



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

**The Ocean We Need
for the Future We Want**



How to prepare the Decade?

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO will coordinate the Decade's preparatory process, inviting the global ocean community to plan for the next ten years in ocean science and technology, and connecting ocean science with societal needs.

“The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is a unique opportunity to engage the ocean science community in achieving SDG14 - globally, regionally, and locally.”

Dr Vladimir Ryabinin

Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

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For more information, please visit this dedicated webpage: <http://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade>

“The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science will help to build a shared information system, based on trustworthy, scientific data, from all parts of the world’s ocean.”

Professor Peter M. Haugan

Chair of the Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

A United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to mobilise ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Decade will stimulate action over the next ten years in areas of critical importance for the planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnership.

More coordinated and consolidated observations and research will contribute to the UN processes protecting the ocean and its resources, such as the Aichi Biodiversity targets, the SAMOA Pathway, the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO has been tasked with designing the Decade and consulting governments, UN partners, scientific organisations, the private sector and civil society to deliver, together, **the ocean we need for the future we want.**



Why a UN Decade of Ocean Science

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE GAPS

99%

of habitable marine areas lack basic biodiversity knowledge for their management



3

Number of people who have explored the deepest known point of the ocean

Only 5%

of the ocean floor has been mapped at high resolution



1 million

Approximate number of marine species that could still be unknown to science



103 million

Square miles of deep sea are in perpetual darkness

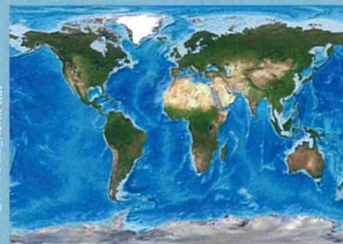
All nations need scientific solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda

Ocean science is critical in reversing the decline that the ocean has slipped into in recent decades, whether it is to address climate change impacts on the ocean, marine pollution, ocean acidification, the loss of marine species and degradation of marine and coastal environments. To achieve sustainable development, good science is needed to inform policies and raise the knowledge of all stakeholders.

A core objective of the Decade will be to improve the scientific knowledge base through capacity development to regions and groups that are presently limited in capacity and capability, especially SIDS and LDCs.

Investment in marine research will be leveraged through partnerships, far beyond the existing level of investment (ocean science accounts for only between 0,04% and 4% of total research and development expenditures worldwide).

Examples of Possible Outcomes



Mapping the ocean



Inventory of ocean ecosystems

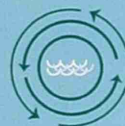


Open access to data and information



Ocean observing system for all major basins

A Decade To



TRANSFORM

knowledge systems to support sustainable development



BOLSTER

ocean observing and data systems



MEASURE

cumulative impacts for effective solutions



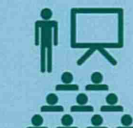
DELIVER

best available knowledge to decision-makers



REDUCE

vulnerability to ocean and coastal hazards

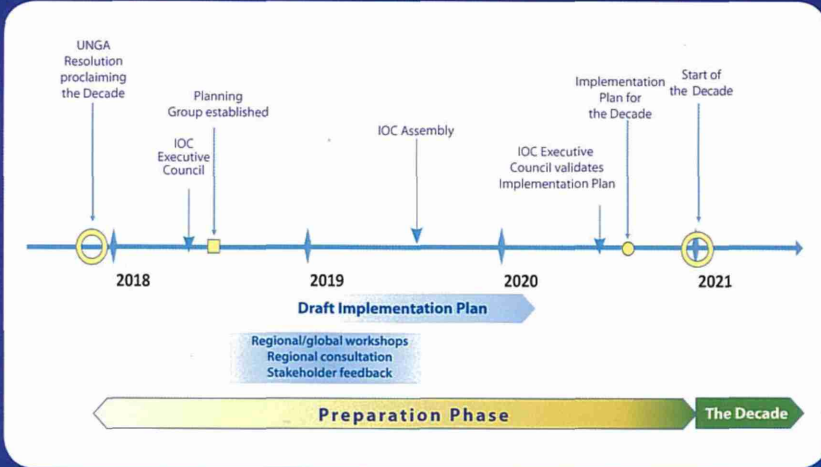


ACCELERATE

transfer of marine technology, training and education

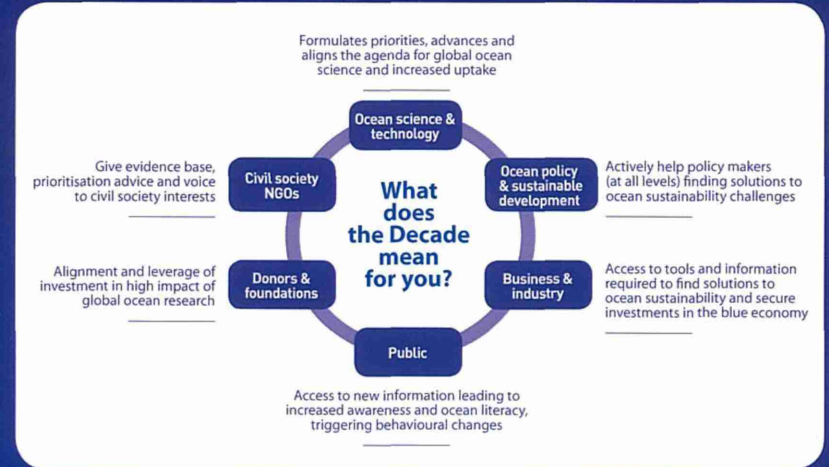
Preparing for the Decade

Building on global and regional consultations, an international Planning Group will lead the drafting of the Decade Implementation Plan



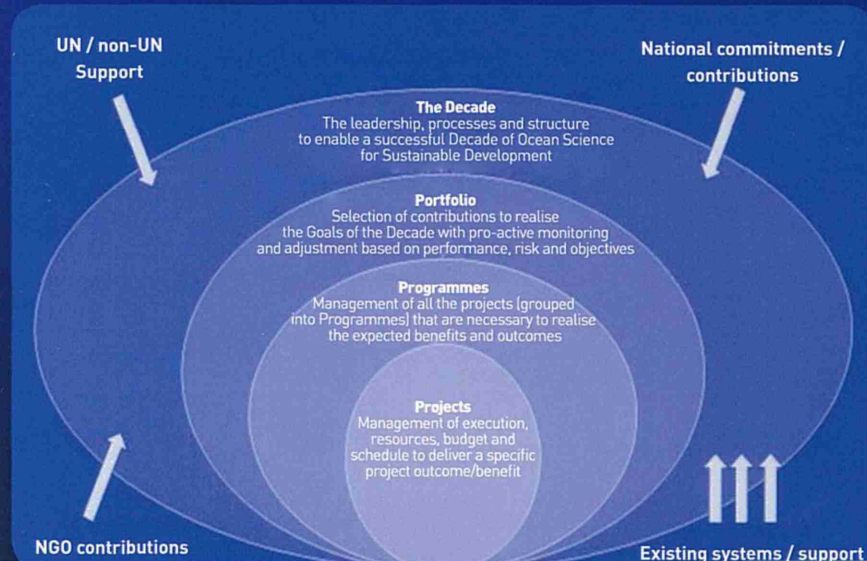
Who is Concerned?

Stakeholders working at the science/policy interface will be invited to contribute



A Participative and Transformative Process

The Decade will be transformative and generate the scientific knowledge and underpinning infrastructure and partnerships needed to ensure the sustainable development of the ocean



How Can You Help?

- **Contribute to the Planning Process:** submit ideas or participate in Decade dedicated workshops
- **Host and organise events:** consult stakeholders, communicate about the Decade and identify opportunities for investments and resource mobilisation
- **Provide in-kind and/or financial support:** help IOC and its coordinating activities
- **Communicate:** share the purpose and expected results of the Decade, its Planning Phase and Preparatory Activities

