



IOC Circular Letter No 2992
(Available in English and French)

2 April 2024
IOC/VX/DCS

To: ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)
ICG/NEAMTWS Officers
ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee

Cc: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC
Permanent Delegation/Observer Mission to UNESCO, and
National Commissions for UNESCO in ICG/NEAMTWS Member States
European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian
Aid Operations (ECHO) Directorate A – Emergency Management and rescEU

Subject: Announcement-New Project “Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards (CoastWAVE 2.0 Project)”

I am pleased to announce that the IOC’s proposal “Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards” (hereinafter referred to as the [CoastWAVE 2.0 Project](#)) has been approved for funding by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO) in December 2023. The project is under the responsibility of UNESCO/IOC and its ICG/NEAMTWS Technical Secretariat.

The CoastWAVE 2.0 Project will build on Phase-I of the CoastWAVE Project, also approved as an [Ocean Decade Action](#) and implemented from 1 September 2021 to 30 June 2024. As Phase-I draws to a close, preparations are underway for a final project meeting in June 2024 (date and venue to be announced by the Tsunami Resilience Section Project Team on the [project web page](#)), at which the main results and outcomes will be presented.

The 24-month CoastWAVE 2.0 Project will officially start on 1 July 2024. It will directly benefit some of the countries currently participating in the CoastWAVE project Phase-1 as well as new countries. An online information meeting on the new project is planned on 25 April 2024. A kick-off workshop and the official launch of the project are envisaged for late August/early September 2024 (date and venue to be announced on the [project web page](#)). Please find additional information in the attached summary.

Chairperson

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA
Professor
Atmosphere and Ocean Research
Institute, The University of Tokyo
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV
Director
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR
Executive Secretary
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306
111071 Bogotá, D.C.
COLOMBIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

For further information on the project, please contact Dr Denis Chang Seng, Technical Secretary of the ICG/NEAMTWS and Project Manager at d.chang-seng@unesco.org.

With your cooperation and participation, the selected coastal communities will contribute to Challenge 6 of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development (2021–2030): *Increase Communities Resilience to Ocean Hazards*.

I thank you for your ongoing involvement with the ICG/NEAMTWS and remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Hegelsen
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: *CoastWAVE 2.0 Project summary*

Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards ([CoastWAVE 2.0 Project](#))

