



Ocean Decade Progress Report

July 2022 - June 2023

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



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

THE OCEAN DECADE

IN JULY 2023 IN A SNAPSHOT

ENDORSED OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS



47 Programmes
277 Projects
85 Contributions
561 Activities



Decade Actions led by partners from
58 countries

Endorsed Actions per Decade Challenge



GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

6
 Regional taskforces and programmes

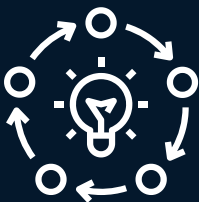
12
 Decade Implementing Partners



37
 National Decade Committees

11
 Decade Collaborative Centres/Coordination Offices

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



10 Patrons and 18 institutional members of the Ocean Decade Alliance

6 Informal Working Groups

20+ members of the Foundations Dialogue



48,600+
 followers on social media



7,000+
 members from 173 countries on the Ocean Decade Network

Foreword

The Ocean Decade numbers speak for themselves. 77,000 individuals from 4,000 institutions, including 4,500 Early Career Ocean Professionals, are working on Decade Actions. 4,000 capacity development initiatives have supported over 200,000 beneficiaries. 37 countries have established National Decade Committees whose activities have reached over 1 million people. Over 25,000 knowledge products have been generated.

The Decade is already the largest global ocean science initiative ever undertaken, and the momentum will not stop. Yet challenges remain, and persistent barriers need to be dismantled for the Ocean Decade to reach its full potential of inclusive co-designed and co-delivered ocean knowledge that reaches across geographic, gender and generational divides. Therefore, in its third year of implementation, the Decade is entering a new phase that will increasingly focus on the strategic uptake and impact of ocean science and knowledge. Structured around the 10 Ocean Decade Challenges, the Vision 2030 process is drawing on the skills, knowledge and networks of more than 150 experts to curate a global conversation on the future Decade priorities.

The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, to be hosted by Spain in Barcelona in April 2024, will be a critical moment to take stock of achievements and chart a common course forward on the basis of the first results of the Vision 2030 process. Let me encourage all of you to fully engage in this strategic brainstorming on the future of the Ocean Decade in the lead-up to, and during, the Conference.

This Progress Report is addressed to all Decade participants, but it is also a call to action to government, philanthropic and private sector partners who can provide the substantial financial and in-kind resources needed by Decade Actions and coordination structures. I hope that the Report will inspire new partnerships and engagement in the Decade.

Let me also call upon partners in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and to those who support them, to use all the resources that the Decade has to offer so that it can be an inclusive framework to generate the locally and nationally relevant knowledge and information needed for a sustainable ocean future.

Finally, the Report is a call to action to leaders, policy makers and societal actors across the globe to work with the robust and rich portfolio of Decade Actions as key partners in the generation of knowledge and science to underpin decision making that will lead to sustainable ocean management.

IOC/UNESCO is honored to continue in its role as the coordinator of the Ocean Decade. Numerous Member States and organizations have generously made financial or in-kind contributions to support Decade coordination activities during the period of this report: Belgium (Government of Flanders), Canada, France, Fugro, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Research Council of Norway, Sweden and REV-Ocean. I warmly thank all these institutions, and the individuals within them, who have championed the Ocean Decade. I also express my heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have given their expertise and time to develop and implement Decade Actions and coordination structures, participated in Working Groups and Committees, and spread the word about the global ocean science revolution that we are collectively creating. The Ocean Decade would not exist without you, and together we can, and we will, create the ocean we want by 2030.



Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
of UNESCO



Acronyms

IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
DCC	Decade Collaborative Centre
DCO	Decade Coordination Office
DCU	Decade Coordination Unit
DIP	Decade Implementing Partner
ECOP	Early Career Ocean Professional
ILK	Indigenous and Local Knowledge
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
NDC	National Decade Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Published in 2023 by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

