



# Best Practice Manual

for National Decade  
Committees

The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
**(2021–2030)**



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



Published in 2023 by the Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

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For bibliographic purposes, this publication should be cited as follows:  
UNESCO-IOC (2023). *Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees*. Paris, UNESCO. (The Ocean Decade Series, 43).

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Graphic design: UNESCO

(IOC/2023/ODS/43 Rev.)



# Foreword

2023 marks the beginning of the third year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and we are now at a moment in time where we can start taking stock of the Ocean Decade's early achievements. The critical role that National Decade Committees are playing at the junction of the global momentum of the Ocean Decade and the national transformation of ocean science is clear and extremely encouraging.

I warmly congratulate those Member States that have led by example and created the first cohort of National Decade Committees. This Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees is an opportunity to celebrate their dynamism, share their vision and successes, and encourage the establishment of new Committees across all 150 IOC/UNESCO Member States.

The ambition of the Ocean Decade is to transform ocean science for the decades to come, thereby creating a step change in the relationship of all citizens to the ocean, and in the way that a healthy ocean contributes to sustainable development. National Decade Committees are essential to catalyse the transformation of ocean science by boosting national capacity to offer solutions to pressing challenges and working across the science-policy-society interface to inform decision makers and society at large.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders and breaking down silos, National Decade Committees create a tangible and visible difference on the ground. Beyond

their role to coordinate existing initiatives and catalyse new Decade Actions, National Decade Committees embody the core principles of the Ocean Decade including equity, inclusivity, and diversity, and the recognition of the importance of Indigenous and local knowledge systems. They have a particularly significant role in giving a seat at the table to Early Career Ocean Professionals, who will be the torch bearers of the legacy of the Ocean Decade post-2030.

I hope that the diverse and rich experiences shared in this Manual will inspire many other Member States to actively participate in the Ocean Decade by setting up their own National Decade Committees. The existing cohort of National Decade Committees and the IOC/UNESCO stand ready to facilitate the involvement of new partners, while supporting the pioneers to go even further, and thus together achieve a key goal of the Ocean Decade to make sure no one is left behind in the endeavour to create the ocean we want by 2030.



**Julian Barbière**  
Coordinator, Ocean Decade  
IOC/UNESCO





# Terms, definitions and abbreviations

<b>Decade Actions</b>	The tangible initiatives and endeavours that are being implemented by a wide range of Decade stakeholders to achieve the Challenges of the Ocean Decade
<b>Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC)</b>	Decentralised coordination structure, hosted by an international or major regional non-UN organisation, providing technical support to the Decade Coordination Unit by catalysing and coordinating Decade Actions at a regional or thematic level, i.e., in relation to specific Decade Challenges.
<b>Decade Coordination Office (DCO)</b>	Decentralised coordination structure located in an existing UN or IOC Member State structure. Decade Coordination Offices support and collaborate closely with the Decade Coordination Unit and act as regional or thematic sub-units of the central Decade Coordination Unit.
<b>Decade Coordination Unit (DCU)</b>	Central hub within IOC/UNESCO that manages the daily operations and implementation of the Ocean Decade. Its three main functions are to act as: (i) the primary coordination office for the implementation of Ocean Decade Actions; (ii) Secretariat for the Ocean Decade Advisory Board; and (iii) Secretariat for the Ocean Decade Alliance.
<b>Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)</b>	For the purpose of the ECOP Programme, an ECOP is a person that self-identifies as being early in their career (10 years or less of professional experience) within any field related to the ocean (not only employed/paid positions). The term “professional” is used in order to be inclusive of professionals from many different sectors of society.
<b>IOC/UNESCO</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The IOC was mandated by the UN General Assembly to coordinate implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
<b>National Decade Committee</b>	Existing or new structure coordinating stakeholders at the national level. Inclusive multi-agency and multi-stakeholder platform with a range of functions.
<b>Ocean Decade</b>	United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: <a href="http://www.oceandecade.org">www.oceandecade.org</a>
<b>Ocean Decade Network (the Network)</b>	An online platform to facilitate networking of the various stakeholders of the Ocean Decade: <a href="https://forum.oceandecade.org">https://forum.oceandecade.org</a> (formerly Global Stakeholder Forum)
<b>Ocean Literacy (OL)</b>	The understanding of the ocean’s influence on you and your influence on the ocean. OL has many dimensions, including an individual’s emotions, attitudes, competencies and experiences with the ocean.



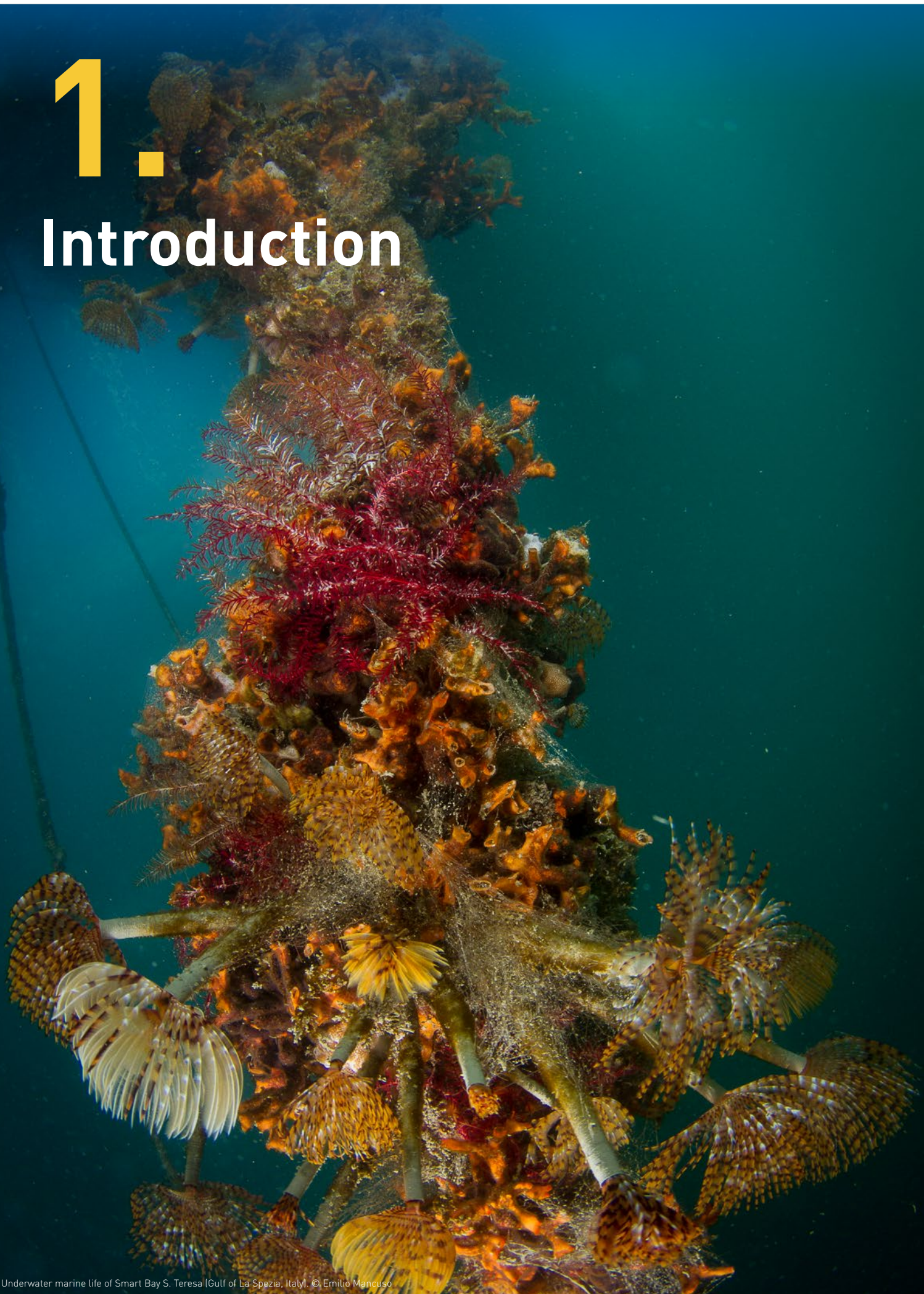
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# 1.

