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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

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Item 5.1 of the Provisional Agenda

REVISED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2024–2025 (42 C/5)
AND PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR 2026–2029 (DRAFT 43 C/5)

Summary

Introduction

Part I – Revised Programme and budget 2024–2025 as presented to and adopted by UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session (42 C/5)

Part II – Detailed IOC workplans based on Member States' priorities as per IOC Resolution A-32/4(II)

Part III – Preliminary proposals for 2026–2029, first biennium 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5)

Decision proposed is referenced Dec. EC-57/5.3 in the Provisional Action Paper IOC/EC-57/AP.

Introduction

1. In line with the established practice, the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session, 21–30 June 2023, considered document [IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc\(1\)](#) containing the Secretariat's proposals for the Draft Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as submitted to the 216th session of UNESCO Executive Board in May 2023.
2. Considering it *'as consistent with the guiding principles set out in Resolution EC-53/2 and the High Level Objectives defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029'*, the Assembly welcomed the UNESCO Executive Board's decision 216 EX/44 to recommend that the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session *'agree to an increase in the IOC's share of the UNESCO regular budget of [1%], not to be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of the budget' and 'that a baseline be identified and agreed for the IOC's share of UNESCO's regular budget under document 42 C/5 and future C/5 documents and that no reduction to this baseline be made in the future unless agreed by the General Conference'*.
3. In adopting [IOC Resolution IOC/A-32/4](#), the Assembly agreed on the *'high-level principles should guide the Secretariat in the allocation of additional regular budget resources resulting from uplift of the IOC budget by 1% of the UNESCO budget'*.
4. Part I below presents the IOC part of the revised Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as presented by the Director-General of UNESCO to the 217th session of the UNESCO Executive Board in October 2023 and subsequently adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session in November 2023.
5. The revision of the 42 C/5 budget has been guided by two overarching imperatives: (a) the need to revise the budget ceiling given the return to an assessment base of 194 Member States (due to the United States of America re-joining the Organization [July 2023]), and (b) a commitment to significantly strengthen UNESCO's programmatic support to Member States in times of existential global challenges.
6. Based on this revision of the overall UNESCO regular budget ceiling from US\$ 534.6M to US\$ 685.4M, the IOC regular budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) increased from US\$ 13.5M (as considered by the Assembly at its 32nd session) to US\$ 21.1M.
7. Part II below presents a short summary of how the increased budget will contribute to enhanced programme delivery, while Part III seeks to solicit Member States' guidance on the 2026–2027 programme structure for the UNESCO Draft 43 C/5 preparation process, pending further guidance from the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' consultation process.

Part I
**Revised Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as presented to and adopted by the
 UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session (42 C/5)**

From pages 3 to 13: Abstract from document 42 C/5: [42 C/5 Approved](#) Programme and Budget 2024–2025: second biennium of the 2022–2025 quadrennium

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Responding to extraordinary times

- 03001** Eutrophication, acidification, marine heatwaves, deoxygenation, habitat destruction, overfishing and plastic pollution are seriously threatening our ocean's health. Its life-supporting functions are under threat. For example, the ocean's capacity to act as carbon sink is approaching its limit. While more than 50% of the world's oxygen is produced by the ocean, the ocean is becoming "hot, sour and breathless".
- 03002** Multiple stressors are forcing thousands of marine species to shift their distribution patterns, causing dramatic changes to ecosystem functioning and services, with profound impacts on society. Ten percent (10%) of the world's population and physical assets are based less than 10 metres above sea level, and many coastal cities are directly affected by severe weather, climate, and ocean-driven impacts, such as tsunamis and storm surges. These vulnerabilities will further increase because of sea-level rise due to anthropogenic climate change. Yet the ocean and its resources provide key ecosystem services and benefits that are crucial for human well-being and the prosperity of the global economy.
- 03003** But humankind has a chance to enter a new phase in its relations with the ocean. Prior ignorance resulted in using the ocean as an unlimited resource, turning it into a sink for human-generated waste. This led to habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity, occurrence of massive dead zones and ultimately the loss of livelihoods and increased vulnerability for people in all ocean basins. Ocean science is now changing our awareness about the ocean health crisis.
- 03004** The UN system reacted by formulating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on the Ocean, including ocean issues in the UN frameworks for climate and biodiversity, in the emerging treaty to address plastic pollution, and by arranging to stop harmful fisheries subsidies. A legally binding UN Treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) creates new opportunities for managing the ocean sustainably. The role of ocean science, not only as a means of diagnosing the crisis, but as a source of solutions to the problem provides the rationale for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). This unprecedented UN campaign for the ocean and the related responsibility requires a new level of IOC delivery and commensurate resources.

We are facing a severe ocean health crisis. Investing in ocean science can help turn the tide:

- 10% of the world's population and physical assets are based less than 10 metres above sea level, and many coastal cities are directly affected by severe weather, climate, and ocean-driven impacts, such as tsunamis and storm surges.
- The pace of global mean sea level rise accelerated from 2.1mm/year over 1993-2002 to 4.7mm/year from 2013-2021.
- The ocean absorbs 25% of CO₂ emissions, but with open-ocean surface pH projected to decrease by around 0.3pH units by 2081-2100, its capacity to act as carbon sink is approaching its limit. 20-50% of global blue carbon ecosystems have already been lost or degraded.
- The ocean is losing oxygen at a rapid rate estimated at 2% since 1960, unprecedented in earth's recent history.
- The percentage of globally averaged national research budget allocated for ocean science currently stands at just 1.7%.

Leveraging UNESCO's unique assets

03005 The UNESCO-IOC State of the Ocean Report 2022 shows that our current ocean knowledge is able to identify issues, but falls short of being comprehensive and quantitative, hence actionable. 'One cannot manage what one cannot measure'. The main objective of IOC is to transform ocean science and generate knowledge to systematically provide a basis for ocean action.

03006 UNESCO-IOC brings to this challenge a strong ecosystem of assets, including a unique specialized expert networks, frameworks and global systems that support delivery of data and services across the ocean knowledge value chain: from research and observation to data management, from ocean information services to product development, from policy advice to ocean management guidance. IOC is able to leverage unique assets, such as the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the International Ocean Data Exchange (IODE) and tsunami warning and mitigation systems in four Tsunami-prone ocean basins, with 13 Tsunami service providers monitoring seismic and sea-level activity and issuing tsunami threat information to national Tsunami Warning Centres and Focal Points.