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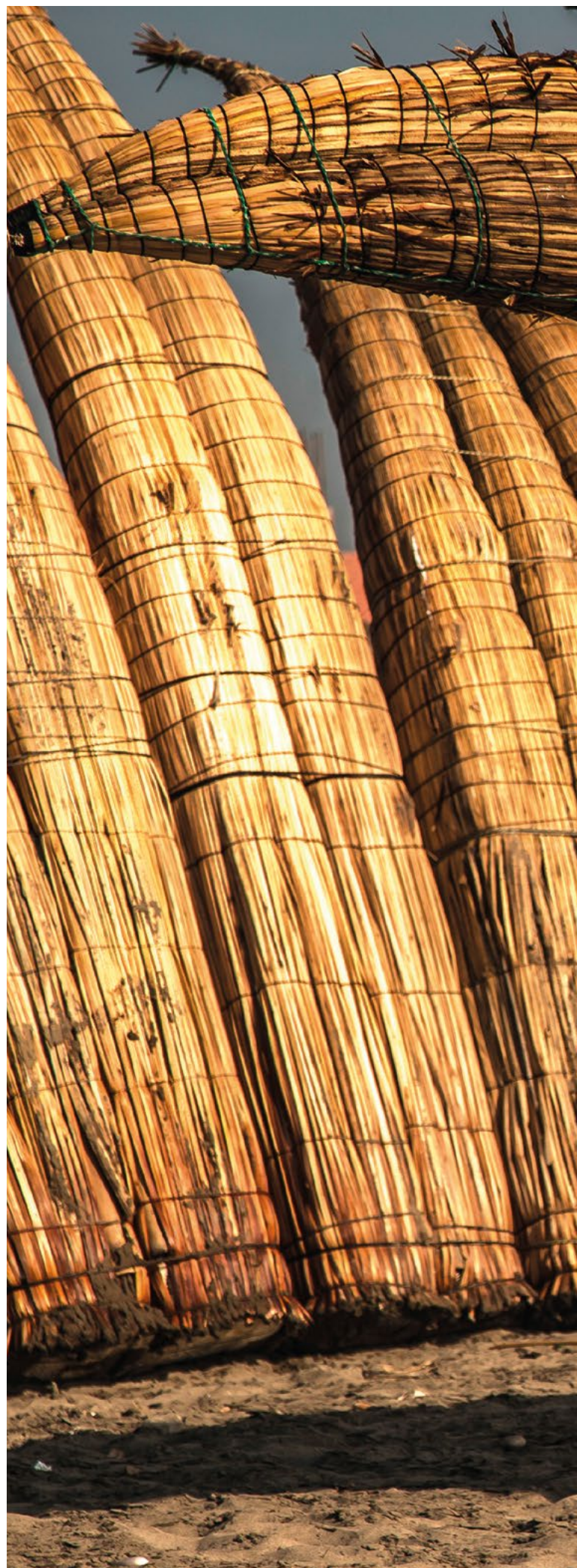
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For bibliographic purposes, this publication should be cited as follows: UNESCO-IOC (2023). Ocean Decade Progress Report 2022–2023. UNESCO, Paris. (The Ocean Decade Series, 46).

Cover: © biletskiyevgeniy.com/Shutterstock.com

Graphic design: UNESCO

(IOC/2023/ODS/46)



Contents

Introduction	8
Achieving the challenges through Decade Actions	10
Governance and coordination of the Ocean Decade	14
Mobilizing resources for the Ocean Decade	20
Stakeholder engagement and outreach	22
Perspectives for the year ahead	24



Introduction





Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) – the **Ocean Decade** – is a framework to identify, generate and use critical ocean knowledge that is needed to manage the ocean sustainably, and achieve global aspirations for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.

Through its vision of ‘the science we need for the ocean we want’, the Ocean Decade provides an inclusive, equitable and global framework for diverse actors to co-design and co-deliver transformative ocean science to meet [10 Ocean Decade Challenges](#). Through a collaborative, solutions-oriented approach, the Ocean Decade is contributing essential knowledge to global, regional and national policy frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) leads the coordination of the Ocean Decade, in collaboration with numerous partners from the United Nations system, governments, philanthropy, industry, civil society and the scientific community.

The **2022 - 2023 Progress Report** covers the period from July 2022 to June 2023. It provides information on the key outcomes of Ocean Decade implementation across the four main pillars of activity:

- ▶ Decade Actions
- ▶ Governance and coordination structures
- ▶ Resource mobilization
- ▶ Stakeholder engagement and outreach

The report concludes with a discussion of future perspectives for the Ocean Decade, with a particular focus on the lead-up to the [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#) that will be held in Barcelona in April 2024.

The information presented in the report is based on the results of the first iteration of the Ocean Decade Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that was sent to all Decade Actions and coordination structures. Not all Decade Actions were able to provide the requested information and thus the information presented in the report focuses on key trends and broad outcomes extrapolated from the information received from a subset of Decade Actions.

Achieving the challenges through Decade Actions

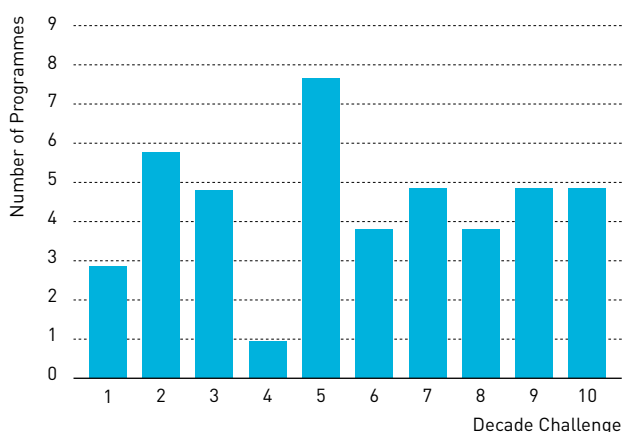


Decade Programmes, Projects and Contributions

As of July 2023, five Calls for Decade Actions have been completed. The resulting portfolio of Decade Actions covers all ocean basins and all 10 Ocean Decade Challenges. It represents the collective work of thousands of individuals and institutions, and is an indication of the continued significant and global interest in the Ocean Decade.

