



UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023

for:

Ocean Decade Programmes

Ocean Decade Projects

Ocean Decade Contributions

15 April 2023 – 31 August 2023

Guidance Note for Applicants

I. Introduction to the Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023

The world is experiencing a revolution in science both in terms of rapid advancement of knowledge and innovation, and in terms of society's recognition of the importance of science to support human health and wellbeing.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) ('the Ocean Decade') to stimulate ocean science and knowledge generation and thus reverse declines in the state of the ocean system while catalysing new opportunities for sustainable ocean management. The vision of the Ocean Decade is '*the science we need for the ocean we want*'. The Ocean Decade provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science to achieve a better understanding of the ocean system, and to deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

To achieve the Ocean Decade vision, a wide range of partners are implementing endorsed Decade Actions in the form of programmes, projects or activities. Proponents of endorsed Decade Actions have the opportunity to join a highly visible, shared, global effort that builds on decades of achievement in ocean science. The Ocean Decade creates opportunities to establish new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, as well as opportunities to access new sources of support.

Via this Call for Decade Actions, partners are invited to request endorsement under the Ocean Decade for transformative Decade Actions that contribute to the Ocean Decade vision. This Call for Decade Actions, which is the fifth of a series that will be launched every 6 months as part of the Ocean Decade, focuses specifically on:

- **Ocean Decade Programmes:** At the programmatic level the current Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 has a primary focus on programmes that contribute to ***Ocean Decade Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution, with a focus on sub-themes of plastic pollution and nutrient pollution, and/or Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Restoration and Management, with a focus on sub-themes of area-based management,***

restoration and multiple ocean stressors. This includes regional programmes with a focus on one or more of these Challenges. Programmes that contribute primarily to other Ocean Decade Challenges can complete an Expression of Interest form to allow guidance to be provided on their suitability for the current Call for Decade Actions.

- **Ocean Decade Projects:** At the project level the Call is soliciting initiatives that respond to one of the following:
 - Potentially forming part of one of the 18 endorsed Decade Programmes participating in the Call for Decade Actions (See [Annex I](#) for more information)
- **Ocean Decade Contributions** of in-kind or financial resources to support Ocean Decade coordination or Action costs. This Call is specifically focusing on Decade Contributions to create or host new Decade Collaborative Centres and/or Decade Coordination Offices related to: (i) Challenge 1 - Marine Pollution, (ii) Challenge 2 - Ecosystem Restoration and Management and (iii) Challenge 3 - Sustainable Blue Food.

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](#)) as well as the [Ocean Decade website](#) for further information including 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.

Institutions based in Africa or in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries or Land-Locked Developing Countries who would like to receive technical support to make connections to potential partners or to develop their submissions to the Call for Decade Actions can contact oceandecade@unesco.org with “Support for CFDA No. 05/2023” in the subject line.

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:
 - **30 May 2023 23:59h UTC:** Submission of Expression of Interest for programmes that do not primarily contribute to Challenges 1 or 2 and their sub-themes.
 - **31 August 2023 23:59h UTC:** Submission of full applications for all Decade programmes and projects.
2. Please note that **you will need to register on the Ocean Decade Network before you can submit your initiative**. Registration is via this link forum.oceandecade.org. Please note depending on the volume of requests, activation of your registration can take up to 72 hours and we strongly encourage applicants to register well in advance of submitting their request for endorsement.
3. 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. The [Ocean Decade Network](#) provides a platform to identify potential partners and collaboration opportunities. Further information on mechanisms to create partnerships is provided in the FAQ document accompanying this call.
4. Two virtual Q&A sessions are planned to provide interested parties with additional information on the Call for Decade Actions. The first of these sessions will be held on [04 May 2023 from 14:00h – 15:00h UTC](#) and the second on [05 May 2023 from 7:00h – 8:00h 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. 05/2023

The current Call for Decade Actions is soliciting Decade Programmes, Decade Projects and Decade Contributions. Figure 1 below provides a schematic of the components of the Call.

