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

# National Decade Committees in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

# Decade Action Framework

Vision

*The science we need for the ocean we want*

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Mission

*transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.*



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2030 AGENDA & REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS



DECADE OUTCOMES

"THE OCEAN WE WANT"



### OCEAN DECADE CHALLENGES

The most immediate and pressing needs of the Decade. Challenges may evolve throughout the Decade and new Challenges will be added. Each Challenge contributes to one or more Decade outcomes.



### DECADE OBJECTIVES

The steps in the process from the ocean we have to the ocean we want. Objectives are relevant to all Challenges. Prioritisation and translation of objectives into Actions will vary depending on context.



### DECADE ACTIONS

The tangible initiatives and endeavours that will be implemented by a wide range of Decade stakeholders to fulfil the objectives and thus achieve the Challenges.

### Knowledge & Solutions Challenges:

1. Marine Pollution
2. Protect and Restore Ecosystems
3. Sustainable Blue Food
4. Sustainable Ocean Economy
5. Ocean-Climate Nexus

### Infrastructure Challenges:

6. Community Resilience
7. Ocean Observations
8. Digital Ocean

### Foundational Challenges:

9. Capacity Development
10. Behaviour Change

Decade Programmes, Projects, Activities and Contributions solicited on a regular basis

# The Decade is also a growing ecosystem of societal actors...



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# ...and provides key ingredients to work across the Science-Policy-Society Interface



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'Neutral' connecting framework for diverse actors



*It can help fulfill some of the key conditions of success to transform science to action!*



Solutions focused & action oriented for sustainable development

Built upon requirements for co-creation & uptake

- TIME** • 10 years!
- RESOURCES** • Funding opportunities & partnerships
- GOODWILL** • Platforms to build trust
- SKILLS** • Capacity development focus
- FRAMEWORKS** • Decade Action endorsement process

Broad & inclusive definition of 'ocean science'

Mechanisms to translate global ambition to regional & national scales

# Engagement & coordination at the national level is essential...



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## ENSURING NATIONALLY RELEVANT OCEAN SCIENCE PRIORITIES

- To ensure impact, the global ambition of Ocean Decade needs to be made locally relevant and have national ownership
- Understanding of specific national needs and gaps in science, knowledge and capacity is essential

## WORKING ACROSS SCIENCE – POLICY – SOCIETY INTERFACE

- Closer proximity at national level between science, policy and society leads to significant potential to influence national and sub-national decisions and behaviour
- To allow specific cultural, language and other needs to be taken into account when engaging societal actors

## INFLUENCING FUNDING FOR OCEAN SCIENCE

- Most funding for ocean science is decided at the national level e.g. national funding agencies or in discussions with IFIs or MDBs
- However, funding for ocean science is inadequately considered at national level (< 2% of national research budgets)

# What are National Decade Committees?



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- Voluntary, inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms set up to **coordinate, support and increase** their country's participation in the Ocean Decade by **mobilizing the whole "ocean community"** at the national level i.e. all producers and users of ocean science
- National Decade Committees are established in the framework of the Ocean Decade but have the potential to have impact well beyond the framework of the Decade and continue to generate impact post-2030



**Objective = all 150 IOC  
Member States have  
an NDC by 2030 and  
an NDC that lives on  
post-Decade**

# What role do National Decade Committees play?

=> Critical connection between national actors and the global Decade community



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The mandate and scope of each National Decade Committee is unique and tailored to national needs but common roles include:

- Promote the Ocean Decade and encourage broad participation by diverse stakeholder groups, including those who are not typical partners of the scientific community e.g. industry, impact investors etc.
- Support and connect Decade Actions led by or working in the country and enhance their access to Decade benefits, such as data, products, science-policy advice or capacity development opportunities
- Catalyze new Decade Actions and promote co-design of Actions with diverse stakeholders in response to Calls for Decade Actions
- Translate the global challenges and priorities of the Ocean Decade in the development of national policies, strategies and priorities for ocean science, transfer of marine technology or capacity development
- Influence funding and resource allocation decisions for ocean science
- Create regional connections and links around common themes
- Support the engagement of under-represented groups including ILK holders and ECOPs

# Identified Challenges & Opportunities for National Decade Committees



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## OPPORTUNITIES

Neutral convening framework for diverse ocean stakeholders

Opportunity to raise visibility of ocean science issues at national level

Possibility to ensure deliberate inclusion of under-represented groups in national dialogue

Potential to build post-Decade platform for dialogue on ocean science

Creation of regional and country-country connections on similar themes

## EXISTING CHALLENGES

Lack of visibility of NDCs in national governmental landscape & weak connection to decision makers

Multiplicity of national structures & demands on time

Lack of resources to implement activities

Lack of clear mandate / role once established i.e. what do we now?