03007 In addition, UNESCO-IOC is uniquely placed through its global co-ordinator role for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Decade is the largest undertaking in the history of ocean science: a global movement and coordinated UN-led framework for delivering co-designed solutions to address planetary challenges, working with a multitude of stakeholders, such as academia, youth, indigenous knowledge holders, industry, policy

makers and philanthropy. UNESCO-IOC also holds the UN custodianship for reporting on SDG targets 14.3 and 14.a and is supporting UNEP on the scientific aspects of reporting on SDG targets 14.1 and 14.2, and the provision of ocean science delivery mechanism to achieve global ocean targets under climate and biodiversity related conventions and the BBNJ Treaty.

03008 In order to ensure equitable participation of all Member States in its programmes, the Commission implements a dedicated capacity development strategy (“Leaving no one behind”) across all aspects of its mandate.

Raising our ambition in the 2024-2025 biennium

03009 During the 2024-2025 biennium, under its Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029, UNESCO-IOC will reinforce its work across several critical areas.

03010 UNESCO-IOC will enable the science needed for society to respond to climate change and develop sustainable ocean economy. To this end, observations of Essential Ocean Variables across physics, biogeochemistry, biology, ecology, and human impacts will be expanded to provide data that is critical for carbon budgets and management, forecasting of tropical cyclones, marine heat waves and storm surges, marine biodiversity management and community needs, including protecting 30% of the ocean area by 2030.

03011 UNESCO-IOC will provide Member States with a fully operational and accessible-to-all Global Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS), a source of reliable ocean data and information, essential for decision-making. It will provide capacity development opportunities to the Clearing House Mechanism for the new UN BBNJ Treaty. It will reinforce national capacities for marine biodiversity monitoring and establish marine pest surveillance programmes on the ground, through the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and the Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) programme.

03012 In addition, it will implement the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030, nationally and regionally, supported by the OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) training system, regional training and research centres, and the Ocean Literacy¹ programme. Work will also include an expansion of the Ocean CD-Hub to provide increased access to and information on capacity development opportunities offered globally.

03013 Under the Approved 42 C/5, UNESCO-IOC will also be able to achieve major improvements in accuracy and timeliness of tsunami warnings, including a 100% increase, over the currently existing level, of the number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready, with a focus on SIDS and LDCs. The IOC will lead a global push for sustainable ocean planning and management in cooperation with private and public sector partners and other relevant UN bodies and will take stock of achievements and create further momentum for the success of the Ocean Decade at the milestone International Ocean Decade Conference in 2024 and the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France in 2025.

¹ Ocean Literacy refers to the understanding of the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean.

IOC – Integrated Budget Framework by output and source of funds (in USD '000)

Output	Breakdown by source of funds			TOTAL IBF
	Regular Budget	Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	
3.IO1	20 407	100	26 110	46 617
Sub-total	20 407	100	26 110	46 617
IOC - Intersectoral Programmes				
3.IP2	728	-	946	1 674
Sub-total IPs	728	-	946	1 674
Total Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	21 135	100	27 056	48 291

Strengthening our support for Global Priorities and Priority Groups

Global Priority Africa

03014 The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap will guide the implementation of the UNESCO Global Priority Africa Flagship Programme 5 and the work of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States. Under its new Capacity Development Strategy (2023-2030), IOC will expand its global network of training centres (OTGA) in Africa and make full use of regional and local expertise to deliver needs-tailored training in key ocean issues. The IOC ODIS and its Ocean InfoHub will facilitate access of the regional community of practice to global ocean information, data and knowledge products for management, incorporating indigenous and local knowledge. GOOS-Africa will enable the region to coordinate and stimulate investment to advance regional capacity for ocean information and services. At-risk communities in at least 16 African countries and island states will engage in the IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

Global Priority Gender Equality

03015 With continued impact monitoring through the Global Ocean Science Report and its data portal, UNESCO will catalyse the already launched Programme on Leadership of Women in the Ocean Decade and develop a roadmap to mainstream gender equality throughout its programmes and the Ocean Decade actions.

Small island developing States (SIDS)

03016 SIDS are solidly defined as a priority group in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029), with focus on their safety, including efficiency of tsunami warnings. The Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme will significantly develop the technical foundation and societal impact of the warning systems, striving to make sure that, by 2030, 100% of at-risk communities in the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean and northeast Atlantic are recognized as Tsunami Ready. Alliances with partner organizations in the Atlantic and Pacific will ensure engagement of ocean basins not covered by IOC regional subsidiary bodies. Targeted investments will allow customized approaches to capacity development based on SIDS-specific requirements and priorities. Ocean literacy dedicated action will be considerably strengthened in SIDS.

Youth

03017 With regional hubs in Africa and Asia, the UN Ocean Decade Early Career Ocean Professionals programme will continue to strengthen perspectives for new generations of ocean scientists, offering them a collective voice and transferring to them the knowledge from experienced professionals. Promoting ocean sustainability – “the Ocean We Want” – will incorporate new ways of thinking and stewardship.

IOC – Global Priorities and Priority Groups by source of funds (in USD '000)

	Global Priorities			
	Regular Budget	Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF
Africa	5 732	23	6 980	12 735
Gender Equality	2 658	13	3 243	5 914
Total for Global Priorities	8 390	36	10 223	18 649

	Priority Groups			
	Regular Budget	Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF
Small island developing States (SIDS)	4 331	20	5 407	9 759
Youth	1 221	3	1 495	2 719
Total for Priority Groups	5 552	23	6 902	12 478

IOC – Contribution to Global Priority Africa Flagship Programmes (in USD '000)

Flagships	Flagship Programmes			
	Regular Budget	Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF
Flagship Programme 5	5 122	38	6 230	11 391
Total	5 122	38	6 230	11 391

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – Results Framework

OUTCOME 3

Enhance knowledge for climate action, biodiversity, water and ocean management, and disaster risk reduction

OUTPUT 3.IOC1 – Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services, and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities

