



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



Observing Together

by The Global Ocean Observing System

**Supporting the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
Development by meeting stakeholder needs and making every
observation count**

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GOOS | Observing Together
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Meeting stakeholder needs and making every observation count

Supporting the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

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

This programme is endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science

Observing Together will transform ocean data access and availability by **connecting ocean observers and the communities they serve** through enhanced support to both new and existing community-scale projects.

By the end of the Ocean Decade, a substantial number of projects will exist that empower stakeholder communities to share more valuable observations and transform these so they are easily available and create real value.

Observing Together will include learning and sharing mechanisms that enable successful local initiatives to be replicated worldwide. It will help give us the ocean we need for the future we want.

The challenge

Today, many communities around the world are unable to access ocean data in a way that is truly useful and enables them to make informed decisions.

Some may struggle to see the value of investing in ocean observation. At the same time, many other observing efforts remain isolated - a missed opportunity to contribute to an integrated global system and strengthen a wide range of products.

When community users become aware of the real value of ocean observing to their lives, then support for ocean science will grow.

The answer

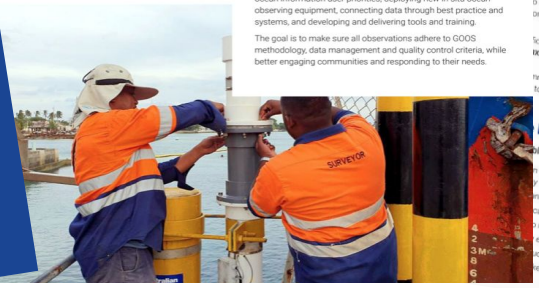
Observing Together will provide a platform for connecting new and existing ocean observing efforts while strengthening partnerships across the value chain - from observing networks, through data and forecasting systems, scientific analysis, to service providers and users.

We will leverage the Global Ocean Observing System's (GOOS) network of expertise to bring needed observations and forecasts to community users and into global data streams, making every observation count.

For example, across Pacific Island countries and territories, 90% of Pacific Islanders live within 10km of the coast. Most economic activities rely upon the ocean - from commercial and sustenance fishing to surfing and dive tourism. Accurate ocean information and forecasts are critical for planning, safety at sea, and disaster mitigation along the coast but in situ observations and oceanographic expertise in the region are limited.

Here, our work, carried out in partnership, will include identifying ocean information user priorities, deploying new in situ ocean observing equipment, connecting data through best practice and systems, and developing and delivering tools and training.

The goal is to make sure all observations adhere to GOOS methodology, data management and quality control criteria, while better engaging communities and responding to their needs.



The objectives

1. Equitable and practical access to ocean observations enabled by engagement and co-design with local observation and stakeholder communities.
2. A system that makes a greater number of global and local observations available, integrated, interoperable and comparable.
3. Strengthened connections, mutual understanding, and improved knowledge sharing between ocean observers and the stakeholder communities they serve, globally and locally.
4. Increased evidence that ocean observations are applied to solve problems and inform decision-making for any priority - national, regional, or global.
5. Smart design and use of ocean observations to maximise return on investment.
6. Community users become aware of the real value of ocean to their lives, support for ocean science will grow.

benefits

enable to:

- connections between ocean observers and users.
- observations more widely.
- local knowledge and global information.
- make every observation count.
- equipment and training programmes.
- processes.
- stakeholder communities.

Get involved

If you would like to support Observing Together, please get in touch to start the conversation about how you can help us and what your contribution will enable us to achieve together.

Potential investors, talk to us about how this vitally important programme can help you make a difference to specific communities, delivering the information, services and the capacity needed to empower sustainable living in balance with the ocean.

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UPDATE: projects

- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation: \$25K funding for *Enhancing Shipboard Observations in the Pacific Islands* VOS pilot project
- Existing projects:
 - **Indonesia Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency [BMKG]:** Fisherman Weather Field School Sekolah Lapang Cuaca Nelayan
 - **The Pacific Community [SPC]:** The Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific [COSPPac]
- Endorsed projects now under Observing Together:
 - **Norway NTNU:** Sailing4Science - expanding the capacity for ocean observations and ocean citizen science awareness and stewardship
 - **Mauritius Meteorological Services:** Enhancing the ocean observing system within The Republic of Mauritius
 - **National Commission for Education, Sciences and Culture, Morocco:** Enhancement of hydrographic and oceanographic observations in support of marine scientific research



TIMELINE SHORT-TERM



OPPORTUNITIES

- Capacity building focus will be attractive for funders, could the WMO SOFF, philanthropic funders be approached?
- Leverage funding opportunities via the Decade
- Increased observing capacity and data from these projects
- Increase involvement and knowledge of GOOS at a local, community level and benefit of GOOS support for development
- Potential to develop case studies





CHALLENGES

- Coordination of multiple projects will be challenging and must be sustainable
- Projects may need support for endorsement process
- How to successfully leverage Decade opportunities for funding
- Alignment with existing GOOS structures



REQUESTS FOR THE COMMITTEE

- How will the additional structures fit under the existing GOOS structure?
- How can we work with Decade to generate funding?
- Is there an opportunity to leverage existing GOOS projects that could be enhanced through this programme? Should GOOS put a call out later in 2022?
- Proposal for all programmes to meet together and look for shared opportunities

