



UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025

Opening Date: 15 October 2025

Guidance Note for Applicants

I. Introduction to the Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025

The vision of the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) ('the Ocean Decade') is '*the science we need for the ocean we want*'. The Ocean Decade provides a global framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to co-design and co-deliver the scientific knowledge needed to inform decision making and deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To date, [62 endorsed Decade Programmes](#) and [581 endorsed Decade Projects](#) are being implemented around the world. Over [123 Contributions of in-kind and financial resources](#) are supporting the vital work that is being carried out by partners to contribute to the [Ocean Decade Challenges](#) and the priorities identified in the [Barcelona Statement](#), which synthesises the outcomes of the [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#).

The current Call for Decade Actions focuses on addressing priority needs from the Barcelona Statement and galvanising new contributions and new projects to support and strengthen existing Decade Actions and coordination structures.

This Call for Decade Actions will have three different parts:

- **Part I – Expression of Interest for Decade Programmes:** Decade programmes are being solicited in a two-stage process. The first stage is a short Expression of Interest that documents the proposed programme in relation to: (i) its alignment with the priorities outlined in the Barcelona Statement and the broader Vision 2030, (ii) its synergies and proposed collaboration with existing Decade programmes; (iii) the tangible means by which the science and knowledge generated by the programme will inform decision making and contribute to sustainable development. Full programme proposals will be invited after a review of the Expression of Interest submission.
- **Part II – Ocean Decade Projects:** At the project level, the Call is soliciting initiatives that respond to the priorities of one of the **23 endorsed Decade Programmes** participating in this Call for Decade Actions (See [Annex I](#) for more information).
- **Part III – Ocean Decade Contributions:** The Call is soliciting submissions of financial or in-kind resources to support the Ocean Decade and/or the Decade Actions.

In preparing your submissions, please note the following:

- 1) The Ocean Decade **is not a financing mechanism** and the participation in the Decade is voluntary.
- 2) One-off standalone initiatives such as courses, trainings, summer schools, workshops, webinars, publications, **do not qualify as Programmes, Projects or Contributions**. Such initiatives fall under the category of Decade Activities and can be submitted for approval at any time via [this link](#).

This Guidance Note provides important background information on the Ocean Decade, additional details on the scope of the Decade Actions eligible for submission under this Call, as well as information on the endorsement process. It forms part of a suite of documents that are relevant to the Call. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to read all sections of the Note and refer to the [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#) (including the accompanying [Summary Report](#)), [Barcelona Statement](#) and the [Vision 2030 summary report](#), as well as the [Ocean Decade website](#) for further information. You can also find a series of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that will be updated throughout the process. General inquiries on the Ocean Decade or the endorsement process can be sent to oceandecade@unesco.org.

Important Information for Applicants

1. Interested parties should complete and submit the relevant online “[Request for Endorsement](#)”. Please note that there are several different online forms and different deadlines depending on the type of Action you are submitting. Please ensure that you complete the online form that corresponds to the type of Decade Action for which you are seeking endorsement and that you carefully check the relevant submission dates:
 - **Part I - 5 December 2025, 23:59 UTC:** Submission of Expression of Interest for Decade Programmes.
 - **Part II - 31 January 2026, 23:59 UTC:** Submission of applications for Decade Projects.
 - **Part III - 31 January 2026, 23:59 UTC:** Submission of applications for Ocean Decade Contributions.
2. During the preparation of submissions, we strongly encourage interested parties to consult and, where possible, collaborate with other institutions and partners working on common issues.
3. Two virtual Q&A sessions are planned to provide interested parties with additional information on the Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025:
 - The **first session** will be held on **29 October 2025** from [13:30 – 14:30 UTC](#)
 - The **second session** will be held on **04 November 2025** from [10:30 – 11:30 UTC](#)

Details will be posted on www.oceandecade.org and on the Ocean Decade social media channels.

N.B. Initiatives proposed by United Nations entities are subject to a separate process that involves registration of their Decade Actions. Registrations can be made at any time via [this link](#) or by contacting oceandecade@unesco.org.

II. Types of Decade Actions Solicited under the Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025

The current Call for Decade Actions is soliciting Decade Actions in three different parts. Figure 1 below provides a diagram summarizing the main of the components of the Call, including the main deadlines.