## Introduction





Welcome to the Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees, created to help you start and successfully run your National Decade Committee. Or, if you already have one, to help you learn about what others in your region and across the globe are doing, and what's working.

We hope you'll find inspiration and a path forward. Maybe you'll replicate what others are doing and have offered to share. Maybe you'll find in these pages a way you can help other National Decade Committees and maybe you'll reach out. Or maybe you'll reach out to other National Decade Committees or to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) for help and support with a challenge you're facing. In any case, this Manual is a good starting place wherever you are on your National Decade Committee and Ocean Decade journey.

**The Ocean Decade is a launching point for the future of ocean science. Create your National Decade Committee now, and remember, it is never too late to engage.**

The ambition of the Ocean Decade is to generate transformative ocean science – to create a global community in order to achieve more by coming together. The Ocean Decade also aims to generate ocean knowledge to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the way ocean science is produced around the world and the way it informs policy and supports our sustainable development.

A critically important outcome of the Ocean Decade is not only what will have been accomplished by 2030, but what will have been put in place to prepare the world to deliver on the ocean science needed for future decades. The Ocean Decade is meant to support the next generations of ocean experts to tackle the challenges of our global ocean.

For more information on the Ocean Decade, please refer to the [Ocean Decade website](#) and the [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#).

## How to use this Manual

The Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees is not meant to be read from top to bottom and followed step by step. Instead, do a virtual flip-through, see which areas most interest or apply to you, to get started or develop new activities.

In 2021, IOC/UNESCO published the [National Decade Committees – Operational Guidelines](#), which laid out an initial vision for the role National Decade Committees could play in the Ocean Decade and provided information on the formal process to register Committees. By the end of 2022, many National Decade Committees have formed and successfully participated in the Ocean Decade, and the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) decided it was time to take stock of their experience: how they formed, who their members are, what activities they are implementing, how they can encourage other Member States to engage, what their vision is for the Ocean Decade, and what they see as their needs and challenges. The result is this Manual, which complements the original guidelines and is an important reference document for both new and already established National Decade Committees.

## A Manual by and for National Decade Committees

The Manual was created through a community-engagement process of the first National Decade Committees, to produce a document 'by and for National Decade Committees', current and future. The process was facilitated by IOC/UNESCO and an independent Consultant, between November 2022 and February 2023. National Decade Committees engaged in the production of the Manual through one-on-one interviews, completion of a survey on National Decade Committee activities, participation in a workshop to discuss key takeaways from the interviews and survey, and a collaborative review process of the draft Manual.

The Manual includes eight National Decade Committee Case Studies, following their formation and activities. They provide some national background context for ocean science, considerations for creating a National Decade Committee, as well as examples of successful strategies and actions. The Manual also contains 21 vignettes highlighting how National Decade Committees are tackling specific priorities and challenges.



# 2.

## National Decade Committees in the Ocean Decade





“

Creating a National Decade Committee is something that should be done given the change that is happening.

National Decade Committee Madagascar

National Decade Committees are **voluntary** groups of stakeholders that develop opportunities for a country to contribute to and benefit from the global momentum of the Ocean Decade.

Fig. 1, Map of established National Decade Committees



© IOC/UNESCO, 2023

As of April 2023, the 34 countries indicated in the map have created a National Decade Committee, with more being formed all the time. The goal for the Ocean Decade is for all 150 IOC/UNESCO Member States to have a National Decade Committee by 2030.

“

We don't see many other fora where you have government, the Navy, the private sector and academia sitting together at the same table.

National Decade Committee Brazil

National Decade Committees are voluntary, inclusive, multi-agency and multi-stakeholder platforms set up to coordinate, support and increase their country's participation in the Ocean Decade by mobilising the whole "ocean community" at the national level, i.e., all producers and users of ocean science.

National Decade Committees strengthen the critical connection between local actors and the global Ocean Decade community. They share the invitation

to participate in the Ocean Decade, support and connect the different stakeholders and initiatives and enhance access to Decade benefits, such as data, products, science-policy advice or capacity development opportunities. They also facilitate processes to articulate the global challenges and priorities of the Ocean Decade in the development of national policies, strategies and priorities.

National Decade Committees are key players within the Ocean Decade ecosystem. To fulfil their role, they interact with all the other components: the global Decade Coordination Unit as well as the various decentralised coordination structures: Decade Collaborative Centres, Decade Coordination Offices and Decade Implementing Partners. They also interact between themselves and form an important network of actors at the national level.





My personal experience is that you can get people together that, in real life, never work together and, through the development of common actions and goals, get more done than would've otherwise been possible.

National Decade Committee Finland

The **Decade Coordination Unit**, within the IOC/UNESCO Secretariat, is the central hub that manages the daily operations and implementation of the Ocean Decade. It ensures the global coordination of the Ocean Decade, with the support of the decentralised coordination structures: Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices (see below).

The Decade Coordination Unit supports Member States in setting up a National Decade Committee, and Committees in their operations.



The Decade is a really good way to profile a lot of things, why it is important to stick together and do something about the situation we have with our declining health of the ocean. It is a tool to spread the word, to get a lot more than just scientists on board.

National Decade Committee New Zealand

It is the main source of information on the implementation of the Ocean Decade and the main connection of National Decade Committees with the formal coordination framework of the Ocean Decade and the various processes such as the Calls for Decade Actions and the Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

The Decade Coordination Unit facilitates the network of National Decade Committees focal points and supports their collective work, particularly in the areas mentioned in this Manual. The Decade Coordination Unit operates the online [Ocean Decade Network](#) (see hereafter) and provides a group on the Network for every National Decade Committee to use as a virtual collaboration space.