Performance Indicator	Baseline 2023	Target 2025
1. Number of Member States with experts actively engaged in the design and implementation of ocean research, generating knowledge to address key sustainability issues	(i) 98 (Africa 22, SIDS 19, 37% women among experts) (ii) SDG 14.3.1: 40 (Africa 8, SIDS 3)	(i) 108 (Africa 25, SIDS 23) (ii) SDG 14.3.1: 47 (Africa 13, SIDS 7)
2. Number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observation and data management through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) delivering key information for science-informed solutions	GOOS: (i) contributing to global networks: 84 (Africa 8, SIDS 8) (ii) actively monitoring ocean biological variables: 62 (Africa 5, SIDS 12) ODIS/OIH: 25 (Africa 2, SIDS 5) ODIS/OBIS: 61 (Africa 16, SIDS 21)	GOOS: (i) 94 (Africa 12, SIDS 14) (ii) 74 (Africa 10, SIDS 19) ODIS/OIH: 100 (Africa 30, SIDS 25) Specifically: – 40 Institutional partners – 50 Partner databases indexed (which are discrete databases - some partners have more than one) – 5 regions (LAC, AFR, IND, PAC, P-SIDS) – >200,000 content items in 8 categories – >15,000 users from 140 countries (December 2022) – >100 institutional partners involved in the co-design process ODIS/OBIS: 80 (Africa 20, SIDS 26) Specifically: 1,000 new datasets, 20 million new records and 250 new scientific publications per year
3. Number of Member States with strengthened capacities to develop and implement early warning systems and increase preparedness for and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	(i) Tsunami Warning Focal Points: 142 (Africa 11, SIDS 35) (ii) National Tsunami Ready Board and at least 1 Tsunami Ready Community: 22 (Africa 0, SIDS 9)	(i) 148 (Africa 14, SIDS 38) (ii) 59 (Africa 10, SIDS 30)

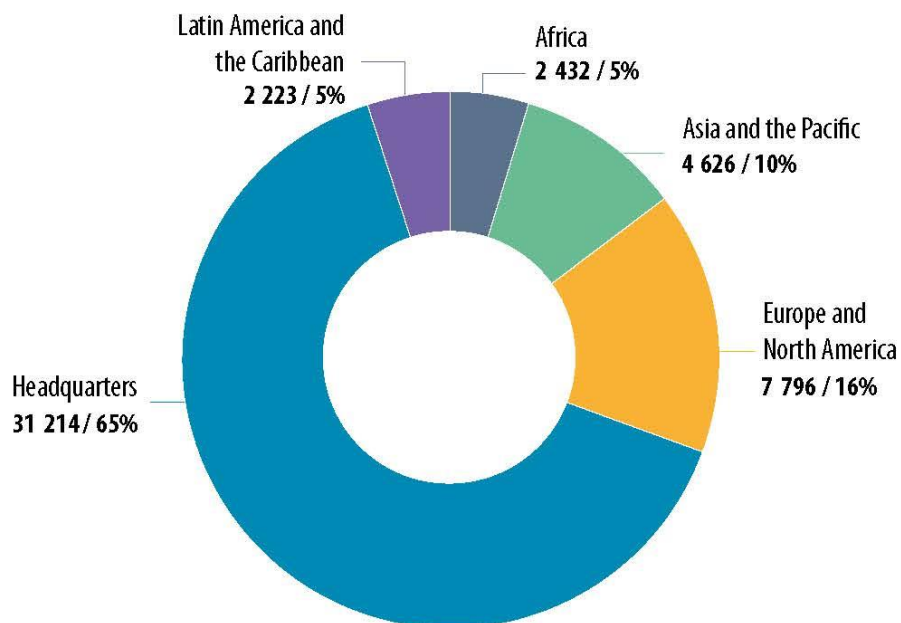
4. No of supported Member States that contribute data and information to assessment, global repositories, science/policy interface underpinning sustainable ocean management and decision-making	70 (Africa 12, SIDS 5)	83 (Africa 16, SIDS 10)
5. Number of Member States supported in the implementation of science-based ocean management plans and transformative solutions for sustainable development	Ocean Decade: 80 (Africa 15, SIDS 10) MSP Roadmap: 100 (Africa 16, SIDS 14)	Ocean Decade: 90 (Africa 18, SIDS 13) MSP Roadmap: 112 (Africa 21, SIDS 17)
6. Number of Member States supported in strengthening their capacity in marine scientific research and biodiversity, observations and services, through the IOC Capacity Development	GOSR: 53 (Africa 13, SIDS 4) CD OTGA: 87 (Africa 30, SIDS 15)	GOSR: 66 (Africa 16, SIDS 6) CD OTGA: 106 (Africa 36, SIDS 15)
7. Number of Member States provided with access to multi-languages ocean literacy resources and training programmes	80 (Africa 8, SIDS 10)	110 (Africa 25, SIDS 17)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – Resource distribution

IOC – Voluntary contributions (in USD '000)



IOC – Decentralization of resources by Region (in USD '000)