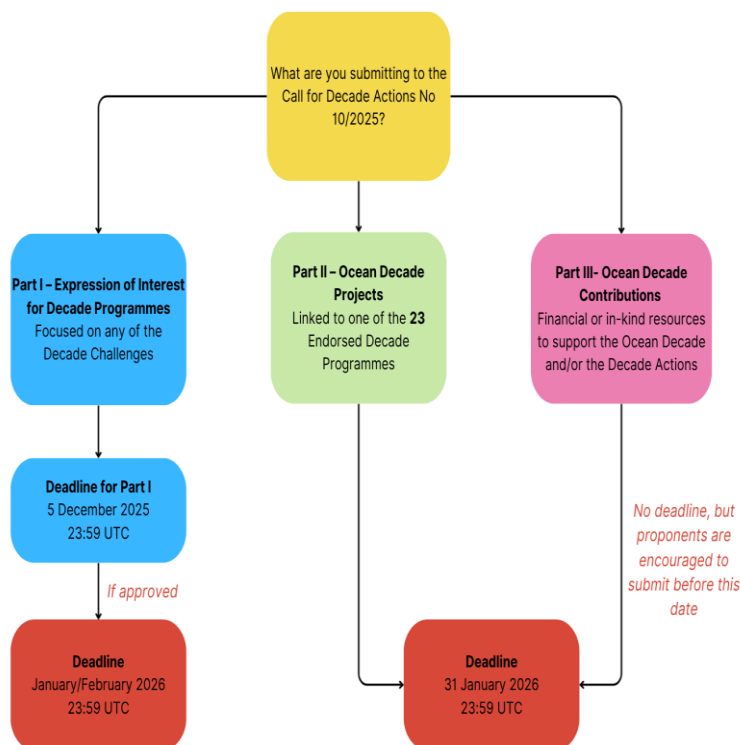


Figure 1: Components of Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025 and relevant deadlines

A) Decade Programmes

Decade Programmes are large-scale initiatives implemented at the global or regional scale. Programmes will be long-term, multi-year, interdisciplinary and multi-national. Programmes will be made up of component projects, which may or may not be fully or partially defined at the time of endorsement. The following criteria, although not exhaustive, will be used during the evaluation process as guidance to determine whether an initiative can be defined as a Decade programme:

1. **Scale:** either global reach, or major regional scale
2. **Duration:** at least 4 years
3. **Disciplines:** evidence of multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary approach and team
4. **Science to policy impact:** evidence of clear pathways for scientific knowledge to inform decision making
5. **Partners:** international group of partners
6. **Funding:** funding at least partially identified
7. **Lead partner:** international scope and experience that matches ambition of programme
8. **Capacity development:** includes element of capacity development

9. **Scope for growth:** demonstrates an ability to grow and expand over time and incorporate new partners or geographies including via the solicitation of Decade projects via future Calls for Decade Actions
10. **Leadership:** ability to host and support coordination of Decade Projects
11. **'Business as usual' reality check:** If this is an existing initiative, does the submission focus on new, transformative and innovative aspects and propose and evolution of the existing initiative?

Via this call, applicants will be able to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a potential Decade Programme proposal that demonstrates clear links from science and knowledge to policy and decision making. The proposal can contribute to any of the 10 Decade Challenges and should demonstrate that it: (i) contributes to one or more of the priorities identified in the [Barcelona Statement](#); (ii) creates synergies and demonstrates proactive collaboration with existing Decade programmes; and (iii) demonstrates tangible pathways for science and knowledge to inform decision making. The Decade Coordination Unit will review the submissions for completeness and ask for recommendations of the Decade Advisory Board on which proponents should be invited to make full programme submissions.

Further information on the existing portfolio of Decade Programmes can be found on the [Ocean Decade website](#) and detailed inquiries can be directed to oceandecade@unesco.org.

There is no geographical limitation for Decade programmes submitted to the Call. However, all applicants will be required to demonstrate how they meaningfully involve partners from Africa or in [Small Island Developing States](#), [Least Developed Countries including Land-Locked Developing Countries](#).

To submit the EOI for a Decade Programme proposal, please fill out this form by **5 December 2025, 23:59 UTC**: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EOI_CFDA10

B) Decade Projects

A Decade Project is a discrete and focused undertaking. It may be regional, national or subnational and it will typically contribute to an existing Ocean Decade Programme. This Call is soliciting projects that will contribute to endorsed Decade Programmes that have chosen to be part of the Call. **Of the currently endorsed Programmes, 23 are soliciting Projects via the current Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025.**

Applicants interested in submitting a Project to an endorsed Decade Programme are requested to carefully read the descriptions of the Programmes contained in [Annex I](#), as well as relevant information on any geographic or thematic priorities that the Programmes have identified for the Call.

Contact details for all Programmes are listed in [Annex I](#) and **applicants should contact the relevant Programme directly for any questions on scientific or substantive issues related to the project solicitation.** As part of the application form, proponents will be asked to indicate if they have been in contact with the relevant Decade Programme. It is recognised that projects can contribute to more than one endorsed Decade Programme. In that case, applicants should apply to be associated with the Programme that they believe has the strongest link and describe other links and contributions in the narrative of the application.

To submit an application for a Decade Project, please fill out this form by **31 January 2026, 23:59 UTC**: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Projects_CFDA10

Decisions on Project applications will be made in the **first semester of 2026.**

C) Decade Contributions

Decade Contributions are focused on providing in-kind or financial support to the Ocean Decade or to Decade Actions. This Call will accept Contributions in a variety of areas, without thematic or regional restrictions. The proposals presented need to **have all the resources secured** for their implementation.

Decade Contributions applications are **accepted on a rolling basis**, but applicants are encouraged to fill out this form by **31 January 2026, 23:59 UTC**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DecadeContribution>

Decisions on contribution applications will be made towards the **first semester of 2026**.

III. Eligibility to submit a Decade Action

There is no restriction on the type of institution that can apply for endorsement under this Call. Proponents are reminded of the endorsement criteria of the Decade related to the strengthening of existing or creation of new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science, as well as the criteria for co-design and co-delivery of Decade Actions.