The Decade Coordination Unit is responsible for the endorsement of all Decade Actions and Activities (which allows the use of the Ocean Decade logo). National Decade Committees must [request](#) use of the Decade logo from the Decade Coordination Unit for any specific activities that they organise beyond their internal

meetings and can provide advice to national partners on endorsement of their Decade Actions by the Decade Coordination Unit.

**Regional Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices** are important partners for knowing what's happening in each National Decade Committee's region, to discuss regional priorities for the Ocean Decade, to connect National Decade Committees within a region, to support regional meetings and conferences that can be important fora for Committees to meet and to interact, and to catalyse regional partnerships outside of Committees.

Regional Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices can promote and assist with the creation of National Decade Committees and can facilitate synergies among NDCs in their region. National Decade Committees do not report to Regional Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices, but these are important allies and partners for Committees.

Many Committees have found that they can play an important role in supporting the creation of new National Decade Committees and that this can be most easily achieved at the regional level. Regional Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices can play an important support role in this regard and Committees are encouraged to develop strong relationships with these structures.

**Thematic Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices** contribute to the coordination of Decade Actions addressing a given Decade Challenge and catalyse new partnerships and Actions across the Decade Challenges. They develop a precise understanding of how Decade Actions combine to increase knowledge in this area and identify where the gaps are. These structures can be invaluable sources of information and resources for Committees who wish to focus on particular issues or themes at the national level and can connect Committees to international partners working on common issues.



Our primary goal really is schools, social media and the private sector.

National Decade Committee Germany

Some institutions have also committed to providing targeted support to the Ocean Decade and have been endorsed as [Decade Implementing Partners \(DIPs\)](#). We invite you to check the current list of endorsed DIPs, as they might provide useful support for some of your activities, such as [Heirs to Our Ocean](#) for example, who can support the creation of Youth Advisory Councils.



# 3.

## Making a Good Start with your National Decade Committee



This photograph originally illustrated a project from the New Zealand government's Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge investigating the potential of algae bioactives to prevent and treat sunburn. This work draws on the traditional role of algae in rongoā (Māori medicine).  
© Ruslan Dashinsky



National Decade Committees have a key objective to bring together a wide national ocean community including a diversity of stakeholders. Accomplishing this task can happen in many different ways, and National Decade Committees have used diverse and creative methods.

Here you'll find a brief overview of the required steps for registering and operationalising your National Decade Committee (highlighted in blue), as well as recommendations based on what has worked for National Decade Committees to bring together a large, diverse and impactful national community.



**A concrete list of things that you could do when joining the family.**

National Decade Committee Finland

**One piece of advice is not to hesitate to rely on the National Decade Committees in place.**

National Decade Committee France

## Steps for launching a successful National Decade Committee

- 1. Read through this Manual** and through the National Decade Committees - Operational Guidelines for advice, **register on the Ocean Decade Network** and take a look at what other National Decade Committees are doing, and then reach out to the National Decade Committees that inspire you.
- 2. Reach out to the Decade Coordination Unit** with any questions at [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org).
- 3. Create your National Decade Committee with the support of government ministries involved in ocean science, your country's IOC/UNESCO focal point or the UNESCO National Commission.** This is the most common way National Decade Committees have formed, and were sometimes provided with secretariat support. Note that the Committee will need to be formally registered by your country's IOC/UNESCO focal point, so they should be involved in the process as early as possible.
- 4. Identify key Committee members:** producers and users of ocean knowledge who will provide expertise, vision and networks to begin forming the core of your committee.
- 5. Build on committees and networks that are already in place.** Some examples are IOC/UNESCO National Committees where they exist, national ocean research committees, or national bodies that coordinate ocean science or ocean management. In this way you are not starting from scratch. However, make sure to identify the missing stakeholders and find ways to extend the committee over time to include membership from a wider multi-stakeholder community.
- 6. Consider how your Committee will reach stakeholders.** Many solutions and models exist, starting from very different committees. For example, Canada's National Decade Committee employed a 'network of networks' approach with seven members (called Champions), representatives from the government and the Early Career Young Professional (ECOP)-Canada who bring together their networks, while Brazil has a large, very diverse committee with about 25 members.
- 7. Have as diverse a membership as possible.** The Ocean Decade adopts an 'all of society approach', transcending age, gender, culture, geography, sector and disciplines. Select a diverse membership for your National Decade Committee, such as:
  - Scientists, research institutes and universities, including leaders of Decade Actions in your country
  - Local and Indigenous knowledge holders
  - Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)
  - National representatives including those that sit in international and UN organisations with a focus on ocean affairs
  - National and sub-national governments with responsibility for the ocean and ocean science, but also across diverse ministries including for example blue economy, transport, energy, fisheries or climate
  - Philanthropic and corporate Foundations
  - Business, industry and private sector
  - NGOs and civil society
  - Aquariums, zoos and museums
  - Local coastal communities
  - Educators
  - Media organisations

For example, the United Kingdom's National Decade Committee has a well-known ocean surfer as well as the leader of an NGO that helps people to choose a way of living to save the ocean – both ECOPs – among their membership; and the National Decade Committee in Brazil has a journalist and



a representative from the UN Global Compact (for connections to the private sector).

8. **Have at least 2 to 3 ECOP members on your Committee.** If you want guidance to find ECOPs in your country, you can contact the [Ocean Decade ECOP Programme](#), whose network includes ECOPs from around the world.
9. **Include representatives with a strong connection to, and influence on, the various ministries and institutions, or who are able to reach a wide audience of stakeholders.** Ocean issues are often fragmented between many decision makers and stakeholders. The National Decade Committee can be a good mechanism to support increased coordination at the national level. In a number of National Decade Committees, such as Norway and Canada, ambassadorship/championship is a central role for Committee members, promoting the Decade nationally and regionally.
10. **Create Terms of Reference for the work of your Committee.** In countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany, Terms of Reference were created by the government to identify the functioning of the Committee before its formation, and to include the goal of having diverse stakeholders, especially ECOPs, as members of the Committee. For others, Terms of Reference have been developed by the Committee after its formation, based on its priorities and how the Committee decides to work together. Examples of Terms of Reference can be found on the [Ocean Decade Network](#) or upon request to the Decade Coordination Unit [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org).
11. **Consider a term length for your National Decade Committee's members.** Some National Decade Committees created preliminary groups to establish an implementation plan or Terms of Reference (such as Finland, the United Kingdom and Norway) and are creating a permanent or term-based Committee to execute their strategies. Others, such as New Zealand, will rotate members after two years to bring in new voices once the Committee has 'found its feet'. Germany's Committee specifically turns over half of its members every three years, (and members can be part of the Committee for a maximum of six years) to ensure continuity of institutional knowledge while also inviting new perspectives. The United Kingdom National Decade Committee appoints members for 3 years, who can be re-appointed once, and conducts a recruitment process including advertising widely, an interview process and due diligence checks (e.g., for conflicts of interest).
12. **Have a kick-off meeting and develop a workplan** with your members, or at least an initial group. This

kick-off meeting can be an important moment to have initial discussions on the priorities and modalities of working of the Committee that will form the basis of the Committee's workplan. It is also a moment to raise visibility and awareness of the Committee and by extension, the Ocean Decade.

