinating bodies, and Decade Actions will have opportunities to engage with each other via the Communities of Practice. Where they exist, Decade coordinating structures will assist with facilitating the Communities of Practice but leaders of Decade Actions will have a major role to play in facilitating and using the Communities of Practice to create links to other partners. Via the Global Stakeholder Forum, the IOC will provide virtual “space” and a level of facilitation, but the Communities of Practice will predominantly be operationalised through their members. The IOC also reiterated that the focus of the Communities of Practice will evolve and new ones are likely to be created over the course of the Decade as the needs of Decade Actions evolve. The Secretariat advised that the guidance note would be shared with proponents of endorsed Decade Actions and they would be provided with a link to sign-up to one or more Communities of Practice.

RECOMMENDATION: IOC Secretariat to revise the phrasing of the guidance note and finalise so that it can be shared with endorsed Decade Actions.

4.0 Feedback from Programmes Reviewed During Interim Decade Advisor Board Meeting No. 01/2021

Submission No. 189. JETZON

Lead Partner: National Oceanography Centre, UK

The IOC Secretariat presented the follow up material provided by the proponents in relation to how the programme will implement co-design and how the programme will incorporate capacity development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Board noted the additional information provided and renewed their comment on the need to ensure strong diversity and links to users. They recognised the request of the proponent for the Board to assist in identifying members of the programme’s steering committee.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 137. DITTO

Lead Partner: GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel and Kiel University

The IOC Secretariat presented the follow up material provided by the proponents in relation to the timing and scope of the programme, as well as stakeholder engagement strategies. The Board members expressed support for the goals and aims of this programme stating that a digital twin is an essential component of the Decade. However, there is some concern about potential discrepancies in the definition or vision of what constitutes a digital twin. These discrepancies should be rectified to ensure there is an understanding of whether the goals of the programme are realistic and achievable.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

5.0 Presentation of Endorsement Ready Programmes

The majority endorsement ready programmes to be presented to the Board were grouped together around similar themes to facilitate the discussion and to allow the Board members to analyse and

comment on synergies between different initiatives. Where an endorsement ready programme involved a member of the Board who had a declared conflict of interest, this programme was considered separately without that Board member present in a separate session following consideration of the grouped programmes.

5.1 Multiple Ocean Stressors

There was general support for this group of endorsement ready programmes. Where individual comments for each programme were provided, they are listed below.

Submission No. 12. Ocean Decade Research Programme on the Maritime Acoustic Environment (Formerly 'United Nations Research Programme on the Maritime Acoustic Environment')

Lead Partner: Interagency Working Group for Ocean Sound and Marine Life

In addition to the supplementary information provided by the proponent on the involvement of projects across diverse geographies, questions were raised regarding the ability to increase the geographic diversity of the management and coordination structures of the programme.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 14. The Coral Reef Sentinels: A Mars Shot for Blue Planetary Health

Lead Partner: The Smithsonian Institution

The Board members noted the supplementary information provided by the proponent and highlighted the importance of the proposed approach of working with partners in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to co-design programme interventions.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 76. Global Ocean Oxygen Decade

Lead Partner: GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, on behalf of the Global Ocean Oxygen Network (GO2NE)

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 219. Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability - Providing society with the observational and scientific evidence needed to sustainably identify, monitor, mitigate and adapt to ocean acidification from local to global scales

Lead Partner: Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON)

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

5.2 Network Programmes

There was general support for this group of endorsement ready programmes. Where individual comments for each programme were provided, they are listed below.

Submission No. 16. Ocean Voices (Formerly ‘Oceans for Everyone: Building transformative pathways to achieve the Decade’s outcomes’)

Lead Partner: Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Center, EarthLab, University of Washington

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 90. Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems through global knowledge networks (SMART NET)

Lead Partner: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) / The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 138. Blue Climate Initiative - Solutions for People, Ocean, Planet

Lead Partner: Blue Climate Initiative (sponsored by Tetiaroa Society)

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

5.3 Observations/Modeling/Predicting

The Board members discussed the most efficient way to ensure that these programmes could work together and with other programmes – for example, those focused on data and knowledge management, to ensure that their approaches are complementary and that the resulting products are interoperable.

IOC RESPONSE: This collaboration will be achieved via the Communities of Practice. In addition, a Data Coordination Platform is being developed through the Decade and will provide a platform for discussing a common approach to the digital ecosystem and avoid overlap and redundancy between Decade Actions and the products, applications and services that they are developing.

Submission No. 28. ForeSea - The Ocean Prediction Capacity of the Future

Lead Partner: OceanPredict

The Board felt that this programme has strong potential to be a valuable contribution to the Decade but raised concerns that this programme does not fully embrace co-design by only working with the national prediction centers. There was also some uncertainty about what the tangible

applications, services and products that will be developed by this programme and how it moves beyond “business as usual”.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 97. An Observing Air-Sea Interactions Strategy (OASIS)

Lead Partner: SCOR Working Group #162 -- Developing an Observing Air-Sea Interactions Strategy (OASIS)

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

5.4 Coastal Resilience

The members of the Board were pleased to see a group of programmes focused on coastal resilience but raised similar questions as for the previous group of programmes in terms of how they would work together to create synergies.

