



## **Concept Note for the Second In-person Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce Meeting**

**Dates:** 31 January- 2 February 2024

**Venue:** INRH; Casablanca, Morocco

---

### **Background**

The Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce was established in October 2022 with a primary objective of convening regional stakeholders to coordinate and advance the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap while ensuring the ownership of the Africa Roadmap is systematically reconfirmed and strengthened among African nations, regional organizations, indigenous organizations, and fora.

The mandate of the African Ocean Decade Taskforce is to oversee and promote the implementation of the Africa Roadmap and the enabling environment necessary for its success. The Taskforce plays a critical role in supporting and contributing to the coordination of stakeholders as they come together to implement the Africa Roadmap, co-design and co-deliver Decade Actions.

Since its establishment, the Taskforce has held regular monthly meetings to discuss on communications, partnerships, resource mobilization and capacity development for the successful implementation of the Africa Roadmap. Despite facing many challenges in realizing its mandate, the Africa Taskforce has succeeded in committing to a number of Ocean Decade Actions, led by Africa, for Africa. These include Plastic Mop Up, Nigeria; the Sustainable Ocean Management Education Programme, Cabo Verde; Strengthening the Blue Economy Project, Seychelles; the West Africa Marine Science Symposium in Accra, Ghana; and the WASCAL Cabo Verde School. African researchers and organizations are also involved in numerous other projects (including early warning implementations, regional MSc programs, Essential Ocean Variables (EOV) measurements and regional modelling) not necessarily endorsed by the Ocean Decade Advisory Board due to lack of information and this is something the Taskforce is addressing. Additionally, Africa has, to date, seven (7) operational National Decade Committees (NDCs). Furthermore, the Taskforce has played a major role in enhancing the visibility of the Ocean Decade within Africa and the Adjacent Island States. In addition, the Taskforce is also in the final stages of developing an umbrella African program for the Ocean Decade, entitled, “Science and Knowledge for a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Africa,” while its proposal for an African Satellite Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona has been approved by the organizing committee.

### **Objective**

This second Taskforce in-person meeting will bring together members of the Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce, the Decade Coordination Unit and the Secretariat of the UNESCO/IOC’s Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) to finalize the development of the Ocean Decade umbrella program for Africa and structure the proposal for the Africa Satellite

Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference. The meeting will also focus on developing action plans on communication, resource mobilization and National Decade Committees.

**Expected Meeting Outcomes:**

1. Finalised draft Ocean Decade umbrella program document
2. Concept note of the Africa Satellite Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference which will be held in Barcelona, Spain.
3. Framework for communication strategy
4. TF workplan including Resource Mobilization, National Decade Committees, Monitoring & Evaluation of Roadmap

## Preliminary Meeting Agenda:

Time	Activity	Responsible
<b>Day 1: 31 Jan 2024</b>		
<b>Output: Finalized Draft Programme Document</b>		
0830hrs-0900hrs	Arrival and Registration	
0900hrs-09.30hrs	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening and welcome by host INRH Director</li> <li>• Welcome by IOC Sec / DCU (possibly by video)</li> <li>• Opening remarks by Chair of the Taskforce and meeting Agenda</li> <li>• Members introduction</li> </ul>	Dr. Abdelmalek Faraj TBC Dr. Jacqueline Uku All
0930hrs – 1020hrs	-Updates on Ocean Decade Implementation and discussions	Alison Clausen
1020hrs-1045hrs	-TF ToRs and progress made for their achievement  -What we accomplished to date SWOT analysis and Agenda. Priorities for Day 1.	Jacqueline Amel/Hassan
<b>1045hrs-1100hrs</b>	<b>Tea break</b>	
1100hrs-1130hrs	Presentation on the OD Program	Tony Elliot
1130hrs-1230hrs	Breakout Groups discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sustainable Management of Marine Resources</li> <li>2. Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity</li> </ol>	
<b>1230hrs - 1330hrs</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1330hrs-1500hrs	Continue Breakout Groups discussions including cross-cutting components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Tackling Ocean Pollution for Enhanced Human Health</li> <li>4. Extreme Events and Disaster Risk Reduction</li> </ol>	
1500hrs-1530hrs	Presentations by the Breakout Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A)	
1600hrs-1730hrs	Discussion on programme implementation strategy and coordination, next steps for finalization of programme	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Day 2: 1 February 2024</b> <b>Output:</b> <i>2. Satellite Event Concept Note</i>		
0800hrs-0930hrs	Travel to Rabat (Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training) – Arrival	
0930hrs-1000 hrs	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening and welcome by host Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training Director</li> <li>• Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment</li> </ul>	Ayman Cherkaoui  TBD???
1000hrs-1015hrs	Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Agenda.	Chair
<b>1015hrs-1045hrs</b>	-Updates on the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference  -Presentation of the Satellite Event proposal for 2024 OD Conference	Alison Clausen  Edwin Mwashinga/ TF member
<b>1045hrs-1100hrs</b>	– <b>Tea break</b>	
1100hrs-1200hrs	– Finalization of Satellite Event planning	Chairs (Amel/Hassan)
1200hrs-1230 hrs	Discussions with ECOPs Morocco	Chair and Ecop Coordinator
<b>1230hrs-1330hrs</b>	- Lunch Break	
1330hrs-1400hrs	Presentation on Capacity Development Facility and discussions on the role of the TF	Mary Frances + TF member
1400hrs-1500hrs	– Breakouts discussion on developing a capacity Action Plan	Chairs (Jaqueline/Amel/Hassan)
<b>1500hrs-1515hrs</b>	– <b>Tea break</b>	
1515hrs-1615hrs	– Continue breakouts and  Presentations by the breakouts Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A	
1615hrs-1700hrs	Vision 2030 process – input to White Paper review and approach to translate to regional priorities	Alison
1700hrs	Travel back to Casablanca	

Time	Activity	Responsible
<b>Day 3: 2 February 2024</b> <b>Outputs:</b> 3. Framework for comms strategy 4. TF workplan including Resource Mobilization, National Decade Committees, Monitoring & Evaluation of Roadmap		
0830hrs-0900hrs	Arrival	
0900hrs 0915hrs	Day 2 Recap & Day 3 Agenda.	Chair
0915 hrs 1000hrs	Discussions on RM including presentation by Belmont Forum TBC	Alison
100hrs – 1030hrs	National Decade Committees – strategy to develop new NDCs	Olivier Dufourneaud + TF member
1030hrs-1100hrs	Discussions on a Communication Strategy for Africa – development of framework strategy	Aya Khalil + TF member
1100hrs-1115hrs	<b>Tea break</b>	All
1115hrs-1230hrs	Breakouts to discuss 2024 TF work Plan	Chairs (Amel/Hassan)
<b>1230hrs – 1330hrs</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
1330hrs-1430hrs	Continued Breakout groups  Presentations by the breakout Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A	
<b>1430hrs-1500hrs</b>	<b>Tea break</b>	
1500hrs-1600hrs	Interaction via video with IOCAFRICA Officers (TBC)	Chairs
1600hrs-1630hrs	How it went  Final reflections on work of TF and priority actions for 2024	Chairs
1630 hrs	Adjournment	

