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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**(of UNESCO)**

**Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28)**

**12-14 March 2025**

**Progress Report Programme Component: OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA)**

By Ana Carolina Mazzuco

# Summary

During the period 2023-24, OTGA successfully delivered 106 training courses through its network of Regional and Specialized Training Centres (RTC/STC). More than 5,500 learners enrolled in courses which were delivered in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Starting in 2023, OTGA introduced self-paced instruction whereby learners progress through the material at their own speed and on their own schedule. The introduction of self-paced training has contributed to increased accessibility resulting in nearly 3,000 enrolments in self-paced courses during this period.

OTGA directly contributed to the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, addressing key outputs identified in the strategy through increased support in the training activities of all IOC programmes, including the Tsunami Resilience, Ocean Literacy, Harmful Algal Bloom programme, IODE, MSP, Ocean Sciences and the Ocean Decade, amongst others. OTGA is an endorsed Ocean Decade Action and is hosting Ocean Decade courses on Co-design and Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK). In the context of the Ocean Decade, Ms. Garcia highlighted the collaborative action with: the DCU to sponsor the development of course in Indigenous and Local Knowledge; the CDF to develop a training in Co-design; the DCC for Coastal Resilience to develop a course focused on business sustainability; and the ECOPs network courses focused on the young community. Likewise, many other OTGA courses target challenges of the Decade, and in 2024, OTGA secretariat built a Competency Framework to monitor this connection link to the e-Learning Platform.

OTGA has collaborated UN Agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, and international programmes in the co-organization of various types of training and use of its e-learning platform.

OTGA secretariat worked closely with IOC CD secretariat and RSB officers to provide information for the needs and priorities assessment and match-making exercise in support of the regions. For this biennium, OTGA and IOCAFRICA (and other partners) co-developed one blended training held in Kenya. IOCAFRICA also co-sponsored travel grants for ECOPs to attend training in Malta. Plans for a joint course in eDNA with IOCAFRICA and OBIS is under discussion for the next years. Increased involvement from the IOC RSBs ensures the capacity development needs of the regions are being met.

The host of OTGA, the UNESCO-IOC Project Office for IODE, is certified as an ISO Learning Services Provider for learning services outside formal education and was successfully audited in April 2024.

Dr Ana Carolina Mazzuco joined the IODE Project Office as IODE Training Coordinator and OTGA Project Coordinator in June 2023.

The fourth session of the Steering Group for the OceanTeacher Global Academy took place online between 11-13 June 2024. The Group reviewed the activities for 2023-24 and the OTGA work plan for 2024-25 and the future of the programme component was discussed. The Steering Group elected Ms Filomena Martins (RTC Portugal) and Ms Carolina Garcia (RTC Colombia) as SG Co-Chairs for the next intersessional period.

In 2024, OTGA was granted an extension of the ongoing extra-budgetary funds from UNESCO IOC FUST to support training activities until the end of the year. OTGA has successfully mobilized additional extra-budgetary funds including GEF/UNDP Small Grants Program to support marine litter training and monitoring in Cape Verde, the European Union Horizon Europe Blue Cloud project to develop the online training component for the Blue Cloud Training Academy, and the UNESCO IOC NORAD FUND OceanTraining Internship Program to support on-site and online training courses on ocean best practices in the Caribbean. Other extra budgetary funds were mobilized by affiliated partners to develop courses jointly, which includes the OD DCC-Coastal Resilience to develop a trainings series for different stakeholders (first focused on business), the UNESCO MAB/MangRes project to develop Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) trainings in mangrove restoration, and the UNESCO-IOC/European Commission DGMARE MSPglobal project to develop self-paced trainings in marine spatial planning.

In the past 10 years, OTGA has mainly relied on extra-budgetary funds from the voluntary contributions to UNESCO IOC from the Government of Flanders (FUST-2). OTGA Secretariat budgeted the operation and further development of the training programme and associated network for the next 5 years, following the approved 2026-2030 vision, reaching to an estimate of USD 5.000.000,00. For 2025 to 2027, OTGA has initially requested yearly USD 150.000,00 from the Regular Programme, to secure core services (management of training courses, e-learning platform, travel grants, and development of new learning materials). Programme component coordination and IT are guaranteed until 2026 from Flanders/VLIZ staff secondment. Throughout the year, OTGA has participated in calls for project proposals, engaged with collaborators, and met with potential donors for resource mobilization. Although no core extra-budgetary funding has been secured to cover the full training programme, funding has been confirmed for specific training activities.

The OTGA Programme Component Report is included as Annex I.