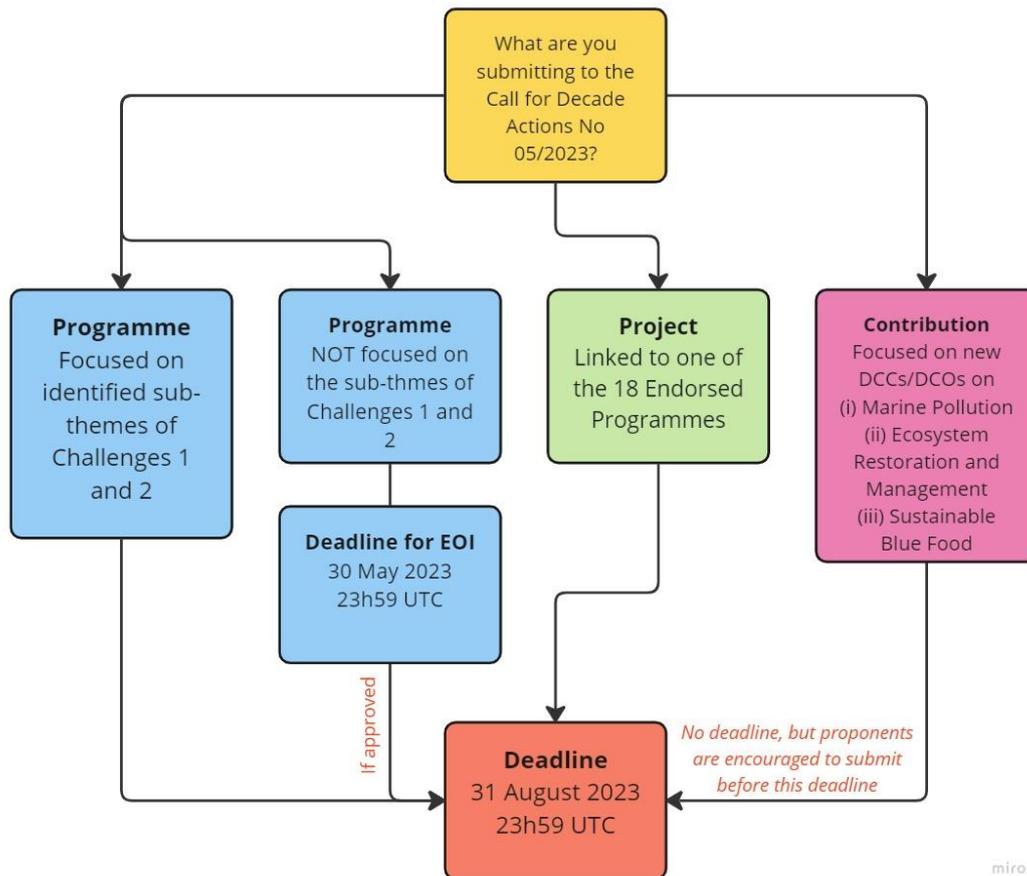


Figure 1: Components of Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 and Relevant Deadlines

a. Decade Programmes

Decade Programmes solicited under this Call will be 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:** global, or for regional programs covering at least one full ocean basin
2. **Duration:** at least 4 years
3. **Disciplines:** evidence of multi-disciplinary approach and team
4. **Partners:** international group of partners
5. **Funding:** funding at least partially identified.
6. **Lead partner:** international scope and experience that matches ambition of program
7. **Capacity development:** includes element of capacity development
8. **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

9. **'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?

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](#).

The thematic focus of the Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 has been determined based on the results of a gap analysis and subsequent discussion with the Decade Advisory Board that explored the following issues:

- Gaps in the portfolio of existing programmes across the ten Ocean Decade Challenges.
- Themes or sub-themes where a number of existing endorsed Decade projects are underway without a framing Decade programme.
- Relevant global policy frameworks including the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and contribute knowledge to the process to develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment in line with [UNEA Resolution 5/14 of 2022](#).

As a result of this analysis the scope of the Call is on programmes that contribute to the achievement of one or more of the following Ocean Decade Challenges:

- **Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution:** Understand and map land and sea-based sources of pollutants and contaminants and their potential impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to remove or mitigate them. As part of this Challenge, Programmes with a focus on sub-themes of plastic pollution and nutrient pollution are particularly encouraged.
- **Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Restoration and Management:** Understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to monitor, protect, manage and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social and climate conditions. As part of this Challenge, Programmes with a focus on sub-themes of area-based management, restoration and multiple ocean stressors are particularly encouraged.

In developing their applications proponents will be requested to document the ways in which their proposed Programme: (i) aligns with the existing portfolio of Decade Programmes; (ii) provides a framework for relevant endorsed Decade Projects that are operating without a framework Programme (refer to Annex II); and/or (iii) contributes to global policy processes including those mentioned above. Further information on the existing portfolio of Decade Programmes and Projects can be found at <http://oceandecade.org> and detailed inquiries can be directed to oceandecade@unesco.org.

To submit a Programme application that contributes to Ocean Decade Challenges 1 or 2, with a particular focus on the identified sub-themes, please fill this form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Prog_CFDA5

Applicants interested in submitting Decade Programmes that contribute primarily to one or more of the remaining eight Ocean Decade Challenges that are identified in the [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#) will need to submit a brief [Expression of Interest form](#) before 23.59h CEST on the 30 May 2023. These Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the Decade Coordination Unit and the Decade Advisory Board. Applicants will be informed by the 15 June

2023 if they can submit a full proposal to this Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 or if they should wait for a future Call.

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 identified 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, 18 are soliciting projects via the current Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023.** 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 this form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Proj_CFDA5

c. Decade Contributions

Decade Contributions solicited under this Call could support Decade Actions or could provide in-kind or financial contributions to the coordination functions of the Decade. This Call is focusing on Contributions to create new coordination structures in the form of Decade Collaborative Centres and/or Decade Coordination Offices related to: (i) Marine Pollution, (ii) Ecosystem Restoration and Management and (iii) Sustainable Blue Food. To find out more about the role of Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices, read our [guidance document](#). More information on the requirements for these structures can be obtained by contacting Emma Needham, Ocean Decade Network Manager, at e.needham@unesco.org.

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.

Initiatives can either be fully funded, or still in the process of securing full funding. Submitted initiatives 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](#). A list of relevant regional action plans and roadmaps can be found in Annex III.

*N.B. **Decade Activities** that are one-off standalone initiatives (such as an awareness-raising event, a scientific workshop, a conference, or a training opportunity) can be submitted for endorsement at any time via [this link](#).*

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). The [Implementation Plan](#) provides 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:** The Decade Coordination Unit will work with individuals selected from the [Expert Roster](#) to complete a first technical review of the submissions that will be presented to the Decade Advisory Board. The Board will review and make recommendations on endorsement and this information will inform the Executive Secretary of the IOC/UNESCO 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 organise 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 Executive Secretary of the IOC/UNESCO 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 and provide this information to the Executive Secretary of the IOC/UNESCO who make a decision on endorsement.

The IOC/UNESCO 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 2024.