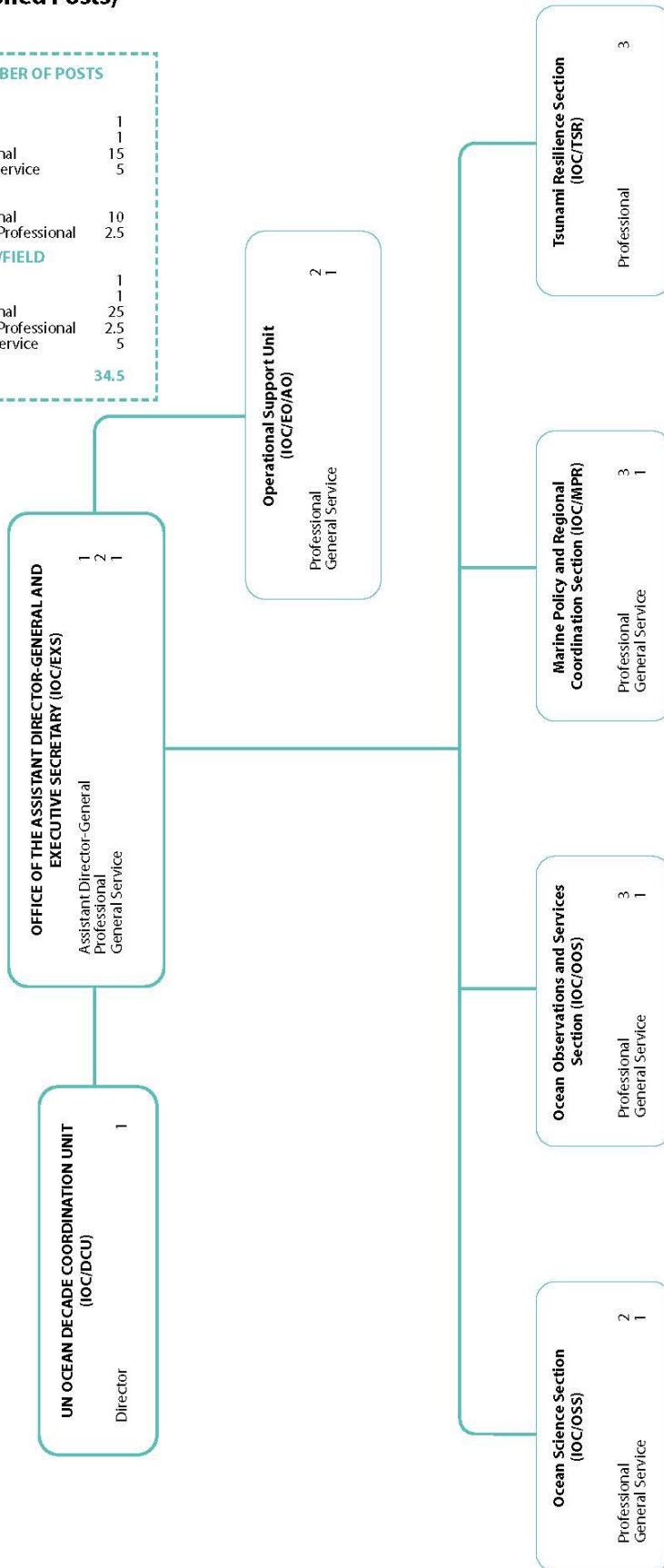


Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Organizational Chart

(Established Posts)

NUMBER OF POSTS	
HQ	
ADG	1
Director	1
Professional	15
General Service	5
FIELD	
Professional	10
National Professional	2.5
TOTAL HQ/FIELD	
ADG	1
Director	1
Professional	25
National Professional	2.5
General service	5
TOTAL	34.5



FIELD OFFICES

Africa	Professional 2
Asia and the Pacific	Professional 3 National Professional 1.5* * post shared with SC
Latin America and the Caribbean	Professional 1 National Professional 1
Europe and North America	Professional 4

Intersectoral Programme 2

Advancing Scientific and Environmental Education for Sustainable and Resilient Societies

- 08005** Faced with climate crisis and other sustainability challenges, there is an urgent need to empower learners, educators and community members with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes, supported by innovative curricula and reshaped policies that can lead to responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations.
- 08006** Environmental and scientific education to transform people's roles, actions and connectedness with nature requires innovative holistic and integrated approaches to learning. To this end, UNESCO launched this Intersectoral Programme in 2022 to promote an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to advancing scientific and environmental education as part of inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all.
- 08007** Drawing on UNESCO's capacity to mobilize interdisciplinary expertise and its unique networks of designated sites, i.e., Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, World Heritage sites, the Global Network of Water Museums, and ecohydrology demonstration sites, and other marine and coastal protected areas (PA's), this intersectoral programme makes use of these sites as living laboratories and learning hubs for sustainable development, environmental and climate action. UNESCO sites are on the frontlines of biodiversity and climate change and can provide contextualized and action-based learning opportunity for developing climate and ocean literacy, values and skills for action in real-life situation.
- 08008** This approach connects formal and non-formal education, which will lead to making the whole community climate-ready and resilient. It also includes the testing of a wider approach to ocean literacy taking into account already existing experiences, engaging local schools and

communities in teaching and learning. The specific contribution of each sector (Education, Natural Sciences, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) is identified and articulated around a common activity framework, based on UNESCO's longstanding work in Education for Sustainable Development, as well as life-long and life-wide learning approaches.

- 08009** The programme will support Member States' efforts for increasing inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation between education and environment sectors which is most needed for increasing investment in climate change and education for a greater impact on climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Through cooperation with youth networks and local communities, it is expected that the quality and relevance of learning will be strengthened to address critical sustainability challenges in the local context. Successful examples will be presented and discussed at various climate and biodiversity COPs and events.
- 08010** Building on the methodology developed using selected UNESCO sites for climate change education in 2022-2023, during the 2024-2025 biennium, the programme will be further scaled up in other UNESCO sites, in particular in Africa and SIDS, with a focus on educators' capacity development – ranging from schoolteachers to education professionals working in UNESCO sites, museums, visitor centres.
- 08011** Building on IOC's role as a coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), this programme also contributes directly to rolling out and implementing Ocean Literacy¹ initiatives, using and working with UNESCO sites as platforms for coordination and promotion of educational activities. Actions implemented will contribute to UNESCO's co-lead on two of the Education Challenges² of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). Finally, this work contributes to the implementation of the ESD for 2030 framework adopted by UNESCO General Conference and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2019.

OUTCOME 3

Enhance knowledge for climate action, biodiversity, water and ocean management, and disaster risk reduction

OUTPUT 3.IP2 – Environmental education strengthened to equip learners to address global environmental challenges

Performance Indicator	Baseline 2023	Target 2025
1. Number of educators empowered to use UNESCO designated sites as learning hubs for sustainable development in formal and non-formal lifelong environmental and climate change education programmes and activities (ED)	150	600
2. Number of educational professionals in UNESCO designated sites and Water Museums empowered to deliver lifelong environmental and climate change education to schools and communities (SC)	250	1,000
3. Number of visitor centres in UNESCO-designated sites using ocean literacy teaching and learning materials for environmental and climate change education and awareness raising (IOC)	3	60

¹ Ocean Literacy refers to the understanding of the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean.

