



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



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# Agenda Item 4.12 – Update on the Decade Implementation Plan



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# Perspectives from Decade Advisory Board Co-Chairs

- Margaret Leinen
- Vidar Helgesen

# THE OCEAN DECADE

in a snapshot



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## ENDORSED OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS

 **48** PROGRAMMES  
**276** PROJECTS  
**84** CONTRIBUTIONS  
**539** ACTIVITIES

As at June 2023



DECADE ACTIONS LED  
BY PARTNERS FROM  
**60**  
COUNTRIES

## DECADE ADVISORY BOARD

**15** MEMBERS  
**14** COUNTRIES  
**8** WOMEN  
**7** MEN  
**5** MEETINGS



## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION

**7**  
REGIONAL  
TASKFORCES  
AND PROGRAMMES

**12**  
DECADE  
IMPLEMENTING  
PARTNERS



**36**  
NATIONAL  
DECADE  
COMMITTEES

**10**  
DECADE  
COLLABORATIVE CENTRES/  
COORDINATION OFFICES

## ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



**1+ MILLION**  
REACH

**10** PATRONS AND  
**18** INSTITUTIONAL  
MEMBERS OF THE  
OCEAN DECADE  
ALLIANCE



**5** INFORMAL  
WORKING GROUPS

OVER **20**  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
FOUNDATIONS  
DIALOGUE



**6,500**  
MEMBERS ON THE  
OCEAN DECADE NETWORK

# Overview of Presentation

## 1. Status of Implementation

- *Decade Actions & Coordination Structures*
- *IOC Contributions*
- *National Decade Committees*
- *Resource Mobilisation*

## 2. Existing & Emerging Initiatives

- *Capacity Development*
- *Engagement in Africa and SIDS*
- *UN Agency engagement*
- *Strategic ambition setting*





## 3. Looking Forward

- *2024 Ocean Decade Conference*
- *2025 UN Ocean Conference*



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  @UNOceandecade  
  @un-ocean-decade



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# 1. Status of Implementation

# Decade Evolution & Key Achievements over last 12 months



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Key Challenges identified in 2022	Progress	Key Achievements & Remaining Gaps
Fill thematic and geographic gaps in Ocean Decade Actions	Green	Notable new programmes & significant number of new projects, but resource gaps need to be filled.
Further consolidate IOC contributions to the Decade	Green	Decade Coordination Offices becoming operational & new IOC programmes developed or planned, but additional resources needed.
Increase investment in capacity development including in co-design	Green	Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility developed. Co-design pilot course deployed & resources secured for expansion.
Increase support to Africa and SIDS	Yellow	Planning underway for initiatives focused on Africa and SIDS, engagement required by Member States.
Process for strategic ambition setting for Ocean Decade Challenges	Green	Vision 2030 process launched.
Support for strategic resource mobilisation	Yellow	Sustained growth of Foundations Dialogue and Alliance, but further support needed.
Create visibility at major events including 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon	Green	High visibility and major events & key role in planning of future events including UNOC 2025.
Plan Second International Ocean Decade Conference	Green	Planning advanced for 2024 Ocean Decade Conference.

# Endorsed Decade Actions



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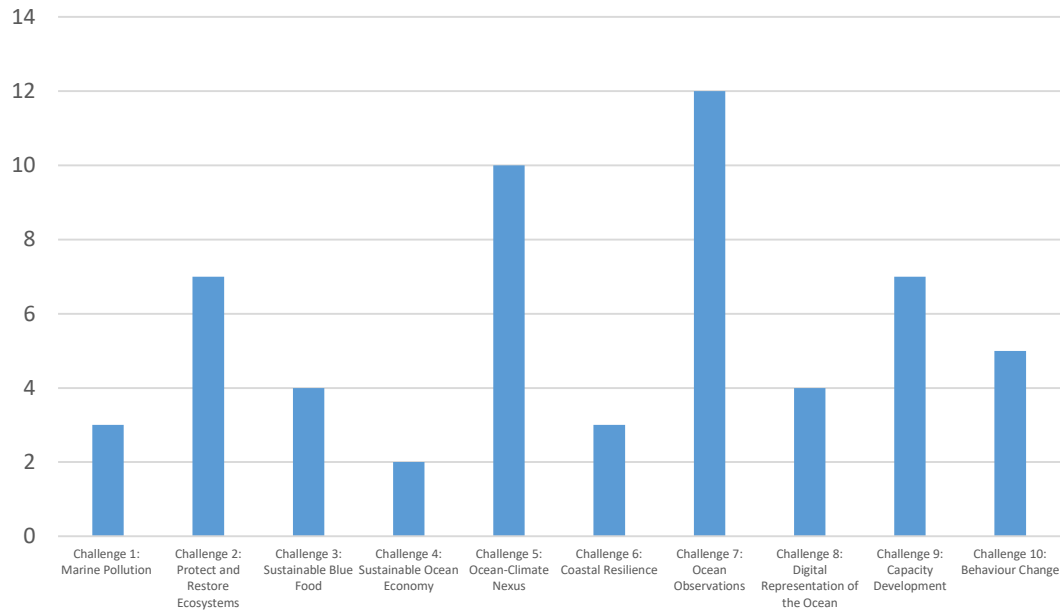