Requests can be for either new or ongoing initiatives; however, proponents of ongoing initiatives will need to clearly demonstrate how their proposed Decade Action moves beyond 'business-as-usual' for example by demonstrating how the initiative will evolve to address the transformative nature of the Decade.

Submitted programmes or projects are expected to have secured at least a part of the in-kind or financial resources needed for implementation. While the Decade Coordination Unit aims to support resource mobilisation throughout the Decade, the endorsement process is not a funding process. Endorsement as a Decade Action does not guarantee access to any funding.

It is expected that Decade Actions, including those submitted under this Call, will be co-designed and co-delivered by partnerships and collaborations of a wide diversity of stakeholders including research institutions, formal or informal scientific collaborations, universities, national and sub-national governments, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organisations, other international and regional organisations, philanthropic and corporate foundations, business and industry, NGOs, educators, community groups, multilateral and bilateral funding agencies, business and industry, and/or individuals (e.g. via citizen science initiatives or crowdfunding). More information on co-design processes in the Ocean Decade can be found [here](#).

Proponents are strongly encouraged to contact any relevant thematic or regional decentralised coordination structures of the Ocean Decade (i.e. Decade Coordination Offices - DCOs or Decade Collaborative Centres - DCCs) and any relevant National Decade Committee, as well as referencing any relevant regional action plans or roadmaps, in the development of their proposals. As part of the application form, proponents will be asked to indicate if they have been in contact with these structures.

More information on decentralised coordination structures can be found [here](#), while more information on existing National Decade Committees can be found [here](#).

IV. Endorsement Process for Decade Actions

The endorsement process will ensure that all Decade Actions are aligned to the Decade vision and that proponents are actively able to collaborate with each other and collectively contribute to the priorities of the Ocean Decade. Endorsement also ensures that the impact of the Ocean Decade can be tracked.

The endorsement process involves the governance and coordination structures of the Ocean Decade including: the Decade Advisory Board – a multi-stakeholder advisory group; the Decade Coordination Unit – a centralised coordination structure located within the IOC Secretariat; and where relevant, regional or thematic decentralised coordination structures (DCOs and DCCs) and regional taskforces in Africa and the Tropical America and Caribbean region. The [Implementation Plan](#) provide a detailed description of these structures.

The endorsement process that will apply to the Decade Actions solicited under this Call is as follows:

- **For Decade Programmes:** For the Expressions of Interest, the Decade Coordination Unit will review the submissions for completeness and ask for recommendations of the Decade Advisory Board on which proponents should be invited to make full programme submissions. For full submissions that are accepted, the Decade Coordination Unit will work with individuals selected from the [Expert Roster](#) to complete a first technical review of the submissions, seek the comments of relevant DCC/DCOs and regional taskforces and present the findings to the Decade Advisory Board. The Board will review and make recommendations on endorsement, and this information will inform the IOC Executive Secretary who will take the decision on endorsement of the Programme.
- **For Decade Projects:** For Projects that are being solicited by endorsed Decade Programmes, the Decade Coordination Unit will organize a first technical review of the submissions and will seek the advice of the relevant endorsed Programme on the submission. This information will inform the IOC Executive Secretary who will take the decision on endorsement of the Programme.
- **For Decade Contributions:** The Decade Coordination Unit will carry out a technical review of the submissions, including consultation with relevant Decade Programmes and decentralised coordination structures, and provide this information to the IOC Executive Secretary who decides on endorsement.

The IOC Secretariat will provide information on the endorsement decisions of the Executive Secretary to the IOC Governing Bodies and to the United Nations General Assembly as part of its regular reporting.

The timing of decisions on endorsement under this Call will depend on the volume of submissions received but it is anticipated that decisions will be made in the first half of 2026.

All parties who have submitted a request for endorsement will be advised of the results.

V. Endorsement Criteria for Decade Actions

The following endorsement criteria are defined in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan and will apply to all Decade Actions submitted under this Call. Proponents will need to demonstrate how they contribute to meeting those criteria that are relevant to their proposed Decade Action as part of their request for endorsement. These criteria will ensure that Decade Actions contribute to a common vision and priorities and respect the underlying principles of the Ocean

Decade in terms of inclusivity, diversity, solutions focused action and partnerships. **Please note that proposals that do not provide answers to the criteria will not be considered in the review process for this Call.** The endorsement criteria are as follows:

- i. Contributes to achieving one or more of the following Decade objectives: Objective 1: Identify critical ocean knowledge; Objective 2: Build capacity and generate knowledge; Objective 3: Increase the use of ocean knowledge.
- ii. Accelerates the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.
- iii. Is co-designed and/or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, and thus facilitating the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision-making, management and/or innovation.
- iv. Ensures that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner.
- v. Strengthens existing or creates new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.
- vi. Contributes toward capacity development, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and Land-locked Developing Countries.
- vii. Overcome barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational, and geographic diversity.
- viii. Collaborate with and engage local and indigenous knowledge holders.