Themes of Programmes Solicited through the Call	
CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS NO. 01/2020	Opening Date: 15 Oct 2020 All Ocean Decade Challenges
CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS NO. 02/2021	Opening Date: 15 Oct 2021 Challenge 1: Marine Pollution Challenge 2: Ecosystem Management and Restoration Challenge 5: Ocean-Climate Nexus
CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS NO. 03/2022	Opening Date: 15 Apr 2022 Challenge 3: Sustainable Blue Food Challenge 4: Sustainable Ocean Economy
CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS NO. 04/2022	Opening Date: 15 Oct 2022 Challenge 6: Coastal Resilience Challenge 8: Ocean Data
CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS NO. 05/2023	Opening Date: 15 Apr 2023 Challenge 1: Marine Pollution, focusing on plastic and nutrient pollution Challenge 2: Ecosystem Management and Restoration, focusing on area-based management tools, ecosystem restoration and multiple ocean stressors

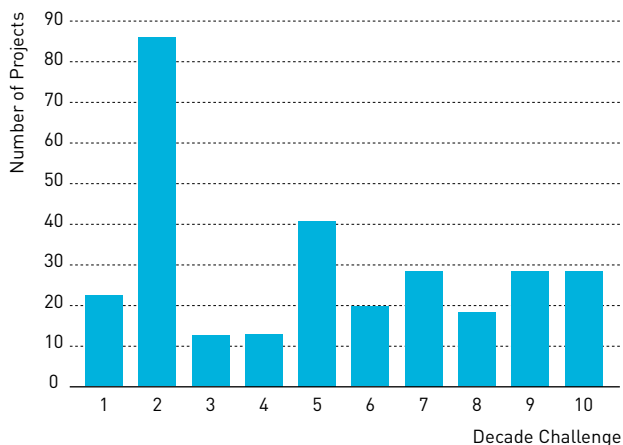
Figure 1: Challenge distribution for endorsed Decade Programmes.*



* [Note: the two regional Programmes have not been included in the Challenge analysis as they contribute universally to all Challenges within their respective regions.]

Forty-seven Programmes, 277 Projects and 84 Contributions of in-kind and financial resources have been endorsed as Decade Actions. The distribution of Decade Programmes and Projects across the Ocean Decade Challenges is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2: Challenge distribution for endorsed Decade Projects.



The majority (64 per cent) of Decade Projects are attached to a lead Decade Programme that facilitates coordination and optimizes collaboration between different initiatives. Work is continuing to find a lead Programme for the remaining 101 “orphan” Decade Projects, including through targeted Calls for Decade Actions.

Thirty-nine per cent of Decade Actions are led by North American partners, 30 per cent of Actions are led by European partners, and 14 per cent by partners in Asia-Pacific. Lead institutions of Decade Actions are predominantly research institutions, followed by governments and universities. Over 3,700 partner institutions are involved in Decade Actions, with a similar geographical distribution, and a similar distribution in terms of institution type.

Close to 77,000 individuals are involved directly or indirectly in Decade Actions. Fifty-seven per cent of individuals participating in Decade Actions are women, while 43 per cent are men. Over 4,500 Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) are directly engaged in Decade Actions.

Decade Actions indicated that they have had a strong focus on establishing their governance structures and building global and regional networks of partners, including via the solicitation of new Decade Projects. There has been a strong focus on communications and fundraising by Decade Actions, with support in these two areas the most common request to the central and decentralized coordination structures of the Ocean Decade. Decade Actions also reported successes in visibility and awareness raising in major conferences, providing support to Early Career Professionals including via travel support and capacity development.

Several Decade Actions also reported positive engagement in global policy processes, including the negotiations for an international treaty for biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). Numerous Decade Actions focusing on Challenge 6 – Coastal Resilience, Challenge 7 – Ocean Observations, and Challenge 8 – Digital Representation of the Ocean also reported development of innovative technology or new infrastructure as early impacts of their work, with examples including observation buoys, data infrastructure or elements of early warning systems.

Decade Actions reported generating over 12,000 new datasets and approximately 25,000 knowledge products including scientific literature and a broad range of other types of knowledge products, with Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution, Challenge 2 – Ecosystem Management, and Challenge 9 – Skills and Knowledge for All being the Ocean Decade Challenges where Actions identified the highest numbers of generation of knowledge products. Decade Actions reported 21,000 incidences of knowledge uptake either through scientific citations or uptake to policy, management, education or other uses. Challenge 9 – Skills and Knowledge for All, Challenge 5 – Ocean-Climate Nexus, and Challenge 1 – Marine Pollution were the most commonly cited Challenges for knowledge uptake.

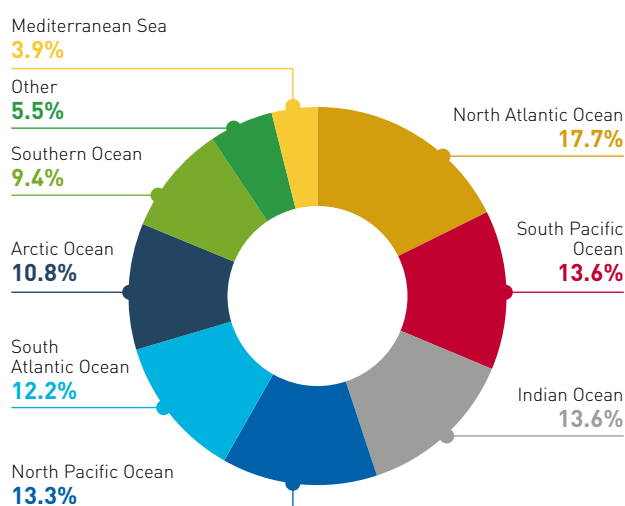
Seventy per cent of knowledge products that were generated were 'informal' knowledge products including newsletters, webnews, podcasts or videos. These were followed by media articles (12 per cent), peer reviewed publications (11 per cent), white papers (5 per cent), and low numbers of grey literature (1 per cent), and policy briefs (1 per cent). Decade Actions reported that in total 80 per cent of the knowledge products generated included reference to, or took account of, alternative knowledge systems, including Indigenous and local knowledge.

Decade Actions reported that the most common forms of uptake of knowledge products were in media or press articles, followed by citations in peer reviewed literature, other forms of knowledge products, grey literature, educational or training tools and in management plans.

Decade Actions reported implementing nearly 4,000 capacity development initiatives targeting a total of more than 215,000 individuals, focusing strongly on ECOPs. In terms of the number of individual beneficiaries, the countries where capacity development initiatives were most widespread were United States of America (USA), followed by China, France, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom (UK).

The North Atlantic is the ocean basin with the highest number of Decade Actions being implemented followed by the South Pacific, Indian Ocean, North Pacific and Southern Ocean.

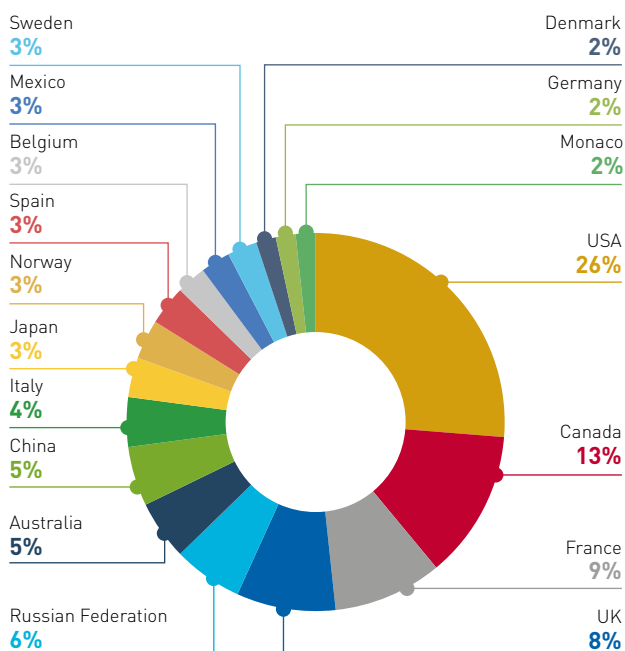
Figure 3: Geographical coverage of endorsed Decade Actions by ocean basin.



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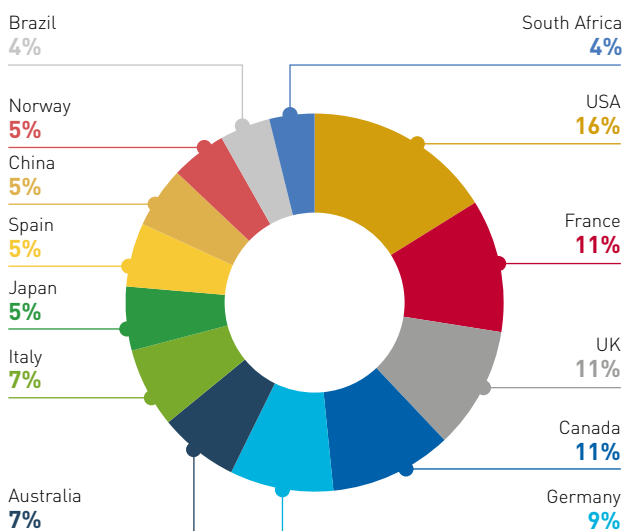
When considered in terms of countries, the majority of Decade Actions over the last 12 months are being implemented in the USA, followed by Canada, France, UK and Germany. A similar trend exists when considering the projections of Decade Actions in terms of where they will be working in the next 12 to 24 months, with the addition of Brazil as a country of planned major activity in the next period.

Figure 4: Top 10 countries of endorsed Decade Actions' lead institutions.



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Figure 5: Top 10 countries of individuals involved in endorsed Decade Actions.



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Despite this strong momentum, notable geographic gaps persist in the portfolio of Decade Actions primarily in terms of leadership of Decade Actions. Thirty-nine per cent of Decade Actions reported that they carried out at least some of their activities in Africa in the last period, and 38 per cent reported that they carried out some activities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). However, less than 3 per cent of Decade Actions are led by partners in SIDS and approximately 4 per cent of Decade Actions are being led by partners in Africa.

BOX 1: PRIORITY AFRICA AND SIDS

Given the low levels of leadership of Decade Actions from Africa and SIDS, concerted and targeted efforts are underway to increase engagement of partners in these regions.

