

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - focus in 2026-2029

OUTCOME 2



A world where biodiversity, geodiversity, water and the ocean are valued and sustainably managed, in order to face the challenges posed by climate change and contribute to climate action

OUTPUT 2.4.IOC

Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities (IOC Resolution EC-57/2)

- 04025** Strengthening Member States' capacity for marine scientific research and knowledge generation is essential for reversing the decline in ocean health and ensuring the sustainable management of ocean resources. The ocean plays a crucial role in climate regulation, biodiversity, and livelihoods, yet increasing pressures from pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction threaten its stability. Without robust scientific data, tools, and policies, countries struggle to effectively manage ocean-related risks and opportunities. Investing in science-based decision-making enables governments to develop sustainable policies, enhance disaster resilience, and support blue economy growth, ensuring that ocean resources are preserved and utilized responsibly for future generations.
- 04026** **IOC Assembly direction:** During the 2026-2027 biennium, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) will focus on advancing its core mandates and responding to evolving global ocean challenges, as outlined by the IOC Assembly. This period will be marked by a greater emphasis on increased connectivity between observations and data systems, leveraging ocean science to support sustainable development in the framework of the IOC SOPM strategy, disaster risk reduction, and marine biodiversity conservation including to support operationalisation of the BBNJ Agreement. Recognizing the growing demands for data-driven decision-making and international collaboration, IOC will work to enhance its impact through strengthened partnerships, improved coordination with UN and regional processes, and targeted capacity-building efforts. These priorities align with international commitments and frameworks, ensuring that IOC remains at the forefront of global efforts to safeguard ocean health and resilience.
- 04027** **Upscaling the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS):** IOC will enhance ocean observation infrastructure to better support national needs and UN processes.
- 04028** **Expanding the Ocean Data & Information System (ODIS):** Efforts will focus on achieving global coverage to improve access to ocean data and information.
- 04029** **Developing an integrated approach to delivering data and knowledge on biodiversity:** IOC will shape a comprehensive approach to understanding and delivering data and knowledge on the state and future of biodiversity in support of multilateral agreements and Member States' reporting obligations.

- 04030 Advancing the Tsunami Programme:** IOC aims to develop warning systems' capability to issue actionable and timely tsunami warnings for tsunamis from all sources and to ensure that 100% of at-risk communities meet the Tsunami Ready standard to enhance disaster preparedness.
- 04031 Strengthening sustainable ocean planning:** Regional delivery mechanisms will be reinforced to improve governance and coordination of ocean-related policies.
- 04032 Building Member States' capacity:** IOC will support countries, with a particular focus on Africa and small island developing States (SIDS), in accessing and benefiting from ocean science programmes.
- 04033** Results in these areas will help accelerate the delivery of knowledge and services to address key ocean challenges. Advancements in climate research and coastal resilience will provide stronger scientific foundations for mitigation and adaptation strategies, helping communities and ecosystems respond more effectively to environmental shifts. Improved understanding of marine biodiversity will enhance ocean planning efforts, guiding conservation and sustainable resource management both within national waters and in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Strengthened monitoring infrastructure for marine pollution will enable more effective detection, assessment, and response strategies, supporting targeted actions to reduce pollution and safeguard marine ecosystems.

Output	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
2.4.IOC	17 633	15 494	355	20 614	38 602	36 463

Output 2.4.IOC - Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities (IOC Resolution EC-57/2)

Results Framework – 43 C/5				
Performance Indicators	Baselines 2022-2025	Budget Ceiling Targets 2027	Exp. Plan Targets 2027	Indicative targets 2029
2.4.IOC.1 Number of Member States supported in routinely collecting and managing FAIR EOVS data on biodiversity and ecosystems through GOOS, ODIS and OBIS	27 <i>Africa 3</i> <i>SIDS 1</i>	31 <i>Africa 4</i> <i>SIDS 2</i>	29 <i>Africa 3</i> <i>SIDS 2</i>	31 <i>Africa 4</i> <i>SIDS 2</i>
2.4.IOC.2 Number of Member States engaged in ocean climate research networks, including ocean acidification, deoxygenation and blue carbon	116 <i>Africa 28</i> <i>SIDS 24</i>	118 <i>Africa 28</i> <i>SIDS 24</i>	118 <i>Africa 28</i> <i>SIDS 24</i>	120 <i>Africa 30</i> <i>SIDS 24</i>

2.4.IOC.3 Number of Member States' communities recognised as Tsunami Ready	100 <i>Africa 1</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>	200 <i>Africa 7</i> <i>SIDS 21</i>	180 <i>Africa 7</i> <i>SIDS 21</i>	300 <i>Africa 9</i> <i>SIDS 24</i>
2.4.IOC.4 Number of Member States supported in Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (incl. Marine Spatial Planning)	117 <i>Africa 28</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>	125 <i>Africa 30</i> <i>SIDS 18</i>	122 <i>Africa 29</i> <i>SIDS 17</i>	125 <i>Africa 30</i> <i>SIDS 18</i>
2.4.IOC.5 Percentage of leadership roles in the UN Ocean Decade Actions held by women or Early Career Ocean Professionals	15%* <i>Africa 5%</i> <i>SIDS 2%</i>	40% <i>Africa 15%</i> <i>SIDS 8%</i>	35% <i>Africa 12%</i> <i>SIDS 7%</i>	45% <i>Africa 18%</i> <i>SIDS 10%</i>