VI. Benefits and Commitments of Endorsed Decade Actions

Following endorsement of an initiative as a Decade Action, it will be registered on the Ocean Decade website. Proponents of endorsed Decade Actions will be able to use the Ocean Decade logo in their communications and awareness raising activities in accordance with Decade Brand Guidelines. The Decade Coordination Unit will carry out joint communications efforts with proponents of Decade Actions. Actions endorsed under the current Call will have the opportunity to be showcased in a range of events and communications campaigns that are being organised throughout 2025 and beyond, such as the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference.

Proponents will have a range of responsibilities related to coordination and communications that are outlined in a 'Charter for Endorsed Programmes' or 'Charter for Endorsed Projects' depending on the type of Action submitted. Examples of these documents can be found [here](#).

Once endorsed, Decade Actions can join one or more Communities of Practice. These Communities of Practice are informal networks promoting exchange, collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders with common interests. **Please note that the Ocean Decade is not a funding mechanism, however proponents of Decade Actions may also benefit in terms of resource mobilization and funding.** In many cases, proponents of Decade Actions will take the lead in securing their own resources: in these cases, the endorsement of an initiative as a Decade Actions will increase its attractiveness to funders and resource providers that are supportive of the Decade. There will also be funding and support

opportunities that are exclusively available to Decade Actions and for which the Decade Coordination Unit will play a coordination role between proponents of Decade Actions and resource providers.

Once endorsed, proponents of Decade Actions will be asked to provide **annual reporting** on the progress of their Action via an online form that will be provided by the Decade Coordination Unit. This annual reporting will be used to track progress towards the Decade vision.

For additional information or queries please contact oceandecade@unesco.org and include “Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025” in the subject line.

Annex I

Details of Endorsed Decade Programmes soliciting Projects as part of Call for Decade Actions No. 10/2025

The following endorsed Decade Programmes are soliciting **Projects** via this Call for Decade Actions. Please click on the relevant Programme to learn more about the geographic or thematic priorities for the Call, as well as contact information. Details of all currently endorsed Decade Programmes can be found on the [Ocean Decade website](#). Proponents interested in submitting a Decade Project should carefully read the descriptions and priorities below and are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant Decade Programme before submitting their Project submission.

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09. Global Ocean Corps and Conveyor

Project Priorities

We invite projects that focus on global capacity development; thus, any regional project that wishes to join us is also welcome. With a global focus, all regions are encompassed.

Websites

<https://coessing.org>

<https://globalocean Corps.org>

Programme Contact Point

Brian Arbic: arbic@umich.edu

15. Early Career Ocean Professionals Programme (ECOPs)

Project Priorities

We are open to any geographical areas. Proponents of the projects should clearly explain how their project aligns with the mission of the ECOP Programme and how the project engages with ECOPs in their work/country/region. In terms of themes, the priority would be capacity development initiatives but anything else will also be considered provided they clearly show the connection with and benefit for ECOPs.

Website

<https://www.ecopdecade.org/>

Previous Decade Projects endorsed under ECOP: <https://www.ecopdecade.org/endorsed-projects/>

Programme Contact Point

Evgeniia Kostianaia: e.kostianaia@unesco.org

26. Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network (OBON)

Project Priorities

- a) Geographical priorities: for this call we would welcome global-scale or regional projects, particularly those focussing on polar regions, the Southern Hemisphere, and the Western Pacific region. We also welcome repeat cruise programmes where biomolecular data are being collected.
- b) Thematic priorities: We would be interested in projects related to data frameworks and data systems, following the FAIR and CARE principles for data; projects that are providing biomolecular data to support policy/decision-making; projects that are developing capacity for biomolecular observations, e.g. through training, citizen science/education, technology transfer and/or sharing of protocols, systems or other

materials developed by the project, with a particular focus on supporting LDCs and SIDS, or indigenous people. We are particularly interested in endorsing projects that are focussing on benthic sampling or on biomolecules other than DNA, which currently constitute gaps in our programme.

Website

www.obon-ocean.org

Programme Contact Point

Margaret Leinen and Sophie Seeyave: mleinen@ucsd.edu; ssve@pml.ac.uk

57. Challenger 150 – A Decade to Study Deep-sea Life

Project Priorities

- a. Geographical priorities: Indian Ocean and the West and Southeast Pacific regions. Nonetheless we are open to host actions on any ocean basin as we are a global programme.
- b. Thematic priorities: We host all types of deep-sea biological research

Website

<https://challenger150.world/>

Programme Contact Point

Ana Hilário and Kerry Howell: ahilario@ua.pt; kho@pml.ac.uk

63. Fisheries Strategies for Changing Oceans and Resilient Ecosystems (FishSCORE 2030)

Project Priorities

- a. Thematic priorities: Sustain fisheries as a source of food and jobs while protecting ocean ecosystems in the face of a changing climate
- b. Geographical priorities: The programme is inclusive of local, regional, and international projects and initiatives. We encourage projects from all geographic regions and fisheries of all sizes, including small-scale fisheries to industrial fisheries, and those in developing countries and developed nations.

