OCEAN OBSERVATIONS (physical, biological, environmental, socio-economic,

Ocean and coastal observations (Long term, sustained multi-disciplinary observations and tools)

OBJECTIVE

- By visually showing it as a foundation our objective is to ensure that ocean observations is fundamental to all the pillars, highlighting the importance of ocean obs and generates the data that will drive the science and knowledge. If you don't have the necessary equipment/framework then your pillars collapse.
- But if you don't have the data can you still contribute to the pillars? Awareness that although the foundation is there to create the base it will also highlight where the gaps are.
- Pillars need to inform the foundation as to what needs to be observed as to be informative we need long term observations.
- Pillars show you where the foundation is weak

What are the priority areas of action under this pillar that could contribute to achieving the objective? *(…these priority areas could inform Calls for Decade Actions under the programme)*

- The priority areas of the pillars will lead to understanding where the gaps are and what the priority areas of the foundation should be in order to support the science and knowledge.

Optional:

- *What existing or planned initiatives need to be taken into account in the detailed design of this pillar?*
  - projects will be driven by the gaps that are identified, need to do a mapping exercise
  - We need to do a resource analysis and look at success stories

- *What additional partners should be consulted?*
  - Identify current partners and their constraints (eg operating area), political issues (eg EEZ) and access to FAIR data, need a better framework at government level to ensure sharing of data. The conventions and the AU need to play a big role, in particular with regards to policy makers involvement
  - GOOS, industry, Nansen, Pirata, POGO, WMO etc. Coastal communities need to be brought in from the beginning in order to ensure co-design
  - needs to be some influencing of the framework we want when it comes to data sharing - eg data that is observed/collected in our EEZ needs to be available in a particular platform. Not all countries/regions follow the same framework, perhaps we can provide guidance to governments.

- Co-designing amongst the countries so that resources and capacity can be shared
- Longterm observations that drives the science and knowledge for a resilient and sustainable ocean economy in Africa - we want to do more than the once off ‘parachute science’
- Identify areas in Africa with strong observational capabilities and infrastructure and how we can leverage this and align with those areas with gaps, to allow for a robust ocean and coastal observing system in Africa
- Align with the traditional institutions that have small data sets and their understanding of what can drive the pillars

1. Sustainable Ocean Management in Africa
2. Ocean and human health
3. Unlocking the blue carbon potential of Africa
4.Fisheries and IUU in Africa
5.Strengthening multi-hazards early warning systems and community resilience
6.Ocean Observations and forecasting systems for Africa
7.Digital twin for Africa - Establishing an African Ocean Knowledge Hub
8.Strengthening capacities and skills
9. Regional ocean literacy programme

Enablers:

- ✓ Capacity Development
- ✓ Ocean Literacy
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Knowledge generation and Dissemination: (data and information management