



WESTPAC Programme/ Project/Working Group

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Guidelines



What

To take stock of the **implementation status** and further catalyze ocean science solutions for sustainable development, this ppt template is designed to:

- Gather information on the **current development status** of the WESTPAC Programme/Project/Working Group, particularly since the Fourteenth Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV) in *April 2023*.
- More importantly, assess its **future development**, along with **potential action plans** for future implementation, i.e., for the period of *2025-2026 and beyond*.

Why

- The Information will facilitate considerations concerning how to harness, stimulate and empower interdisciplinary ocean research that can increase our understanding and inform policy and decision-making.
- It will also aid in improving programme efficiency and effectiveness that will serve the requirement of Member States and the Sub-Commission as a whole.

How

Filling out the following slides, which should not take much time, and return the completed slides to iocwestpac@unesco.org by **20 September 2024**. We appreciate your kind cooperation.

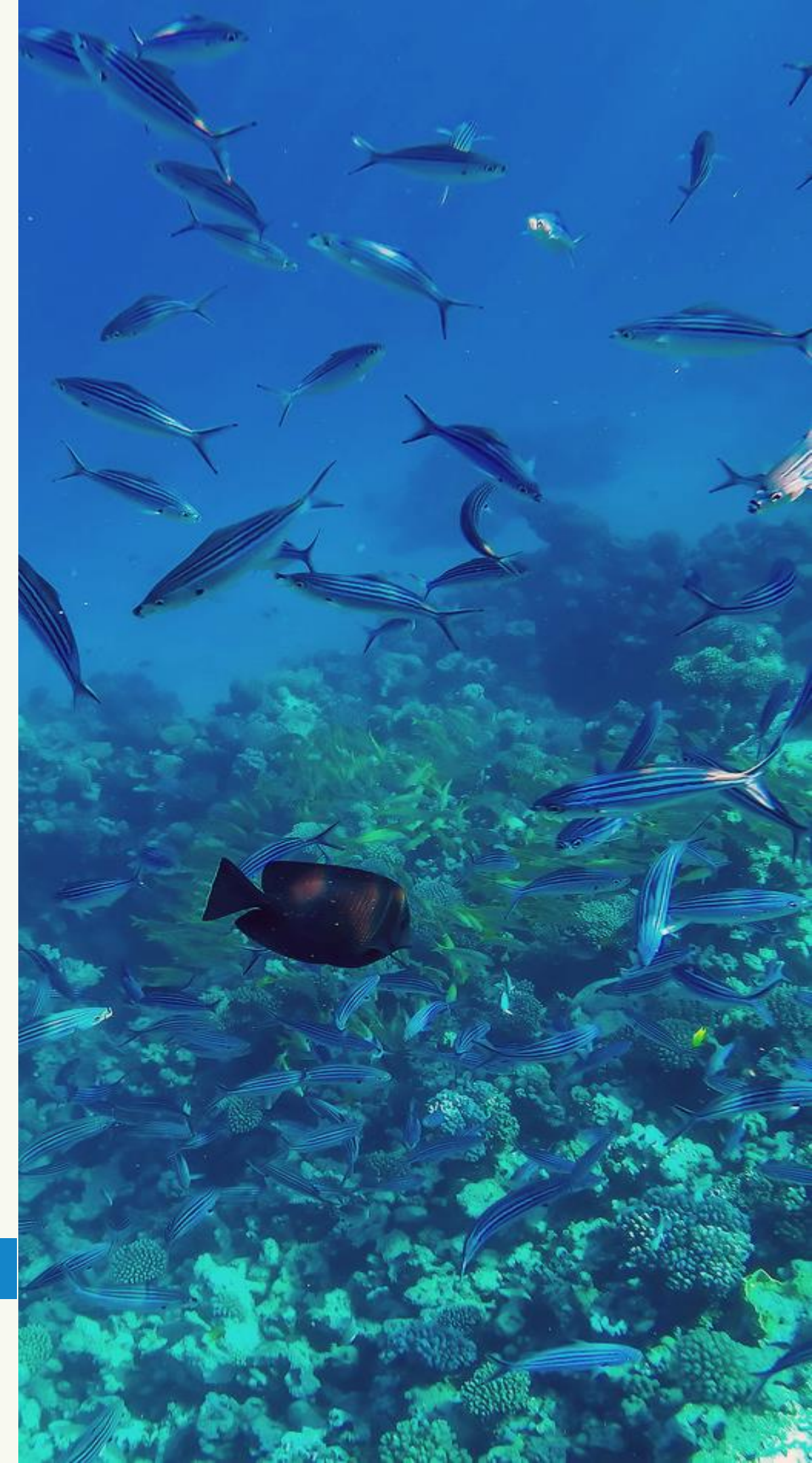
Note:

- *Feel free to use a different slide layout if it better suits your summary content.*
- *Failure to submit will be considered as a lack of substantive activity and may indicate difficulties in continuing the project.*

Summary Outline

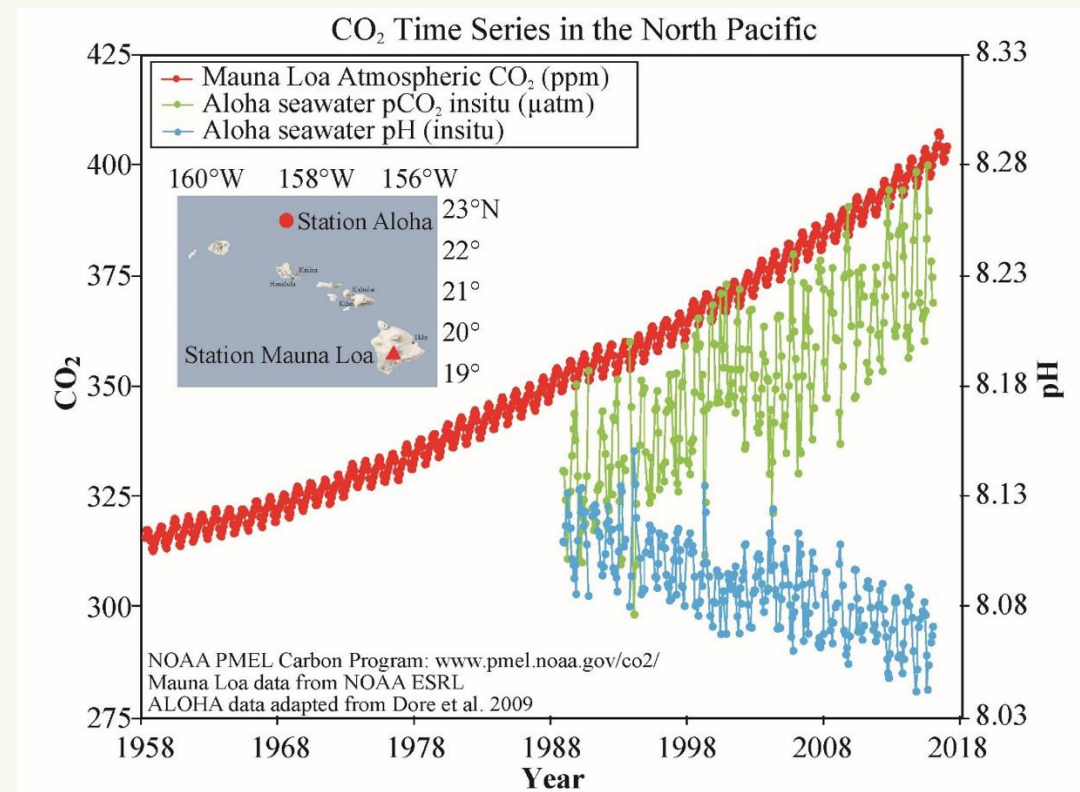


1. Justification
2. Objectives
3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes (particular those accomplished during 2023-2024)
4. Problems encountered and recommended actions
5. Strategic considerations/thoughts for future development
6. Potential action plans for 2025-2026 and beyond