*Baseline: 2024-2025

INTERSECTORAL OUTPUT 2.6.IOC

Education for sustainable development expanded, including through the Greening Education Partnership, to make learners and communities climate-ready and agents of change

04034 Expanding education for sustainable development is critical to equipping learners and communities with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to address environmental challenges and build a more sustainable future. As climate-related risks intensify, education plays a key role in fostering resilience, enabling individuals to make informed decisions, adapt to changing conditions, and take meaningful action. Initiatives like the Greening Education Partnership ensure that sustainability is integrated into curricula, teacher training, and community engagement, empowering people to become active agents of change. By embedding sustainability principles into education systems, societies can drive long-term environmental stewardship, innovation, and policy transformation necessary for a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

04035 ***Intersectoral collaboration:** IOC collaborates with the Education and Natural Sciences Programmes to support education for sustainable development. Education provides the foundation for equipping learners and communities with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to address environmental challenges, fostering a culture of sustainability through initiatives like the Greening Education Partnership. Science strengthens this effort by offering the evidence base for understanding environmental systems, developing innovative solutions, and guiding policy decisions that shape sustainable practices. Jointly with the IOC initiatives described below, these programmes create a dynamic ecosystem where scientific knowledge informs education, education fosters sustainability-minded citizens, and intergovernmental collaboration ensures global and regional alignment.*

04036 **Integrating Ocean Literacy into Policy and Learning Frameworks:** The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) will build on progress made in the previous biennium in collaboration with the Science and Education Sectors to strengthen environmental education, with a particular focus on integrating ocean literacy into policy and learning frameworks. The primary objective will be to develop guidelines for the adoption of the blue curriculum

in national education policies, ensuring that ocean-related knowledge is systematically incorporated into teaching and learning. It will include the updating of the ocean literacy toolkit, to include new approaches and developments (since the 2017 toolkit was published) and the development of guidelines, resources and practices for Member States.

04037 Resources, Training and Best Practices: IOC will also work to enhance educators' and learners' skills and capacity by providing resources, training, and best practices to support effective ocean education. This effort will be supported by the development of guidelines, educational resources, and practical tools that align with global and regional needs.

04038 Leveraging Regional Subsidiary Bodies: By working through IOC regional subsidiary bodies, the initiative will take into account differences in governance structures, ocean cultures, and regional priority issues, ensuring that education strategies are tailored to local contexts. These efforts will empower learners and communities to engage with ocean sustainability, fostering informed decision-making and stronger ocean stewardship at all levels.

Output	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)				
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling Expenditure Plan
2.6.IOC	366	366		786	1 152 1 152

Output 2.6.IOC - Education for sustainable development expanded, including through the Greening Education Partnership, to make learners and communities climate-ready and agents of change

Results Framework – 43 C/5				
Performance Indicators	Baselines 2022-2025	Budget Ceiling Targets 2027	Exp. Plan Targets 2027	Indicative targets 2029
2.6.IOC.5 Number of centres in UNESCO-designated sites empowered to use ocean literacy teaching and learning materials for environmental and climate change education and awareness raising	60 <i>Africa 3</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>	63 <i>Africa 6</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>	63 <i>Africa 6</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>	65 <i>Africa 8</i> <i>SIDS 15</i>

INTERSECTORAL OUTPUT 2.7.IOC

Holistic and strategic support provided to small island developing States (SIDS) to address their priorities and vulnerabilities, aligned with the UNESCO operational strategy for SIDS and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda

04039 SIDS are among the most vulnerable nations to adverse impacts of climate change and natural hazards, notably to rising sea levels and coastal extreme events, including tsunamis and their reliance on marine biological resources for food security and livelihoods places them at risk of events that can impact those resources such as marine heatwaves and establishment of pest species. The increase in economic activity within coastal zones augments the underlying risk factors. Early warning systems are critical components of extreme events and climate change

resilience and there is a clear need for products and services that can be mainstreamed in policy advice and practice. Furthermore, the progress in early warning systems needs to reach all communities at risk, to ensure that early warnings are not only available for but also understood by all.

04040 ***Intersectoral collaboration:** IOC works with the Natural Sciences programme to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS). Science provides critical knowledge, technology, and data-driven solutions to help SIDS navigate pressing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable resource management. Through initiatives like the Multidimensional Vulnerability Framework and climate adaptation tools, scientific research informs policy decisions, strengthens resilience, and enhances environmental sustainability. IOC contributes to these efforts to create a robust framework where evidence-based strategies drive sustainable development while disaster preparedness and risk mitigation safeguard the future of SIDS.*

04041 **Strengthening Tsunami Preparedness and Early Warning Systems:** The Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP) will strengthen efforts to reduce the impact of tsunamis and other coastal hazards, particularly in small island developing States (SIDS). Through reinforced partnerships with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the programme will support the implementation of the Secretary-General's Early Warning for All initiative. These collaborations will enhance tsunami early warning systems, improve risk assessment, and build national and local capacity to prepare for and respond to coastal disasters. By integrating scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and community engagement, the programme aims to significantly reduce loss of life and economic damage from tsunamis, increasing resilience in the most vulnerable regions.