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48 Programmes | 276 Projects | 84 Contributions

## Decade Programmes by Challenges



- Lead institutions in 60 countries but low leadership from SIDS and LDCs
- Engagement of over:
  - 3500 research institutions
  - 4500 Early Career Ocean Professionals
- Women represent 56% of participants in Decade Actions
- 25,000 diverse knowledge products already generated
- Call for Decade Actions 05/2023 currently open

## Resource and support needs of endorsed Decade Actions:

- Approximately 20% of resources secured for next 12 month period
- Estimated annual resource needs of 400 – 500 million USD
- Support commonly requested for communications, coordination & fundraising



# Decentralised Coordination Structures



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- **Growing network of Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs) and Decade Collaborative Centres (DCCs)**
- **Tailored but similar mandates including:**
  - Coordination of Decade Actions & catalysis of new Actions**
  - Gap analyses and priority setting**
  - Resource mobilisation**
  - Communications and outreach**
  - Monitoring and reporting**
- **Primary / secondary attachments of Decade Actions operational and peer – peer collaboration emerging**
- **IOC-led DCOs require additional resources**
- **Important thematic and geographical gaps persist**

**Regional Coordination Structures (existing)**

- Northeast Pacific
- Indian Ocean
- Southern Ocean
- West Pacific (IOC)
- Southern Ocean

**Regional Coordination Structures (planned)**

- Africa (IOC)
- Caribbean (IOC)
- Arctic
- South Pacific

**Thematic Coordination Structures (planned / being resourced)**

- Data Sharing (IOC)
- Ocean Observations (IOC)
- Ocean Literacy & Cultural Values (IOC)

**Thematic Coordination Structures (existing)**

- Ocean Prediction
- Coastal Resilience
- Ocean Climate Nexus
- Ocean Climate Solutions



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# IOC Contribution to Ocean Decade



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- **IOC remains leading UN agency in terms of number of endorsed Decade Actions:**
  - Leading 7 endorsed Programmes
  - Leading 9 endorsed Projects
  - Leading 3 Decade Coordination Offices
  - Key partner in 5 other endorsed programmes
- **Unique opportunity to use Decade to reinforce IOC globally and regionally inc. post-Decade:**
  - Leading preparation of new Sustainable Ocean Planning programme
  - Reinforcement of sub-commissions as regional ocean science hubs via DCO creation in IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC (already established)
  - Positioning of IOC in 2025 UN Ocean Conference

## Resource Needs for IOC Contributions in next 12 month period

16 Decade Programmes & Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USD 7.3 million secured</li> <li>• USD 9.3 million gap</li> </ul>

3 Decade Coordination Offices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USD 439,000 secured</li> <li>• USD 1,250,000 gap</li> </ul>



# 36 National Decade Committees



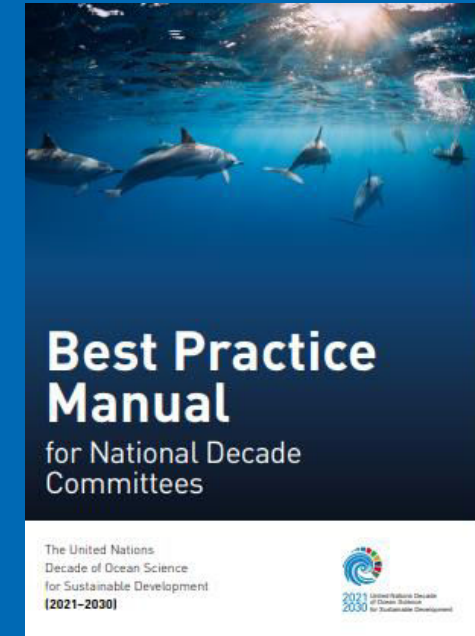
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National Decade Committee Side Event – 28 June @ 13.30h, Room II

- Voluntary, inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms that coordinate, support and increase MS participation in Decade through influencing national priorities, working across science-policy-society and informing funding strategies
- Wealth of best practices and experience emerging from existing NDCs => captured in Best Practice Manual
- Major gaps persist in SIDS, LDCs and certain regions => DCU developing tools to increase support to new NDCs and ensure impact beyond the Decade





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# Ocean Decade Alliance



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## 10 Ocean Decade Alliance Patrons including:

- H.E. José Maria Pereira Neves, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
- H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles
- H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of Portugal
- H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr., President of the Republic of Palau
- H.E. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway
- His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco



## 18 institutional members including:

- Cabo Verde
- Canada
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Kingdom of Norway
- Kingdom of Sweden
- Republic of Kenya
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Portugal
- Republic of Seychelles
- Republic of Palau

- Successful high-level event at UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, June 2022
- Event planned at SDG Summit, September 2023 in collaboration with SIDS Coalition for Nature
- Major engagement opportunities at 2024 Ocean Decade Conference
- Interest in developing joint knowledge products between Alliance members



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# Foundations Dialogue



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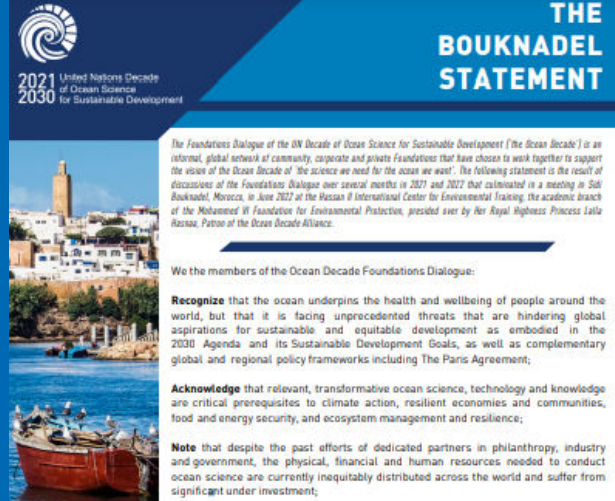
Informal, growing group of > 30 philanthropic funders met at in mid-June at Third Foundations Dialogue meeting:

- Explicit request for information on investment opportunities in Decade Actions
- Continued interest in supporting communications, co-design and capacity development
- Emerging initiatives to support technology development
- Increasing focus on role of philanthropy to support UN processes



June 2022

Second Foundations Dialogue, Rabat



June 2022



June 2023

Third Foundations Dialogue, Monaco

“Monaco  
Statement  
2023”



4<sup>th</sup>  
Foundations  
Dialogue,  
Brazil, 2024





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## 2. Existing & Emerging Initiatives

