



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# THE OCEAN DECADE

in a snapshot

As of February 2025

## ENDORSED OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS



**59** PROGRAMMES **105** CONTRIBUTIONS  
**460** PROJECTS **957** ACTIVITIES



DECADE ACTIONS LED  
BY PARTNERS FROM **69** COUNTRIES

### ENDORSED ACTIONS PER CHALLENGE



## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION

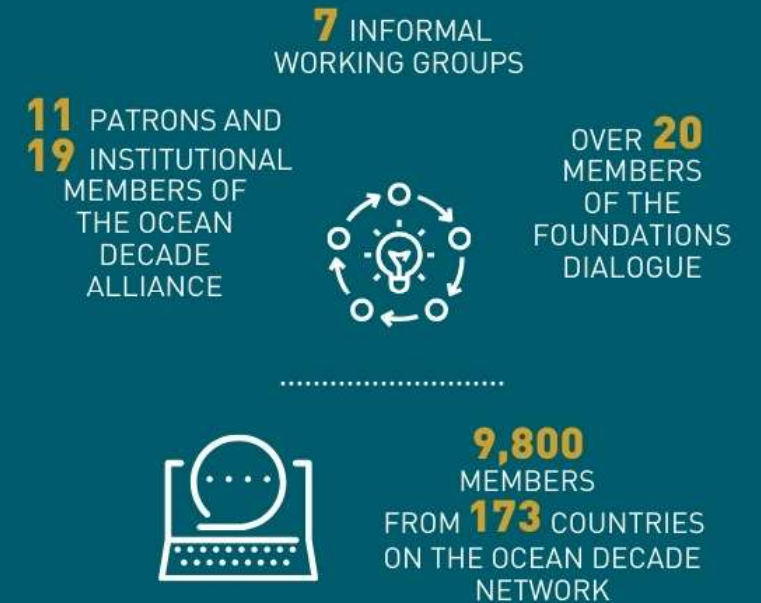


OCEANDECADE.ORG

@UNOceandecade

@un-ocean-decade

## ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



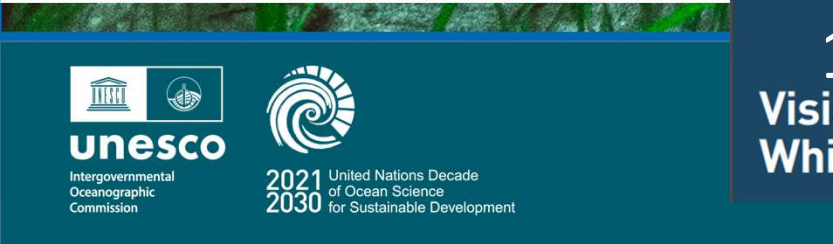
**3.5+ MILLION**  
REACH

# 2024 OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE (Barcelona, Spain)

*Take Stock – Set Priorities – Catalyze Action*



**2024**  
**UN OCEAN DECADE**  
**CONFERENCE**  
*Delivering the science we need  
for the ocean we want*  
**10-12 April 2024**  
**Barcelona, Spain**



- 2,630 in-person attendees from **124 countries**
- > 3,000 online viewers
- 165 Satellite Events