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. The endorsement criteria are as follows:

- i. Contribute to fulfilling the Ocean Decade Challenges and to achieving the Decade objectives and the associated sub-objectives.
- ii. Accelerate 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. Are co-designed or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, and thus facilitate the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision making, management and/or innovation.
- iv. Ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner in accordance with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS, and are appropriately deposited in recognized data repositories consistent with the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy¹ or the relevant UN subordinate body data policy. (N.B. Annex II provides additional guidance on alignment with this criterion)
- v. Strengthen existing or create new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.
- vi. Contribute 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

¹ Refer https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51:ioc-oceanographic-data-exchange-policy&catid=24&Itemid=100040

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 2023 and 2024 including the [2024 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](#).

Decade Actions will be asked to join one or more Communities of Practice via the [Ocean Decade Network](#). These Communities of Practice are informal networks that will promote exchange, collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders with common interests. The Network will also allow members to post collaboration ideas and opportunities, create links between generators and users of ocean science, seek partners for Decade programmes or projects, hold virtual meetings or webinars, and use visibility and communications tools to raise awareness regarding their activities.

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 Action 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 template 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. 05/2023" in the subject line.

Annex I

Details of Endorsed Decade Programmes Soliciting Projects as part of Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023

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.

List of Participating Programmes

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<i>8.2. Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emission (Global ONCE)</i>	20
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09. Global Ocean Corps and Conveyor

Project Priorities

This programme is interested in receiving any proposals that deal with capacity development in Ocean Sciences. There are no geographical priorities, therefore submissions from any region are welcomed.

Website

<https://coessing.org>
<https://globalocean Corps.org>

Programme Contact Point

Brian Arbic: arbic@umich.edu

12. Ocean Decade Research Programme on the Maritime Acoustic Environment (OD-MAE)

Project Priorities

In-line with Challenge 2 (Ecosystem Restoration and Management with a focus on the sub-themes of area-based management, restoration, and multiple ocean stressors) we encourage proposals that seek to establish baselines for, and restoration of, natural quiet.

Website

<https://oceandecade.org/actions/ocean-decade-research-programme-on-the-maritime-acoustic-environment-un-mae/>

Programme Contact Point

Grace Smarsh: grace.c.smarsh.ctr@us.navy.mil

15. Early Career Ocean Professionals Programme (ECOPs)

Project Priorities

This programme does not have specific thematic or geographical priorities, however, given the nature of the ECOP Programme, applicants should clearly indicate how the goals of their project align with the goals and work of the ECOP Programme, that is, in which way their project will benefit the ECOP movement globally, in their region or country. There should be strong evidence and a transparent explanation of the relevance and connection of the project to the work, goals and overall mission of the ECOP Programme.

Website

<https://www.ecopdecade.org>

Programme Contact Point

Evgeniia Kostianaia: ecop.oceandecade@gmail.com

17. Marine Life 2030

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: Marine Life 2030 seeks Projects/Activities that will implement innovative approaches to collecting marine life observations to address specific sustainable development and conservation needs. Scales of the action may be local or broader spatial scales and short or long-term. Projects and activities should seek to engage existing ML2030 projects and commit to coordinating with Marine Life 2030 Programme leads.
- Geographical priorities: local to global
- Additional priorities: All potential proponents should read “The Principles and Criteria for Projects and Partners” on the marinelife2030.org web page. All potential proponents should contact and coordinate with Marine Life 2030 before they submit a proposal.

Website

[Home - Marine Life 2030 \(https://marinelife2030.org/\)](https://marinelife2030.org/)

Programme Contact Point

marinelife2030@gmail.com

26. Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network (OBON)

Project Priorities

- 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 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.
- Geographic priorities: any region, but preferred focus on polar regions, Southern Hemisphere and open ocean.
- Other priorities: projects that have been co-designed/ co-delivered by knowledge generators and users.

Website

Programme Contact Point

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

34. Ocean Cities

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: Ocean cities works in the framework of three axis **Health** as global health approach (challenge 1,2,7); **Culture** in term of ocean literacy, TEK and territorial linkage (4,5,9); **Justice** about the inclusive and fair transition (challenges 4,5,10). In this case the actions accepted will be in the framework of the Health axis.
- Geographical priorities: the Ocean cities network is worldwide all the oceans basin however for the 5th call we are looking for experiences in Africa, Europe and South America.

Website

Ocean decade [website](#) and program [website](#)

Programme Contact Point

Vanessa Sarah Salvo: vsalvo@icm.csic.es

64. Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities:
 - 1. Collection of baseline data**: there is an urgent need for systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data across the ocean and marine scientific institutes and organizations on local, national, regional, and international levels. Information on gender should be collected at all levels of engagement in ocean science and ocean governance including: all staff employed within an institute that undertakes ocean science or related research, participation in work at sea, principal investigators (PIs) on projects, lead-author publication output, roles in conference participation, leadership/senior roles within organisations, and membership/contribution to international organisations.
 - 2. Capacity development and mentorship**: requires designated funding, time and resources to further capacity development activities for women in ocean science and ocean governance, including specific programmes on mentorship, as well as the support of career paths to leadership.
 - 3. Leadership support and behavioral change**: can be done through awareness-raising of the role of women ocean scientists and building

transformative leadership for changing the culture of gender blindness in ocean science and ocean governance. It is important to understand and recognise the existence of masculinities within the conduct of ocean science and identify mechanisms to counter their influence on barriers/challenges to women's empowerment, participation, and leadership.