# Supporting Demand Driven Capacity Development



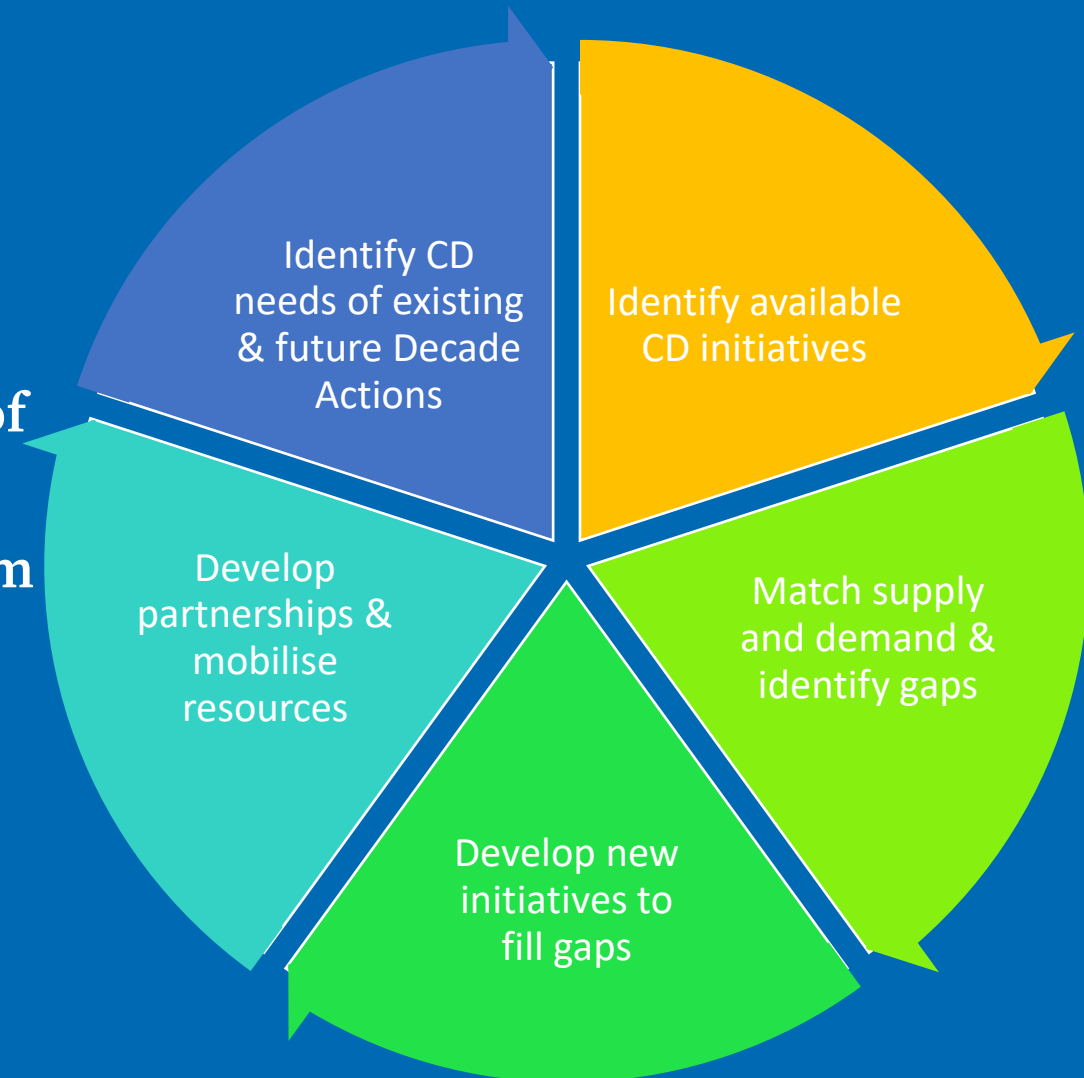
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- Funding secured from Government of Flanders for **Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility**
- The Facility will *identify specific needs for Capacity Development in the Decade and meet those needs through existing and new initiatives*
- Ambition to be a multi-partner Facility for the life of the Decade and beyond
- Aims to consolidate and optimize CD initiatives from IOC and partners with focus on needs of ECOPS, SIDS and LDCs
- Recruitment of dedicated human resources in DCU for capacity development
- Will commence in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2023 with first call in October 2023 as part of CFDA No. 06/2023



# Ocean Decade Data & Information Strategy



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## Vision for 2030

A trusted, inclusive, and interconnected ocean data and information ecosystem that is actively used for decision making to support sustainable ocean management.

## Mission

To catalyse a solution-oriented, global digital transformation for the digital ecosystem we need to overcome the Decade Challenges.

## Strategic Objectives

1. Develop an **ocean digital ecosystem** that facilitates sharing & equitable access to multidisciplinary data, information and knowledge by all.

2. Improve data and information **discovery and usability** across the ocean digital ecosystem.

3. Build **trust** in data and information shared across the ocean digital ecosystem.

4. Prioritise **digital solutions** that support decisions for sustainable ocean management.

5. Expand, empower, and mobilise **global communities** to advance and maintain the ocean digital ecosystem.

**Corporate Data Group** exploring barriers and mechanisms for data sharing

*New group of technical experts to develop Action Plan for implementation*

## Enablers

Technological Innovation // Partnerships // Durable Resourcing // Policy & Regulatory Frameworks