² One, in partnership with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), to embed ecosystems restoration in educational programmes (Education Challenge: Global Collaboration for Ecosystem Restoration (decadeonrestoration.org) and the other, a Challenge Badge being co-developed with FAO (YUNGA host agency), the UN Decade Youth Task Force and the World Food Forum

Part II

Detailed IOC workplans based on Member States' priorities as per IOC Resolution A-32/4(II)

REVISED INTEGRATED BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

Table 1: Evolution of 42 C/5 Integrated Budgetary Framework

	Base Case Scenario - 216 EX Board	42 C/5 Approved
	IOC Assembly 2023	217 EX Board & 42 GC
IOC Regular Budget	13,546,600	21,134,686
Staff	9,959,017	12,102,087
Activities (non-staff)	3,587,583	9,032,599
Voluntary Contributions (incl. funds to mobilize)	21,830,822	27,156,164
Total Integrated Budgetary Framework (IBF)	35,377,422	48,290,850

8. In developing its 2024–2025 workplans the Secretariat was guided by the following high-level principles adopted by IOC Member States in [IOC Resolution A-32/4.II](#) for the allocation of additional resources under the regular budget, with a view to 'stabilizing the functions of the IOC, including human resources, to address shortfalls and critical risks in order to provide a strong platform for the future':

- ensure that an increase of no less than 1% of the IOC regular budget is allocated to IOCAFRICA
- aim at respecting the ratio of staff- versus non-staff costs supported from regular budget, as previously advised by the IOC Assembly in [Resolution XXVII-2](#);
- ensure that at least one third of additional resources is allocated to 'stabilize all IOC existing functions, with the indicative pro-rata basis for distribution included in Annex 1 to IOC Resolution A-32/4;
- allocate at least one third of additional resources for targeted investment focused on critically vulnerable areas:
 - a) IODE
 - b) GOOS
 - c) Capacity Development
 - d) Regional Subsidiary bodies

9. With the details of budgetary allocations shown further down in Table 2, the summary of key changes introduced regarding the regular budget is as follows:

- Two thirds (68%) of additional non-staff resources allocated across the board to stabilise all IOC functions
- One third (32%) of additional non-staff resources was further allocated to targeted investment in IODE, GOOS, Capacity Development and Regional Subsidiary Bodies
- IOCAFRICA non-staff regular budget increased by 3% points of the total IOC regular budget in the 42 C/5 Approved – from US\$ 239K to US\$ 937K
- Overall, additional resources 73% of additional resources were allocated to 'field' entities and 27% to Headquarters (HQ)
- 1 new post was created at HQ for GOOS

- 4 new posts were created in the field: 1 for IODE in Ostend; 1 to reinforce IOCAFRICA Secretariat in Nairobi, 1 for the new IOCINDIO Secretariat to be established in consultation with Member States and 1 to reinforce our action in favour of Pacific SIDS
- Intersectoral output 3.IP2 (strengthening Ocean Literacy in UNESCO designated sites) shows a 69% increase
- Staff/Non-Staff ratio: 57% staff and 43% non-staff (compared to 74 and 26% in the scenario considered by the Assembly, with the IOC Assembly [Resolution XXVI-2](#) calling for no less than 25% of regular budget for non-staff).

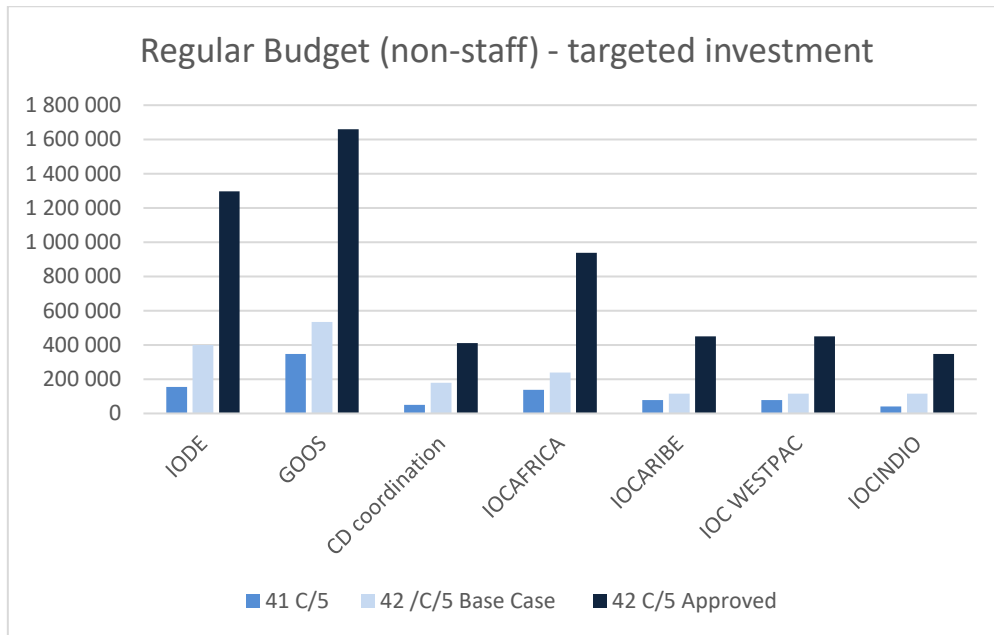


Table 2: IOC Integrated Budgetary Framework
In the format of Annex I to IOC Resolution A-32/4

ENHANCED PROGRAMME DELIVERY

10. With the increased budget, programme delivery will be stepped up across all IOC functions and value chain, with particular focus on long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities in support of Africa and SIDS.

Function A – Ocean Research

Focus 2024–2025:

11. Focus remains on supporting international collaboration to foster new knowledge, to translate that knowledge into products for policymakers and to build research capacity on ocean acidification, ocean deoxygenation, harmful algal blooms (also Function C), blue carbon and the ocean carbon cycle at large, as well as eutrophication and plastic pollution. Strategic partnerships will ensure a wide scientific and geographical coverage and engagement. The increase in resources will allow, in contradiction to previous biennia, to fund activities and expert groups partly or fully including targeted capacity development.