## **2024** OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE BARCELONA STATEMENT

**12 April 2024**

**Barcelona, Spain**

**1.SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE  
PRIORITIES**

**2.CROSS-CUTTING / ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
COMMITMENTS**

## Ocean Decade **Vision 2030** Outcomes Report



The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
**(2021–2030)**

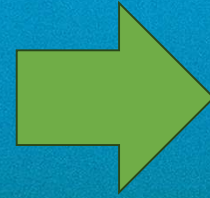
## 10 x Vision 2030 White Paper



# 2024 OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE BARCELONA STATEMENT

12 April 2024

Barcelona, Spain



## SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR ...

1. Marine pollution reduction and management across the land-sea continuum including emerging pollutants
2. Marine and coastal ecosystem-based management including deep-sea ecosystems & emerging threats
3. Equitable and resilient small-scale fisheries and aquaculture & sustainable aquatic food production
4. Evidence-based Sustainable Ocean Plans
5. Sustainable and climate resilient ocean economy with ecosystem and societal co-benefits
6. Climate mitigation and impacts of eventual marine carbon dioxide removal initiatives
7. Decision support tools for resilience of coastal communities
8. Financial instruments, policies and models to diversify and accelerate investment in ocean science
9. Social science and ocean literacy research on human-ocean connection
10. Ocean health and human health

# 2024 OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE BARCELONA STATEMENT

12 April 2024

Barcelona, Spain



## ENABLING FACTORS FOR SUSTAINED IMPACT...

1. Systematic processes and structures to strengthen role of policy / user needs as drivers of Decade Actions
2. Translation of global priorities to specific needs of SIDS/LDCs & proactive support and partnerships
3. Approaches, tools and skills to increase inclusivity of all knowledge systems
4. Reinforced national level action & strengthened guidance for national science – policy – society uptake
5. Capacity development with sustained impact for individuals and institutions
6. Industry engagement including with insurance, finance, tourism & fisheries sectors
7. Strategic communications and broad approach to ocean literacy across all sectors of society
8. Equity, inclusivity & diversity across generations, genders and geographies
9. Sustained & sustainable financing, investment and resourcing for ocean science initiatives and infrastructure as a legacy of the Ocean Decade

# Update on Flagship Initiatives

Flagship initiatives arising from recommendations of 'Ambition, Action, Impact' Report:

## Return on investment in ocean science

- Position Papers x 2 being prepared
- Workshop during World Ocean Summit in Tokyo (March 2025)
- Next phase to be carried out prior to UNOC

## Seabed mapping

- Ocean Decade Alliance initiative growing stronger
- Pledges being collected for public release at UNOC and call for more partners to join initiative

## Gender and youth inclusion

- Youth working group established & preparing youth inclusion strategy
- Gender working group to meet in early March to start work on gender action plan

## Indigenous and local knowledge

- Analysis of ILK in Ocean Decade being completed
- Operational framework and training materials to be developed prior to UNOC

## Capacity Development

- Capacity Development Facility re-started focusing on LDCs / SIDS / ECOPs

# Ongoing Milestone Engagement Opportunities

Qingdao Coastal  
Cities Conference  
(25 – 27  
February)

Focusing on  
co-design  
and co-  
delivery of  
ocean,  
science at  
sub-national  
level

## First Ocean Decade International Coastal Cities Conference **Qingdao Declaration**



- Within the framework of the Cities with the Ocean Network

1. Build Global Cooperation for Blue Partnerships
2. Promote Co-Design of Science and Knowledge and Marine Technological Innovation Cooperation to Empower Coastal City Development
3. Address Global Climate Change Challenges and Enhance the Resilience of Ocean Cities
4. Protect Marine Biodiversity and Safeguard Marine Ecological Health
5. Develop a Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy and Foster New Quality Productive Force
6. Cultivate Blue Citizens and Enhance Public Ocean Literacy

Commit to working with partners to further the ambition of the **Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition** by supporting the science and knowledge needs of cities.


# Update on 2027 Ocean Decade Conference Planning

- Showcase and track achievements towards *The Barcelona Statement* priorities.
- Further refine Ocean Decade priorities for the remainder of the Decade on the basis of a solid preparatory process throughout 2026.
- Facilitate partnerships and discussions to shape the post-2030 legacy.

