



# Join the movement for the **Ocean We Want**

The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
**2021-2030**



**2021** United Nations Decade  
**2030** of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

## What is the Ocean Decade?

Launched in January 2021, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the 'Ocean Decade', is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for ocean actors across the world to come together to generate knowledge and foster the partnerships needed to support a well-functioning, productive, resilient, sustainable and inspiring ocean.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is responsible for coordinating the work of the Ocean Decade.

### VISION:

“The science we need for the ocean we want.”

### MISSION:

“Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.”

## Who can participate?

The Ocean Decade is everyone's Decade, so anyone can participate, and everyone has a role to play no matter how big or small the contribution.



**Scientists, research institutes and universities**

**Local and indigenous knowledge holders**

**Early Career Ocean Professionals**

**UN entities and intergovernmental organizations**

**International and regional organizations, including regional seas conventions**

**National and sub-national governments**

**Philanthropic and corporate Foundations**

**Business, industry and private sector**

**NGOs and civil society**

**Aquariums, zoos and museums**

**Local coastal communities**

**Children, youth and educators**

**Individuals**

# What will guide the Ocean Decade?

The work of the Ocean Decade will be guided by the **Implementation Plan**. This is the living roadmap we will follow to achieve the Ocean Decade’s vision.

**DECADE OUTCOMES** describe the ‘ocean we want’ at the end of the Ocean Decade. Achieving these Outcomes will contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant global and regional policy frameworks.

**DECADE CHALLENGES** are the most immediate and pressing needs of the Decade. Each of the ten Challenges contributes to one or more Decade Outcomes and may evolve with new challenges added over the next ten years.

**DECADE OBJECTIVES** are relevant to all the Challenges and provide a roadmap we will follow to progress from the ‘ocean we have to the ocean we want’.

**DECADE ACTIONS** are tangible initiatives and endeavours that will be identified, implemented and supported by a wide range of partners over the next ten years.



 **Ocean Decade Implementation Plan in 6 languages:**  
[Full Report](#) and [Summary](#)



## How will the Ocean Decade achieve the 'ocean we want'?

A wide range of **Decade Actions** identified, implemented and supported by diverse partners and stakeholders across the world will be carried out over the next ten years to meet and deliver on the ten Decade Challenges.

Decade Actions can take the following forms:

- PROGRAMMES**
- ▶ large scale, multi-year and typically multi-country initiatives made up of different projects, activities and contributions
  - ▶ initiatives implemented on a global or regional scale, typically interdisciplinary in nature and contribute to one or more Challenges

- PROJECTS**
- ▶ shorter more focused initiatives that typically, but not always, form part of a Programme endorsed by the Decade

***Programmes and Projects** will be identified via Calls for Decade Actions held several times a year and announced on the [Ocean Decade website](#).*

*If interested in finding partners and collaborators for a future Decade Action, please submit this [Collaborator Form](#) and search for potential collaborators in our [Collaborator Database](#)*

- ACTIVITIES**
- ▶ typically one-off standalone initiatives (e.g., event, publication, exhibition, workshop, conference or training opportunity) that contributes to a Programme or Project or to one or more of the Challenges or Outcomes. Interested parties can request endorsement of an activity at any time via this [Activity Endorsement Request](#).

- CONTRIBUTIONS**
- ▶ in-kind or financial resources which support a Decade Action or the coordination functions of the Decade. Contributions may be submitted by contacting [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org).

Decade Actions must meet specific **endorsement criteria** before being officially recognized as part of the collective effort to meet the Ocean Decade's vision and mission. Find out more about how to endorse your Decade Action in the [Implementation Plan](#).

# Who's who in the Ocean Decade?

The **IOC Secretariat** coordinates a wide variety of programmes in areas like ocean observations, tsunami warnings and marine spatial planning. The Secretariat supports Member States by helping build their scientific and institutional capacity, so they are able to meet their commitments to SDG14. The Secretariat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate the overall work of the Ocean Decade.

The **Decade Coordination Unit**, located in the IOC Secretariat, is the central hub that manages the day-to-day operation and implementation of the Ocean Decade.

A **Decade Advisory Board** is currently being established to provide strategic technical advice on implementation of the Ocean Decade. Nominations for membership will open during the second half of 2021.

**Decade Coordination Offices and Decade Collaborative Centres** – located in different parts of the world and hosted by other UN agencies or governments, international and regional organizations or other partners – will support the work of the Ocean Decade and help coordinate efforts between national, regional and global initiatives, share knowledge and tools developed, create links between potential Decade partners and monitor and report on the impact of the Decade.

**Decade Implementing Partners** are non-UN regional or international stakeholder organizations that sit outside formal governance and coordination structures of the Ocean Decade but provide targeted support to the Decade Coordination Unit and decentralized coordination structures - including Decade Coordination Offices and Decade Collaborative Centres.

**National Decade Committees** are informal voluntary multi-agency or multi-stakeholder national entities which sit outside the formal governance and coordination structures of the Ocean Decade. National Decade Committees will support decentralized coordination structures by catalysing and helping coordinate Decade Actions at the national level.

**Regional Taskforces and Working Groups** will convene and engage Ocean Decade stakeholders at the regional level, identify regional and thematic scientific priorities, as well as capacity development needs, while ensuring alignment with ongoing and planned regional initiatives.

