



Draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee of the SEA BEYOND MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (MPTF) for the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) Connecting People and the Ocean

Role of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee of the SEA BEYOND Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) Connecting People and the Ocean (hereinafter the “Scientific Committee”) is responsible for providing expert technical advice on the identification of activities facilitated by the funds of the MPTF. It will comprise a group of well-known representatives of the scientific community in different fields of ocean science, with the composition, members, and standard operating procedures of the Scientific Committee being approved by the MPTF Executive Committee. The recommendations developed by the Scientific Committee will be reported to and considered by the Executive Committee of the MPTF. It will be an operational committee in which members will serve on a voluntary basis and must be able to commit adequate time for biannual, multi-day meetings and associated preparation.

Please note that the following Terms of Reference are draft in their content and may undergo some changes after the first meeting of the MPTF Executive Committee, scheduled to take place in early December 2025.

1. The Scientific Committee shall provide guidance in the scoping, implementation and monitoring of the DCO Connecting People and the Ocean portfolio of activities funded through the MPTF, specifically:
 - a. Identify thematic areas for calls for project proposals to be funded through the MPTF within the context of the priorities identified in the MPTF agreement;
 - b. Undertake a comprehensive assessment process of project proposals submitted to the DCO for funding by the MPTF;
 - c. Deliver a set of recommendations to the Executive Committee of the MPTF on project proposals for funding through the MPTF;
 - d. Support successful project proposals in achieving their objectives, ensuring their alignment with the Challenge 10 White Paper¹ and Theory of Change² and assist the DCO in the identification of further project opportunities under the DCO Connecting People and the Ocean;

¹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390126>

² <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393761>

2. The Scientific Committee shall provide advice more broadly to the DCO Connecting People and the Ocean, including:

- e. Provide advice on the relevance, rigour and likelihood of success of new actions submitted to the Decade Coordination Unit for endorsement that are aligned with the DCO;
- f. Engage with various stakeholders, including government, UN, intergovernmental organisations, philanthropic, industry, NGOs, and scientific stakeholders, to provide information about the Ocean Decade and the DCO in particular and provide the DCO with advice on opportunities for participation by various stakeholders;
- g. Where relevant, provide advice on elements of the communications plan for the DCO, which will include communications objectives, target audiences, DCO branding, language, key messages, communication channels and tools, key communication activities, and indicators to measure reach and impact;
- h. Contribute to the identification of potential partners that could mobilize resources, in addition to those of the MPTF, for the DCO Connecting People and the Ocean;
- i. Provide advice on capacity development needs under DCO Connecting People and Ocean and provide advice on how best to fill these needs including through collaboration with the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility.