



“Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development”

2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference
& 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference
Bangkok, Thailand, 22-25 April 2024

Call for proposals: Decade Action Incubator

Deadline for submission: 10 September 2023

The Decade Action Incubator serves as an interactive forum to catalyze partnerships, strengthen dialogue from ocean knowledge generators to knowledge users, initiate co-designing processes, facilitate the development of potential Decade Actions such as Decade programmes¹, Decade projects², and key crosscutting topics including capacity development and Early Career Ocean Professionals. Each Incubator will run for a period of no longer than **three** hours.

The proposed Decade Action Incubator shall address one or more of the seven Ocean Decade Outcomes as follows: a clean ocean, a healthy and resilient ocean, a productive ocean, a predicted ocean, a safe ocean, a transparent and accessible ocean, and an inspiring and engaging ocean.

Ocean stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, governments, NGOs and civil society, and private and business sectors, are invited to submit their proposals by 10 September 2023.

Selection criteria for Decade Action Incubator

Each proposal will be assessed both in terms of the quality of running the Incubator session, and proposed potential Decade Action.

The basic criteria for selection include the following:

- Alignment with the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade, and contribution to the societal outcomes and challenges of the Ocean Decade;

¹ A Decade programmed is typically global or regional in scale and will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges. It is long-term (multi-year), interdisciplinary and will consist of component projects, and potentially enabling activities

² A Decade project is a discrete and focused undertaking. It may be regional, national or sub-national and it will typically contribute to an identified Decade programmed.

- Generation of transformative ocean science³ in comparison to what has been done before;
- Promotion of multidisciplinary, solution-oriented approach;
- Engagement of broad stakeholders, including private sector and major groups, and promotion of their interactions and actions;
- Consideration given to gender balance and geographic representation in the choice of speakers and panelists;

Responsibility of the Incubator Convenor(s)

The Incubator Convenor(s) will be responsible for the following:

- Identifying conveners, speakers and panelists;
- Inviting participants from Member States, major groups and other stakeholders;
- Preparing the event programme and share it with the Conference Secretariat no later than **10 January 2024**

All queries relating to “Decade Action Incubators” should be addressed to the following contacts, with a subject line of “Decade Action Incubators”.

UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific

Email: iocwestpac@unesco.org

and

Department of Marine and Coastal Resources

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand

Email: iocwestpac2024@gmail.com

³ The notion of transformation is central to the Decade. The Decade, both in terms of action and outcomes, needs to move beyond business as usual to a true revolution in ocean science. The different ways in which the transformative nature of the Decade will manifest include the promotion and facilitation of ocean science that:

- uses the 2030 Agenda as a central framework to identify and address the most pressing societal questions related to SDG14 and related SDGs;
- is co-designed and co-delivered in a multi-stakeholder environment to be relevant and responsive across the entire value-chain from knowledge generation, to applications and services to use of science for solutions;
- is solutions-focused and contributes to a wide variety of potential solutions including policy, decision-making, management or governance frameworks, or technology development and innovation;
- where needed, is big, audacious, forward-looking, and spans geographies;
- reaches across disciplines and actively integrates natural and social science disciplines;
- embraces local and indigenous knowledge as a key knowledge source;
- is transformative because of who is doing it or where it is being done, including in both less developed and developed countries;
- strives for generational, gender and geographic diversity in all its manifestations;
- is communicated in forms that are widely understood across society and that trigger excitement about the ocean and behavior change; and
- is shared openly and available for re-use.