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2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



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TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

REGIÓN TROPICAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS Y EL CARIBE

RÉGION DE L'AMÉRIQUE TROPICALE ET DES CARAÏBES

# UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021–2030 TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

*One Planet, One Ocean / Un Planeta, Un Océano / Une planète, un océan*

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# FOUNDATIONAL

MILENA MALTESE ZUFFO

- Best practices: standardizing local, national, and international data
- Ocean literacy: towards ocean equity in TAC Region
- The blue economy: enhancing capacity development in the TAC Region
- Partnerships / cooperation in TAC Region

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## BEST PRACTICES: ACHIEVING EQUAL ACCESS TO DATA BY STANDARDIZING LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DATA

- Endorsed Decade Programme:

Ocean Best Practices for the Decade: this programme "invites actions that will accelerate the interoperability of observations/analyses and the convergence of methodologies," and it "encourages the formation of a global network of organizations archiving and offering best practices documentation". The project is based on establishing a regional network of organizations that will be able to discuss the critical issues that should be standardized to ensure regional databases interoperability and create a favourable atmosphere for the draft of the Region's ocean best practices guidelines.

# BACKGROUND

During the TAC Region Working Groups Webinars capacity building was identified as a cross-cutting subject, being thus the need to establish best practices in the Region highlighted in WG1, 2, 4 and 6 workshops. The limited availability of accessible and high-quality data, the need for open access data and ensuring that the data collected can be distributed and interpreted nationally were identified as common challenges to be overcome. In the Region, there are several databases available. However, considering that those databases usually do not use the same collection and organization methods, it is impossible to import and export data from one to another (lack of interaction). Therefore, establishing best practices is a critical need in the Region to make ocean data available to all, improving cooperation, management, decision-making, and governance. Finally, because best practices can lead to the establishment of efficient data sharing mechanisms, establishing best practices can also be helpful to develop ocean research policies in the Region

# OBJECTIVES

- Establishing best practices of ocean data collection and management, ensuring regional databases interoperability
- Overcoming impediments to ocean data sharing (e.g., language, and hidden or underexploited datasets)
- Ensure the development of ocean data and information management plans in existing and new national ocean science, observation and related programmes and activities
- To facilitate cooperation and partnerships within the TAC Region by fostering discussion and dialogue between multi-sector stakeholders
- Address the lack of ocean data , information, and scientific research gap in the TAC Region (understanding the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems)
- Make high-quality ocean data available for all in the TAC Region

# PARTNERS

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The IHO-IMO-WMO arrangement on Maritime Safety Provision

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange of IOC (IODE/IOC)

## OCEAN LITERACY: CHANGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OCEAN BY PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE TAC REGION

- Endorsed Decade Programme:

Ocean Literacy with All: the change we need for the ocean we want: although the programme started with a “knowledge deficit” approach, it understands Ocean Literacy as “as being not only about increasing public awareness of the state of the ocean, our impacts upon it and its impacts upon us but also about providing tools and approaches to transform ocean knowledge into behaviours and actions that promote ocean sustainability”. The programme also aims to “further explore how enhancing ocean literacy at different geographical scales and among different audiences or groups of people can be used to develop more effective ocean policy and management”. By connecting regional scientists and institutions and fostering regional discussion and cooperation, the project creates a favourable atmosphere for developing suitable and tailor-made solutions in the TAC Region.

# BACKGROUND

During the TAC Region Working Groups Webinars capacity building was identified as a cross-cutting subject . The world aims to achieve an inspiring and engaging ocean where society understands and values the ocean concerning human wellbeing and sustainable development by 2030. However, information is unequally distributed across the world geographies, across generations, and genders (Implementation Plan) and knowledges, being thus urgent to address existing ocean inequality and create solutions to make information available to all. During the TAC Regional Webinar Series on Capacity Development, it was identified that unequal access to knowledge is a relevant barrier to the sustainable development of the ocean and that it is crucial to recognize an efficient method to engage with, or approach and exchange knowledge with local communities and traditional knowledge holders. During the Kick-Off Conference, it was identified that there is a lack of visibility to local efforts, that understanding Ocean Literacy is a gap for decision-makers. There is a regional need to promote Ocean Literacy as a tool to transform ocean knowledge into actions that lead to ocean sustainability.



# OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate cooperation and partnerships within the TAC Region.
- The action will allow the creation of a cooperation network to develop the Region and enable them to create suitable and tailor-made solutions to the Region's challenges.
- It will enable the exchange of experiences in several critical sectors for the Decade, such as methods adopted to promote Ocean Literacy in the TAC Region.
- Raise awareness on Ocean Literacy and outreach
- Promote the inclusion of ocean-related subjects in formal education
- Develop information and content tailored to effectively impact all stakeholders

# PARTNERS

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

Ocean Decade National Committees

Local/national study centres

## PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO REACH OPTIMAL EFFICIENCIES, EFFECTIVENESS, AND IMPACT OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN THE TAC REGION

- Endorsed Decade Programme:

Ocean Literacy with All: the change we need for the ocean we want: although the programme started with a “knowledge deficit” approach, it understands Ocean Literacy as “as being not only about increasing public awareness of the state of the ocean, our impacts upon it and its impacts upon us but also about providing tools and approaches to transform ocean knowledge into behaviours and actions that promote ocean sustainability”. The programme also aims to “further explore how enhancing ocean literacy at different geographical scales and among different audiences or groups of people can be used to develop more effective ocean policy and management”. By connecting regional scientists and institutions and fostering regional discussion and cooperation, the project creates a favourable atmosphere for developing suitable and tailor-made solutions in the TAC Region

# BACKGROUND

During the TAC Region Working Groups Webinars capacity building was identified as a cross-cutting subject . It is a regional initiative to align regional stakeholders, e.g. Ocean Decade National Committees, institutions of higher education and the private sector, with IOCARIBE in facilitating cooperation, sharing of information and transfer of knowledge/technologies. During the Webinar Series (2021) lack of funding was indicated as a critical barrier to achieving the ocean we want. Moreover, ocean issues such as plastic pollution are transboundary by nature and, just as oil spills, it must be addressed through the establishment of partnerships at the national and international levels. There is a regional need for all stakeholders to cooperate to attain a sustainable ocean. Therefore, building bridges between scientists, society, industry, and sectors can be a way to mitigate the adverse impact of lack of funding or adequate equipment in the Region. Considering that IOCARIBE can facilitate regional interaction, it could maintain a repository/virtual environment to promote regional cooperation. The primary target would be establishing a clearinghouse mechanism that can bring stakeholders together

# OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate cooperation and partnerships within the TAC Region by fostering discussion and dialogue between multi-sector stakeholders. The action will allow the creation of a cooperation network to develop the blue economy in the Region and enable local communities to create suitable and tailor-made solutions to the Region's challenges.
- Strengthen collaboration and networking: it will allow the TAC Region to develop research partnerships that could change the reality and the relationship of local communities with the oceans.

# PARTNERS

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)

Local Universities

# THE BLUE ECONOMY: ENHANCING COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL ASPECTS OF OCEAN SCIENCE AND FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TAC REGION

- Endorsed Decade Programme:

Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs): the priorities of the programme are promoting ocean literacy and capacity development. Moreover, it welcomes mentoring programmes and training programmes initiatives, especially projects from the TAC Region. Considering that the action aims to promote knowledge on the blue economy in the TAC Region and to prevent the exodus of talents due to lack of opportunities, the initiative aligns with the ECOP programme

# BACKGROUND

During the TAC Region Working Groups Webinars capacity building was identified as a cross-cutting subject. During the Capacity Development Webinar (2021), IOCARIBE identified that developing local expertise with lasting benefits can lead to transformative change in capacity development. According to the Blue Economy Development Framework, issued by the World Bank Group, diversifying countries' economies beyond land-based activities and along their coasts is critical to achieving the SDGs and delivering smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth globally. Therefore, it is critical to enhancing knowledge about the blue economy (targeting scientists, governments, and policymakers). In addition to its notorious importance for local culture and livelihood, the ocean should also be understood as an economic asset, as it is estimated that the ocean economy directly contributes more than 1.5 trillion dollars a year to the global economy. During the Kick-Off Conference, it was identified that the regional challenge is to develop local initiatives, especially for small island nations. It also identified a need for promoting engagement among stakeholders and local expertise



# OBJECTIVES

- Conserving and restoring mangrove habitats
- Scaling up offshore wind production.
- Decarbonising the international shipping sector
- Increasing the production of sustainably sourced ocean-based protein
- Reducing ocean pollution

# PARTNERS

United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

World Bank

The Ocean Panel

OECD

Member States



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THANK YOU

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