Examples of targets set:

- 5 additional Member States (3 in Africa and 1 SIDS) supported in ocean acidification observation and data management
- 3 additional Member States (1 in Africa and 1 SIDS) supported in Blue Carbon science and action to protect and restore respective ecosystems
- A 100% increase in the IOC-UNESCO contribution to the World Climate Research Programme
- Provide global leadership in integrated ocean carbon research (IOC-R)

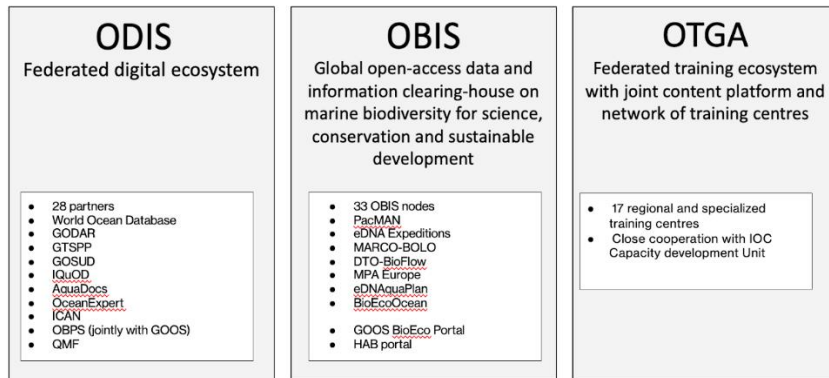
Key deliverables:

- UN reporting on SDG Target 14.3 on ocean acidification
- Summary for policymakers on methodologies to reoxygenate ocean ‘dead zones’
- Strategic white papers, guidance documents and summaries for policymakers on ocean carbon, e.g. ocean carbon cycle, coastal blue carbon ecosystems

Function B – Observing system/Data management

International Data & Information Exchange (IODE)

IODE transformation 2023



101 data centres in 68 Member States

Focus 2024–2025:

- (i) increasing the number of Member States participating in international ocean data and information sharing through the IODE network of data centres and the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS);
- (ii) starting the implementation of the Ocean Data 2030 Decade Action, expanding ocean data ecosystem;
- (iii) increasing the volume of quality content (data, information and knowledge) shared by, and available to Member States to underpin their sustainable ocean planning and management;
- (iv) enabling Member States to actively and equitably participate in and benefit from IODE programme activities.

Examples of targets set:

- At least 10 additional data centres established by Member States (2 in Africa and 1 SIDS)
- Focused support of African Member States with the development of ODIS/Ocean InfoHub partners and nodes in Africa
- At least 40 partner institutions connected to the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) including 5 regions (Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Indian Ocean, Pacific and P-SIDS) and 50 partner databases/nodes (baseline 28)
- At least 200,000 content items¹ available from ODIS (baseline 130,000)
- At least 15,000 users in 140 countries (baseline 6,500)
- At least 1,000 new data sets representing 20 million new records, accessible in OBIS.

Key deliverables:

- Global ocean data and information system providing trusted, quality controlled and securely archived ocean data and information

¹ Content items are metadata records that may describe documents, data sets, information on experts, institutions, research vessels, projects and training opportunities.

- Member States enabled to share and use quality ocean data and information and applicable to SDG reporting, contributing to GOSR, StOR and other reporting mechanisms and legal frameworks.

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

Focus 2024–2025:

- (i) increasing the number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observation through GOOS and the GOOS regional alliances, delivering key data and information for science-informed solutions;
- (ii) Framework for Ocean Observing (FOO) and 2030 Strategy setting the technical and substantive framework and direction;
- (iii) GOOS Management Team Plan providing an overview of activities and resources & identify needs, including beyond 2025.

Examples of targets set:

- 10 additional Member States (Africa 4, SIDS 6) engaged in advancing ocean observations through GOOS
- 12 additional Member States (Africa 5, SIDS 7) actively monitoring ocean biological variables.

Key deliverables:

GOOS design, development, engagement & impact

- Support GOOS expert panels and cross-panel activities, including roadmaps or implementation plans for global carbon ocean observing (and biodiversity observations) to meet the needs of relevant UN mandates
- Evolving vision, governance and system integration vis a vis Member States, the Ocean Decade, the scientific community, policymakers, relevant UN entities and multilateral agreement mandates and other stakeholders
- GOOS community and representatives of its components supported to communicate on GOOS and advancing ocean observations.

Observing system integration & delivery

- Integration and data delivery including with OceanOPS, IODE and WMO
- Strengthen support to and engagement with GOOS regional alliances and national focal points to advance ocean observations
- Support GOOS project implementation and evolution.

Ocean forecast systems & applications

- Support delivery of operational forecasting including with WMO and ETOOFS and national capacity development for assessing and increasing operational readiness levels.

Function C – Early warning and services

Focus 2024–2025:

12. Focus remains on supporting international collaboration to provide a key direct contribution to the implementation of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) by coordinating the intergovernmental network of four regional tsunami warning and mitigation systems; acting as global standard setter for global tsunami warning and mitigation and coordinating 13 Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) running round-the-clock operational services.

13. Coordinating a large network of National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP), IOC will be able to achieve major improvements in accuracy and timeliness of tsunami warnings, including a 100% increase, over the currently existing level, of the number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready. The IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), approved by the IOC Executive Council in 2022, embodies 12 Assessment, Preparedness and Response Indicators that support communities at risk to build capacities to effectively respond to warning and tsunami threats.

14. Within the context of the [*Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme \(2024–2030\)*](#) Member States should develop technical foundations to integrate services for tsunamis generated from non-seismic sources like volcano-generated tsunamis. More importantly, with the aim of reducing societal impact, IOC will strive to make sure that, by 2030, 100% of at-risk communities in the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean and northeast Atlantic are recognized as Tsunami Ready. SIDS being solidly defined as a priority group in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029, special emphasis will be put on SIDS and LDCs.

Examples of targets set:

- 15 additional Member States (with an additional 5 in Africa and 10 SIDS) equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
- 100% increase of the number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready, with a focus on SIDS and LDCs
- 8 additional Member States (4 in Africa and 2 SIDS) with enhanced capacity for management of harmful algal blooms.

Key deliverables:

- Increased number of sea level stations contributing to the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) for coastal hazards, including tsunamis. Restoration of two GLOSS Core Networks (GCN) stations in North Africa
- 6 new Tsunami Ready communities recognised in 5 SIDS in the Caribbean Region, 2 communities in 2 SIDS in the Indian Ocean, and 5 communities in 5 SIDS in the Pacific Ocean (total of 13 new Tsunami Ready communities in 12 SIDS)
- 3 new Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in Africa and 4 in SIDS
- Stepped up intersectoral cooperation with the Science Sector and the UNESCO Pacific Office to foster collective learning to better address common threats from geohazards (earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, and tsunamis) in the Pacific Islands
- Strategic leadership and initiative provided by IOC-led or sponsored programmes in defining priorities for ocean and climate research, ocean carbon cycle research, ocean deoxygenation and eutrophication research, and on harmful algal bloom solutions.