The goals of the FishSCORE 2030 programme are to:

- Provide opportunities for knowledge co-production and new collaborations through a network of scientists, fishery participants, resource managers, community practitioners, and policymakers,

- Strengthen information exchange, existing capacities, and approaches for identifying and employing climate resilience strategies in diverse types of fishery systems,
- Co-produce information, strategies, and equitable recommendations to improve climate resilience in fishery systems across scales,
- Synthesize key climate resilience knowledge gaps, issues facing marine fisheries and fishing communities, and current assessment and planning efforts, and communicate these insights to support resilience efforts and improve tools and frameworks, and
- Support the implementation of policies, processes and solutions to advance climate resilience at local, regional, national, and international scales.

Priorities for Call for Decade Actions:

The FishSCORE2030 program solicits projects that build the capacity and resilience of marine fisheries in the face of climate change. Fisheries are complex systems that operate within ecological, socio-economic, and governance dimensions; we therefore solicit projects spanning a wide range of topics and goals that align with the FishSCORE2030 goals. As an endorsed UN Ocean Decade program, FishSCORE2030 is an umbrella for endorsed projects and activities with similar objectives or synergistic goals. FishSCORE2030 aims to support the existing goals of aligned projects by providing opportunities to present their work to wider audiences, creating new collaborations, and participating in larger synthesis efforts that examine different resilience approaches, thereby encouraging their overall success.

Together with the program's aligned projects, FishSCORE2030 aims to contribute to the Ocean Decade by increasing equitability and inclusion for all voices in management of fisheries and decision-making systems in order to improve the development and implementation of climate resilience strategies.

Website

www.gmri.org/fishscore2030

<https://oceandecade.org/actions/fisheries-strategies-for-changing-oceans-and-resilient-ecosystems-by-2030/>

Programme focal Point

Claire Enterline: centerline@gmri.org

76. Global Ocean Oxygen Decade (GOOD)

Project Priorities

Thematic priorities: The outcomes and activities until 2030:

- a) Deoxygenation and ocean life: identifying and understanding threats to improve mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- b) Deoxygenation, water quality and the climate system: Understanding processes and feedbacks and developing actionable indicators.

- c) Deoxygenation and ecosystem services: Assessing and valuing the impact of deoxygenation.
- d) Deoxygenation and co-stressors: Understanding, monitoring, and mitigating deoxygenation in a multiple stressors' context.
- e) Economic and societal consequences of deoxygenation.
- f) Deoxygenation: Understanding causes, attributing changes and developing mitigation approaches.
- g) Mapping and modelling marine oxygen concentration.
- h) Capacity building and ocean literacy.

Website

<https://www.ioc.unesco.org/en/go2ne>
<https://www.ioc.unesco.org/en/global-ocean-oxygen-decade>
<https://oceandecade.org/actions/global-ocean-oxygen-decade/>

Programme Contact Point

Andreas Oschlies (aoschlies@geomar.de), Kirsten Isensee (k.isensee@unesco.org), Caroline Slomp (caroline.slomp@ru.nl) and Jeremy Sterling (jj.sterling@unesco.org)

90. Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems through global knowledge networks (SmartNET)

Project Priorities

- a. Thematic Priorities: Advancing science around the climate-fisheries nexus; facilitating communication and capacity sharing around marine social-ecological systems.
- b. Geographical Priorities: Global or regional implementation.
- c. Additional Priorities: Best practices and capacity sharing; international partnerships.

Website

<https://www.ices.dk/about-ICES/global-cooperation/Pages/Smartnet.aspx>

Programme Contact Point

Steven Bograd (sbograd@ucsc.edu, steven.bograd@noaa.gov); Sanae Chiba (Sanae.Chiba@pices.int); Dave Reid (David.Reid@ices.dk)

118. Sustainability, Predictability and Resilience of Marine Ecosystems (SUPREME)

Project Priorities

- a. Thematic Priorities: Understanding climate impacts on marine ecosystems; building an infrastructure for hindcasts, forecasts and projections of marine ecosystems; building a framework for climate-informed marine ecosystem management.
- b. Geographical Priorities: Global or regional implementation.
- c. Additional Priorities: Best practices and capacity sharing; international partnerships.

Website

<https://oceandecade.org/actions/sustainability-predictability-and-resilience-of-marine-ecosystems-supreme/>

Programme Contact Point

Steven Bograd (sbograd@ucsc.edu, steven.bograd@noaa.gov); Grace Roskar (grace.roskar@noaa.gov)

129. Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS)

Project Priorities

- a) Geographical priority: Global or any region
- b) Thematic priority: Deep-sea science or related
- c) Additional Priorities: Early Career Advancement, Ocean Observing

Website

www.deepoceanobserving.org

Programme Contact Point

Lisa Levin and Leslie Smith: llevin@ucsd.edu; leslie.smith@youroceanconsulting.co

161. Deltas associated with large rivers: Seeking solutions to the problem of sustainability (Mega Deltas)

Project Priorities

Any initiative related to river deltas and estuaries.

