

Building a Roadmap For the Implementation of the Ocean Decade in the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean



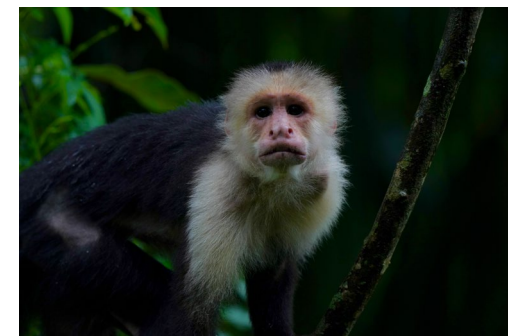
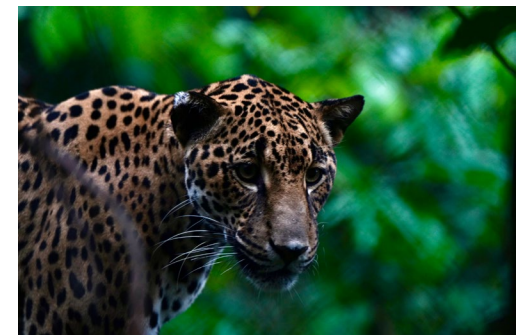
**Loreto Duffy-Mayers/Tadzio
Bervoets
Co-Chairs, Ocean Decade Task
Force TAC**

Introduction

- The roadmap for the Ocean Decade in the Tropical Americas and Caribbean (TAC) Region establishes a framework for just, inclusive, and impactful ocean science actions.
- It aligns regional priorities with global Ocean Decade goals while addressing local challenges.
- It emphasizes co-design and collaboration to transform ocean science into solutions for sustainable development.



Meeting of the Task Force to Validate Road Map Costa Rica June 2024





Regional Importance

The TAC Region includes Continental Coastal countries and Caribbean Island nations, characterized by their heavy dependence on marine resources. Challenges such as marine pollution, overfishing, and climate vulnerability demand a cohesive response.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) /”Big Ocean States” in the region, with vast Exclusive Economic Zones but limited capacity, are key contributors and beneficiaries of this roadmap. Their participation is critical to achieving equitable, sustainable outcomes.

TAC Region Priorities

1. **Marine Pollution:** Identify and reduce sources of pollutants, including plastics and land-based sources of pollution.
2. **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Protect marine and coastal ecosystems, including unexplored deep-sea habitats, through data-driven marine spatial planning.
3. **Small-Scale Fisheries:** Enhance food security and livelihoods by improving fisheries governance and supporting climate-resilient aquaculture.
4. **Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs):** Integrate science and community input into long-term management plans that address economic, social, and environmental needs.
5. **Climate-Resilient Ocean Economy:** Foster investments in ecosystem-based approaches and renewable energy to create sustainable economic opportunities.

6. Climate Adaptation and Mitigation:

Implement conservation initiatives for mangroves, seagrasses, and other carbon sinks alongside renewable marine

7. Coastal Resilience: Develop advanced decision-support tools and nature-based solutions for adaptive coastal management.

8. Innovative Financing: Create financial models that support ocean science and prioritize SIDS-led projects with reduced administrative barriers.

9. Ocean Literacy: Expand education and outreach to build a strong human-ocean connection, leveraging local cultural narratives.

10. Ocean and Human Health: Address emerging pollutants and enhance access to sustainable, nutritious seafood.





Implementation Strategy

The roadmap emphasizes practical steps to achieve these priorities:

- **Collaboration:** Engage national governments, regional bodies, and stakeholders through National Decade Committees and the TAC Ocean Decade Network.
- **Capacity Development:** Focus on training, infrastructure enhancement, and bridging knowledge gaps in SIDS and underserved communities.
- **Policy Alignment:** Establish and enforce ecosystem-based management policies while aligning with MEAs.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Secure financing through innovative instruments and partnerships with multilateral organizations.



Building an Enabling Environment

Key components of the enabling environment include:

- **Data and Technology:** Expand interoperable ocean observation systems and ensure equitable access to data.
- **Legislation and Governance:** Strengthen laws and frameworks supporting sustainable ocean management –Science Driven Decision-making.
- **Community Awareness:** Enhance public understanding of ocean health's role in societal well-being through **tailored** communications.



Next Steps

- **Resource Mobilization Plan:** Develop mechanisms to attract and allocate funding for priority actions.
- **Partnerships:** Expand collaboration with regional and international entities to implement Decade Actions.
- **Implementation Monitoring:** Establish evaluation frameworks to track progress and adapt strategies based on outcomes.
- **Promote our progress!**



Thank You!
Obrigado!
Gracias!
Merci!
Bedankt!

- Loreto.Duffy-Mayers@pfan.net
- tadziob@gmail.com