Key accomplishments over the last intersessional period and major results of the WESTPAC–XIII (27-29 April 2021)


IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, IOC/UNESCO

Agenda 3.3.2
Please refer to the full report (IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/3s)
WESTPAC development since June 2019

June-Dec 2019: Field activities

- RTRC-ODC training on Air-Sea Interactions, 17-28 Jun 2019, Qingdao, China
- A Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol Workshop, 7-9 Aug 2019, Penang, Malaysia
- Delivering Ocean Forecasting Services for Coral Reef Conservation, 11-13 Sep 2019, Phuket, Thailand
- Distribution, Source, Fate and impact of marine microplastics, 6-8 Nov 2019, Shanghai, China
- Inception Workshop on Ocean Oxygen Network, 20-22 Nov 2019, Manila, the Philippines

2020: Webinar Series

- June-Dec 2019: Field activities
- 16-18 December 2020: WESTPAC training on Remote sensing for Coastal Habitat Conservation
- 7-9 Aug 2019: A Harmful Jellyfish Sampling Protocol Workshop
- 25-27 November 2020: WESTPAC workshop on Monitoring Ocean Acidification and Coral Reef Biodiversity in Thailand
- 26-27 November 2020: WESTPAC workshop on Ocean Acidification in the Coral Triangle
- 11-13 Sep 2019: Delivering Ocean Forecasting Services for Coral Reef Conservation
- 16-18 Dec 2020: Seawater collection and handling for carbonate chemistry in the Gulf of Thailand, 19 Dec 2019
- 30 Jul - 28 Aug 2020: Call for Webinar Speakers for CSK-2
- 4-12 Nov 2019: Inception Workshop on Ocean Oxygen Network
- 25-27 November 2020: WESTPAC workshop on Monitoring Ocean Acidification and Coral Reef Biodiversity in Thailand
- 11-13 Sep 2019: Delivering Ocean Forecasting Services for Coral Reef Conservation
- 6-8 Nov 2019: Distribution, Source, Fate and impact of marine microplastics
- 6-8 Nov 2019: Ocean Dynamics and Climate
- 16-18 Dec 2020: Seawater collection and handling for carbonate chemistry in the Gulf of Thailand, 19 Dec 2019
- 4-12 Nov 2019: Inception Workshop on Ocean Oxygen Network
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- 6-8 Nov 2019: Distribution, Source, Fate and impact of marine microplastics
- 6-8 Nov 2019: Ocean Dynamics and Climate
WESTPAC KEY AREAS OF ACTIONS

A: Ocean processes and climate change

B: Marine biodiversity and seafood safety and security

C: Ocean ecosystemhealth

Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Ocean Science

WESTPAC PROGRAMMES/WORKING GROUPS

A 1: NEAR-GOOS
A 2: MOMSEI (SEA-GOOS)
A 3: OFS (SEA-GOOS)
A 4: Ocean Acidification (SEA-GOOS)
A 5: Air-Sea Interactions in the Kuroshio Extension
A 6: Upwelling studies through data integration towards ocean health
A 7: South China Sea Fluvial Sediment and its Environmental Impact
A 8: Indo-Pacific Ocean Environmental Variations and Air-Sea
A 9: Feasibility on the 2nd CSK (IWG)
B 10: Coral Reef Conservation, Restoration and Resilience
B 11: DNA taxonomy and recruitment monitoring
B 12: Marine toxins and seafood safety
B 13: Marine endangered species
B 14: Marine toxins and seafood safety

C 16: Ocean remote sensing for coastal habitat mapping
C 17: Harmful jellyfish research and monitoring
C 18: Marine microplastic research and monitoring
C 19: Harmful algae blooms
C 20: Ocean Oxygen Network (WG)

A+B+C: Energy and Materials Exchange Between Land and Open Ocean (WG: Marginal Seas)
Delivering knowledge and services to serve the needs of our Member States for ocean sustainability

- Developing operational ocean forecasting services to support decisions
- Combatting plastic pollution
- Monitoring ocean acidification and researching its impacts
- Establishing ocean hypoxia research and monitoring network
- Transferring and applying remote sensing techniques for MPAs
- Delivering knowledge on harmful jellyfish for public health
Support the promotion of the UN Ocean Decade in Member States

Mobilizing Actions for the UN Ocean Decade in the Western Pacific and adjacent areas
"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together!"
Major results
Of the 13th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission (27-29 April 2021, online)

Overwhelming support received for the continued efforts in assisting MS to address their development challenges

- Establishment of new programmes/Working Groups
  - 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and its adjacent regions
  - WG: Indo-Pacific Convergent Center - Marine Ecosystem and Biodiversity (I3PCC-MEB)
  - WG: Gas hydrate study
  - WG: Rapid detection technologies for harmful algal blooms

- Promoting, and mobilizing actions for the Ocean Decade
Major results

Of the 13th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission (27-29 April 2021, online)

Guiding principles for proposal development

- “Issue based, co-designed and solution-oriented” approach; responding to national and regional priorities;
- Capitalizing on and strengthening existing networks and resources; and engaging more relevant stakeholders;
- Integrating capacity development as an integral part of the proposed Action;
- Building on a strong willingness and commitment

Development of pipeline proposals for UN Decade Actions

A non-exhaustive list for inputs, engagement and commitments

“Making ocean science more relevant”
Major results
Of the 13th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission (27-29 April 2021, online)

- Development of pipeline proposals for UN Decade Actions (cont’d) - a non-exhaustive list

V. Save our corals
A Partnership research programme for coral resilience
Reaching out to and working together with international coral related initiatives and national programmes;
Understanding & forecasting coral bleaching;
Management and restoration to improve coral reef health
Transformative knowledge for adaptive management to sustain fisheries & tourism

VI. UNESCO/IoC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science
Link training to research programmes
Ocean forecasting system development and its application
Ocean acidification
Coral reef conservation, restoration
DNA taxonomy and recruitment monitoring
Marine toxins and seafood safety
Marine microplastic research and monitoring

VI. Riverine flux of Plastic to the Ocean
Combatting plastic pollution

IV. Ocean Solutions
A demonstration programme
Pilot multidisciplinary study sites for ocean solutions

VII. UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference Series with the WESTPAC IMSC (2022, 2025, 2028, 2031)
- Celebrate the launch of, review the progress of, the Ocean Decade and create excitement amongst diverse stakeholders across geographies and across generations in relation to their engagement in the Ocean Decade.
- Present the current status of ocean scientific knowledge, including pressures, threats and priority issues, identify gaps that need to be addressed in the region;
- Catalyse partnerships and initiate co-design of transformative solutions amongst diverse stakeholder groups to contribute to the Ocean Decade Challenges and achieve the Decade outcomes and vision;
- Provide a forum for supporters of the Decade to announce commitments to the Decade including flagship Decade Actions or financial or in-kind support;
- Lay and keep strengthening the foundation for dialogue and collaboration amongst diverse Decade stakeholders.
Major results
Of the 13th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission (27-29 April 2021, online)

- **Promoting, and mobilizing actions for the Ocean Decade**
  Welcomed the kind offer of the Government of Thailand to host: (i) a Decade Coordination Office; (ii) the Decade Regional Kickoff Conference (August 2021, online), and the first Decade Regional Conference in conjunction with the 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in 2022.

- **Adopted its Programme and Budget (May 2021-April 2023) – most of joint activities to be conducted via EXB support**

- **Election of WESTPAC Officers**
“We ourselves feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

-Mother Teresa