Function D – Assessment and Information for Policy

Focus 2024–2025:

15. Focus will be on strengthening engagement and contributions of IOC to global assessment initiatives such as the World Ocean Assessment, the International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as well enhancing its own assessment process and products (from design to dissemination), such as the *State of the Ocean Report* (SToR), products developed through GESAMP, and SDG reporting process for SDG targets 14.3. and 14.a. In the framework of global ocean meetings such as the CBD COP, UNFCCC COP and the forthcoming 2025 UN Ocean Conference, targeted policy briefs will be developed to inform and raise awareness of Member States on latest scientific findings and key messages for enhancing investment in ocean research and infrastructure. Further partnership with other UN and non-UN partners will be broadened to deliver on this function. Contribution to GEBCO will be strengthened with particular focus on the education and training activities, as well as communication and outreach. IOC's longstanding work on nutrient pollution will be reinforced through faster finalization of the development of the indicator for SDG 14.1.1, (ICEP, the Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential) as well as through engagement with new partners in implementing a roadmap for a global ocean free from the harmful impacts of pollution.

Examples of targets set:

- 5 additional Member States (3 in Africa and 1 SIDS) contributing data and information to ocean assessment processes
- A fully developed IOC-UNESCO *State of the Ocean Report* (StoR), ambitiously disseminated and communicated
- A 50% increase in the IOC-UNESCO contribution to the work of GEBCO
- Focused support of African Member States and SIDS with regards to capacity development related to ocean assessment, in cooperation with relevant UN partners
- A fully developed and validated indicator for SDG 14.1.1., the Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP)
- Global initiative to compile, share and assess data on pollution and data on the effect of pollutants, launched with IOC-UNESCO as a lead partner.

Key deliverables:

- 3 policy briefs prepared and contributing to CBD, UNFCCC and UNOC 2025
- SToR 2024 Edition
- Regional training courses on ocean assessment implemented in 2 regions (Africa, Caribbean)
- Education and outreach strategy supported through the GEBCO Guiding Committee
- All Member States (can) report on SDG Indicator 14.1.1. on coastal eutrophication using ICEP

Function E – Sustainable management & governance

Focus 2024–2025:

16. IOC will build on its leadership in Marine Spatial Planning to deliver technical support at the regional level focusing in West/Central Africa, the Western Pacific and Caribbean regions in cooperation with IOC Regional Sub-commissions. The development of an IOC-wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management, as well as the development of a dedicated Ocean

Decade Programme will be spearheaded. Partnerships will be enhanced with the GEF, UNDP and the European Commission to deliver ecosystem-based management applications at the regional and national level. The engagement and visibility of IOC in key international process will be enhanced, in particular the UN Ocean Conference 2025, CBD COP 16, UNFCCC COP 29 and 30, and the BBNJ preparatory phase. The Commission will revamp its communication strategy, review its vision statement and identify priority communication themes, audiences and channels, leveraging the ecosystem of the Ocean Decade. The work of Regional Sub-Commissions will be enhanced by creating stronger synergies with national and regional ocean policy mechanisms and other relevant science end-users.

Examples of targets set:

- 10 additional Member States (including 3 in SIDS and 3 in Africa) supported in implementation of science-based ocean management
- MSP Rapid Assessment methodology implemented in 4 Member States leading to the adoption of national workplans for institutionalising MSP/Sustainable Ocean Planning processes

Key deliverables:

- International guidance developed on the inclusion of climate change, conservation, indigenous and local knowledge in MSP processes
- New IOC communication strategy developed
- High-level event organised at UNFCCC, CBD, and UNOC in partnership with Member States and partners (UN and non-UN).

Function F – Capacity development

Coordination

Focus 2024–2025:

17. Capacity development is an essential cross-cutting function, it enables all Member States to participate in and benefit from ocean research and services, guided by the priorities of the *IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030)* and supported by IOC Ocean Capacity Development Hub and the Ocean Teacher Global Academy platforms.

Key deliverables:

- The IOC Ocean CD Hub will be expanded to operationalize the matchmaking of needs to opportunities and help identify potential collaborations and partnerships
- Regular meetings of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development will guide the implementation, co-designed in close collaboration with Regional Subsidiary Bodies' secretariats as well as global programmes and technical subsidiary bodies
- increased promotion and outreach to raise the visibility of IOC's capacity development works, including the publication of the CD strategy booklet, policy briefs, brochures, and other publicity materials.

GLOBAL PRIORITY AFRICA

18. Three major strategic frameworks were put in place in 2022–2023, laying the foundation for future work:

- *The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap*, born from a robust participative process, was launched in May 2022 and identified 3 priority themes, aligned with Priority Africa Flagship 5 objectives. The sustainable ocean management framework will be elaborated by the end of 2024
- The IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2029 was adopted by the IOC Assembly, supported nationally and regionally by the OceanTeacher Global Academy training system, bolstered by targeted efforts increased by NORAD funding, and the Ocean Literacy programme
- The new Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility, launched with the US\$ 1.1M investment by the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), to support the capacity strengthening needs of individuals and institutions involved in the Ocean Decade in a flexible and demand-driven approach.

19. The 42 C/5 budget dedicated to Global Priority Africa is increasing by 79% compared to the 41 C/5 (US\$ 5.6M) representing 26% of IOC IBF budget compared to 22% for the 41 C/5.

20. The Secretariat of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (UNESCO Nairobi) is reinforced with a second established post at P3 level. The Office will also host the regional Decade Coordination Centre.

21. Our major programme in the pipeline is the development of an Ocean Decade programme on "Science and Knowledge for a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Africa" which has four elements focussing on:

- (i) sustainable management of marine resources,

- (ii) climate change and marine biodiversity,
- (iii) tackling ocean pollution for enhanced human health,
- (iv) extreme events and disaster risk reduction. A new training programme on co-design will be launch for Africa to build expertise and capacities to generate African-led Decade actions.

22. Collaboration continues with the Belmont Forum to develop new funding opportunities for Ocean Decade Actions in Africa.