In Africa, these efforts are being overseen by the Ocean Decade African Taskforce which was established in January 2022. The Taskforce, which comprises expert members as well as members from regional organizations, is working with the framework of the [Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap](#) to provide strategic advice on the coordination of existing Decade Actions, catalysis of new initiatives, and to support resource mobilization and outreach. At its first in-person meeting in April 2023, the Taskforce identified the need to develop a framework Decade Programme for Africa focusing on key elements of sustainable ocean management. The development of this Programme will be guided by the Taskforce and presented to partners, including potential funders, at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in April 2024.

In response to specific requests from African partners, the Ocean Decade partnered with the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) to pilot a training course on co-design in the Ocean Decade. Forty-one participants from 15 countries in Africa followed the training course which will be expanded in the future. In order to provide increased operational coordination for the Ocean Decade in Africa, an initial scoping study and resource needs assessment for the establishment of an African Decade Coordination Office (DCO), to be hosted by the IOCAFRICA Sub-Commission Secretariat, has been developed, although resources are required to operationalize this crucial structure.

In the lead-up to the 4th International Conference on SIDS that will be held in May 2024, several initiatives are also underway to increase engagement of SIDS partners in the Ocean Decade. At the global level, a collaboration between the Ocean Decade Alliance and the SIDS Coalition for Nature is being developed focusing on capacity development, knowledge generation on the benefits of investing in ocean science in SIDS, and on outreach and engagement.

The establishment of a Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC) for the Pacific Islands region within the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) of SPC will increase coordination and synergize new partnerships in Pacific SIDS. A similar structured is being scoped for the Caribbean region, although as is the case for Africa, additional resources are required to render this structure operational. A Tropical Americas and Caribbean Ocean Decade Taskforce is being established and will oversee development of a regional Ocean Decade strategy for this region, and support for training and mentoring in co-design for partners in Caribbean SIDS will come online in the near future.

Decade Activities

Over the last year, 243 Decade Activities have been endorsed. Most of these have taken place in North America and Europe, although a significant number have also been carried out in Brazil. The most common types of Decade Activities include conferences and symposia, followed by trainings and workshops, publications and exhibitions. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) led nearly half of all Activities. Research institutes were also very active in leading Decade Activities.

Governance and Coordination of the Ocean Decade





Decade Advisory Board

The [Decade Advisory Board](#), which was established in January 2022, continued to provide strategic advice on implementation of the Ocean Decade. On four occasions, the 15 expert Board members and representatives of UN agencies met either online or in-person to discuss recommendations relating to the endorsement of Decade programmes from Calls for Decade Actions and a range of strategic issues. Key areas of focus for the Board's discussions included means of improving evaluation of the progress of the Decade, ensuring that new Decade Actions align with identified priorities and contribute to filling key gaps in the Ocean Decade Challenges, means of increasing resource mobilization to support the portfolio of existing Decade Actions, the role of Indigenous and local knowledge in the Decade, and the means of increasing engagement of partners in SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Decade Coordination Unit

The Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) located with the IOC/UNESCO Secretariat in Paris is made up of 17 professional and support staff. The DCU is responsible for global coordination of the Ocean Decade and liaison with the decentralized coordination structures, partners and groups that contribute to the success of the Ocean Decade. The DCU operations (staff and activities) are primarily funded through voluntary contributions of Member States and partners

Decentralized Coordination Structures

Decentralized coordination remains a central tenet of the Ocean Decade. Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs) and Decade Collaborative Centres (DCCs) play an essential role in supporting the Decade Coordination Unit to coordinate Decade Actions, catalyze new initiatives, build stakeholder engagement, mobilize resources and communicate on the Decade. DCOs and DCCs are established by UN or non-UN partners respectively and have a geographic or thematic focus.

Three DCOs and seven DCCs were formally established, while several others entered the planning phase. This period represented the beginning of operations for the DCOs and DCCs; however since their establishment, cumulatively they have already implemented over 500 activities. This includes over 350 capacity development initiatives targeting over 27,000 beneficiaries, of whom 56 per cent were women and 28 per cent were ECOPs. While the main beneficiaries of the capacity development activities of DCCs and DCOs in this period were located in Europe, this trend is expected to change in the future as existing DCCs in China and the Indian Ocean increase capacity development activities and new DCCs/DCOs in Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific become operational. The Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility will also be operationalized in the near future and will focus on increased capacity developed for SIDS, LDCs and ECOPs. DCCs and DCOs also reported implementing a total of close to 200 other activities since their establishment including webinars, lectures, conferences, publications and communications campaigns.

Decade Collaborative Centre or Decade Coordination Office	Host Institution	Main Theme or Geography	Date Established
Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific (DCO-WESTPAC)	IOC-WESTPAC	West Pacific Ocean	August 2021
Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing (DCO-ODS)	IOC-IODE	Challenge 8 - Create a digital representation of the ocean	March 2022
Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observing (DCO-OO)	IOC-GOOS	Challenge 7 - Expand the Global Ocean Observing System	March 2022
Ocean Visions – UN Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean-Climate Solutions (OV-UN DCC)	Ocean Visions	Challenge 5 - Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change	June 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for the Northeast Pacific Ocean (DCC-NEPO)	Tula Foundation	Northeast Pacific Ocean	June 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction (DCC-OP)	Mercator Ocean International	Challenge 8 - Create a digital representation of the ocean	June 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean-Climate Nexus and Coordination amongst Decade Implementing Partners in P.R. China (DCC-OCC)	First Institute of Oceanography, China	Challenge 5 - Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change	June 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience (DCC-CR)	University of Bologna	Challenge 6 - Increase community resilience to ocean hazards	July 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR)	INCOIS	Indian Ocean	October 2022
Decade Collaborative Centre for the Southern Ocean Region (DCC-SOR)	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	Southern Ocean	June 2023
Decade Collaborative Centre for the Pacific Islands Region of the Pacific Ocean (DCC-PIR-PO)	The Pacific Community (SPC)	Pacific Islands	July 2023