Website

<https://delta.ecnu.edu.cn/>

Programme Contact Point

Xiuzhen Li: xzli@sklec.ecnu.edu.cn; megadelta@ecnu.edu.cn

172. Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions (GEOS)

Project Priorities

- a. Geographical Priorities: We have no geographical priorities; GEOS is global. However, we are encouraging submissions from East and Southeast Asia, as well as Pacific Island Nations.
- b. Thematic Priorities: Our thematic priorities align primarily with Ocean Decade Challenges 2, 4, 5, and 9. We continue to actively encourage the submission of solutions-oriented projects, particularly those led by Indigenous organizations. We are especially interested in ocean-based solutions that:
 - i. Reduce CO₂ emissions, with a focus on innovations utilizing seaweed-derived products;
 - ii. Remove CO₂, particularly approaches that address the sociotechnical complexities of various marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) pathways; and;
 - iii. Repair critical ecosystems to prevent tipping points, especially projects that respond to cryospheric losses.

We are looking for ambitious, scalable solutions, and we strongly welcome pioneering initiatives, including field trials, that have the potential to drive breakthroughs in ocean-climate action.

Additionally, we support initiatives that enable and accelerate these solutions globally, particularly through our flagship coalition of ocean-climate innovation hubs.

- a) Additional Priorities: Our criteria for project selection are:
 - i. projects should be solutions oriented;
 - ii. solutions should strive to be equitable, durable and inclusive;
 - iii. projects should ideally involve or consider a role for Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs);
 - iv. projects should attempt to include participatory methods with a co-design and co-production approach;
 - v. projects should be conceived as multisectoral and transdisciplinary.

Website

<https://oceanvisions.org/geos/>

Programme Focal Point

Leonardo Valenzuela Pérez: leonardo@oceanvisions.org

176. Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Programme

Project Priorities

- a. Geographic priorities: Global estuaries
- b. Thematic priorities:
 - i. Research focus on environmental monitoring, ecological risk assessment, environmental modelling, microbial diversity, ecotoxicological evaluations, and cost-effective removal technologies concerning emerging contaminants in estuaries.
 - ii. Investigation into the role of global estuaries as sinks or sources of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and understanding their contributions to global GHG cycles.
 - iii. Effects assessment to map diatom biodiversity in correlation with chemical contamination, and developing tools for rapid monitoring applied to diatoms.

Website

<https://www.globalestuaries.org/>

Programme Contact Point

Prof. Kenneth Leung and Dr Chong Chen: kmyleung@cityu.edu.hk; chonchen@cityu.edu.hk; globalestuaries.gem@gmail.com

189. Joint Exploration of the Twilight Zone Ocean Network (JETZON)

Project Priorities

Our priorities for activities related to the Twilight Zone for this call are:

- a) Fisheries
- b) The influence of the physical circulation
- c) Pollution
- d) Engaging the public in the Twilight Zone

Website

<https://jetzon.org/>

Programme Contact Point

Adrian Martin: jetzon.org@gmail.com

219. Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS)

Project Priorities

We are looking for projects around the world focused on the OARS Outcomes, shown below, particularly those that address the priorities described in the [OARS white papers](#):

- **Thematic priorities:**
 1. Enable the scientific community to provide ocean acidification data and evidence of known quality via capacity development, mentoring of early career researchers, facilitating data sharing, growing regional collaborations, and increased communication through meetings and workshops, allowing for a holistic analysis considering all stakeholder perspectives.
 2. Identify data and evidence needs for mitigation and adaptation strategies, from local to global. Communicate these needs to the scientific and science policy community to ensure that science is prioritized.
 3. Co-design and implement observation strategies in collaboration with data/information producers and end-users by 2025. Identify factors limiting collection of data and implementation of solutions and collaborate with OARS outcome 1 activities to ameliorate and amend the identified issues. Proactively design and implement observation strategies to ensure vulnerable areas are adequately monitored. Provide ocean acidification baseline information for newly developed carbon removal strategies.
 4. Increase understanding of ocean acidification impacts to protect marine life by 2030. Implement biological observation within ocean acidification monitoring, providing the possibility to improve predictions of vulnerability and resilience to ocean acidification at all temporal and spatial scales.
 5. Provide appropriate data and information necessary to the development of societally relevant predictions and projections, employing new technologies such as digital twins, for all ocean 'users' of the impacts of ocean acidification to implement adaptation and mitigation by 2030.
 6. Increase public awareness of ocean acidification, its sources, and impacts, achieved via ocean literacy and public outreach.
 7. Develop strategies and solutions to enable countries and regions to include measures to reduce ocean acidification in their respective policies and legislation.

Websites

1. OARS overview: <http://www.goa-on.org/oars/overview.php>
2. OARS Commitments: www.oars-commitments.org
3. White papers: http://www.goa-on.org/oars/white_papers.php

Programme Contact Point

Kirsten Isensee: k.isensee@unesco.org

8.2. Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emission (Global ONCE)