- Geographical priorities: There is widespread evidence of under-representation of women in ocean science and ocean governance at all levels around the world, especially in less privileged regions. Research projects that are working with low- to medium-level income countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States would be most welcomed.
- Additional Priorities:
 3. Projects that are working with women of indigenous background in the context of coastal and ocean affairs;
 4. Projects that have a strong focus on supporting female early career researchers and their career progression to increasingly senior levels;
 5. Projects that have an intersectionality approach in researching equality and inclusiveness in the context of the Ocean Decade;
 6. Projects that research the barriers and problems women and other minority groups face in undertaking research and work at sea.

Website

<https://empoweringwomen.wmu.se/>

Programme Contact Point

Zhen Sun: empoweringwomen@wmu.se

69. Cultural Heritage Framework Programme

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: The primary aim of CHPF is to integrate the historical and cultural dimension of people's relationships with the sea into ocean science and policy. Within this, we focus on the integration of culture and heritage within the ocean sciences, climate action, policy, and management, for the sustainable development of the ocean. In line with the Call for Decade Action challenges, our thematic priorities are:

Challenge 1: Marine Pollution

- Understanding, documenting and combatting marine pollution on underwater heritage
- Understanding, documenting and combatting the effects of marine pollution on the intangible heritage and stability of coastal communities
- Heritage-centred advocacy and solutions for combatting the effects of marine pollution

Challenge 2: Ecosystem Restoration and Management

- Integrating the management, protection, and utilisation of Marine Cultural Heritage in environmental management, such as MPAs, MSP, ICZM

- Integrating the management, protection and utilisation of Marine Cultural Heritage within environmental policy, such as the Blue Economy, Blue Growth
 - Methods for advancing the management of marine cultural heritage, such as understanding culture and heritage economies, valuation, monitoring.
 - Integrating Marine Cultural Heritage into Climate Mitigation Plans
- Geographic priorities: Although the Cultural Heritage Framework Programme has a global scope, and as such we are keen to engage with a range of projects, our current priority lies with the Global South.
 - Additional priorities: The following themes are represented in the CHFP manifesto, and will always be prioritised as such.
 - Showcase integration of heritage and ocean science.
 - Develop capacity.
 - Enable greater diversity and representation.
 - Encourage ocean literacy, public engagement, and outreach.
 - Facilitate co-design.
 - Encourage best practice in managing data and knowledge.
 - Encourage effective evaluation of impact.

Website

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

Programme Contact Point

1. Georgia Holly: Georgia.Holly@ed.ac.uk
2. Athena Trakadas chair@oceandecadeheritage.org

76. Global Ocean Oxygen Decade (GOOD)

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: The outcomes and activities until 2030:
 1. Deoxygenation and ocean life: identifying and understanding threats to improve mitigation and adaptation strategies.
 2. Deoxygenation, water quality and the climate system: Understanding processes and feedbacks and developing actionable indicators.
 3. Deoxygenation and ecosystem services: Assessing and valuing the impact of deoxygenation.
 4. Deoxygenation and co-stressors: Understanding, monitoring and mitigating deoxygenation in a multiple stressors' context.
 5. Economic and societal consequences of deoxygenation.
 6. Deoxygenation: Understanding causes, attributing changes and developing mitigation approaches.
 7. Mapping and Modelling oxygen.
 8. Capacity building and ocean literacy.

Website

<https://en.unesco.org/go2ne>
<https://www.ocean-oxygen.org/>

Programme Contact Point

go2ne-secretariat@unesco.org

109. The Hydrous

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: Priorities for projects include, but are not limited to, education, knowledge generation, access, evidence, human connection, empathy, virtual ocean experiences, and capacity building.
- Geographical priorities: We do not have any geographical priorities. The Hydrous is based in the United States, with partners all over the world. We are happy to host both domestic and international projects.

Website

<https://thehydro.us/>

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

<https://www.ireef.io/>

<https://www.21stcenturymermaids.com/>

Programme Contact Point

1. Dr. Erika Woolsey: erika@thehydro.us
2. Amy Wentzel: amy@thehydro.us

129. Deep Ocean Observation Strategy (DOOS)

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: We are open to all themes, and especially encourage those focused on climate change, ecosystems, technology, societal impacts, data science, and ocean policy.
- Geographic priorities: DOOS is a global program and will gladly accept projects focused on deep water (>200 m water depth) anywhere in the world ocean.
- Additional priorities: The primary criteria are that the project
 - a) focus on deep water (below 200 m) and
 - b) have a connection to some element of ocean observing (generating, managing or using the data)

Website

<https://deep-ocean-observing-strategy-ut-austin.hub.arcgis.com/>

Programme Contact Point

1. Lisa Levin: llevin@ucsd.edu
2. Leslie Smith: leslie.smith@youroceanconsulting.co

137. Digital Twins of the Ocean (DITTO)

Project Priorities

This programme is interested in all projects that focus in one or more aspects of Digital Twins of the Ocean. Geographically, cities would be of interest, but will welcome proposals from any region. As additional priorities, the Programme is interested in proposals that can work on innovative data analysis and visualisation.

Website

<https://ditto-oceandecade.org/>

Programme Contact Point

ditto.oceandecade@gmail.com

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

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: Challenge 2: Ecosystem Restoration and Management with a focus on the sub-themes of area-based management, restoration, and multiple ocean stressors.
- Geographical priorities: This program is interested in programs related to deltas and associated with big rivers.
- Additional priorities: Other issues such as soil and water pollution, coastal erosion and sustainable use of deltaic resources are also welcome.