1. Justification

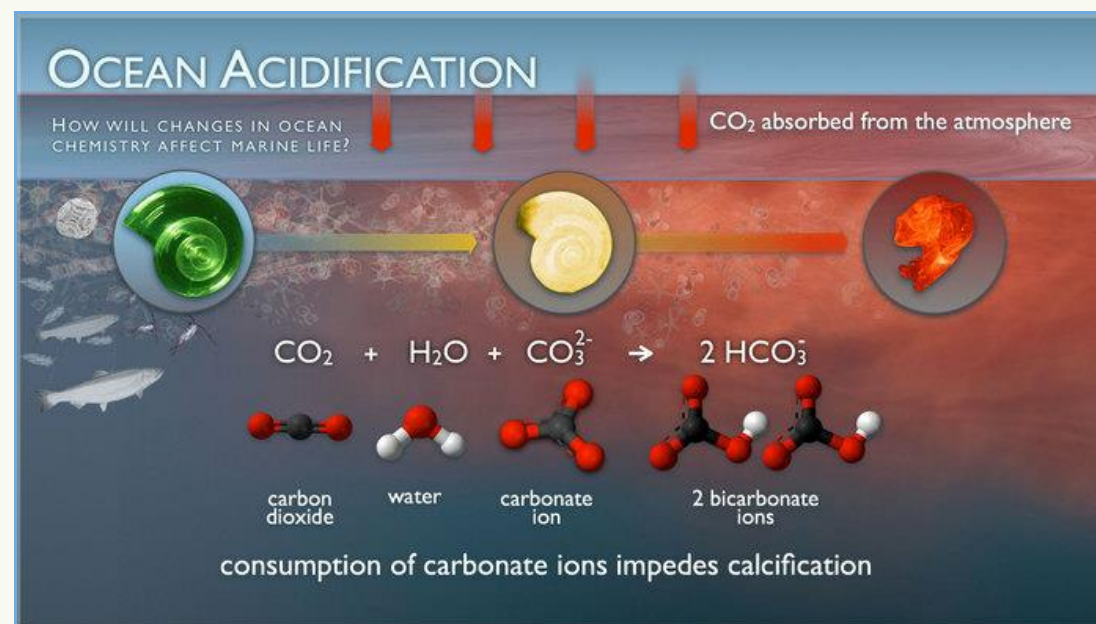
(Why this programme/project/working group is needed for the Sub-Commission)