13. **Register your National Decade Committee.** You're now ready to register your Committee and join the Ocean Decade! Have your national IOC/UNESCO focal point register the Committee by sending an email to [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org). This communication should list the members and designate a member as the focal point, i.e., the primary contact point with the Decade Coordination Unit.
14. **Start your group on the Ocean Decade Network.** The Ocean Decade Network is the main space for people from around the world to engage with the Ocean Decade, with 7,000 members and counting. Within this platform, each National Decade Committee has its own online space. See below how your committee can use the Network.  
Once you have your Terms of Reference and initial list of members, select a Group Admin to manage your group and reach out to the Ocean Decade Network Manager ([oceandecadenetwork@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecadenetwork@unesco.org)) to support you in setting up your group and managing your new group on the platform.
15. **Communicate about your National Decade Committee.** Develop a basic communications plan to let people know about the Committee and its work. Where resources allow some Committees have developed effective social media accounts and websites. Once you are registered as a Committee, the Ocean Decade communications team will provide advice on how Ocean Decade communication channels and tools can be used to support communications of your Committee.
16. **Welcome!** Upon registration, you'll have an onboarding session with the Decade Coordination Unit, regular meetings with the whole family of National Decade Committees, and access to the Ocean Decade Network. The DCU will open a group for your National Decade Committee on the Ocean Decade Network and guide you through the first steps to showcase your new National Decade Committee.

For detailed information and instructions on how to establish your National Decade Committee, see the [National Decade Committees: Operational Guidelines](#), June 2021.



## Developing a national implementation or action plan for the Ocean Decade

Beyond the creation of a National Decade Committee, many countries have taken the initiative to develop a national implementation or action plan as a means of translating the global priorities of the Decade to the national level and developing a comprehensive approach.

While this is not obligatory, this can be an important process to develop connections and consensus between Committee members and to catalyse discussions on priorities with a broader group of stakeholders. It can also help to develop synergies between policies and maximise the benefits of the Ocean Decade. The final product can also be important, not only to guide the work of the National Decade Committee but as an advocacy and communication tool for the Decade, including with government or other national funders of ocean science.

- ▶ National Decade Committees recommend that government ministries associated with the ocean be involved, to drive funding and government priorities toward achieving goals that are especially relevant to your country.

- ▶ A strategic workshop or seminar is a great starting point to get your ocean science community onboard and collectively define priorities. These priorities can then develop in a comprehensive implementation plan. The United Kingdom and Madagascar have organised such seminars and Brazil organised a series of workshops in all five regions to reach a great diversity of stakeholders.
- ▶ If you create your plan at an early stage where it is discussed with a few key stakeholders, make it flexible to widen the scope and include more activities and a diversity of Actions as more stakeholders join your community.
- ▶ Your plan should be regularly updated; a process that should involve your stakeholders and should be connected to national ocean policies and strategies (e.g., ocean science strategies).



### Examples

#### Setting up a National Decade Committee, National Decade Committee Germany

The German IOC/UNESCO committee created the country's National Decade Committee ("You can set up a committee out of nowhere, but then it doesn't stand anywhere."). They developed Terms of Reference for the Committee, with the key requirement that its membership be multi-stakeholder. The Terms of Reference prescribed 12 members from various sectors: science, private sector, government, civil society, and ECOPs. They then chose three people to select Committee members, and an open call was made for applications to the National Decade Committee. At the first National Decade Committee meeting, they asked for volunteer chairs or co-chairs, and settled on four co-chairs. In its first year of operation, 2021, the Committee had secretariat support from a national ocean science association, "to keep the Committee running, to call for meetings, take notes, and this kind of thing." They established subgroups to focus on outreach, science implementation, the private sector and more, as well as a website and social media.

#### Engaging Stakeholders as National Decade Committee members, National Decade Committee Türkiye

Türkiye's National Decade Committee found that by having members who hold high level positions, it became motivation for other stakeholders to join the Committee and

established a process whereby the the Committee votes on requests for new members. They also found that because their ocean science board, from which the National Decade Committee was formed as a subgroup, was established many decades ago and is well-known in the country, the National Decade Committee was well-connected with the national ocean science community, in particular for the purposes of sharing information such as Ocean Decade Calls for Actions.

#### Creating a multi-stakeholder National Decade Committee, National Decade Committee Italy

Italy chose its national oceanographic commission, established over twenty years ago, to create its National Decade Committee, adding representatives from other public, private and nonprofit sectors. The Italian Oceanographic Commission (COI) fulfils the functions of the national coordinating body envisaged by the IOC/UNESCO and includes research institutions, a university consortium, protection and environmental agencies, government bodies, and ministries involved in the ocean. In this way, COI plays a key role in connecting and integrating different actors (science, society, economy, policy) with the stakeholders and the community.

Italy is also establishing an Ocean Decade management committee, which includes representatives of the Italian





"Genziana salad" created by Bonetta dell'Oglio, made in collaboration with the marine biologist Paola Gianguzza using as ingredients marine species such as *Ulva lactuca*, *Crithmum maritimum*, *Salicornia* sp, *Laurencia papillosa* and seawater. By just using algae and plants, the goal was to raise awareness on overfishing and propose a sustainable alternative. Location: Torre di Scopello (Palermo, Italy). © Paola Gianguzza

Oceanographic Commission and ECOPs, to interact with the ministries and the secretary of the National Decade Committee. In particular, it also includes representatives from research institutes and universities, intergovernmental organisations and technology clusters, environmental associations, and other stakeholders such as an association representing the Italian teachers of natural sciences, an association representing the yachting industry and recreational activities at sea, the foundation of an Italian aquarium, and a company that manages the Italian Ocean Film Festival.

Several intergovernmental ocean organisations are headquartered in Italy, particularly at the level of the Mediterranean, North Atlantic and Arctic, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (NATO STO CMRE), and Joint Research Center. The National Decade Committee has a representative from such organisations to support international collaboration and coordination.

The Italian National Decade Committee aims to increase cooperation with countries sharing the Mediterranean basin, with particular attention to southern Mediterranean countries.

Endorsed Decade Actions with Italian contributions as the lead or participants are involved in the National Decade Committee because they are crucial to creating a direct link to the communities implementing the on-the-ground science and initiatives of the Ocean Decade.