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

- Thematic priorities: Our thematic priorities are mainly under the Ocean Decade challenges 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9. In addition, we are particularly welcoming of solutions-oriented projects led by Indigenous organizations.
- Geographical priorities: We have no geographical priorities; GEOS is global.
- Additional priorities:

Our criteria for project selection is:

- a) projects should be solutions oriented;
- b) solutions should strive to be equitable, durable and inclusive;
- c) projects should involve or consider a role for Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs);
- d) projects should incorporate participatory methods with a co-design and co-production approach;
- e) projects should be conceived as multisectoral and transdisciplinary.

Website

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

Programme Focal Point

Leonardo Valenzuela Pérez: leonardo@oceanvisions.org

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

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: All projects should seek to provide the knowledge necessary to inform a sustainable approach to the management and conservation of the Twilight Zone ecosystem, the Decade aim of JETZON. All Twilight Zone relevant topics are welcome but particularly those seeking to carry out baseline studies (especially using new technology) or to build interactions between science, policy and society.
- Geographic priorities: All areas welcome but particularly less studied areas and seasons, locations suitable for use as “natural laboratories”, “end-member” sites and regions under immediate risk of impact from anthropogenic activities e.g. climate change, resource extraction.

- Additional priorities: In addition to their own specific topics, projects should also contribute something to the wider JETZON community to assist in achieving its Decade aim. Potential examples of such contributions are: convening sessions at a workshop, running a training course, coordinating a method inter-comparison, work for greater public awareness of the Twilight Zone, development of the next generation of Twilight Zone scientists improving access from all backgrounds and nations, assisting in running JETZON, contributing to future international agreements on the management and protection of the Twilight Zone. Expected contributions will scale with size of project.

Website

<https://jetzon.org/>

Programme Contact Point

jetzon.org@gmail.com

219. Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS)

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities:
 - I. 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.
 - II. Identify data and evidence needs for mitigation and adaptation strategies, from local to global, by 2022. Communicate these needs to the scientific and science policy community to ensure that science is prioritized.
 - III. 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.
 - IV. 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.
 - VI. 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.

VII. Increase public awareness of ocean acidification, its sources, and impacts, achieved via ocean literacy and public outreach.

VIII. Develop strategies and solutions to enable countries and regions to include measures to reduce ocean acidification in their respective policy and legislation.

Website

OARS overview <http://www.goa-on.org/oars/overview.php> White papers explaining the actions under the different outcomes of OARS http://www.goa-on.org/oars/white_papers.php

Programme Contact Point

Kirsten Isensee: k.isensee@unesco.org, secretariat@goa-on.org

8.2. Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emission (Global ONCE)

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities:
 - Related interdisciplinary collaborative research on Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions/ Ocean CDR approach
 - The sustainable development of the ocean economy under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.
 - The ocean-climate nexus
 - Humanity's relationship with the ocean.
 - Coastal-Urban-Bay Ecosystem Emissions Studies
 - WWTP effluent alkalinity enhancement
 - Microalgal biomass production and CO₂ sequestration by using floating photobioreactors on ocean
 - Projects that can contribute to realistic and effective pathways to achieve climate neutrality and the goals established in the Paris Agreement
- 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.
- Additional priorities: Priority will be given to those planning to establish demonstration areas in the future.

Website

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

Programme Contact Point

1. Prof. Carol Robinson: Carol.Robinson@uea.ac.uk

2. Mengqi Pei: meng.q.pei@gmail.com

UN5. Ocean Best Practices for the Decade

Project Priorities

- Thematic priorities: Development of Best Practices (BP), integration of BP along the ocean value chain, adoption of BP, capacity development, endorsement of BP, standards, metrics
- Geographical priorities: South America, South East Asia, Island States, Africa
- Additional priorities: Measuring impact and efficacy of programs/activities, new activities/programs to fill current knowledge gaps or capacity development gaps, ocean literacy

Website

<https://www.oceanbestpractices.org/ocean-practices-for-the-decade/>

Programme Contact Point

Dr Rebecca Zitoun: decade@oceanbestpractices.org

Annex II

Orphan Endorsed Decade Projects in the Context of Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution and Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Restoration and Management and their sub-themes

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
2	Understand and slow down the Seventh Continent	E7C programme is designed around 2 main lines: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: onboard expeditions designed and implemented by scientists from the French national research center (CNRS), with heavy embarked research equipment, to collect and analyze samples of micro and nano plastics in the deep sea and above the surface (Atlantic oceanic gyres, Mediterranean Sea, etc.). EDUCATION-INFORMATION: making all generations understand plastic pollution, how critical is its level in the ocean, how it can be reduced. Every year, in more than a dozen ports, our educational tours allow large public audience to discover our flagship schooner, experiment scientific procedures and attend educational conferences.	Expédition 7e Continent	France	1
5	Institutional capacity building towards the sustainability of ocean science in light of COVID-19 pandemic.	This program aims at enhancing the capacity of government bodies, the community, and non-governmental organisations in monitoring coastal areas effectively and efficiently towards COVID-19 pandemic. Most marine litter that goes into the ocean is fed by inland water sources. Marine litter is a global challenge that needs to be addressed at the regional level especially during this time where the world has been hit by COVID-19 pandemic. In order to mitigate this challenge, there is a need to improve litter management by developing a baseline that provides measurements of the amount of litter that are being produced within Tanzania.	Nipe Fagio	Tanzania	1
32	Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast	The MaPP initiative is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia and 17 member First Nations (collectively the MaPP Partners) that developed and is implementing four marine use plans and a regional action framework for B.C.'s North Pacific Coast. The MaPP plans provide recommendations for key areas of marine management, including uses, activities and protection using the best available science and local and Indigenous knowledge. The plans inform decisions regarding the sustainable economic development and stewardship of British Columbia's coastal marine environment. Marine stakeholders representing multiple sectors provided input and advice to the planning process; consultation is ongoing during implementation of the plans.	Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast	Canada	2
48	A framework for effective trans-national consolidation within marine	FREM-PAMS is the Asian Pacific regional environmental program aiming to improve knowledge and to consolidate national efforts to restore and maintain the resilience of marine environment and enable sustainable exploitation of natural resources. The overall objective of the FREM-PAMS is to support the Blue Growth and achievement of the UN SDGs in the region considering global challenges facing the planet by developing the science-based joint strategy to provide	V. I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute, Far Eastern Branch of	Russian Federation	2