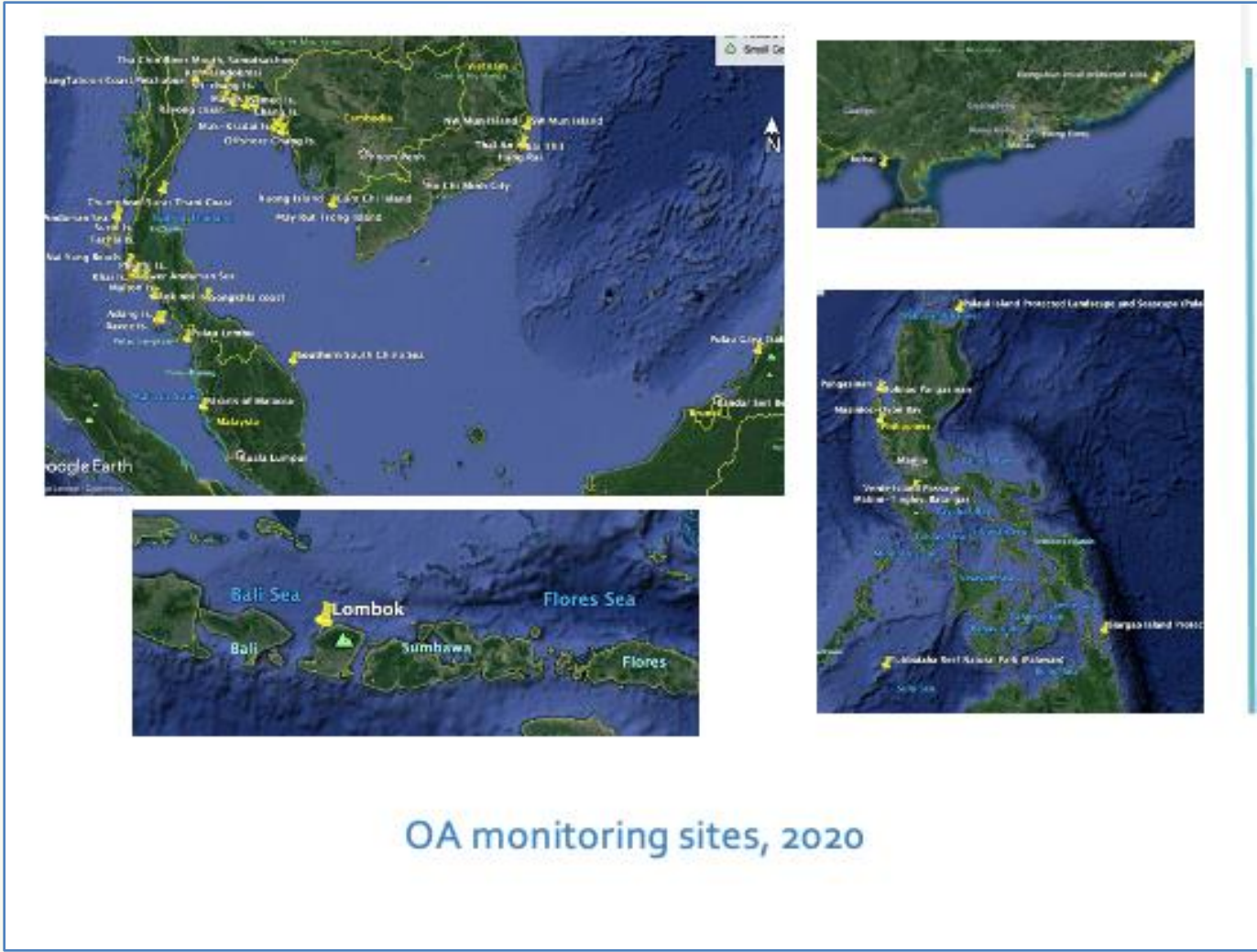
Anthropogenic CO₂ emissions continued to increase and were reported to reach the maximum ever recorded in the earth's history in 2024. The ocean will absorb one-third of the emissions; the resulting reaction of CO₂ and seawater increases seawater acidity and changes its carbonate system, which affects marine organisms and ecosystems.

SDG-14.3, a crucial global initiative, acknowledges the severe consequences of rising seawater acidity on marine life. It is clear that this issue, if left unaddressed, will have detrimental effects on seafood production and socioeconomic development.

In supporting the target of **SDG-14.3, Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels**, WESTPAC established the Monitoring the Ecological Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Coral Reefs in 2015, which has a priority to the establishment of the regional OA network and increase the capacity building on monitoring seawater acidity and related parameters including impact on coral reef, which is a crucial habitat contributing to coastal productivities and communities livelihood and economy.



2. Objectives



Objective 1. Continue providing the capacity development on the transfer of marine technologies and knowledge in generating qualified national/regional data and information to understand the status and impacts of OA on aquatic organisms, which will extend the study to the impact on marine organisms, fisheries, and ecosystem functions/services, in supporting the formulation of national and regional ocean management and policy for adaptation and mitigation of the climate change;

Objective 2. Strengthen collaboration/network of research institutes and related government agencies to sustain the monitoring of ocean acidification and expand to other related parameters in the region in supporting the Member States to fulfill their commitment to the achievement of SDG-14.3 and mitigation of OA impacts;

Objective 3. Collaboration with other OA-related activities under the WESTPAC framework and integrated science knowledge is a step towards a brighter future. Together, the multidisciplinary ocean science knowledge will be developed to understand better the complexity of coastal and ocean processes of OA impacts. This will also support the achievement of the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade (2021-30) in countries, regions, and the globe.

3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes



Latest accomplishment, particular those during 2023 to 2024

Major activities

Activity 1: Conducted a series of consultative meetings of the OA's expert group in 2023 and 2024 to review the achievement of OA activities in the past and future action plans, including preparation of drafting Synthesis Report on Ocean Acidification (OA) Initiatives in WESTPAC countries through 2024

Activities 2: Conducted a Scientific Session on “Ocean acidification and its impacts on marine ecosystems” at the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.