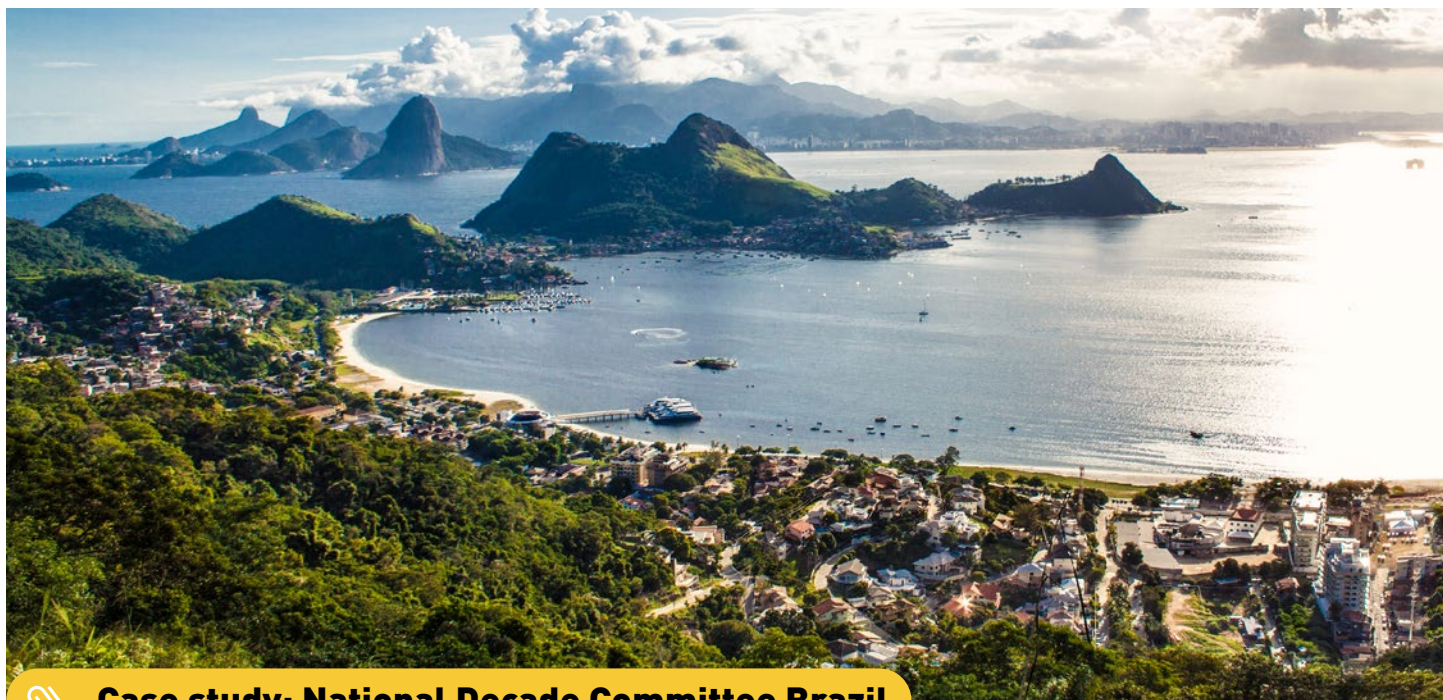
### **An all of society approach, National Decade Committee United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom's National Decade Committee was created by the government, which developed Terms of Reference for the National Decade Committee to help ensure it achieves the overarching objective of diverse engagement. The plan for the National Decade Committee included reaching ECOPs and bringing in members from various sectors, as well as having the Committee create its own priorities and how it wants to work and move forward in the Ocean Decade.

"We've really welcomed the spirit of the Ocean Decade in particular in terms of the 'all of society approach' and looking to drive transformational change, recognising we need to do things differently. And that's very much framed how we've approached our National Decade Committee. We set up our Committee deliberately to try and reach a wider variety of the ocean community rather than just ocean scientists that we already engage with."

As a result, the Committee has members from non-traditional sectors. For example, "one of our Committee members is a consultant in the National Health Service and he's very actively engaged in educating them about their impact on the ocean, from pharmaceutical supply companies to shipping; the whole supply chain to waste disposal."





## Case study: National Decade Committee Brazil

### Creating an Ocean Decade implementation plan and multi-stakeholder National Decade Committee

Brazil formed its National Decade Committee through its Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The Ministry **began by developing an Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade** (available in Portuguese), which is agile and open for yearly revisions. They then **put in place formal National Decade Committee members from relevant ministries and institutions** (such as the Brazilian Institute of Science and Technology Information, a unit of the Ministry), and a representative from the national research council, which is one of two government funding agencies for science and technology in the country. With that base for the Committee in place, they **invited other members to join**, creating a multi-stakeholder National Decade Committee.

“We wanted representation that would cover not only academia, but also policymakers, the private sector, organised civil society, and science communicators and youth. And since we’re talking about the ocean, we are also talking with representatives from traditional communities or fisheries.”

The Committee has members from the country’s National Commission for UNESCO, the Navy, civil society institutions (one linked with traditional peoples and extracting reserves), grassroots non-governmental organisations, journalism, and academia (including the National Institute of Space Research, federal universities, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences) and two ECOPs (also from academia). From the private

sector, they have a representative from the UN Global Compact’s Brazilian chapter.

“I think that’s an important tool, having this representation in the Committee. I would say that’s one of the main reasons for its success.”

The Brazilian National Decade Committee “works as a forum where we discuss many things ocean-related outside of the islands of academia or the Navy. It becomes a meeting point sometimes for discussion of everything related to the Ocean Decade, and sometimes it spills over to other things.”

### Engaging the Private Sector

“One area where we do not yet have much success is how to engage the private sector.” Brazil recognises that this is a challenge across the national innovation, science and technology system that goes beyond the Ocean Decade. They feel however, that the connection through their National Decade Committee with the UN Global Compact may be a way to connect with a broader group from the private sector, who are keen on supporting climate change efforts and could take an interest in the ocean. “For instance, the agricultural sector has a huge impact on the ocean. So we should have a broader connection with the private sector in general.” The National Decade Committee has also connected with a foundation linked to a large Brazilian cosmetics group that has chosen the ocean as their main venue for social responsibility.





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### Gathering the ocean science community

One of the first activities the National Decade Committee undertook was to run **week-long online workshops** in the five regions of Brazil (four of which are coastal). The workshops were organised around the seven Ocean Decade outcomes, with a virtual room for each, and participation was limited and subject to approval by the National Decade Committee, which then ensured that each room had balanced representation by sector, gender, race, and age. During the workshops, participants proposed to create **regional mobilisation groups**, plus a youth mobilisation group.

Brazil's regional mobilisation groups quickly became the arms and legs of its National Decade Committee's activities, and they participate in some National Decade Committee meetings. They are autonomous and each work in their own way; some are large with subdivisions, and others smaller but very active.

In 2021 and 2022, the National Decade Committee produced special issues of a journal (published by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation) on the Atlantic Ocean in the Ocean Decade, which included contributions by three of the regional mobilisation groups on their experiences and events they organised. As part of the National Decade Committee's approach to connecting all of Brazil's regions with the ocean, one of the special editions dedicated to the Ocean Decade had a chapter on the Blue Economy, headlined by a professor working at the National University of Brazil.