Output	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
2.7.IOC	390	390		600	990	990

Intersectoral Output 2.7.IOC - Holistic and strategic support provided to small island developing States (SIDS) to address their priorities and vulnerabilities, aligned with the UNESCO operational strategy for SIDS and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda

Results Framework – 43 C/5				
Performance Indicators	Baselines 2024-2025	Budget Ceiling Targets 2027	Exp. Plan Targets 2027	Indicative targets 2029
2.7.IOC.4 Number of UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready communities or similar initiatives supported to be recognised in the SIDS prioritised by the Secretary General's Early Warning for All initiative	13	28	28	50

Commitment to Global Priorities Africa and Gender Equality

04042 In line with the objectives of Flagship Programme 5 of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022-2029 and working on the ground through its Regional Sub-Commission IOCAFRICA, IOC focuses on building capacity of its Member States. This includes supporting the development of innovative solutions to addressing ocean challenges, including developing and implementing cutting-edge biodiversity monitoring tools, approaches for ecosystem restoration, spatial planning techniques, climate information services, and digital technological advancements, with a strong focus on citizen science and community-centred approaches to foster local engagement and empowerment. Moreover, the IOC Tsunami Programme contributes to UNESCO's Global Priority Africa by strengthening early warning and mitigation systems, disaster preparedness and resilience. The regional Ocean Decade programme for Africa with focus on helping African institutions to co-design and lead Decade Actions with specific Calls for Action to unlock new funding. Pilot early warning systems for harmful algal blooms are being developed and implemented in African countries to build capacity and assist with the long-term security of ocean-based food resources and livelihoods.

04043 With IOC's new medium-term Gender equality strategy and the associated implementation plan, as well as the imminent release of the Ocean Decade Gender Action Plan, IOC's role in supporting women in ocean science will be further strengthened. The Global Ocean Science Report will provide new insights to guide Member States' action in favour of gender equality in ocean science. The Ocean Decade Gender Equality Working Group will develop a gender action plan to increase gender equity within Decade structures and processes.

IOC – Global Priorities by source of funds

Global Priorities	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
Global Priority Africa	5 305	4 673	95	5 976	11 376	10 744
Global priority Gender Equality	2 207	1 950	43	2 640	4 890	4 633
Total for Global Priorities	7 512	6 623	138	8 616	16 266	15 377

IOC – Contribution to Global Priority Africa Flagship Programmes

Flagship Programmes	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
Flagship Programme 5	5 305	4 673	95	5 976	11 376	10 744
Total for Flagship Programmes	5 305	4 673	95	5 976	11 376	10 744

Support to Priority Groups SIDS and Youth

04044 To foster the development of SIDS-led Ocean Decade Actions, the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility together with IOC's Ocean Teacher Global Academy, will allow real-time needs assessment for capacity development and respond to on-demand requests for technical training and facilitate access to capacity development actions led by IOC and other international partners. In the context of UNESCO SIDS Accelerator Programme 2, IOC will support SIDS in accessing and sharing ocean observation, data and digital technologies, with a view over the medium to longer-term of strengthening the delivery of ocean knowledge to support sustainable ocean planning and management and enhancing SIDS community resilience to climate change and ocean and coastal hazards. In the context of UNESCO SIDS Accelerator 4, IOC will reinforce its level of support in the field of tsunami early warning and mitigation systems, with emphasis on the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP).

04045 The Ocean Decade Youth Inclusion Working Group has developed a youth engagement strategy in synergy with Output 6.4. The Ocean Decade also has a strong focus on Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)' representation in its processes and actions, with a network of over 8000 members from 168 countries. The other area of focus will be through IOC's work on ocean literacy, including its contribution to Intersectoral Output 2.6.

IOC – Priority Groups by source of funds

Priority Group	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
Small island developing States (SIDS)	3 772	3 405	67	4 712	8 551	8 184
Youth	1 342	1 240	21	1 884	3 247	3 145
Total for Priority Groups	5 114	4 645	88	6 596	11 798	11 329

IOC – Contribution to SIDS Accelerator Programmes

SIDS Accelerators	Breakdown by source of funds (in USD '000)					
	Regular Budget		Revenue Generating Fund/OPF	Voluntary Contributions	TOTAL IBF	
	Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan			Budget Ceiling	Expenditure Plan
SIDS ACE 2	3 195	2 828	65	3 755	7 015	6 648
SIDS ACE 4	577	577	2	957	1 536	1 536
Total for Accelerators	3 772	3 405	67	4 712	8 551	8 184