IOC RESPONSE: The IOC confirmed that this group of programmes is already working together to establish a Community of Practice and has already identified tangible synergies and links across the programmes.

Submission No. 34. Ocean Cities, an international network of cities in harmony with the marine environment

*Lead Partner: Mediterranean Center for Marine and Environmental Research (CMIMA-CSIC)
Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) Unitat de Tecnologia Marina (UTM-CSIC)*

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 159. SEA'TIES - Sharing solutions with coastal cities to tackle sea-level rise

Lead Partner: Ocean & Climate Platform

The members of the Board appreciated the assessment of this programme by the IOC Secretariat and felt it was accurate. The Board expressed a view that the short proposed duration of this submission and its regional focus make it more suitable to be considered, at least initially, as a Decade project category. The Board recognised that it could evolve to become a programme and regardless of its category will play a very important role in pushing forward and mobilising the sea level rise research community.

RECOMMENDATION: Change of category of submission - recommended re-categorisation of submission to allow decision on endorsement

Submission No. 161. Deltas associated with large rivers: Seeking solutions to the problem of sustainability

Lead Partner: the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC), East China Normal University.

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 176. Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme

Lead Partner: State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution, City University of Hong Kong

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

5.5 Deep Sea

Submission No. 77. One Ocean Network for Deep Observation

Lead Partner: Ifremer (Institut Français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer)

The Board expressed the view that this proposal has a lot of value and noted that it was already collaborating with other programmes in an emerging Community of Practice focused on deep sea research and management. There was some concern about how new partners will be engaged in the programme.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

5.6 Fisheries

Submission No. 63. Fisheries Strategies for Changing Oceans and Resilient Ecosystems by 2030

Lead Partner: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

The Board members questioned the resources available to continue the development of the programme and felt that this proposal could benefit from connections to the US Decade Committee, including as a means of helping to further develop the programme and find additional resources.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

5.7 Ocean Literacy

There was general support for this group of endorsement ready programmes. Where individual comments for each programme were provided, they are listed below.

Submission No. 109. The Hydrous presents: The Decade of Ocean Empathy

Lead Partner: The Hydrous

The Board members expressed intrigue and interest in this programme although they raised questions about the roles of different partners and the ways in which the programme would work at the regional or national level to involve all of the relevant stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

Submission No. UN7. Ocean Literacy With All (OLWA) the change we need for the ocean we want

Lead Partner: IOC/UNESCO

This proposal was welcomed by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION: This is a UN-led Decade Action and is thus de facto registered as part of the Decade.

5.8 Remaining Programmes

Programmes that presented a potential conflict of interest for members of the Board were presented individually under this agenda item. The IOC Secretariat requested that members of the Board who declared conflict of interest with various programmes under this agenda item step out of the meeting during the review of those particular programmes.

Submission No. 172. Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions (GEOS)

Lead Partner: Ocean Visions

Members of the Board remarked that this programme has a very similar focus to that of the entire Decade and that it would be necessary to avoid overlap or duplication of processes. The Board questioned how the programme would work with the Decade to set priorities. There was a comment that this programme should be developed to include a Decade Collaborative Centre.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 17. Marine Life 2030: A Global Integrated Marine Biodiversity Information Management and Forecasting System for Sustainable Development and Conservation

Lead Partner: Smithsonian Institution

Members of the Board discussed the merits of this ambitious and valuable, but not yet funded, programme at length and raised questions about the approach for mobilising adequate resources to fully implement the programme and the risks that would result if funding was not secured. The long list of partners was also noted as posing coordination challenges although the role of a partner institution to establish a Decade Collaborative Centre to manage this programme and its coordination with other Decade programmes was noted. The Board also noted that initial funding

had been found and that the Decade was asking partners to be ambitious and propose transformative Decade Actions.

RECOMMENDATION: Minor revision - information requested from proponent before decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 26. Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network, OBON (Formerly ‘Biomolecular Ocean Observing Network’)

Lead Partner: The Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO)

The Board members noted the value in bringing together this programme with others through a Community of Practice.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 57. Challenger 150 - A Decade to Study Deep-Sea Life

Lead Partner: DOSI - Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative

The Board remarked that this programme has strong synergies to others considered during the meeting and noted a need to make sure to use Communities of Practice to bring these programmes together.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

Submission No. 129. Deep Ocean Observing Strategy

Lead Partner: Deep Ocean Observing Strategy

No comments.

RECOMMENDATION: No revision needed – ready for decision on endorsement.