Project Priorities

- a. Geographical priorities: We do not have geographical restrictions on projects and welcome all projects focusing on the deployment of ocean-based negative emission technologies to join the Global ONCE Programme
- b. Thematic priorities:
 - i. Knowledge gap on ocean carbon cycling and the biological, chemical, and physical processes which enable the ocean to take up and store CO₂.
 - ii. Capacity building on methods and models to evaluate and monitor the efficiency of ONCE approaches and field observation networks.
 - iii. Ecological and technical engineering solutions to scale up ONCE approaches.
 - iv. Social science and governance/legal frameworks needed to put ONCE approaches into practice.
 - v. Model-data integration, data sharing, interoperability standards, and key ocean variables.
- c. Additional priorities:
 - i. Delivery of nutrients in mariculture areas with upwelling technologies
 - ii. WWTP effluent alkalinity enhancement
 - iii. Microalgal biomass production and CO₂ sequestration using floating photobioreactors on ocean
 - iv. Research code of conduct
 - v. Sensor development
 - vi. Numerical modelling
 - vii. Observation and simulation experiment facility sharing
 - viii. Expert exchange programs

Website

<https://www.global-once.org/>

Programme Contact Point

Prof. Tingwei Luo and Prof Jihua Liu: luo1979@xmu.edu.cn; liujihua1982@foxmail.com

11.2. Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon (GO-BC)

Project Priorities

We invite applications from projects with a strong scientific element relating to blue carbon ecosystems. We invite applications from across the globe, with a particular interest in projects/regional hub initiatives from Africa and SIDS.

Website

<https://www.go-bc.co.uk/>

Programme focal point

GO-BC secretariat: bluecarbon@st-andrews.ac.uk

12.4. Digital Deep-sea Typical Habitats (Digital DEPTH)

Project Priorities

- a) Thematic Priorities: Focus on advanced digital ocean depth exploration tech, data management/analysis for depth info, and integrating depth data with other oceanographic params.
- b) Geographical Priorities: Prioritize regions with complex features and less explored areas like deep-sea trenches, mid-ocean ridges, and polar regions.
- c) Additional Priorities: Promote international collaboration, support capacity building in developing countries, and ensure contribution to sustainable ocean use.

Website

<https://digitaldepth.ndsc.org.cn/>

Programme Contact Point

Solicitations should be addressed to Ms. Bi Yuhan, Secretary of Digital DEPTH, at digital_depth@sio.org.cn.

2.6 Western Indian Ocean Marine Conservation Program (MARCOP)

- a. Project Priorities: MARCOP is a regional partnership that supports evidence-based decision-making, strengthens conservation management and connectivity, and builds capacity across the Western Indian Ocean. Led by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and Macquarie University (MQU), MARCOP is focused on equitable and resilient marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean by 2030.
- b. Geographic Priorities: MARCOP welcomes marine projects based within the Western Indian Ocean region and from around the African continent.
- c. Thematic Priorities: MARCOP is calling for projects aligned with marine protected area management effectiveness, policy-relevant environmental and management solutions, and stakeholder improvement of marine planning and governance.

Specifically, projects focused on the following 5 thematic areas are welcome:

- i. **Data and Information Systems**: Strengthening science-policy integration and ensuring marine conservation is embedded in national plans.
- ii. **Marine Conservation Coverage and Connectivity**: Supporting countries to expand and connect conservation areas so that ecosystems are better linked and resilient.

- iii. **Management Effectiveness and Equity:** Closely working with MPAs and LMMAs to improve governance and ensure that benefits reach both ecosystems and communities.
- iv. **Recognition and Inclusion of IPLC Rights:** Ensuring Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are full partners in conservation, with their rights and knowledge integrated into planning.
- v. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Helping countries track progress consistently and sharing lessons across the region.

Website

WIOMSA: <https://www.wiomsa.org/>

MARCOP: <https://www.wiomsa.org/marcop-draft/>

Programme Contact Point

Susanna Wachia: susana@wiomsa.org (cc tuda@wiomsa.org).

3.6. Deep Ocean Microbiomes and Ecosystems (DOME)

Project Priorities

- a) Geographical Priorities: Global deep ocean with water depth >1000 m, including both the water column and the seafloor sediment biosphere. Priority areas for new microbiological, ecological, and oceanographic data collections and studies include equatorial and polar areas, hadal trenches, and the gyres of the South Atlantic, South Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Additional priorities include those promoting international collaborations and supporting capacity building in developing countries, to ensure contributions to sustainable ocean use.
- b) Thematic Priorities: DOME is building a globally coordinated and inclusive large-scale deep ocean programme to advance our understanding of the deep ocean microbiomes and ecosystems. To this end, the DOME programme is set to investigate microbiomes, ecosystem functions of the deep ocean and their interactive feedbacks with the climate in all oceans. Any projects focus on field, laboratory, and/or modeling studies of microbiomes and ecosystems in the deep ocean are welcomed.

DOME is looking for collaborations, scientifically, technologically and in capacity development. In developing sampling technology, for example, DOME has developed state-of-the-art full ocean depth pressure-retaining device for sampling seawater and sediment. For additional information, please contact us as shown below.