The **Ocean Decade Alliance** is a high-level group of eminent partners which aim to catalyze large-scale resource commitments towards the Decade through networking, resource mobilization and influence.



UN WOC 2019 1st Place gender and Oceans © Henley Spiers

## What mechanisms will facilitate engagement between Ocean Decade stakeholders?

The Ocean Decade is in the midst of rolling out the following voluntary stakeholder engagement networks to facilitate, stimulate and foster exchanges between stakeholder groups with similar interests throughout the Decade.

### Global Stakeholder Forum (coming in 2021!)

- ▶ The Forum will be the key engagement mechanism for established members and stakeholder networks of the Decade.
- ▶ The Forum will have virtual and physical elements which convene different communities of practice around the ten Decade Challenges.
- ▶ Stakeholders of the Forum will be able to come together to create new ideas, knowledge-based solutions and partnerships that contribute to an equitable and sustainable ocean economy.
- ▶ Funding and partnership opportunities, training events, meetings, conferences and requests for inputs to the Decade will be broadcast via the Forum.

### Generation Ocean (coming in 2021!)

- ▶ GenO is a communications campaign to inspire, rally and mobilize any individual across all generations, genders and geographies to protect and restore the ocean.
- ▶ GenO is anchored in scientific research and calls on the public to take everyday actions that make a difference for the health and well-being of people and the ocean.

GenO

# How can you join the movement for the ‘Ocean We Want’?

There is no limit, but below are some of the many different ways you can join and follow the movement for the ocean we want.

<b>Lead or participate in a Decade Action</b>	Participate in our <a href="#">next Call for Actions!</a> You can also find partners and collaborators to co-design and co-deliver a future Decade Action by completing this <a href="#">collaboration form</a> or exploring our <a href="#">collaborator database</a> .
<b>Request endorsement of your Decade Activity</b>	If you have an event, workshop, publication, conference, training opportunity or other initiative planned for 2021 you can request its endorsement as a Decade Activity here: <a href="#">Activity Endorsement Request</a> .
<b>Host a Decentralized Coordination Structure or become a Decade Implementing Partner</b>	If interested in supporting the coordination and implementation of the Ocean Decade, please contact <a href="mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org">oceandecade@unesco.org</a> for more details!
<b>Join or establish a National Decade Committee or Regional Taskforce/ Working Group</b>	If interested in joining or establishing a National Decade Committee or Regional Task Force/ Working Group and contribute at the national or regional level, find more information <a href="#">here</a> or contact us at <a href="mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org">oceandecade@unesco.org</a> .
<b>Join the Decade Alliance</b>	Join the <a href="#">Ocean Decade Alliance</a> to help catalyze large-scale resource commitments towards the Decade through networking, resource mobilization and influence.

<b>Sign up</b>	Receive the latest updates, stories, news and opportunities
<b>Join the conversation</b>	Start a new discussion or join ongoing conversations
<b>Join us on social media!</b>	 <a href="#">unoceandecade</a>  <a href="#">OceanDecade</a>  <a href="#">UNOceanDecade</a>  <a href="#">UN-Ocean-Decade</a>
<b>Follow and use our hashtag</b>	Follow the movement at <a href="#">#OceanDecade</a>
<b>Use our social media materials</b>	Use our free social media materials to inspire action
<b>Solicit content</b>	Please contact us if you would like us to submit opinion pieces, articles for web or press, or any contribution to institutional websites or newsletters
<b>Spread the word</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Link your publications and research to the Ocean Decade</li> <li>▶ Talk about the Ocean Decade and your organization’s involvement</li> <li>▶ Announce the Ocean Decade and your contribution via press releases</li> <li>▶ Share Ocean Decade news and resources with your wider network</li> </ul>
<b>Calendar of events</b>	Follow our events and activities
<b>Ocean Decade website</b>	Visit our website – now being revamped to be more interactive so it becomes a digital hub for the global Ocean Decade community!

<b>Contact us anytime!</b> <a href="mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org">oceandecade@unesco.org</a>	<b>Media and Communications inquiries</b> Vinicius Lindoso, Communications Officer, IOC-UNESCO <a href="mailto:v.lindoso@unesco.org">v.lindoso@unesco.org</a>	<b>#OceanDecade</b> <a href="http://www.oceandecade.org">www.oceandecade.org</a>
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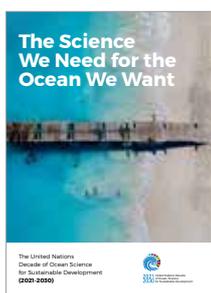
## Important resources of the Ocean Decade



**Implementation Plan (full report)**



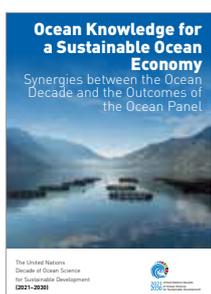
**Implementation Plan Summary**



**Ocean Decade brochure: the science we need for the ocean we want**



**Advancing science for sustainable ocean business: an opportunity for the Private Sector**



**Ocean knowledge for a sustainable ocean economy: synergies between the Ocean Decade and the outcomes of the Ocean Panel**



**The transformative role of Foundations in the Ocean Decade**

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### For further information

visit our website : [oceansdecade.org](https://oceansdecade.org)

### Or follow us on social media:



# #OceanDecade



United Nations  
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Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
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