6.0 Presentation of Pipeline Programmes

The IOC Secretariat provided a high-level overview of the following Pipeline Programmes:

- 46: The Science We Need for the Mediterranean Sea We Want
- 89: Sustainable Ocean Planning
- 102: COVID-19 Bio-Logging Initiative
- 118: SUstainability, Predictability and REsilience of Marine Ecosystems (SUPREME)
- 130: Science Enables Abundant Food (SEAFood) with Healthy Oceans: Tropical Pacific Region
- 132: Science Enables Abundant Food (SEAFood) with Healthy Oceans: Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region
- 170: Science Enables Abundant Food (SEAFood) with Healthy Oceans: Global
- 9: An Ocean Corps for Ocean Science
- 24: The Southern Ocean Regional Decade Programme

There were no specific comments on these pipeline programmes. The IOC Secretariat confirmed that it would continue working with these programmes that would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

7.0 Closing

The IOC Secretariat shared information on next steps in the process:

- The Secretariat will review the comments from this meeting and seek supplementary information from the programmes and project proponents, as needed.
- The Executive Secretary will consider the recommendations of the Board and any supplementary information received and make a final decision on endorsement
- The IOC will notify the proponents in writing of the Executive Secretary's endorsement decision.
- The IOC will develop communications tools for the endorsed programmes and projects.
- The IOC will also review and seek additional information on resource needs for the programmes and projects to allow it to complete a resource needs assessment and play a role of "match-maker" between programmes and contributions, as appropriate.

The IOC Secretariat advised that nominations for the Decade Advisory Board are expected to open in July 2021 following consideration of the Terms of Reference at the upcoming IOC Assembly in June 2021. The first meeting of the Decade Advisory Board will be held in either late 2021 or early 2022. The IOC also highlighted the High-Level Kick Off of the UN Ocean Decade on June 1 and the seven UN Ocean Decade Laboratories that will follow.

The Board provided compliments to the IOC Secretariat for its work in the preparation of the meeting.

The IOC Executive Secretary thanked the members of the Board for attending the meeting and for their input. He noted that the Decade was intended to be a revolution, and our contributions are shaping up to be just that.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



Agenda for Interim Decade Advisory Board

Meeting No. 02/2021

19 May 2021: 13h – 17h CEST

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	13.00 - 13.05
2. Review of Agenda for Meeting & Reminder of Operational Procedures	13.05 - 13.10
3. Discussion of Communities of Practice Note	13.10 – 13.25
4. Feedback from programme submissions reviewed during IDAB No. 01/2021: - JETZON - DITTO	13.25 – 13.40
5. Presentation and discussion of Endorsement Ready Programmes	13.40 – 15.00
BREAK	15.00 - 15.10
5. (continued) Presentation and discussion of Endorsement Ready Programmes	15.10 - 16.30

6. Presentation and discussion of Pipeline Programmes	16.30 – 16.50
7. Next Steps & Closing Remarks	16.50 – 17.00

Annex 2: List of Participants

Vera Agostini
Deputy Director, Fisheries Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Francisco Arias
Director General, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, Colombia

Malayath Atmanand
Former Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology, India / Chair, IOCINDIO

Marie Bourrel-Mckinnon
Senior Policy Officer & Special Assistant to the Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Peter Chauvel
Representative Ocean Decade Early Career Ocean Professional Informal Working Group

Elva Escobar Briones
Director, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, UNAM, Mexico

Karen Evans
Senior Research Scientist, Oceans and Atmosphere, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia

Kristina Gjerde
Senior High Seas Advisor, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN

Dimitry Gonchar
Principal Legal Officer
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea, OLA, UN

Peter Haugan
Former Chair of IOC
Professor, Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen, Norway

Anna Joborn
Chief Executive Officer, Mistra

Gabriel Juma
Representative Ocean Decade Early Career Ocean Professional Informal Working Group

Suzan Kholeif
Former President, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt

Jens Kruger
Manager, Ocean Affairs, Pacific Community, Fiji

Jihyun Lee

Director, Office of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources, International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Youn-Ho Lee
Professor/Principal Research Scientist, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, Republic of Korea

Margaret Leinen
Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography/Vice Chancellor, University of California-San Diego, United States

Craig McLean
Assistant Administrator, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, United States

Linwood Pendleton
Global Ocean Lead Scientist, World Wide Fund for Nature/International Chair of Excellence, European Institute for Marine Studies, Brest, France

Fangli Qiao
Vice-Chair, National Scientific Committee of Global Change and Mitigation, Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China

Sergey Shapovalov
Head, Center for Coordination of Ocean Research, Russian Federation

Gilbert Siko
Director, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

Mistuo Uematsu
Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo, Japan

Martin Visbeck
Head, Research Unit "Physical Oceanography", GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Kiel University, Germany

Christa Von Hillebrandt-Andrade
Manager, NOAA National Weather Service Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Puerto Rico

Joseph Zelasney
Fishery Officer, Policy Economics and Institutions Branch, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), provides a convening framework to develop the scientific knowledge and partnerships needed to catalyse transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean. The Ocean Decade is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

Established during the Preparatory Phase and to continue throughout implementation until 2030, the IOC's Ocean Decade Series will provide key documentation about this global initiative and aims to serve as a primary resource for stakeholders seeking to consult, monitor and assess progress towards the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade.



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