**Annex I: OTGA** **Programme Component Report**

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| --- |
| 1. **Title of IODE Programme Component/Programme ACTIVITY/Project AND ACRONYM**
 |
| OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) |
| 1. **established *(provide reference to IODE Committee session and Decision)***
 |
| The OceanTeacher Global Academy project was formally established by IODE-XXIII (2015) through Decision IODE-XXIII.4 and approved as IODE Programme Component in IODE-XXVII (2023).  |
| 1. **REPORT SUBMITTED BY *(Name/Date)***
 |
| Ana Carolina Mazzuco, Greg Reed. 15 November 2024 |
| 1. **General overview/Executive summary**
 |
| During the period 2023-24 OTGA delivered 106 training courses through its network of Regional and Specialized Training Centres (RTC/STC). More than 5,500 learners enrolled in courses which were delivered in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Starting in 2023, OTGA introduced self-paced instruction whereby learners progress through the material at their own speed and on their own schedule. The introduction of self-paced training has contributed to increased accessibility resulting in nearly 3,000 enrolments in self-paced courses during this period. OTGA has successfully mobilized additional extra-budgetary funds to support training activities including GEF/UNDP Small Grants Program to support marine litter training and monitoring in Cape Verde, the European Union Horizon Europe Blue Cloud project to develop the online training component for the Blue Cloud Training Academy, and the UNESCO IOC NORAD FUND OceanTraining Internship Program to support on-site and online training courses on ocean best practices in the Caribbean. Other extra budgetary funds were mobilized by affiliated partners to develop courses jointly, which includes the OD DCC-Coastal Resilience to develop a trainings series for different stakeholders (first focused on business), the MangRes project to develop Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) trainings in mangrove restoration, and the UNESCO-IOC/European Commission DGMARE MSPglobal project to develop self-paced trainings in marine spatial planning.The host of OTGA, the UNESCO-IOC Project Office for IODE, is certified as an ISO Learning Services Provider for learning services outside formal education and was successfully audited in April 2024.The fourth session of the Steering Group for the OceanTeacher Global Academy took place online between 11-13 June 2024. The Group reviewed the activities for 2023-24 and the OTGA work plan for 2024-25 and the future of the programme component was discussed. The Steering Group elected Ms Filomena Martins (RTC Portugal) and Ms Carolina Garcia (RTC Colombia) as SG Co-Chairs for the next intersessional period. |
| 1. **Describe the status of workplan implementation and the results achieved**
 |
| **Outcomes** *(add more outcomes if needed)* |
| **Outcome N° 1. Increased capacity and skills by ocean specialists** |
| **Performance indicators** *(list 2-5 indicators)*PI 1.1. Average of 50 training course delivered each yearPI 1.2. Minimum 10 self-paced courses delivered each yearPI 1.3. Minimum 50% enrolled learners complete courses | **Status** *(completed, in progress, cancelled)*PI 1.1: Achieved. 2023: 49, 2024: 58 courses deliveredPI 1.2: Achieved. 2023: 13 SP courses delivered, 2024: 20 SP courses delivered.PI 1.3: In progress. 2023: 41%, 2024: to add |
| **Deliverables**D 1.1. Develop and host online and self-paced training courses for career development in advanced ocean science and sustainable blue economy.D 1.2. Review and enhance training tools adapted to multiple knowledge systems, career levels, and applications.D 1.3. Design and develop course content to address the capacity needs of IOC Programmes and RSBs (online, onsite, blended) |  |
| **Outcome N° 2. Regional and Specialized Training Centres efficiently develop and manage the training programme** |
| **Performance indicators** *(list 2-5 indicators)*PI 2.1 All OTGA training centres to deliver a minimum of one training course per year.PI 2.2. All facilitators contributing to OTGA learning services are competent in their area of expertise.PI 2.3. OTGA secretariat implementing procedures to ensure the successful delivery of training coordination. | **Status** *(completed, in progress, cancelled)*PI 2.1 In progress. 2023: 12 centres delivered minimum of one course; 2024: 13 centres delivered minimum of one course.PI 2.2 In progress. Competency assessment form to be completed by all facilitators.PI 2.3 In progress. OTGA shared e-learning platform maintained and updated, OTGA secretariat to provide guidance and coordinate training management, OTGA has developed and implemented standards and procedures across RTC/STCs. |
| **Deliverables**D 2.1 OTGA centres providing training courses to meet the needs of Member States.D 2.2. Competency framework for personnel involved in providing OTGA learning service.D 2.3. Fully operational coordination office overseeing active training services including annual planning, activity tracking, task management, shared communication and regular support meetings. |  |
| **List of partners and key stakeholders.** *(Indicate how partners and stakeholders contribute to the action)*The key stakeholders of OTGA include Regional and Specialized Training Centres, UNESCO-IOC Project Office for IODE, IOC Member States, IOC programme areas, IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies, Co-sponsored projects and programmes.OTGA affiliated partners will include Flanders Marine Institute, Nippon Foundation-POGO Centre of Excellence, Early Career Ocean Professional Network Programme, European Marine Observation and Data Network, Alfred Wegener Institute, Marine Environmental Data and Information Network, International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, Marine Biodiversity Observation Network, European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre and the Ocean Decade Collaborative Centres and Coordination Offices. Partner UN Agencies in the co-organization of training World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme. The above mentioned partners and stakeholders contribute to (i) expanding global awareness of learning opportunities, (ii) increasing learning content, (iii) developing new crosscutting learning services and opportunities, (iv) developing and implementing quality standards for the delivery of learning services and (v) facilitating solutions for knowledge, technology and innovation sharing. |
| **Explain how the Programme Component/Programme Activity/Project is contributing to other IODE or IOC programmes and activities.**OTGA fully contributes to the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, addressing key outputs identified in the strategy through increased support in the training activities of all IOC programmes, as well of other affiliated partners. This support includes the Tsunami Resilience, Ocean Literacy, Harmful Algal Bloom programme, IODE, MSP, Ocean Sciences and the Ocean Decade, amongst others. OTGA is an endorsed Ocean Decade Action and is hosting Ocean Decade courses on Co-design and Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK). Increased involvement from the IOC RSBs ensures the capacity development needs of the regions are being met. OTGA is also collaborating with other organizations, including ECOPs, MEDIN, AWI, POGO, VLIZ, EMODnet, to deliver online training through the OTGA e-learning platform. Through these training activities, OTGA directly contributes to output 1 of IOC CD Strategy (Human resources developed at individual and institutional level), mainly covering activity 1.2 Continuous professional development, activity 1.3 Sharing of knowledge and expertise including through community building, and activity 1.5 Improving gender, generational and geographic diversity. As OTGA broaden topics and scope, these trainings have a wider impact, therefore, indirectly contributing to outputs 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Strategy.  |
| **Provide details on the long-term sustainability.** *(including confirmed extra budgetary resources)*FUST EB funding for OTGA ceased in December 2024. Ongoing funding and support for the programme component will rely on (i) UNESCO RP, (ii) support from OTGA training centres, (iii) EB source. Confirmed sources of extra-budgetary funding for OTGA trainings are: * BlueCloud2026 project (EU Horizon) – approximately EUR 15.000 (2025)
* GES4SEAS project (EU Horizon) - approximately EUR 20.000 (2025-2026)
* OBAMA-NEXT project (EU Horizon) - approximately EUR 20.000 (2025-2026)
* ADAPT project (UNESCO IOC NORAD) - approximately USD 100.000 (2025)
* Coastal Resilience Trainings (University of Bologna) - approximately USD 100,000 (2024-2025)