To reach stakeholders, including the public, "there is a keen eye on communication and engagement and, including the presence on social media." They have a contract for communication to support **social media** about the Ocean Decade, as well as a dedicated website.

### Funding National Decade Committee activities

The National Decade Committee has no funding to disperse directly. Rather, it is a coordination unit. When they hold events and support their regional mobilisation groups, they provide in-kind support, such as online infrastructure for running events or sponsoring the participation of members at events. "For endorsing Actions, it's a little bit different, because we have had **specific calls for ocean science through the National Research Council.**"

The National Decade Committee has created an initiatives database for the work of its regional mobilisation groups, which is being updated to indicate the funding and status of those activities, and are seen as Brazilian contributions toward the Ocean Decade.

### In support of Ocean Decade action co-design

One of the National Decade Committee's activities, in support of Decade Action co-design, was an online workshop including the cosmetics foundation and research groups speaking about how they've been co-designing Decade Actions in partnership with local communities.





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## Case study: National Decade Committee Canada

The Canadian ocean community is large, diverse, passionate about the ocean and committed to finding new ways to work together to address the challenges the ocean and the society are facing. Canada endeavours to engage broadly while, providing high level guidance and direction, but at the same time **empowering the Canadian ocean science community to take actions and to feel ownership in the Ocean Decade, particularly about the opportunities that it provides.**

To mobilize the ocean community to contribute to the Decade, Canada established a flexible governance structure to leverage benefits of a network of networks approach with the intention that it would bring together leaders from across disciplines who are actively leading and exploring opportunities to work differently.

Canada's National Decade Committee is composed of seven Champions, one per Decade outcomes, representatives of ECOP Canada (one of the first chapters of the global ECOPs program that was established), as well as representatives of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Ocean Decade Office that was implemented to help convene and coordinate the national effort. Furthermore, Canada's National Decade Committee works closely with the Oceans Research in Canada Alliance (ORCA) that provides a forum to share information, discuss priority ocean issues, and aims to foster cooperation and collaboration on ocean science and technology initiatives in Canada and beyond.

In addition, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada working group and a Government of Canada Committee with representatives from about 20 federal departments were established to reach broadly, in all regions and other programs, and leverage the innovative work being done across the country.

To support Indigenous participation, Champions are encouraged to have Indigenous representation in their thematic networks, and some projects, either

Indigenous-led, co-designed, and/or aiming to support Indigenous engagement have also received financial support under the Ocean Decade. For instance, one of these projects is conducting a series of regional workshops across the country to help promote the Decade within coastal Indigenous communities as well as prioritize and facilitate Indigenous ocean science within Canada for the Decade.

As the Canadian community engaged in the Decade is growing, the mobilization approach is also evolving, informed by feedback from the Community of Champions, the different Committee members, the ECOPs Node, and endorsed project/activity leads. For instance, the NDC and Action leads realised that leading an endorsed action does not only provide visibility at the global level but also helps networking and promoting of efforts at the sub-national level. Further, having Ocean Decade endorsement recognized their work as being part of global program and priority, which in turn helped to gain stronger support and engagement from potential partners.

Recognizing that resources are limited to support new Decade Actions, the NDC has also explored new approaches to garnering support and participation. For example, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Ocean Decade Office worked collaboratively with ArcticNet and the DCU-UNESCO to sponsor a co-branded Call for Decade Actions. ArcticNet is a Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada that studies human health and natural and social sciences in the Arctic. Under this mechanism, four projects were funded and received Decade endorsement.

The Canadian approach, particularly the use of networks of networks, provides the flexibility needed to organically grow the national contribution to the Decade and while positively impacting the ocean science community. More information on the Canadian approach can be found on [Canada's Ocean Decade website](#).



# An inclusive Ocean Decade – leaving no one behind

“

**Ten years can be a very, very long time. We're really in a phase of structuring to get everyone on board with us. We want to include other stakeholders in our National Decade Committee. For the moment the National Decade Committee works, but we don't let go of this objective of getting everyone on board!**

**National Decade Committee France**

The Ocean Decade is based on the principle that all its structures and actions comprise a balanced representation of stakeholders – creators and users of ocean knowledge – from across geographies, genders, sectors and generations. Achieving that balance means empowering the participation and leadership of underrepresented groups, such as women and girls, Indigenous peoples, ECOPs, and at a country level, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Existing National Decade Committees have embraced the 'leave no one behind' approach, in the representation of their Committees and in their Committee's activities.

They have created gender-balanced committees, and are running workshops where they ensure there is participation by underrepresented groups. They are running targeted ocean literacy and ocean education activities for the elderly and children and youth.

In support of empowering Indigenous peoples, the Ocean Decade is viewed as a unique opportunity to weave western science and Indigenous knowledge. New Zealand's National Decade Committee is putting Indigenous Knowledge, participation and leadership at the forefront of their activities. It has Indigenous Committee members and prioritises co-design with Indigenous communities, emphasising the importance of equal partnership by developing relationships at the proposal phase of projects, rather than bringing those communities in once the projects have been established or endorsed. Canada's National Decade Committee is also encouraging co-design of Decade Actions along with Indigenous communities and supports several projects that foster Indigenous engagement.

Italy's National Decade Committee emphasises gender equity in its efforts to promote sustainable ocean management. The Committee actively supports events that highlight the important role of women in this field and promote gender equity as a key component of the Ocean Decade's vision.



Waka (canoes). The image reflects the New Zealand National Decade Committee's interest in projects supporting traditional navigation in the Pacific and the approaches of contemporary voyaging societies. © New Zealand National Decade Committee





## Examples

### Using events as venues to support gender equity, National Decade Committee Italy

The Italian National Decade Committee launched at the event “Ten Women for the Decade of the Ocean: Sustainability of the Sea in the Context of the Ocean Decade”, held in La Spezia in July 2022, and aimed to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable ocean management and the role of women in achieving this goal. As part of the Ocean Decade, the event brought together ten women from different fields and backgrounds to share their experiences and perspectives on ocean conservation, research, and policy-making.

The event highlighted the crucial role that women play in advancing ocean sustainability and the need for gender equity in ocean-related fields. By showcasing the work of these women, the event aimed to inspire and empower others to take action and contribute to the Ocean Decade’s vision of a healthy and thriving ocean for all.

The Italian National Decade Committee also endorsed the participation of one of its members at the event “Women & Girls in Science Conference” as a panel chair. The event was hosted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Science & Technology Organization in February of 2023 in celebration of the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The conference recognised the valuable role that women and girls play in the field of science and technology, despite the challenges they continue to face.

### Indigenous Knowledge at the forefront of National Decade Committee activities, National Decade Committee New Zealand

New Zealand’s National Decade Committee prioritises engagement of Māori, the country’s Indigenous peoples, in all of its activities. They have a strong representation of Indigenous knowledge holders and Māori scientists on their committee, as well as experts in navigation, because “navigation and voyaging is a very important topic for the Pacific and for Māori.” In late 2022, the Committee commissioned a paper on navigation.