# Ocean Decade - Priority Africa

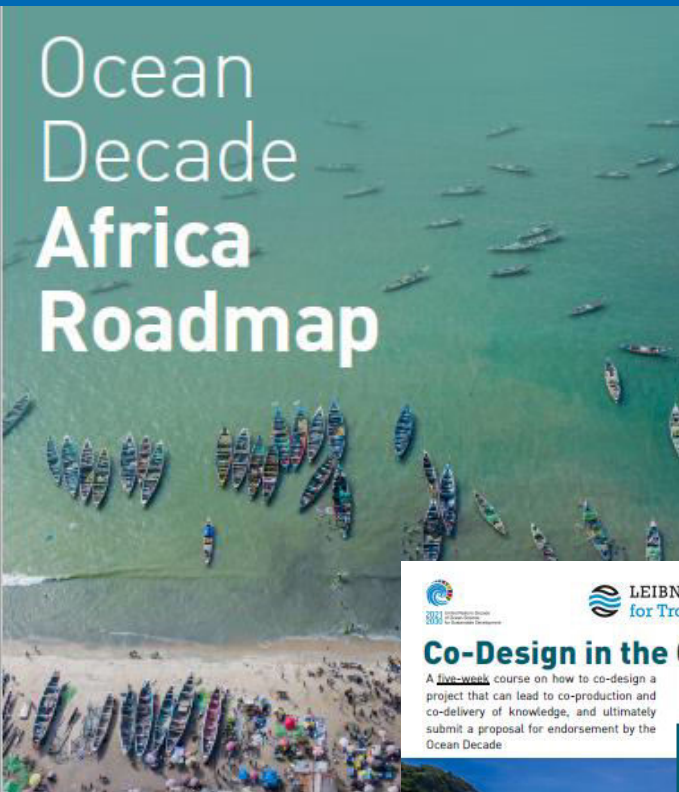


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Ocean  
Decade  
**Africa  
Roadmap**

The United Nations  
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**2021-2030**

## 9 Roadmap Priorities

1. Sustainable Ocean Planning

2. Ocean & Human Health

3. Blue Carbon

4. IUU Fisheries

5. EWS & Community Resilience

6. Observations & Forecasting

7. Digital Twin

8. ECOPs & CD

9. Ocean Literacy

 **LEIBNIZ CENTRE**  
for Tropical Marine Research

### Co-Design in the Ocean Decade

TRAINING COURSE

A **five-week** course on how to co-design a project that can lead to co-production and co-delivery of knowledge, and ultimately submit a proposal for endorsement by the Ocean Decade

**MODULES**

- Transdisciplinary research and the Ocean Decade
- Joint visioning
- Impact Pathways
- Project Management
- Equity and Teamwork
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Communication
- Sustainability

**PARTICIPANTS**

- From or working in African and Adjacent States
- Familiarity with ocean science and sustainability

**REGISTER**



**WEEKLY MONDAYS**  
28/11/22 to 23/01/23

The course comprises 5, 4-5 hour days each with lectures, interactive assignments, and group work. The content will be delivered online. Participants will be encouraged to work together where interests overlap.

[oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org) <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/codesigncourse>

Engagement and support needed to:

- Establish of an African Ocean Decade Coordination Office
- Align resource allocation to Roadmap priorities
- Earmark Africa support via Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility
- Support establishment of National Decade Committees
- Support engagement in 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

**BELMONT**  
FORUM

# Increasing engagement in SIDS



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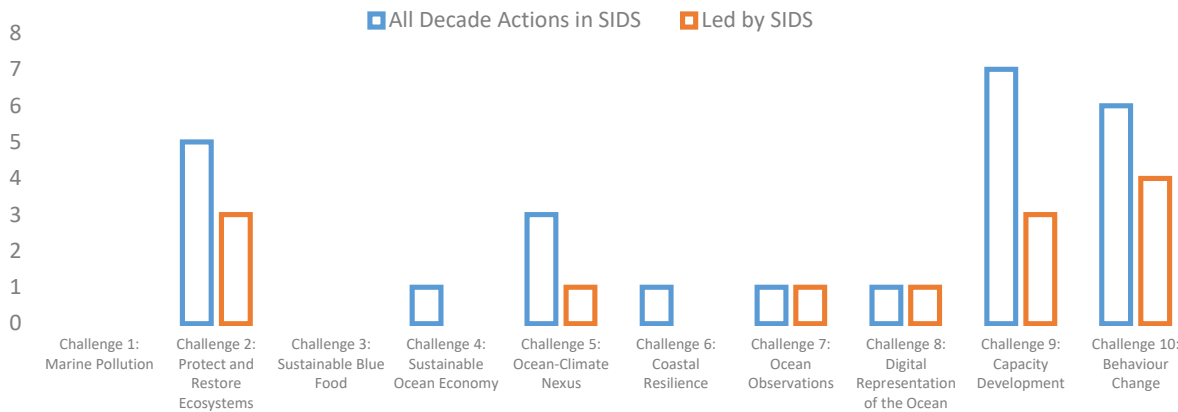
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- 6% of Decade Actions working in SIDS fewer than half of those are led by SIDS partners
- Significant gaps in Actions related to pollution, sustainable blue food and sustainable ocean economy