Focus in 2024–2025:

- Data & observations – ‘We cannot manage what we cannot measure’: 26 additional Member States will be supported in ocean observations and data management, facilitating access of the regional community of practice to global ocean information, data and knowledge products for management, incorporating indigenous and local knowledge
- Further development of an African Ocean Observations System, to inform national blue economy, marine conservation and climate change strategies
- Sustainable Ocean Economy: Support to 10-15 countries in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) workshops and piloting of MSP transboundary cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea region
- Establishment of a regular Africa MSP Forum to share experience and build capacities of MSP experts in the region
- Early Warning: 5 additional Member States will be equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards and at-risk communities in at least 5 additional African countries and 10 additional island States will be engaged in the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme
- Capacity Development: The OceanTeacher Global Academy will expand its network of training centres in Africa and make full use of regional and local expertise to deliver needs-tailored training
- Regional initiatives on Climate Change adaptation, including policy briefs prepared to support African delegates in COP conferences, and facilitation of regional proposals through the GEF/Green Fund
- Regional oceanographic expeditions, using the South African Oceanographic Research vessel, the *SA Agulhas II*, the Kenyan oceanographic research vessel the *RV Mtafiti*, and the Norwegian vessel managed by FAO the *Dr Fridjhof Nansen*
- At least 5 additional Member States will have access to multi-language ocean literacy resources and training programmes
- The network of Early Career Ocean Professionals (with hubs already established in 4 countries – Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal & Togo – with the support of NORAD) will be further expanded, supported by a dedicated coordinator.

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

23. Activities to support SIDS are planned to benefit from a US\$ 3.3M increase in resources (+46% compared to 41 C/5). A new P3 international post is proposed to reinforce the action in favour of Pacific SIDS and a project appointment for the Caribbean.

Focus 2024–2025:

24. Alliances with partner organizations in the Atlantic and Pacific will ensure engagement of ocean basins not covered by IOC regional subsidiary bodies. Targeted investments will allow customized approaches to capacity development based on SIDS-specific requirements and priorities, contributing to the implementation of the *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS (2023–2029)* and related accelerators. Ocean literacy and Intersectoral Programme IP2 dedicated action will be considerably strengthened in SIDS.

25. With particular focus on resilience to tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards, the goal is that, by 2030, 100% of at-risk communities in the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic are recognized as Tsunami Ready. IOC's contribution to the new Blue Wisdom initiative (to facilitate the integration of local and indigenous knowledge in ocean and water conservation) will have a strong SIDS focus:

- 10 additional SIDS supported in ocean observation and data management through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and IOC Ocean Data & Information System (ODIS)
- 10 additional SIDS equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
- At least 1 Tsunami Ready recognized community in 10 additional SIDS

26. IOC will lead the implementation of *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS (2023–2029)* Accelerator 2: Strengthen Sustainable Ocean Knowledge, Spatial Planning and Water Management capacities of SIDS in support of the growth of their blue economies.

27. The framework will ensure that SIDS are supported to develop and implement sustainable ocean and water planning and management in the framework of the Ocean Decade; and that inter- and intra-regional SIDS to SIDS collaboration, exchange and learning is facilitated.

Key deliverables:

- Programme for Sustainable Ocean Plans developed in SIDS within the context of the Ocean Decade Sustainable Ocean Planning Programme (SOP)
- Regional Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) framework established and supported to ensure the full engagement of ILK holders in the Ocean Decade and ensure exchange and collaboration of alternative knowledge systems to complement ocean science for sustainable ocean management
- Working through the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility and IOC Capacity Development (CD) section, develop and deliver new CD initiatives for SIDS
- Co-design and implement a new SIDS-SIDS Ocean Decade Exchange and Collaboration Forum to promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE USE OF THE 2023 USA CONTRIBUTION

28. With the USA having rejoined UNESCO with effect from 10 July 2023, IOC could also benefit from US\$ 1.5M out of the USA contribution to UNESCO for the period 10 July to 31 December 2023 (ref. [217 EX/30.II](#)).

29. With this funding, IOC will upscale its action in the following areas:

- (a) Develop an IOC-wide **Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Framework** and deliver **technical support to coastal nations** in the form of decision-making tools, ecosystem assessments, data and information products for targeted ocean economic and policy sectors, capacity development, and a network of practitioners that can support each other through exchange of best practices. This will respond to the growing demands of Member States and other stakeholders for science-based sustainable ocean plans that are resilient to climate change and the development of scientific services to inform sustainable ocean economy. The framework will draw from IOC-UNESCO programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments and will be a major contribution of UNESCO towards the outcome of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France.
- (b) Make targeted investments towards **building capacity of the IOCARIBE** Secretariat and developing a new programmatic framework to address the needs of the **Pacific SIDS region**, with a view to enhancing opportunities for accelerated and transformative actions to reach the SDGs in SIDS through ocean science, data and information, innovative solutions for nature-based responses. Leveraging the Ocean Decade and its portfolio of actions dedicated to SIDS, these investments will support the delivery of *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS* and IOC-led actions related to the UNESCO SIDS Accelerators, in the framework of the UN SIDS Conference in 2024 and the new global SIDS agenda that will emerge (IOC).

Part III – Preliminary proposals for the Draft 43 C/5 Programme and Budget 2026–2029 (first biennium 2026–2027)

30. IOC's Programme and Budget for the next programmatic quadrennium 2026–2029 will continue to be guided by the Commission's **mission statement, vision, high level objectives and functions** as defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029.

31. Ending just before the Ocean Decade and the SDG 2030 finishing line, this four-year programme will be designed to reflect Member States' priorities as defined in the IOC Governing Bodies resolutions and decisions and will benefit from the consultation process 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' as we will take stock and review how our work can best contribute to larger development change in the areas of our mandate.

32. In this context and pending the outcome of the above-mentioned Member States' consultation, it is proposed that the IOC work in the first biennium of the 43 C/5 continue to support:

IOC Output 1: Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities.

33. In accordance with IOC Resolution A-32/4 of the IOC Assembly (2023), the Secretariat shall make every effort, in the draft programme and budget proposal for 2026–2029 (first biennium 2026–2027), to reflect the IOC priorities in terms of long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities and Member States' capacity building, which are fundamental to:

- Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services
- Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
- Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation
- Scientifically-founded services for the sustainable ocean economy; and
- Foresight on emerging ocean science issues.

34. In its ambition to build and apply scientific knowledge for the achievement of the above high-level objectives, particular attention will be given to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them, in line with the UNESCO Global Priorities (Africa and Gender Equality) and Priority Groups (SIDS and Youth).