Through their support to specific aspects of Ocean Decade implementation, Decade Implementing Partners (DIPs) typically have a more focused remit than DCCs and DCOs. Seven DIPs were formally established during this period, and many others are in the planning phase. During the last year, DIPs have supported over 300 capacity development activities, mostly targeting European and US partners, and have invested in conferences, publications and communications campaigns to advance the work of the Ocean Decade.

Decade Implementing Partner	Work Areas	Date Established
European Marine Board	Strategic forum to develop marine research foresight, initiate state-of-the-art analyses and translate these into clear policy recommendations	December 2021
Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans)	Increasing impact of research for sustainably healthy and productive seas and oceans	December 2021
Heirs to Our Ocean	Global youth empowerment in oceans policy	June 2022
EurOcean	Marine knowledge management, research infrastructures and public outreach and awareness activities	June 2022
The Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21)	Using technological innovation to promote sustainable development in China	July 2022
National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF)	Capacity-building, marine scientific research, and international cooperation for the development of marine technology. Supporting IOCAFRICA Member States	August 2022
Peking University	Enhancing China's involvement in science-driven ocean development by building high-level international collaborative platforms, to sustain China's ocean research capacity by attracting young talents, and to share China's experience in ocean governance	September 2022
Royal College of Art	Generating co-design solutions with stakeholders. Strengthening the science-policy-design interface	December 2022
European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)	Assembling, integrating, sharing marine environmental data	April 2023
Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO)	Developing and implementing global ocean observations through Innovation in ocean observing, capacity development and outreach/advocacy	April 2023
National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS)	Administering China's marine information resources, supporting the high-quality development of China's marine economy, regulating marine spatial planning and utilization, administering marine resources and related information-based development, working to protect and recover marine ecology, providing public-welfare marine services, and fulfilling China's international obligations regarding marine information.	June 2023

Together, DCCs, DCOs and DIPs have invested close to USD 2.7 million in their operations during the last year and reported that they had catalyzed mobilization of approximately USD 11 million in in-kind and financial resources for Decade Actions over the last year.

National Decade Committees

Thirty-seven National Decade Committees (NDCs) have been created and are implementing diverse initiatives to catalyze national interest and resources for the Decade, as well as provide a platform for the discussion of national priorities aligned to the Decade. Notable gaps exist in the global coverage of NDCs, particularly in SIDS.

Of the currently existing NDCs, 14 reported to the first iteration of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. These Committees regroup in total 597 members, with an average Committee size of 42 members. On average 12 per cent of members of Committees are ECOPs. Thirty-six per cent of Committee members are women and the most commonly represented organizations are research institutions, government, educational institutions and NGOs. Private sector and philanthropic

organizations are not well represented on average in National Decade Committees.

Committees cumulatively reported carrying out over 500 Decade related activities and estimated the reach of these activities at over 1 million individuals. The most common activity types that were carried out by the Committees were outreach events, publications, exhibitions, conferences and webinars. National Decade Committees have a combined social media reach of close to 140,000 people.

A [Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees](#) was published in June 2023 as a means of sharing experiences between existing Committees and providing inspiration and encouragement to the establishment of new NDCs. The manual highlights the wealth of experience and diverse activities that NDCs are carrying out.

Figure 6: Established National Decade Committees.



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BOX 2: INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE OCEAN DECADE

The [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#) recognizes that Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) needs to be an integral part of the co-designed solutions and actions that the Decade aims to deliver. Several Decade Actions are underway that are led by, or in partnership with, Indigenous knowledge holders, and several National Decade Committees including

New Zealand and Canada have prioritized the inclusion and engagement of ILK holders in national implementation of the Decade. The Ocean Decade is committed to an ethical approach for working with Indigenous rights holders and local communities through the following guiding principles:

- 1. Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC):** To ensure that ILK is shared in a non-extractive way, the Ocean Decade will firmly adhere to the FPIC principle when it comes to

working with Indigenous rights holders and local communities. Consent must be given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation (free), sought in advance of any authorization or commencement of project, plan, or action (prior), and based on accurate, timely and sufficient information provided in a culturally appropriate way (informed).