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
	research, education and management in the Northwestern Pacific and Asian Marginal Seas	environmental decision-making and to meet the ocean issues on a peacekeeping basis. Main goal of the program is effective trans-national consolidation within marine research, education and management.	Russian Academy of Sciences		
68	Global Litter Observatory	The Global Litter Observatory (GLO) meets the need of harmonizing and compiling the information generated by the numerous initiatives to characterize macro-litter over the world. GLO relies (i) on citizenship as a major global force for litter monitoring, and (ii) on the adoption of the mass-based metric to allow comparability among datasets, an important weakness in the current evaluation system. The possibility of implementing such mass-based measuring tool in mobile phones will give wide room for a more effective citizen participation in global monitoring as well as ease the flow and analysis of information through digital data sharing.	University of Cádiz (UCA)	Spain	1
100	Blue Symbiosis	It's proposed that oil and gas infrastructure be converted into multi-species restorative seaweed aquaculture sites to establish foundational and reproductive habitat, sequester CO2, mitigate eutrophication, and provide seaweed for fertilizer and nutrition. If successful, Blue Symbiosis will provide an alternative to removing infrastructure in the North Sea and the Bass Strait, then globally. If this option is chosen by industry and governments, it will be required that a proportion of the savings be allocated to restoration, improving monitoring capabilities, and R&D. This has the potential to allocate 100s of millions (USD) to support marine restoration through a scalable self-financing process.	Blue Symbiosis	Australia	2
128	Advancing the European Seas' Marine Research and Innovation to Support Their Biodiversity and Resilience Under Multistressors: ReSealience	ReSealience proposes a holistic Decade Programme that aims to advance the European Seas (North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, North Sea) marine research and innovation to support the biodiversity and resilience under multistressors while promoting the sustainable utilization of the ecosystem services. The programme will build on three pillars: generate knowledge, support innovation, develop solutions in support of Ocean Decade objectives. ReSealience brings together key institutions that will bring together main actors of the different regions on these 3 pillars.	Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences	Türkiye	2
165	Global Marine plastic litter Monitoring Network Project	This programme aims to -Create a global network hub to share and compile the monitoring activities and data on marine plastic litter distribution collaborating with existing and further other initiatives - Produce additional values by harmonization and visualization of monitoring This will contribute to achieve SDG 14 and realize the Target 14.1. Also, this programme will provide basic data useful for indicator 14.1.1. In addition, this programme will also contribute to	Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)	Japan	1

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
		Decade outcome 1.vClean ocean, 6. accessible ocean, and 7. inspiring and engaging ocean as well.			
174	Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager, a new technology portal to support the effective design, management, and monitoring of marine protected areas.	Global Fishing Watch, in partnership with Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy, is developing Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager, a new scalable technology portal to support the effective design, management and monitoring of marine protected areas (MPAs). This cutting-edge technology will provide dynamic and interactive data on human-use activity, ocean conditions and biology in near real-time to support MPA management, marine spatial planning and scientific research. The marine reserves portal is designed to empower managers and stakeholders to rapidly collate, assess and analyze scientific data integral to the governance of marine reserves, along with other management frameworks and area-based conservation measures including MPAs.	Global Fishing Watch	United States of America (USA)	2
1.2	Plastic Mop Up	In Nigeria, singly used plastics especially PET bottles are found almost everywhere; from landfills to drainage channels and aquatic environment posing threat to the immediate environment and most especially aquatic/ocean lives. The Plastic Mop-up project was created by the AQUAWORLD Timeout Team to retrieve and collect discarded plastics by from the environment. This project over time has empowered the participants (most especially females) in the following categories; Plastic dumpsite surveyors, plastic collectors and data collators. The plastics retrieved during the mop ups are supplied to recycling companies to breakdown into smaller plastic particles which can be used by textile industries, transportation industries, building firms and lots more, on a long run reducing the pressure on virgin plastic materials to produce new products and reduce their plastic footprints.	Aquaworld	Nigeria	1
2.2	Science Without Borders®: Conserving the Tropics	Humanity depends on healthy and diverse ecosystems. Mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs host some of the highest biodiversity on Earth. They provide habitat, food, and breeding grounds for marine life, and food, income, and protection to communities. However, these fragile ecosystems are rapidly being degraded. The Living Oceans Foundation spent 10 years mapping and surveying the world's reefs, collecting an array of data, conducting outreach and education activities, and establishing a baseline status of the world's reefs and nearshore habitats. The Science Without Borders® project will leverage this dataset for conservation, using it to improve the monitoring and management of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests. Using our network of in-country partners, this project will allow us to bring science, outreach, and education programs to SIDS and LDC's, engage communities, improve ocean literacy, and develop science-based solutions to conserve tropical marine ecosystems.	Khaled Bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation (KSLOF)	United States of America (USA)	2
6.2	Plastic Drawdown	Plastic Drawdown (PD) is a proven rapid assessment tool to help countries develop an evidence-based policy response to ocean plastic pollution when data is limited. We want to use PD to help 10 new countries understand their plastic waste flows, identify policy interventions, and announce	Common Seas	United Kingdom of Great Britain	1