## Initiatives to increase engagement:

1. New regional coordination structures & regional taskforces => regional priority setting
2. Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility
3. Analyses of 'value proposition' for investment in ocean science in SIDS
4. P/ship in Flagship SIDS Initiative of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
5. Collaboration with *SIDS Coalition for Nature* on data, capacity development and technology transfer
6. Engagement of Ocean Decade at UN 4<sup>th</sup> International SIDS Conference
7. Support to SIDS National Decade Committees

10 Ocean Decade Challenges addressed by Decade Actions in SIDS





# UN Agencies and the Ocean Decade

- 26 (9%) of Decade Actions are led by UN Agencies...but only 3% of Decade Actions are led by UN Agencies other than IOC/UNESCO
- Preliminary findings of an ongoing analyses:
  - i. UN agencies are diverse in their relationship to science and how they support and use it
  - ii. UN agencies collectively cover all Ocean Decade Challenges
  - iii. All UN agencies, individually and collectively, operate to at the science-policy interface
  - iv. There is strong interest and diverse benefits for UN agency participation in the Ocean Decade
  - v. UN engagement does not always align well with the Decade Action structure

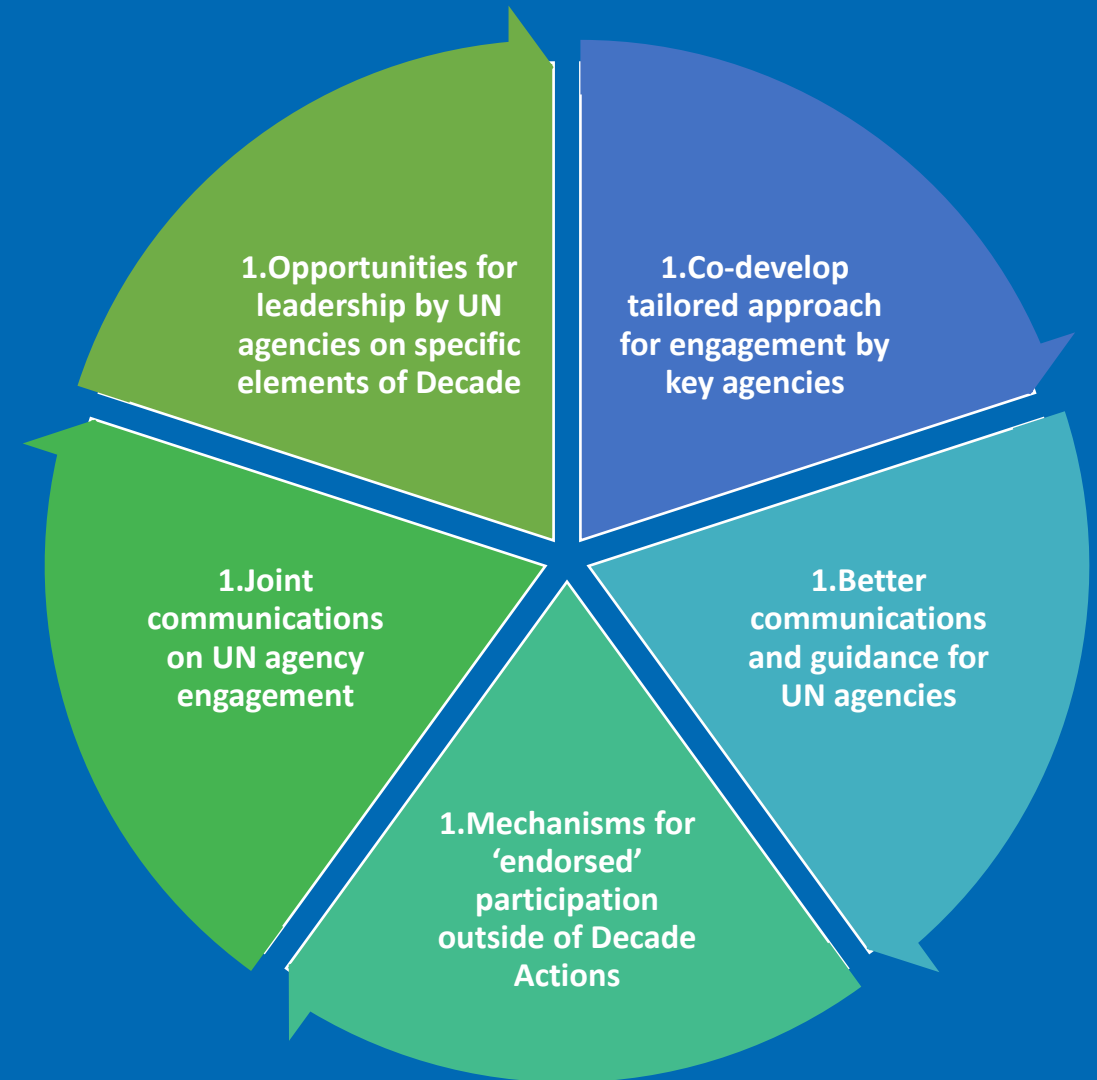


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# Vision 2030 Process



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- Overall portfolio of existing Decade Actions developed through strongly bottom-up approach driven by proponents of Decade Actions
- Critical moment being approached:
  1. Strong demand from Decade community to shape a common vision for the next 8 years & enhance collective impact and measure progress to achievement of Ocean Decade Challenges
  2. Unique window of opportunity to deliberately design the 'science we need' and avoid dispersion of Decade Actions
  3. Growing need to measure & document impact of the Ocean Decade

Vision 2030 will set a Challenge specific strategic ambition to answer the following...

1. What does success look like for this Ocean Decade Challenge at the end of the Decade?
2. What milestones / targets do we need to achieve throughout the Decade to be on the path for success for this Challenge?

A strategic ambition will allow measurement of progress towards fulfillment of Challenges leading to:

1. Identification of achievements and successes
2. Identification of residual gaps and future priorities
3. Alignment of resources to priority needs
4. Refinement / addition of Challenges