26 March 2024

Organization ►	UNESCO/IOC
Title of Project	Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards (CoastWAVE 2.0 Project)
Donor/Funding source	European Union (EU) - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)
Project budget	EUR 1,2 million (the “EU Contribution”)
Responsible Project Officer (RPO)	Denis CHANG SENG, Tsunami Resilience Section, UNESCO/IOC Email: d.chang-seng@unesco.org
Geographical scope /benefitting countries	North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea
Area of influence	40 NEAMTWS Member States
Start date	01/07/2024
Implementation period	The Agreement is 24 months
Hazard/Risk scenarios covered	Tsunamis and Other Coastal Hazards
Brief summary	The CoastWAVE Project Phase-II (CostWAVE 2.0) is aimed at Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and other Sea level-related coastal hazards. It will build collective and common capacities in tsunami hazard assessment and evacuation mapping using probabilistic approaches. It will track changes in the level of tsunami awareness and risk perceptions. The project will install additional tsunami detection, monitoring, and alerting systems. It will scale up UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognized communities in existing and new countries, as well as synergies actions, where possible within existing coastal resilient initiatives (e.g. Making Cities Resilient 2030, Ocean Decade Challenge 6 on increase resilience to ocean hazards). A key outcome is to engage and create dialogues with multi-stakeholders and users involved in coastal resilience in a multi-hazard/risk context with the aim to create shared prevention and resilient preparedness for ocean related hazards to reduce their impact through better understanding and integration of tools, strategies and polices.
Local Implementation Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs). • Tsunami detection and sea level monitoring organizations/institutions in participating countries.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Protection Agencies and First Responders and other Members of the National Emergency Management System e.g. National Tsunami Warning Focal Points & National Tsunami Contacts, Ministries of Education, Ministries of Tourism etc. • Local District/Community Emergency Organizations, Community Emergency Response Teams. • Local government/authorities at Tsunami Ready pilot location. • Community leaders, community members and tourists/visitors at Tsunami Ready pilot locations.
<p>Other institutions and stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific/research organisations/institutions in participating countries. The project will solicit the support of scientific/research organisations/universities in participating countries particularly in the field of coastal inundation modelling and evacuation mapping. • Disaster risk reduction organisations at national and EU UCPM level. National Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism are expected to be both contributing partners and beneficiaries. The CPAs will be involved in developing the Tsunami Ready Standards and Guidelines for the NEAMTWS region and will benefit from implementation at national level. • UNESCO field offices will assist with logistics and liaison with national stakeholders in Egypt and Morocco. • Professional associations, NGOs and media Communication group to raise awareness of the Programme and project objective and expected outcomes. • Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service. • United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
<p>Project components</p>	<p>Component 1: Build and strengthen tsunami hazard assessments and evacuation mapping using probabilistic approaches, risk knowledge, risk communication, and decision-making capacities.</p> <p>Component 2: Scale-up and expand Tsunami Ready in selected NEAM countries.</p> <p>Component 3: Enhance and density early warning, detection, monitoring, and alerting systems.</p> <p>Component 4: Enhance dialogues with Emergency Responders, Decision Makers on High Impact Low Probability (HILP) tsunami events within a multi-hazard context to improve strategies and effective decision-making capabilities.</p>
<p>Project outcomes</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Standard and improved tsunami hazard assessments and evacuation mapping based on probabilistic approaches for better planning and improved understanding, effective communication and better decision-making from regional, national to local level of tsunami.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhanced understanding and communication of tsunami and other sea- level-related risk in selected communities in the selected NEAM countries.</p>

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	<p>Outcome 3: More coastal communities and countries in the NEAM region joining the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Programme to be better prepared to respond to sea-level- related hazards.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Increased/improved access to near real-time seismic and/or sea level detection and alert technology to provide early warning of rapid onset sea level-related hazards in more coastal communities in selected NEAM countries.</p> <p>Outcome 5: New affordable sea level device to provide early warning of rapid onset sea level-related hazards in NEAMTWS countries enhanced.</p> <p>Outcome 6: Improved understanding and knowledge of how to address HILP tsunami events, highlighting strategies and procedures to factor and integrate tsunamis in multi-hazard approaches, and enhance real time decision making and long-term planning.</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>A monitoring plan will be developed to guide project implementation as well as mid-term and end of project evaluation to ensure sustainability throughout project duration and the implementation of similar projects by UNESCO.</p> <p>As a requirement of UNESCO’s results-based management approach, the project coordinator will provide annual reports on progress and update targets on UNESCO’s “System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER) and its replacement, the Core Manager Production Environment” Platform.</p>
<p>Sustainability elements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability will be ensured through the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme itself which requires a high level of local support and validation and has a requirement for the execution of annual renewal and reassessment on a four-year basis. • Through the ICG/NEAMTWS Reporting to the Global Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) on an annual basis, additional sustainability is ensured at the international basis. • The project is focused on implementing Tsunami Ready in one community within each pilot country and enhancing local technical capacity for replication and this approach provides a high measure of sustainability for tsunami preparedness and response. • All project results and products will be embedded within the ICG/NEAMTWS, and governance structures and contributes to ICG/NEAMTWS 2030 Strategy.
<p>Publications, videos, communication activities/products</p> <p>An agreed communication and visibility (C & V) plan have been developed related to the Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular Letters • Press and media conferences. • Conferences, Workshops /webinars/ information meetings and briefings. • Socialize survey results and focus group discussions. • Maps and videos. • Website (e.g. NEAMTIC), radio, social media, and other articles etc. • ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee, Working Groups/ Task Teams and • ICG/NEAMTWS sessions. • Publications and reports