



2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development

OCEAN DECADE ALLIANCE

CALL TO ACTION

on the occasion of the

2022 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

We, the members of the Ocean Decade Alliance, draw attention to the significant threats that the ocean is facing. Climate change, unsustainable exploitation of marine resources, pollution, and uncoordinated development of the ocean and coastal zone are creating multiple and cumulative impacts that threaten the state of the ocean and jeopardize its capacity to support human safety, health and wellbeing.

We recognize the importance of investing in relevant and solutions-oriented science as the basis for action to restore the health of the ocean and achieve sustainable development. We affirm that collective ambitions for climate action, biodiversity, and food and energy security cannot be met without improved generation, accessibility, and uptake of ocean data, information and knowledge.

We recognize the many decades of achievements in ocean science from actors around the world that provide a sound basis for future action. Yet we acknowledge that further investments are required from governments, industry, academia, and philanthropy to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 "Life below water". We recognize that solutions to sustainable development across the global ocean require strong investment in systematic and sustained ocean observation to generate knowledge for sustainable ocean planning and management.

We recognize that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to convene diverse actors to co-design and co-deliver transformative ocean science that fills priority knowledge gaps at the global, regional, national, and local scales. We furthermore highlight the role of the Ocean Decade in embracing the value of a panoply of knowledge systems, including Indigenous and local knowledge.

We affirm that to fulfil the vision of the Ocean Decade, a step-change in the type, volume and coordination of investment that is available for ocean science is required. We stress that such investment needs to be significantly scaled up, sustained, and accessible across geographies and genders. It needs to support the unique role of early career ocean professionals and youth in ensuring the legacy of the Ocean Decade. A significant increase in investment needs to be accompanied by comprehensive capacity development and increased ocean literacy for and with all stakeholders so that no-one is left behind.

We commit to:

- Using our individual and collective networks and influence to raise awareness for the need to increase investment in ocean science to support for sustainable development in the framework of the Ocean Decade.
- Building on existing and new partnerships across all sectors of society including governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry, philanthropy, academia, and United Nations entities to unlock required investment.
- Supporting partnerships with and between actors in Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States to achieve the aims of the Ocean Decade.
- Working with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in its role as coordinator of the Ocean Decade to identify and advance priority investment needs.

On the occasion of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, we launch a Call to Action to partners from diverse sectors including governments; national, regional, international and private financing institutions; philanthropy; United Nations entities; and industry to join us in the Ocean Decade Alliance. We call upon these partners to co-create innovative, tailored and adaptive approaches to sustainable and inclusive investment around common ocean science priorities, including focusing investment in areas of ocean science that directly inform tangible outcomes for sustainable development.

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SIGNATORIES:

PATRONS OF THE OCEAN DECADE ALLIANCE:

- H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya
- His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco
- H.E. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway
- H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of Portugal
- H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles
- Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection
- Dr. Martin Parkinson AO, Co-Chair, Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- Mr. Kjell Inge Rokke, Owner, REV Ocean
- Ms. Wendy Schmidt, Founder, Schmidt Ocean Institute

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE OCEAN DECADE ALLIANCE:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Republic of Kenya
- Republic of Korea
- Kingdom of Norway
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Seychelles
- Kingdom of Sweden
- International Seabed Authority
- Fugro
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- Schmidt Ocean Institute



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