# Vision 2030 as part of Decade evaluation framework

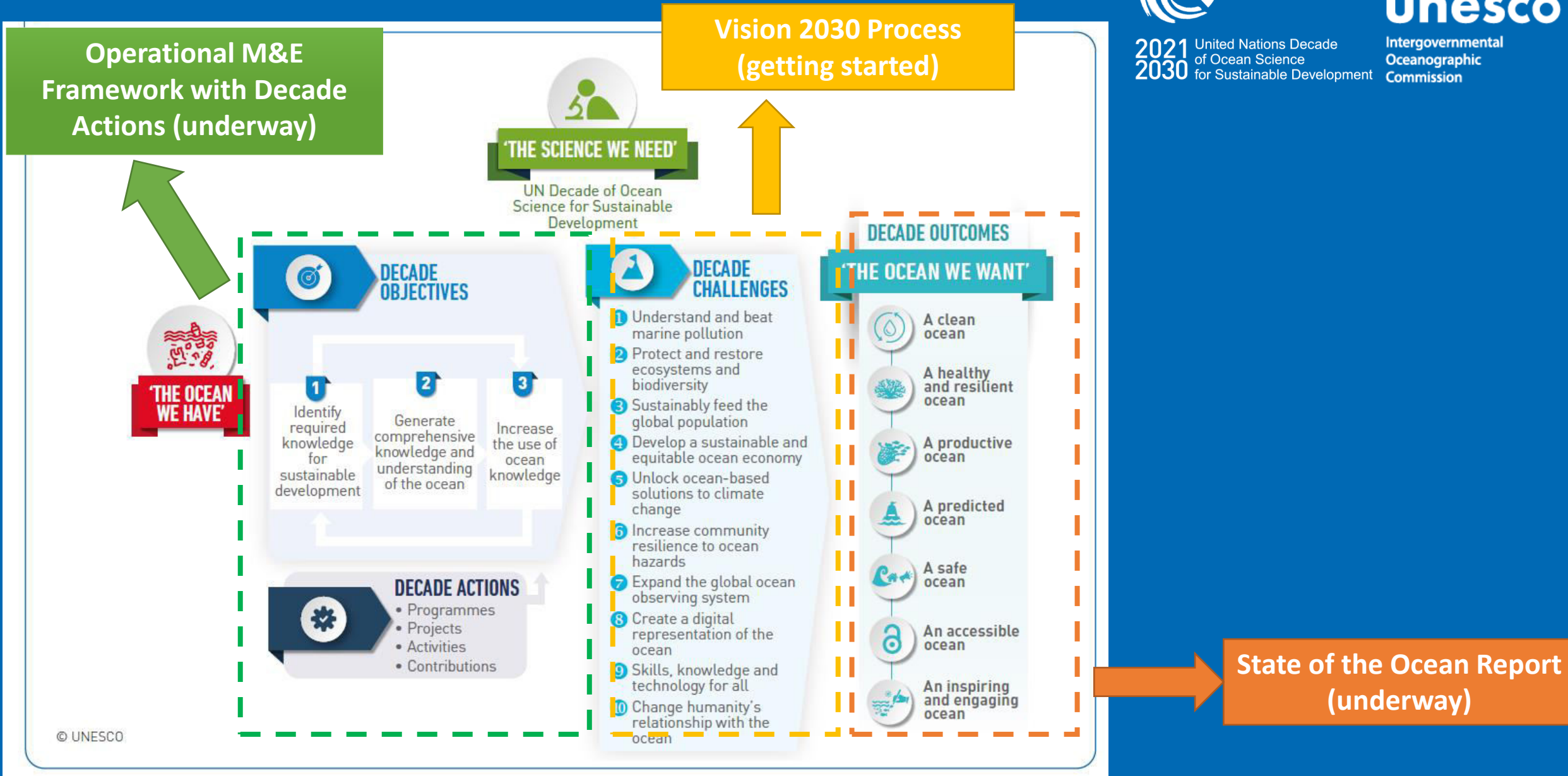


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# 3. Looking Forward

# 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

Barcelona, Spain: 10 - 12 April 2024



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The Conference will:

- Showcase and celebrate achievements of the Ocean Decade
- Generate consensus on science – policy – society priorities for the Ocean Decade via workshopping of Vision 2030 process
- Create opportunities for networking to catalyse new partnerships and initiatives
- Provide a global platform for announcements and commitments
- Prepare for a visible and meaningful role in the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and related events
- Highlight initiatives led by local partners relevant to the Ocean Decade
- Raise visibility and awareness of the Ocean Decade amongst the general public in Barcelona
- Be complemented by a diverse series of Satellite Events!



#OceanDecade24

**2024**  
**UN OCEAN DECADE**  
**CONFERENCE**  
*Delivering the science we need  
for the ocean we want*  
**10-12 April 2024**  
**Barcelona, Spain**

• SAVE THE DATE •



Pre-Registration and Call for Satellite  
Events open now!

# Charting a course for the Ocean Decade to the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference



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SDG Summit,  
New York,  
September  
2023

COP28,  
Dubai,  
December  
2023

2024 Ocean  
Decade  
Conference,  
Barcelona,  
April 2024

Costa Rica  
Pre-UNOC  
June 2024

UN 4<sup>th</sup>  
International  
SIDS  
Conference,  
mid 2024

COP16 CBD,  
Turkiye 2024  
&  
CO29  
UNFCCC,  
2024

One Ocean  
Science  
Conference:  
Science for  
Action,  
Nice June  
2025

United  
Nations  
Ocean  
Conference  
2025, Nice  
June 2025

## ***Priorities identified via the Vision 2030 process translated to action through:***

- *Alignment of existing and new Decade Actions*
- *Development of partnerships and initiatives*
- *Targeted resource mobilisation*

# Perspectives for Next Period



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- Strong portfolio of existing Decade Actions needs continued support for coordination, implementation and strategic communication of science for uptake