Overly strong focus on ocean literacy compared to other issues / themes in the Ocean Decade



# A wealth of best practices from existing National Decade Committees



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National Ocean Decade  
Implementation Plan /  
Action Plan - Brazil, Norway,  
Canada, US

Engagement of national  
celebrities to engage  
broader community -  
Canada, UK, Germany

Targeted inputs to national  
policy development - India

Youth Advisory Councils to  
increase generational  
diversity - US

Facilitation of sponsored  
Calls for Decade Actions –  
Norway, Brazil

Formal partnerships with  
private sector enterprises –  
Germany, US

Influencing national  
research plans and funding -  
Turkiye, Italy, France,  
Norway

Sharing experience on  
engagement of Indigenous  
and local knowledge holders  
- New Zealand, Colombia,  
Canada

Technical workshops on  
priority Ocean Decade  
themes - Indonesia, Brazil

Convening leaders of Ocean  
Decade Actions to increase  
synergies - France

# Support from the Decade Coordination Unit and Decentralised Structures (DCO, DCC and DIPs)



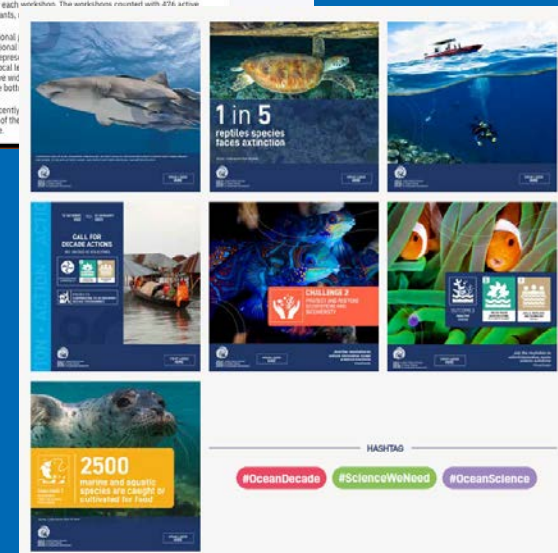
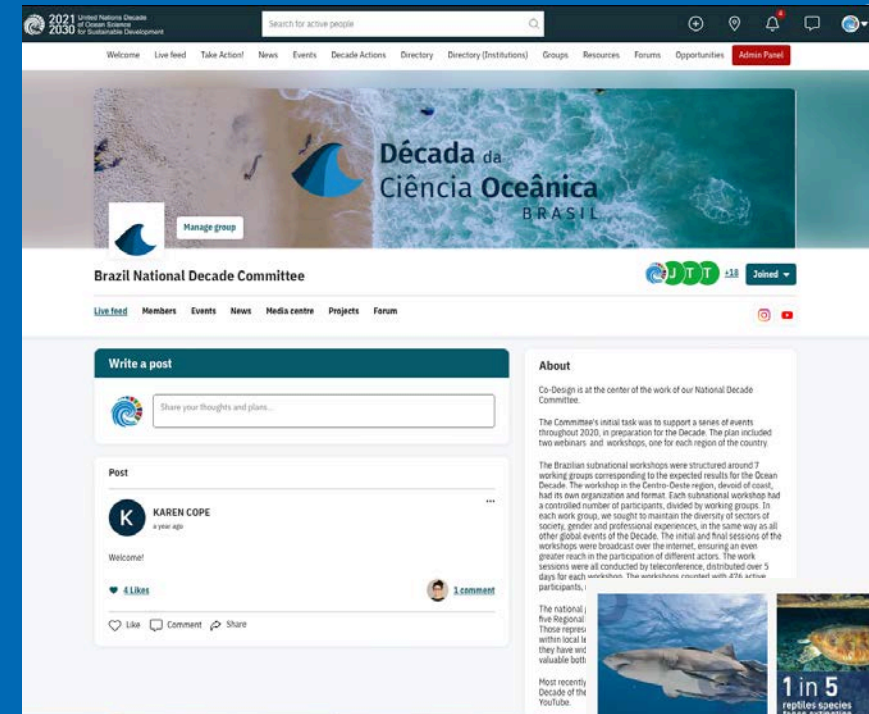
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- Support for NDC establishment and mentoring
  - Matchmaking for guidance, mentoring and twinning
  - Potential seed funding for LDCs and SIDS
  - Sharing of experience and mutual support between NDCs at regional / global level
- Best Practice Manual (coming soon!)
  - Celebrate and build on the experience of the early National Decade Committees
  - Inspire and support new and existing Committees by sharing best practices
- Ocean Decade Network
  - Central online community for National Decade Committees with dedicated networking
- Brand Toolkit (coming soon!)
  - Support outreach and engagement via standardized communications assets and suggested messaging



# Suggested New Initiatives to support NDCs



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1. Guidance / support on developing national action plans and priorities for the Ocean Decade
2. Guidance / support on capacity needs assessment for ocean science at the national level
3. Guidance / support on development of national ocean science strategy or policy
4. Guidance on co-design and the role of National Decade Committees in Calls for Decade Actions
5. Structured matchmaking system for connections to DCO, DCC, DIPs, Decade Actions and other partners for support, training, resources etc.
6. Additional training / tools on communications and outreach

***What else could be useful for existing or new National Decade Committees***



Canada



And many others that have contributed in-kind support...

