

Annex

Terms of Reference Intersessional Task Force on Ocean Literacy

1. Objective

Ocean Literacy has gained increasing attention worldwide over the past decade. Ocean Literacy is defined as “the understanding of human influence on the ocean and the ocean influence on human”. It not only provides a fundamental means to enhance ocean knowledge and raise public awareness, but also provides tools and a comprehensive approach to empower citizens and stakeholders to act in a more responsible manner for our ocean and its resources.

The Ocean Literacy Task Force is initiated to drive the development of ocean literacy in the Western Pacific and adjacent areas.

2. Terms of Reference

The Task Force will be open-ended. It will be composed of experts recommended by Member States and relevant communities, coming from diverse and relevant disciplines and interested parties reflecting the multi-stakeholder nature of ocean literacy, including government agencies, educational and research institutions, private sectors and foundations.

Experts will be selected based on their expertise, working experience in ocean literacy and a willingness to promote ocean literacy collectively, taking into account geographical and gender balance.

The Task Force will provide strategic and actional recommendations on the scoping, coordination, and implementation of the Ocean Literacy portfolio of activities in the region, as well as develop, promote and support ocean literacy initiatives tailored to the region’s cultural, economic, and ecological contexts. Specifically, it will

- Provide strategic recommendations or directions for advancing Ocean Literacy in the region;
- Identify, develop, coordinate and implement Ocean Literacy initiatives in the region, ensuring they are tailored to the needs of Member States in the region and aligned with the UN Ocean Decade goals;
- Engage with stakeholders at both international and national levels to identify opportunities for co-developing and mobilizing financial and in-kind support for Ocean Literacy initiative(s);
- Identification of synergies with relevant organizations and institutions interested to promote Ocean Literacy, including among UNESCO Sectors, international organizations, educational/academic institutions, NGOs and private sector associations;
- Actively participate in the Task Force regular meetings, and interact with other Ocean Literacy communities;

The open-ended Task Force will be formed and become operational for the duration of the UN Ocean Decade, subject to regular review and extension as needed.