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
		evidence-based strategies that reflect their needs and have stakeholder support. PD was developed in consultation with 27 governments, resulting in a rapid, cost-effective, collaborative and user-friendly approach to support policy development, particularly in low and middle-income countries with limited data and a significant plastic problem. Our vision is to support ambitious but resource-constrained decision-makers to deliver effective national strategies that address the full life cycle of plastics with actions spanning the value chain, adapting our approach to meet country-specific requirements. We also want to disseminate the lessons learned from these 10 countries to support action elsewhere.		and Northern Ireland (UK)	
22.2	Hope for Reefs	Hope for Reefs is a major initiative at the California Academy of Sciences that aims to reverse the rapid decline of Earth’s coral reefs in this generation. Over the next five years, we will advance high-impact interventions—from establishing sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas to on-the-reef restoration—all implemented with local communities and cross-sector stakeholders. We will scale a successful model for community reef monitoring to the national level; increase capacity for rapid response to catastrophic events impacting reefs; and apply new technologies to map, monitor, forecast, and regenerate reef health. We will also leverage our world-class education programs and Steinhart Aquarium to inspire and train a diverse cadre of future reef scientists while supporting a global youth corps of emerging environmental leaders advocating on behalf of coral reefs.	California Academy of Sciences	United States of America (USA)	2
26.2	Tēnaka Mangrove Project	Tēnaka is a social business that restores marine ecosystems through tailor-made programs for companies willing to integrate a regenerative workflow into their business model. Our Mangrove Restoration Project started in Borneo Island, on the Malaysian side, in 2020. We intend to scale up by opening new restoration sites and enhancing our impact measurement tools and technologies. Our marine biologists collect quantitative data on a quarterly basis to assess the health of the ecosystem as well as the impacts in terms of biodiversity. This data is inputted into the Tēnaka Science® Platform which algorithm’s then “translates” raw data into Impact Reports for our clients to communicate widely on their impact and engage their customers according to their business strategies. We are developing partnerships with laboratories and tech agencies in order to enhance the monitoring of the ecosystems thanks to key technologies such as environmental DNA and blue carbon calculation tools.	Tēnaka	France	2
30.2	Allen Coral Atlas: Global Coral Reef Monitoring	The Allen Coral Atlas is a game-changing coral conservation tool powered by Arizona State University and developed in partnership with Planet, University of Queensland, the Coral Reef Alliance and Vulcan, and coral reef scientists, universities, NGOs and private entities. Its goal is to assist stakeholders ranging from local communities to regional and national governments to reach their coral reef conservation goals. With the Atlas, coral conservationists, reef managers and scientists have access to information that has never before been available at this scale, including high resolution coral reef habitat maps, real time bleaching monitoring, and expanding monitoring innovations. More information at www.allencoralatlas.org	Arizona State University's Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science	United States of America (USA)	2

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
31.2	Marine forest restoration: a coastal gardening plan	Active restoration has emerged as one of the preferred tools that may boost sequels of marine protected areas and other conservation measures. Restoration acts promote biodiversity, enhance carbon sequestration and accelerate coastal and offshore resilience. Yet, we still lack a program that combines conservation and restoration under a unified setting considering local citizen socio-economic parameters. BLUE CITIZEN proposal represent a novel restoration approach in which (1) restoration is depicted with ubiquitous properties (2) a profession of “gardeners of the sea” is created and endorsed (3) the project targets the restoration of the most neglected marine biome, the Marine Forests;(4) new ecoengineering aspects are applied; (5) the plan is performed on land and in the sea, from shallow, mesophotic to continental shelf areas; (6) a novel approach for C sequestering is applied and (7) involvement of citizens and local stakeholders with a business plan is developed.	Underwater Gardens International	Spain	2
160.2	National Coastal Condition Assessment	NCCA tracks water quality and ecological conditions in coastal waters of estuaries and the Great Lakes; it builds monitoring capacity using statistical survey designs and consistent field and laboratory protocols to estimate proportions of coastal waters in good condition for water quality, sediment quality, fish tissue contaminants and biological integrity, as well as proportions of waters with concentrations of Enterococci, microcystin and cylindrospermopsin in water, and mercury in fish fillet plug samples that exceed human-health benchmarks. During the Decade, the NCCA will provide data collected in 2020/21, 2025, and 2030.		United States of America (USA)	1
6.3	Protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030 (MPA 2030)	The primary objective of this programme is to provide information and knowledge to aid countries to achieve their 30% by 2030 targets. MPAs protect and restore biodiversity, support food security, and sustainable development, and many are established to support fisheries. As the world moves to protect at least 30% of the oceans as part of new international agreements, it is important that these MPAs simultaneously protect biodiversity, improve food security, and maintain both of these benefits under the background of global change including climate change. This programme is timely that 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. The strategy would be within the theme of “Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” to make the best science available in its widest sense, including social and economic, to aid societies around the world restore and protect biodiversity to ensure food security in the context of climate change.	Nord University	Norway	2
12.3	Sail For Ethics (S4E)	S4E aims for sustainable ocean-based economic growth by tackling pollution ships from smallholders working on the sectors of fishing, science, transport and tourism in developing, emerging countries and SIDS. Seeks to strengthen and promote resilient coastal, maritime economies and local cultures, through a decarbonised approach, promoting and training local fleets' owners as well as coastal maritime institutions, private sector & economic actors to adopt and invest in propulsion combining sails and engine. Our perspective consists in providing a pragmatic and practical approach to reduce today oceanic pollution from combustion and petrochemicals derivatives	Sail 4 Ethics Prospective International	Belgium	1

