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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF ENDORSED DECADE ACTIONS
AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES INCLUDING RESOURCE NEEDS**

Summary

This document provides a brief overview of the current set of endorsed Decade Actions, including Coordination Structures. It addresses resource needs and provides information on future possible endorsements of Decade Actions.

Status of Endorsed Decade Actions

As of May 2023, the three completed Calls for Decade Actions have resulted in the endorsement of 47 programmes, 235 projects and 79 contributions. Decisions on endorsement for submissions to Call for Decade Actions No. 04/2023 are pending with a first group of decisions expected to be announced on 8 June 2023 (refer below). The full set of endorsed Decade programmes is accessible via this [link](#). Details of all Decade projects can be accessed [here](#), and Decade contributions [here](#).

An analysis of the thematic coverage of endorsed Decade programmes indicated that that the Ocean Decade Challenges are not equally addressed. Challenge 7 – Ocean Observations has the highest number of programmes addressing it with 12 programmes, followed by Challenge 5 – Ocean-Climate Nexus with 10 programmes and Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Management and Restoration, with 7 programmes. The Ocean Decade Challenges that are the least well addressed by existing Decade programmes are Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution, Challenge 4 – Sustainable Ocean Economy, and Challenge 6 – Coastal Resilience.

Of the 235 endorsed Decade projects, approximately 90 are ‘orphan projects’ without any programmatic attachment and which are thus lacking coordination and opportunities to interact with other Decade Actions for collective impact. These orphan projects are clustered around Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution (sub-themes of note are plastic pollution and nutrient pollution) and Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Management and Restoration (sub-themes of note are restoration, multiple ocean stressors and area-based management). These two Challenges and sub-themes are the subject of the current Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023.

Status of Coordination Structures

Six Decade Collaborative Centres (DCC) are working at the regional or thematic level. These DCCs were all endorsed between June and December 2022 and are all fully operational and working in line with their agreed mandates. Three Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs) are also operational and are hosted by IOC. Of these, the WESTPAC DCO the most advanced in terms of staffing and operationalization of activities. Via philanthropic support to the Decade Coordination Unit, the Data Sharing and Observations DCOs have recently recruited Coordinators that will lead work to establish the Offices and build a sustained resource base. Regular meetings are held between the DCOs/DCCs and the Decade Coordination Unit on technical and communications issues, and bilateral and small group collaborations are occurring between some DCOs/DCCs. An in-person meeting of DCOs/DCCs is planned for late 2023 or early 2024 to reinforce the links between these structures.

New DCCs are emerging for the Southern Ocean, Arctic, and South Pacific regions, while new DCOs are being scoped for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region and Africa.

Major gaps in coordination structures exist in relation to endorsed programmes and projects focused on Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution, Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Management and Restoration and Challenge 3 – Sustainable Blue Food. The current Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 is soliciting DCCs for these themes.

Resource Needs of Decade Actions and Coordination Structures

Following requests from Decade Actions to lighten reporting requirements, information on resource needs is collected only for endorsed Decade programmes for a 12-month period via the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The choice to focus on Decade programmes also reflects the focus of resource mobilization activities of the Decade Coordination Unit at the programme level.

Twenty-three (23) endorsed Decade programmes responded to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. These programmes indicated that for the next 12-month period, approximately USD 37 million (approximately 20% of needs) has been secured, while USD 188 million is required

for full implementation over the next 12 months. An approximate indication of overall resource needs for Decade programmes can be drawn by extrapolating this information to the 47 endorsed programmes, giving approximate secured resources in the order of USD 75 million and resource needs in the order of USD 385 million for the next 12-month period. These extrapolated data should be interpreted with caution as several of the recently endorsed programmes including the Ocean Seamless Forecasting programme and Global ONCE programme (Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions) have budgets that are significantly higher than previously endorsed programmes, but also have significant proportions of their required resources that are already secured.

The rate of implementation of Decade Actions is highly variable and is largely dependent on the availability of resources. The Decade Coordination Unit receives numerous requests for support from Decade Actions for support in resource mobilisation, both for coordination and for activity implementation. As noted in previous reporting to the Assembly, the role of the Decade Coordination Unit in relation to resource mobilisation for Decade Actions is one of 'matchmaking' whereby the Unit works with funders to align priorities and create connections to Decade Actions. This is done via the Foundations Dialogue, the Ocean Decade Alliance and in bilateral discussions with Member States but to date, resource limitations with the Decade Coordination Unit has meant that the Unit has not been able to play this role in a structured and systematic way. The arrival of a new secondment (Japan) is expected to assist in this work. A priority will be to undertake a granular mapping of the needs and thematic and geographical areas of intervention of the Decade Actions and to develop tailored information products on support opportunities for use with different groups of funders.

In parallel, discussions are continuing with Decade Actions and partners to identify needed in-kind support and resources. Significant requests are also received for support in communications and visibility and discussions are continuing with philanthropic partners to secure this additional support.

Decade Collaborative Centres that have been endorsed to date have fully secured the resources that are required for their operation.

Resource needs of IOC-led contributions, including Decade Coordination Offices are collected and analysed in more detail and are documented in IOC/INF-1426.

Future Potential Endorsements

At the time of preparation of this document, decisions on endorsements were pending for one programme and 39 projects that were submitted via Call for Decade Actions No. 04/2022, six contributions including a new Decade Collaborative Centre for the Southern Ocean, and a new Decade Implementing Partner in China's National Marine Data and Information Service. If approved by the IOC Executive Secretary these new endorsements will be announced on 8 June 2023 (World Oceans Day) and will bring the total number of Decade Actions to over 400, including 48 programmes, 274 projects, and 85 contributions.