- 3 full submissions received with high geographical diversity
- IOC Executive Secretary in consultation with the IOC Chair and Officers will review submissions with IOC Chair and Officers.
- Final decision announced at the 33rd IOC Assembly in June 2025

Restricted Distribution

IOC/EC-57/4.7.Doc(2)  
Paris, 24 May 2024  
Original: English



**unesco**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council  
UNESCO, Paris, 25–28 June 2024

Item 4.7 of the Provisional Agenda

DRAFT SCOPING FRAMEWORK FOR OCEAN DECADE MID-TERM EVALUATION

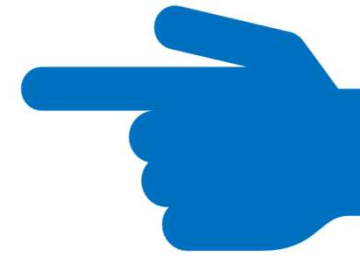
Summary

With reference to the UN General Assembly A/RES/72/73, which proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030, the year 2025 marks the mid-point in the implementation of the Ocean Decade under the coordination of UNESCO-IOC and the launch of a mid-term evaluation process.

This document outlines the proposed scope, modalities, and timing of the mid-term evaluation process. Following discussions at the Executive Council it will be used to develop the detailed Terms of Reference of the evaluation, the results of which will be presented at the next IOC Assembly.

Financial and administrative implications: The evaluation will be funded through UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service.

The proposed decision is referenced as Draft Resolution EC-57/4.7 in the Action Paper (document IOC/EC-57/AP Prov. Rev.)



Draft scoping framework  
for mid-term evaluation  
presented to IOC  
Executive Council in June  
2024, as in Dec 4.7:

10. ...develop the detailed **Terms of Reference** of the Evaluation...;
11. Requests the **UNESCO Internal Oversight Service** to carry out the Evaluation...and to present the results to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session



**Evaluation purpose: an independent evaluation to:**

**"...review the structures, processes, partnerships, and resources that underpin the delivery of the Ocean Decade and make recommendations to optimise the impact of the Ocean Decade."**

**"...explore both causes and solutions to issues that are identified as hindering implementation and delivery of the Decade..."**



# Evaluation scope

**Timeframe:** January 2021 to early 2025

Focus on **5 main areas:**

- ✓ Governance and coordination
- ✓ Resource mobilization
- ✓ Science knowledge and delivery including consolidation of impact
- ✓ Tracking progress, engagement, inclusivity and outreach
- ✓ Leveraging of Ocean Decade to contribute to IOC vision and evolution

# Mid-Term Evaluation Findings & Recommendations

1. Streamline and strengthen the governance and coordination framework for the Ocean Decade to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation and support progress toward its intended outcomes in the second half.
2. Strengthen UN system-wide collaboration and alignment to support the achievement of the Decade's outcomes and reinforce its identity as a collective UN initiative, enhancing its global reach and impact.
3. Put in place a comprehensive resource mobilization framework to ensure sustainable funding for the coordination of the Decade and to strengthen the enabling environment for funding and supporting Decade Actions.
4. Strengthen national and regional engagement, with a focus on LDCs, SIDS and other under-represented regions, to facilitate more equitable participation and alignment with local and regional priorities.
5. Enhance the mainstreaming of inclusivity, diversity, and equity to ensure that all voices, particularly those of marginalized and under-represented groups, are meaningfully included and benefit from the Decade.
6. Strengthen the strategic focus and impact of the UN Ocean Decade Actions to enhance alignment with global and national priorities, promote innovation, support knowledge use and ensure practical application for tangible benefits to Member States and the ecosystem.
7. Enhance the existing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to transform it into a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system.
8. Systematically leverage the Decade to shape UNESCO-IOC's post-2030 agenda and amplify the impact of its programmes.

# Potential Areas of Engagement for IOCINDIO MS

- Regional priority setting process in collaboration with Indian Ocean DCC
- Establishment of regional taskforce or working group to advise on regional implementation
- Regional engagement in preparatory process for 2027 Ocean Decade Conference
- Regional representation in the Ocean Decade Alliance
- Creation of additional National Decade Committees in region
- Member State support to regional and national Decade Actions