“We are advocating for weaving Indigenous knowledges together with science and not adding it on at the end. It’s a partnership from the start, having Māori Indigenous knowledge go alongside science and having the value of both.”

The New Zealand National Decade Committee aims to support community-driven projects that use Indigenous methodologies. “We are also building strong relationships with partners in the South Pacific and take an approach that enables Indigenous knowledges to remain at the core. Weaving together knowledge systems in New Zealand has generated a distinctive approach to how we undertake science and research and how we collaborate with one another.”



Illustration by Marta Musso for the event “10 women for the Ocean Decade” held in La Spezia on the 29th of July 2022 at the Blue Festival. The National Decade Committee of Italy was presented for the first time at this event.



# Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and youth in the Ocean Decade

“

You must have ECOP representation on the Committee. I would make that a hard rule. That's transformative right there.

National Decade Committee Germany

As the Ocean Decade aims to prepare future generations to be leaders in ocean science, ECOPs are a particular focus group for many National Decade Committees.

Many National Decade Committees feel ECOPs are important to their work, and either have ECOP members or prioritise ECOPs joining their Committees. The benefits are twofold: experienced members contribute to empowering ECOPs by sharing their know-how, while ECOPs bring a fresh approach and new ideas to the discussion. Both contribute to the desired transformation. And mentoring of ECOPs by senior ocean professionals is something that National Decade Committees can offer.

The [ECOP Programme](#), an endorsed Ocean Decade Programme, is a major resource, both for training and supporting ECOPs, and also for National Decade Committees. The ECOP Programme is undergoing incredible growth, with regional and national nodes developing all over the world, starting initially with Asia, Africa, and Canada. However, the Programme is truly global, and the ECOP database includes over 1,600 members as of March 2023. The Programme is keen to connect with National Decade Committees, and provide support such recommendations for event speakers, members of working group, or members of National Decade Committees.



## Example

### Developing and supporting ECOP National Decade Committee members, National Decade Committee United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's National Decade Committee, through its Terms of Reference, prioritises engaging ECOPs on their Committee. They put out calls for applicants for the National Decade Committee through scientific and other ocean communities and selected seven ECOPs (of 17 National Decade Committee members).

Once assembled, the Committee was divided into task teams – communications, engaging with Ocean Decade Calls for Actions, etc. The ECOPs were reluctant to lead the teams, so in support of developing their leadership skills, the Committee created a rotation for leadership roles.

The United Kingdom National Decade Committee has found the ECOPs are energising for the Committee, and that it's "great to have such a diverse mix. It creates a fresh way of thinking, and you get that diversity of thought."

“

It's a matter of how things should naturally run because it's just a matter of passing the knowledge and skills to the next generation.

ECOP Programme



## The Global ECOP Programme and engaging with National Decade Committees



The UN Ocean Decade Programme for Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP Programme) was officially endorsed in 2021 and has served as the backbone organisation for global ECOP engagement throughout the Ocean Decade.

The vision of the ECOP Programme is to elevate and strengthen the diverse perspectives of new generations of ocean professionals in a collective voice, ensuring that knowledge is transferred between experienced and early career ocean professionals, to promote ocean sustainability for “The Ocean We Want”.

Through the Programme, ECOPs are provided with training opportunities. For example, in 2022, ECOPs in Africa and Caribbean countries participated in trainings on topics related to ocean governance, marine spatial planning, blue entrepreneurship and blue leadership skills. This was made possible thanks to the administrative support by IOC/ UNESCO and financial support by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). Globally, ECOPs can participate in the ECOP webinar series launched in 2022, which has covered so far such topics as starting an NGO, blue economy, updates on ocean governance developments from the main conferences held in 2022, ArcGIS, with many more topics in the pipeline for 2023, such as ocean engineering, preparation for marine expeditions, and blue carbon. Another capacity development initiative has been cooperation with the OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) to provide free online trainings for ECOPs in Africa, on topics such as Ocean Colour Remote Sensing and Data Analysis, and Ocean Data Analysis with R Programming.

### How can the ECOP Programme assist National Decade Committees in their work?

1. The ECOP Programme encourages nomination of ECOPs as National Decade Committee members (at least 2-3 people) to increase diversity within the National Decade Committee membership. Doing so will provide career development opportunities for ECOPs through participation in high-level organisational processes, such as decision-making. The ECOP Programme is keen on assisting National Decade Committees by suggesting ECOP nominees if needed, from the Programme's



extensive and diverse registry of ECOPs from all over the world.

2. The ECOP Programme can support and guide ECOPs as they navigate their new roles as National Decade Committee members and start engaging with the Ocean Decade framework.
3. The ECOP Programme maintains a database of ECOP focal points from all Decade Actions and National Decade Committees, and via the Ocean Decade Network it can support peer-to-peer connections and dialogue.
4. The ECOP Programme is eager to co-organise and provide in-kind support for national kick-off symposia specifically dedicated to ECOPs. There is much interest in raising awareness of the Ocean Decade and the role ECOPs can play at the national level. Coordinating such events through ECOPs within National Decade Committees can enhance cross-generational and cross-sectoral knowledge exchanges and advance partnership-building.
5. The ECOP Programme is expanding its geographical presence with the ambition to have a national coordinator for every coastal state in the world. These national coordinators will be keen to work with their National Decade Committees to ensure engagement of ECOPs in national Ocean Decade programmes, projects and activities, to co-develop training opportunities for ECOPs and to facilitate access to funding.



## Youth Advisory Councils for the Ocean Decade



Heirs To Our Ocean (H200) is a youth-formed, youth-led movement created to solve the pressing humanitarian and environmental problems of our shared one-water system.

**H200's mission** is to empower the next generation of leaders, *up to 25 years of age*, by connecting them in purpose, educating them on the intersection of environmental and humanitarian crises they are inheriting, and cultivating essential skills to create innovative solutions and real-world change. Supporting youth in collaboration and connection leads to long-term solutions with lasting impact.

After holding the world's first comprehensive UN Ocean Decade youth summit in 2020, H200 formed the world's first Youth Advisory Council for the Ocean Decade in the U.S. recognizing today's 16-year olds will be in their professions at the end of the Decade.

The U.S. YAC for the Ocean Decade is supported by H200 and the U.S. National Decade Committee, as both are committed to the empowerment of youth offering them a meaningful "seat at the table" during the Ocean Decade in planning, decision making and strategy. Youth have a sense of ownership in the Ocean Decade, and the experience informs their futures.

Based upon the success of the U.S. YAC for UNOD, H200 created a comprehensive toolkit as a guide for other National Decade Committees to also form a YAC for the Ocean Decade.



H200 has been recognised as a Decade Implementing Partner to the Ocean Decade and more information on its work and the way it can support National Decade Committees can be obtained at [april@H200.org](mailto:april@H200.org)

H200's additional programs include youth summits, youth-led initiatives, internships & fellowships, and an emerging direct services program. Since formation in 2016, H200 has reached 7,200+ youth in 61 countries and has held 36 youth summits.