Website

<https://sthj.shou.edu.cn/DOME/main.psp>

Programme Contact Point

Applicants should contact Professor Yu at the DOME Management Office at xyu@shou.edu.cn, or Professor Fang, lead scientist of DOME at jsfang@shou.edu.cn

4.6. Global Subseafloor Ecosystem and Sustainability (GSES)

Project Priorities

a) Geographical priorities:

- **Global Coverage:** All major ocean basins (Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, Southern Oceans, Mediterranean Sea)
- **Representative Ecosystem Types:**
 - Continental shelf and slope environments;
 - Abyssal plains;
 - Mid-ocean ridges and hydrothermal system;
 - Subduction zones and trenches;
- **Special Focus Areas:**
 - Regions with significant human impact;
 - Climate-sensitive regions (polar areas, tropical interfaces);
 - Areas with unique geochemical characteristic;
 - Understudied regions in the Global South

b) Thematic priorities:

- **Subseafloor Ecosystem Structure and Function:**
 - Advanced cultivation techniques and single-cell genomics for uncultivated microorganisms
 - Multi-omics approaches for comprehensive microbial activity analysis
 - Microbial community structure and connectivity across subseafloor environments
- **Carbon Cycling and Climate Change:**
 - Microbiome contributions to Earth's elemental cycling;
 - Microbial functional groups in carbon cycling at different temporal scales;
 - Subseafloor historical records for climate insights
- **Human Impact Assessment:**
 - Effects of human activities (deep-sea mining, dredging, carbon sequestration);
 - Ecological indices based on microbial diversity and environmental indicators;
 - Bioremediation applications for ocean pollution;
- **Technology and Methodology Development:**
 - Standardized protocols for subseafloor ecosystem research;

- In-situ investigation platforms for subseafloor exploration;
- Integrated analysis of microbial and geochemical data for comprehensive understanding

• **Capacity Building:**

- Training in environmental observation, sample collection, and data analysis;
- Interdisciplinary collaboration in Microbiology, Geology, Geochemistry;
- Opportunities for early-career and women ocean professionals;

c) Additional priorities:

• **Interdisciplinary Integration**

- Combined microbiology-geochemistry approaches to understand biogeochemical cycles;
- Linked analysis of geochemical parameters and microbial community structure;
- Development of predictive models based on integrated datasets;

• **Sustainable Development Applications:**

- Bio-resource discovery for biotechnology applications;
- Bioremediation solutions for marine pollution;
- Knowledge contributions to blue economy development.

Website

International Center for Deep Life Investigation: <http://icdli.sjtu.edu.cn>

Programme Contact Point

Prof. Fengping Wang: fengpingw@sjtu.edu.cn

3.7. The Global Ocean Artificial Light at Night Network (GOALANN)

Project Priorities

- a) Geographical Priorities: Global or regional implementation
- b) Thematic Priorities: Improving knowledge and awareness of marine light pollution, its ecological and societal impacts, and management.

- c) Additional Priorities: Policy development; management tools and best practice; capacity sharing; international partnerships particularly with small island developing states.

Website

<https://goalann.org/>

Programme focal point

Thomas Davies and Tim Smyth: thomas.w.davies@plymouth.ac.uk; tjsm@pml.ac.uk

5.7 Mitigation of Natural Incidence Towards an Increased Oceanic Resilience (MoNITOR)

Project Priorities

The MoNITOR programme is committed to enhancing **global coastal ecosystems' resilience** in the face of growing environmental challenges, such as tropical cyclones, hypoxia, eutrophication, sea level rise, global warming, marine heatwaves, and harmful algal blooms (HABs) in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Ocean Decade Outcomes. Projects are welcomed to work collaboratively to establish a high-resolution, physically and ecologically coupled numerical forecasting system that improves prediction accuracy and enables timely interventions.

Website

Please access [here](#).

Programme Contact Point

Yue Jiang: jiangyueolivia@163.com

2.8 Global Hadal Exploration Programme (GHEP)

Project Priorities

The Global Hadal Exploration Programme (GHEP) is dedicated to advancing our understanding of the Hadal Zone—the deepest and least explored part of the ocean, ranging from 6,000 to 11,000 meters in depth. GHEP fosters collaboration, drives innovation in research and technology, and strengthens global capacity in hadal science. This Call for Proposals invites researchers, institutions, and organizations to submit project ideas consistent with the programme's priorities and overarching vision.

- a) Geographic Priorities: GHEP welcomes proposals from all ocean basins. Priority will be given to projects that:

- Explicitly target the hadal zone (depths >6,000 meters), especially underexplored hadal trenches.

- Investigate adjacent deep-sea environments that offer essential context for understanding hadal processes.

b) Thematic Priorities: We invited the proposed projects may address one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. Hadal Collaborative Expeditions

- Joint exploration of major hadal trenches.
- Emphasis on collaborative approaches, shared infrastructure, and open data practices.
- Promotion of novel deep-sea technologies.

2. Hadal Scientific Research Collaborations

- Projects should support GHEP's vision by improving understanding of the hadal environment, its ecosystems, and Earth systems.
- Initiatives that foster synergies across disciplines—integrating natural sciences, engineering, and data science.

3. Training and Capacity-Building Initiatives

- Activities designed for early-career researchers and professionals in hadal and deep-ocean science.
- Formats may include training courses, hands-on workshops, summer schools, or virtual platforms.
- Focus on knowledge exchange, innovation, and practical skill development.

Website

<https://oceandecade.org/actions/global-hadal-exploration-programme-ghep/>

Programme Contact Point

Prof. Xiaotong Peng: xtpeng@idsse.ac.cn