Activity 3: Conducted an incubator on “Ocean Solutions: Understanding multiple Stressors on Coastal Ecosystems and Providing Scientific Solutions to Benefit People, nature, and Economy” at the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.

Timeframe

Project start year: 20XX

3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes



Latest accomplishment, particular those during 2023 to 2024

Major activities

Ongoing activity: Developing the UN Ocean Decade on Ocean Solution under the framework of WESTPAC with close collaboration with the experts on deoxygenation and eutrophication in the region. The tentative outline of the activities was identified at the incubator on “Ocean Solutions: Understanding Multiple Stressors on Coastal Ecosystems and Providing Scientific Solutions to Benefit People, Nature, and Economy,” 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand. Prof.Aileen, Malaysia, will be developing the concept note of the UN Ocean Decade on Ocean Solution with close consultation with WESTPAC’s experts and is supposed to organize the first consultative meeting/workshop in late 2024 or early 2025 to finalize the final document before submit ting to the IOC for endorsement.

Timeframe

Project start year: 20XX

3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes



Latest accomplishment, particular those during 2023 to 2024

Outputs & Outcomes

- **Synthesis Report on Ocean Acidification (OA)** Initiatives in WESTPAC countries: *The outline of the report was developed and finalized* at the OA Scientific Session of the WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand. Experts from each country, particularly China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, took responsibility for drafting each part of the report. The drafting report is led by Prof. Malou McGlone (the Philippines).
- **Scientific Session** at the OA Scientific Session of the WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand, was succeeded. It was the networking of the scientists who work on ocean acidification and related issues to learn about ongoing activities in the region, particularly on the WESTPAC OA project, and had a chance to exchange ideas about future regional activities to support the countries and the UN Ocean Decade.

Timeframe

Project start year: 2023-2025

3. Major activities, outputs & outcomes



Latest accomplishment, particular those during 2023 to 2024

Outputs & Outcomes

- **UN Ocean Decade Incubator** on Ocean Solutions, Understanding Multiple Stressors on Coastal Ecosystems and Providing Scientific Solutions to Benefit People, nature, and Economy, was successful and brainstormed to get support on furthering the development of the UN Ocean Decade project. Finally, the Incubator got input from the participants and partners in drafting a tentative framework at the end of the Incubator for further development of the UN Decade Ocean Project under the lead of Prof. Aileen.
- Under the coordination of WESTPAC, a consultative meeting was organized between WESTPAC and the relevant partners for future coordination with the IOC-GOOD and IOC/GOA-ON. The meeting agreed to maximize the regional benefits for the future development of WESTPAC's regional role, particularly the development of the UN Ocean Decade project on Ocean Solution under the lead of Prof. Aileen.

Timeframe

Project start year: 2023-2025

4. Problems encountered & recommended actions



Problems encountered

- Communication and response from the members of the group took time.

Timeframe

Project start year: 2023-2025

Actions

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- ...

5. Strategic considerations/thoughts for future development



- Since the OA project has achieved its primary target of capacity development to serve the target of SDG-14.3.1, the standard OA data from member states have been generated and submitted to the OA data portal. Next step, the OA project should be integrated with other WESTPAC projects, such as deoxygenation (hypoxia), anthropogenic pollution, biodiversity, eutrophication-related projects, etc., to support integrated scientific knowledge of the coastal ecological processes. This knowledge could help solve coastal environmental problems, which are wildly occurring in the region, and directly benefit the coastal community in areas such as livelihood, fishery activities, socioeconomics, etc.
- WESTPAC's initiative of the UN Decade project on Ocean Solution concept should be strongly pursued, with close consultation with other WESTPAC projects and partners.

6. Potential action plans for future implementation

for the period of 2025-2026 and beyond



- In preparation for developing the UN Decade Project on Ocean Solution concept by WESTPAC with close communication among experts of OA group and related partners.

Planned activities



Program	Plan				Funding Required		Remark
	Activities	Objectives	Expected outputs/outcomes	Date and place	IOC	Other sources (i.e. from national or international)	
	1.						
	2.						
	3.						



Thank You

Name



Tel



Email



Website