2. **Co-design, co-production, and co-dissemination:** The Ocean Decade promotes the development of co-designed and co-delivered ocean science that encourages involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC), for relevant Decade Actions, through each phase of the project.
3. **Inclusive capacity exchange and benefit to IPLC:** Capacity exchange reflects the need to ensure that IPLC contributing to the Ocean Decade experience the benefit from it. The Decade capacity development efforts will also focus on supporting LDCs, SIDS, and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in addition to ensuring gender and intergenerational equity.
4. **Minimizing duplication of efforts:** The Ocean Decade pays particular attention to ensuring that IPLC representatives do not feel overburdened by the various demands coming from multiple ocean science stakeholders. Therefore, all Decade participants are

encouraged to join their requests and work together, where possible, to limit duplication of engagement efforts.

5. **Accountability:** The Ocean Decade is committed to establishing mechanisms to deliver on its promises to embrace ILK. This will occur through the Monitoring and Evaluation process, resource mobilization, gap analyses, and facilitating entry points into the Decade existing framework.

The Ocean Decade is working with partners, including several DCCs and National Decade Committees, to establish an enabling environment and framework for ethical engagement and equitable capacity exchange with IPLC. The vision of this framework is that different knowledge systems are provided with the space and resources to work together so that all knowledge systems are respected as being as equally valid as what is often referred to as 'western ocean science'. The Ocean Decade ILK framework will make use of the tools currently available to support the Ocean Decade ILK initiatives and encourage all Decade participants and partners to do so. This will occur through two distinct but complementary structures: the ILK Network and the ILK Community of Practice, both housed on the Ocean Decade Network. In addition, resources have been secured to allow the active and meaningful participation of ILK holders in upcoming events including the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference.

Figure 7: Examples of best practices from National Decade Committees.



Mobilizing resources for the Ocean Decade



Mobilization of in-kind and financial resources remains a key challenge for the successful implementation of the Decade. Resource mobilization has not kept pace with the needs of Decade Actions and the needs for coordination costs at the central and decentralized levels. While the Ocean Decade is not a financing mechanism and focuses on matchmaking between funders and Decade Actions around shared priorities, a lack of access to new funding opportunities is the most common request for support from Decade Actions.

Information from those Decade Actions that reported to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, indicated that for the next 12-month period, approximately USD 37 million has been secured, which represents about 20 per cent of these Decade Actions' needs. The majority of the resources secured by Decade Actions are for the costs of activities, with 11 per cent of the secured resources for use in coordination.

USD 188 million is required for full implementation of these Decade Actions over the next 12 months, including USD 178 million for activities, and approximately USD 10 million for coordination. Decade Actions recognize the importance of in-kind support to achieve their aims and estimate that of the USD 178 million required for implementation in the next 12 months, USD 25 million could be sourced through in-kind resources such as staff support, or access to infrastructure such as research vessels.

Two of the key mechanisms that have been established to strengthen resource mobilization are the Ocean Decade Alliance and the Foundations Dialogue.

The [Ocean Decade Alliance](#) has grown during this period and now numbers 10 Patrons (i.e. Heads of State or organizations that play an individual role as emissaries for the Ocean Decade) and 18 institutional members from governments, philanthropy, UN agencies and the private sector. Alliance members have been strongly engaged in high-level events including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, as a means of raising visibility of the Ocean Decade amongst their peers and networks. Efforts continue to work with Alliance members to develop joint funding or support initiatives for the Decade.

There have been significant efforts to engage philanthropic Foundations during this period, and an in-person meeting of the Foundations Dialogue was held June 2022 in Rabat, Morocco, hosted by the Mohamed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and led to the development of the [Bouknadel Statement](#) that highlighted the role of philanthropic organizations in developing partnerships and initiatives related to co-design, strategic communications and capacity development in support of the Ocean Decade. This meeting saw the genesis of the Funders Collaborative, an initiative led by the Lenfest Programme of the Pew Charitable Trusts and The Ocean Foundation, to create a pooled fund to support the development of a rigorous enabling environment for Decade Actions.

The third edition of the Foundations Dialogue convened over 30 philanthropic Foundations in Monaco in June 2023, hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. This meeting led to the development of the [Monaco Statement](#) that reaffirmed the commitment of philanthropic organizations to supporting the Decade

and led to the identification of four areas of priority action around new initiatives for philanthropy to support the Ocean Decade, the scaling up of existing initiatives, knowledge products and best practices for philanthropic support to ocean science in the framework of the Ocean Decade, and joint initiatives for in-kind support to Ocean Decade events, initiatives and activities.

During this period, co-branded Calls for Decade Actions were initiated with the Western Australian Government and the Norwegian Research Council. Together, these Calls are expected to mobilize close to USD 4 million for new Decade Actions focusing on Indigenous and local knowledge, marine heatwaves and sustainable blue food, amongst other issues.

BOX 3: DATA, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE OCEAN DECADE

Ocean data, information and knowledge are key enablers of the Ocean Decade's success. The Ocean Decade Implementation Plan identified a broad framework for the effective management, sharing and use of ocean data throughout the Decade that is based around a distributed ocean information ecosystem of interoperable elements that connects across disciplines and geographic boundaries. The Ocean Decade Data Coordination Group was charged with the transformation of this framework into an operational strategy and, in April 2023, the Group published the [Ocean Decade Data and Information Strategy](#) by the Data Coordination Group. This strategy sets out the following vision for data, information and knowledge in the Ocean Decade as:

"A trusted, inclusive and interconnected ocean data and information system that is actively used for decision-making to support sustainable management, and that also allows for new data sources, information networks, and solutions to be integrated as needs evolve."