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
		(GHG, noise, acidification), participating to science knowledge. It raise awareness, educate the public to the issues of Ocean, to ecosystemic approach of interactions, toward a global shift. A missing link between today's global black economic and sustainable small blue solutions of tomorrow's integrated local economy.			
UN9	Building Forward Better by Safeguarding Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services	This initiative will support policy and planning, collection of data and valuation of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services to support development of scenarios for future, reporting against SDGs 14-15. It will build a case for investment in ecosystem services given their centrality to human wellbeing with emphasis on the SDGs 1 to 3.	Office of Director & UNESCO Representative to the Pacific States and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa	Samoa	2
UN21	Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific	The proposed Action will capitalize on the MSPglobal and its results, and further promote and accelerate MSP in the Western Pacific, with a view to assisting member states in the region in achieving SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole.	IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, IOC/UNESCO	Thailand	2
UN22	Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean	River is recognized as a major source of marine plastic waste. It was estimated that more than half of marine plastics comes from Asia's rivers. This Decade Action aims to generate timely and reliable riverine plastic data to inform waste management and policy recommendations, support technology innovation and promote behavior change, with a view to arresting worsening riverine plastic and microplastic pollution.	IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), IOC/UNESCO	Thailand	1
AXA-002	Community forestry to enhance conservation and restoration of mangroves for more resilient coastal livelihoods	Dr Valerie Hagger will investigate how community forestry and Indigenous co-management can improve mangrove conservation and restoration worldwide to reverse their continuing global decline and strengthen coastal populations' resilience.	The University of Queensland	Australia	2
MW01	Mangroves as Nature-based Solutions to Coastal Hazards	MANCOGA will use mangroves to develop a robust and participatory Nature-based Solution (NbS) to hazards such as climate change, flooding, coastal erosion and pollution in Ghana. It will also cover aspects of blue carbon, ocean acidification and biodiversity loss. The ultimate aim is increasing community resilience and affluence. MANCOGA will develop a decision support system	Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon GmbH Department of Marine and	Germany and Ghana	2

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
	in Eastern Ghana (MANCOGA)	building on existing structures and incorporating state-of-the-art technology, including the development of a Digital Twin.	Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana		
MW02	Oceanographic and Ecological data for Nature-based coastal protection in Tunisia (ORIENTATE-TN)	The overall objective is to provide sustainable, cost-effective data and an ecologically sound alternative to facilitate the adaptive governance of erosion risk in Tunisia's most vulnerable coastal areas. The project will be carried out through a living lab approach involves cost-effective intertidal seagrass transplantation. Pilot sites will be used to monitor if this Nature-based solution approach could protect the coastline against further erosion processes. This project aims to serve as a blueprint for other beaches and coastal areas in Tunisia.	Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung (AWI) (AWI) University of Sfax (US)	Germany and Tunisia	2
MW03	Participatory Modeling for Nature-based Solutions in the WIO-Region (PaMoNBS)	PaMo-NBS will provide policy makers with decision support tools to improve the implementation and planning of nature-based solutions and to identify needs and scenarios of an optimised use of local ecosystems for and with local communities in the Western Indian Ocean region. The primary outcome of this project will be the development of a decision support system that will give local decision makers the opportunity to engage coastal communities. The project aims to produce both a framework for local policy makers and coastal communities to develop a shared understanding of the role of the interconnected socio-ecological systems in providing NbS as well as concrete examples of pilot studies.	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT); Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) University of Dar es Salaam	Germany; Tanzania; Madagascar	2
MW04	Nature based Solutions for Mitigation of Watershed pollution: Cross-habitat facilitation by coastal seagrass meadows (SOMWAT)	The overall goal of this collaborative project is to assess the status of tropical (Tanzania) and temperate (South Africa) seagrass-reef ecotones and more specifically the role of seagrass meadows for reducing watershed pollution through nutrient, pollutant and pathogen removal for natural reef habitats and aquaculture, thereby improving livelihoods of local communities. The project aims to assess the strength of biogeochemical connectivity between seagrass and adjacent reef habitats under different environmental conditions. Both field surveys and experiments will help to unravel underlying mechanisms through which seagrasses can enhance water quality and thereby benefit local communities that rely on healthy reef-communities for food production and tourism	Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg (HIFMB-UOL), Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Institute	Germany; Tanzania; South Africa	2

Unique ID	Name of Project	Summary	Lead Institution	Country	Challenge
			for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR) Nelson Mandela University, South Africa		
UN2021-026	Mapping and Improving High-Value Habitat influenced by Derelict Fishing Gear in the Salish Sea	This project will map areas of derelict fishing gear and damaged habitats, followed by efforts to remove gear. Methods incorporate both natural and Indigenous knowledge, as well as community engagement components.	Malahat Nation	Canada	1

Annex III

Relevant regional action plans and roadmaps publications

3. [The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030: Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap](#)
4. [Ocean science roadmap for UNESCO Marine World Heritage in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#)
5. [Arctic Action Plan](#)
6. [Southern Ocean Action Plan](#)
7. [Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region Action Plan](#)