- **Robust foundation of IOC contributions to the Decade established and operational but require additional resources for sustainability and to optimise Decade and post-Decade benefits for IOC at global and in regions**
- Growing examples of benefits of National Decade Committees but critical mass not yet achieved in terms of number of Committees
- **Initiatives for increased engagement of SIDS and Africa taking shape but will require tangible buy-in from Member States and other partners**
- Vision 2030 process will generate critical information on priorities and assist with targeted resource mobilisation
- **Good growth and visibility of Ocean Decade Alliance and Foundations Dialogue , but will require further efforts to align resources and initiatives with priority needs of the Decade**
- Unique series of upcoming global meetings to set collective ambition for Ocean Decade Challenges and translate this ambition to well-resourced action across science – policy – society interface
- **Continued Member State engagement at national, regional and global levels will be essential to achieving the ambition of the Decade in the critical period to 2025 and beyond!**



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# Requests for Member State Support



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## Decade Coordination

Continued EXB and in-kind support for DCU staff and operations

In-kind and EXB support for IOC-led DCOs in IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE, WESTPAC and DCOs for data sharing and observations

## Decade Actions

Direct or in-kind support for IOC-led Decade Actions

Direct or in-kind support for priorities of existing portfolio of Decade Actions

Co-branded Calls for Decade Actions

Contribution to pooled funding mechanisms

## Specific Initiatives

Support to Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility

Support to 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

Establishment of NDCs

Engagement in SIDS related initiatives





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# Perspectives for the Ocean Decade

Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary



Canada



**Thanks to all Ocean Decade partners !**

And many others that have contributed in-kind support...