Other sources of extra-budgetary funding to be confirmed: * MSPGlobal 3.0 (EU; 2025 on)
* MangRes2 (UNESCO IOC FUST; 2025 on)
* offshoreMPA (EU Horizon) - approximately EUR 150,000 (2026 on)
 |
| **Risks.** *(Describe the potential risk of not achieving the expected results)*The OTGA risk assessment and preventive mitigation measures include:1. Competency. Develop a competency framework for personnel involved in providing learning services
2. Learning needs analysis. Implement a learning needs survey to assess the needs of the learner community and IOC stakeholders.
3. Financial Support. Project will rely on RP and EB funding. Co-funding for onsite courses and in-kind support to be provided by RTCs/STCs
4. Staffing. Acquire, develop and maintain the required capacity to support the implementation of OTGA.
 |
| 1. **Submission of workplan and budget for the next intersessional period**
 |
| **Workplan and budget for the next intersessional period.** *(show amount in USD)* |
|  | Budget request from IODE | Confirmed EB funds  |
|  | **2025** | **2026** | **2025** | **2026** |
| Outcome 1. | 100,000 | 100,000 | 255,000 |  |
| Outcome 2. | 50,000 | 50,000 |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | 150,000 | 150,000 |  |  |
| 1. **DRAFT TEXT FOR THE ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SUMMARY REPORT** *(to be used for reporting to IODE session)*
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