The strategy, which is structured around five strategic objectives, is currently being translated into an action plan by the Data Strategy Implementation Group that was formed in May 2023, with the aim that the action plan is presented for discussion at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference.

The strategy recognizes the importance of engaging diverse partners in the Ocean Decade and unlocking data sources from industry, and to this end, the Ocean Decade Corporate Data Group was officially launched in February 2023 with eight private industry members having joined by June 2023. The Corporate Data Group provides a platform for members to discuss the challenges and opportunities linked to sharing of privately held ocean data and is working to develop use cases and guidelines to demonstrate the benefits and means of increasing accessibility of such data sources.

Stakeholder engagement and outreach



Increased visibility of the Ocean Decade remains a priority. As the Ocean Decade enters its third year of implementation, the focus of engagement and outreach activities is transitioning from raising awareness about the Ocean Decade itself, to an increased focus on strategic communication of the outputs and knowledge generated by the Ocean Decade Actions and initiatives. This focus will continue to grow in coming months and years, including the identification of opportunities to provide targeted support to Decade Actions to support this work.

In this regard, there were intensive stakeholder engagement and outreach efforts during this period. In-person or hybrid events coordinated by the Decade Coordination Unit and focusing on different aspects of the Ocean Decade were organized at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2022, COP27 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022, COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022, and the UN Water Conference held in New York, USA, in March 2023.

Visitors to the revamped [Ocean Decade website](#) continue to grow and continued investment in the website will ensure its growing role as a showcase for Decade Actions. The [Ocean Decade Network](#), the online community platform for exchange and collaboration between Decade partners, now has over 7,000 registered users and is the digital home to the different groups working as part of the Decade.

Social media followers across all Ocean Decade platforms have grown to approximately 45,000 and the reach of the official social media platforms is greatly amplified by the reach of the Ocean Decade community with the combined reach of Decade Actions, DCCs, DCOs, DIPs and National Decade Committees at over 6 million followers.

BOX 4: EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONALS IN THE OCEAN DECADE

Endorsed in June 2021 as one of the first flagship programmes of the Ocean Decade, the ECOP Programme has significantly advanced. By 30 June 2023, the Programme had around 3,000 members from 150 countries with five regional and 27 national nodes.

The Programme has focused much of its work on capacity development which has been identified by ECOPs as a key priority need. In the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the main achievements here included: a) second round of four online trainings sponsored by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) for ECOPs in Africa and the Caribbean region in November 2022; b) second online training for ECOPs in Africa in cooperation with the OceanTeacher Global Academy – “Data Management and Analysis with R Programming”, which took place on 6-24 February 2023; c) seven episodes of the ECOP Programme’s own webinar series launched in September 2022; d) two regional webinars with SOA (for Asia and Central America) as part of the 2023 joint webinar series (also including webinars for the Caribbean region, Africa, North America, Lusofonia, Europe and Pacific) as SOA’s contribution to the Ocean Decade; e) detailed reports from our coordinators with analysis of their work and surveys on ECOPs’ needs for Asia, China, India, Africa and Canada.

The Programme has expanded its geographical outreach with a significant increase in audience in its main media channels Twitter (X) and LinkedIn with a combined audience of 8,000 followers, and threefold increase in website visits.

Perspectives for the year ahead





Looking towards 2030, the Ocean Decade is increasing its focus on ensuring that it is responding to the highest priority needs in ocean science and knowledge to meet user needs. The [Vision 2030 process](#) is at the heart of this approach. The process was launched in early 2022 and will work in the lead-up to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference via a series of expert Working Groups to set a collective and quantifiable strategic ambition for each of the Ocean Decade Challenges. The results of the Vision 2030 process will be used to scope future Calls for Decade Actions to facilitate solicitation of Programmes and Projects that fulfil the identified priority needs for each Challenge. The results will also be essential information to use in discussions with resource providers to align resource mobilization with the most pressing needs of the Ocean Decade. Following validation of the results of this process at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, an operational framework will be implemented to track and report on progress towards the achievement of the strategic ambition for each Challenge.

Increased efforts to engage individuals and institutions in Africa and SIDS will continue. The Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility will focus its efforts in SIDS, LDCs and with Early Career Ocean Professionals and will be a key mechanism to meet the capacity development and exchange needs of partners in these regions. Continued support will be provided to regional taskforces and coordination structures to allow them to fully identify and implement regional priorities and the identification of new resources and partnerships to support these structures will be a priority.

Planning is well underway for the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference that will be hosted by the Government of Spain in Barcelona in April 2024. This milestone event will provide an important platform for the Ocean Decade community to celebrate achievements of the Decade, showcase innovative solutions and outcomes of Decade Actions, and collectively set a vision for the next years of implementation of the Ocean Decade via presentation and discussion of the Vision 2030 process. The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference is being developed in a manner that will ensure strong articulation with other key regional and international events that will occur before and after the Conference including the UNFCCC COP28 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, December 2023), the 4th International Conference on SIDS (Antigua and Barbuda, May 2024), and the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (Nice, France, June 2025) and its complementary events.

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