# 4.

## National Decade Committees in Action



With your National Decade Committee established, this section is a great place to look for ideas of activities you can engage in. Read through the many examples that National Decade Committees wanted to share with the current and future Committees: they include successes, as well as barriers they have overcome or are facing.

## Growing your National Decade Committee's impact: engaging stakeholders

A central role for National Decade Committees is to continually grow your community. Here you'll find recommendations as well as examples of what National Decade Committees have done to successfully engage stakeholders.

1. **Have a kick-off event.** No matter when you launch your National Decade Committee throughout the Ocean Decade, have an event to celebrate, raise awareness about the Ocean Decade and about how your Committee can support Decade Actions and Activities in your country. For example, Canada held an online launch that the government organised and advertised throughout the ocean community; and New Zealand held an in-person launch at their Parliament, to promote the Ocean Decade and increase ocean literacy.
2. **Gather your ocean science community, virtually or in person, to discuss and integrate community perspectives on your country's contribution to and priorities for the Ocean Decade.** This activity has the dual benefit of promoting the Ocean Decade and building community (e.g., National Decade Committees in the United Kingdom, Madagascar and Brazil).
3. **Grow and strengthen your community.** Host events (e.g., workshops, side events, conferences, and symposia). Bring together your ocean science community to discuss priorities and promote the Ocean Decade (e.g., National Decade Committees in Brazil, Canada, France, Indonesia). Many Committees indicated the importance of being engaged in regional conferences or events through side-events or even informal meetups of Committees in the sidelines.
4. **Create a website or newsletters to keep connected with – and expand – your ocean community.** Use these media to communicate about the Ocean

Decade and your country's work toward meeting these international goals. National Decade Committees such as France and Canada make use of newsletters, while Brazil, Germany and New Zealand are finding value in websites for national community-building. These can be particularly valuable when they offer information in local languages that may not always be readily available at the global level.

5. **Attend and present at national, regional and global conferences to promote the Ocean Decade.** Increase awareness about the Ocean Decade, and through your experience and leadership help to encourage and support more IOC/UNESCO Member States to create a National Decade Committee.

Acting as Decade Ambassadors is a central role for Norway's National Decade Committee members, "to talk about the Ocean Decade in different settings, and to make people aware that this exists and what opportunities come with that. Even in universities that have ocean science as an important area, there is a need to tell again and again about the Ocean Decade."

6. **Create subcommittees or working groups in charge of each of your National Decade Committee's priorities.** These report back periodically on their work to the main Committee.
7. **Establish volunteer opportunities in support of your National Decade Committee.** Brazil, for example, has mobilisation groups for each of its regions as well as for youth, which are made up of volunteers outside of the Committee and act as the its arms and legs.
8. **Have Committee members share information about the Ocean Decade, especially what's happening in your country, with their networks.**



“Our Committee members pass on information about the Decade and Decade Actions through their networks, which is something really valuable for us. Having access to these knowledgeable people and their networks widens the reach to promote what we do and what the Decade is all about.” – National Decade Committee New Zealand

Note that a challenge for National Decade Committees has been to bring in private sector stakeholders. Some National Decade Committees, including Germany, have been successful in engaging industry, and can support others with messaging and building the ‘business case’ for private sector engagement.

## Tools to spread the word

The Decade Coordination Unit has developed communications assets to support National Decade Committees with communications:

- ▶ The **Brand Toolkit** will include a wide range of logos and templates for all kinds of presentations and graphic productions, as well as messages to easily present the Ocean Decade.
- ▶ The **communication assets** produced by the Ocean Decade are available on the shared evergreen [Trello board](#).

- ▶ **Key presentations**, such as information sessions on the Calls for Decade Actions, will be shared.
- ▶ All these assets will be editable, so that they can be easily translated to local languages to reach a wider national community.

Ongoing discussions between the Decade Coordination Unit and National Decade Committees will continue to identify support needs in communications and outreach, including potentially training and skills building.







## Examples

### Building a broad-reaching ocean science community, National Decade Committee Germany

An activity the German National Decade Committee has undertaken that they've found helpful in growing their ocean science community is to offer the opportunity to "become a Network Partner of the German Ocean Decade Committee."

Network Partners sign an MOU with the German National Decade Committee, describing what they want to contribute to the Ocean Decade. For some private sector and non-traditional members of the ocean science community, the National Decade Committee has found that there's a significant draw in being part of an UN programme and being able to showcase that fact.

"Network Partners can be organisational projects that can apply to become a network partner, or some of them are self-employed artists. Some of them are NGOs. Some of them are small start-ups. Some of them are big research institutions. And so we have a network of maybe 30 or 40, what we call 'Network Partners'. And we meet, bringing together a wider community that is thinking about actions and activities."

### Promoting the Ocean Decade at a regional conference and engaging ECOPs, National Decade Committee India

In 2022, the Indian National Decade Committee hosted the International Indian Ocean Science Conference. "We had about 400 participants from all over the world talking about Indian ocean science." Panel discussions addressed about how Indian Ocean research and activities would contribute to the Ocean Decade. They also focused on engaging ECOPs: "We had a session for ECOPs, talking about their research or their interest in the Indian Ocean region. So, trying to use that event, for example, to enhance the engagement of wide stakeholder groups, be it scientists or ECOPs."

### Using a national conference to promote the Ocean Decade and ECOP engagement, National Decade Committee New Zealand

In 2022, New Zealand's National Decade Committee partnered with the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science to host five postgraduate ECOPs from the South Pacific to attend the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society's Conference. They arranged for the ECOPs to meet with researchers and organised a pre-conference program

including two days of ocean activities such as sailing and learning about a coastal conservation project. "During the conference we had booked a full day for presentations which we called the Decade of Ocean Science stream. The visiting ECOPs presented their PhD research during the stream and the New Zealand National Decade Committee gave a presentation about the New Zealand approach to the Ocean Decade and how weaving different knowledge systems is at the core of our work. The presentation also covered the current Call for Actions and promoted joining us on the Ocean Decade journey. We had also invited a New Zealand scientist involved with the endorsed Decade Programme Seabed 2030 to talk about this international collaborative project to map the entire seafloor."

### Connecting across a country of islands, National Decade Committee Indonesia

Indonesia's National Decade Committee is working to connect its ocean scientists, most of them working at the local or regional level and spread out across the country made up of 17,500 islands – "We have a marine country." Many also conduct national research, but the National Decade Committee encourages them to be more interconnected and tapped into the Ocean Decade's global community. And they think local language may be a barrier.

"We would like to see how our research output can improve local communities. That's a priority in the next eight years from my perspective. For example, working on small islands, because Indonesia, I think more than 90%, is small islands. And the small islands have a lot of communities. So the small islands are used for aquaculture and tourist destinations. The Government of Indonesia has a 'Blue Food, Blue Health and Blue Carbon' program. All of this needs technology and also support from researchers."

The National Decade Committee has secured funding for a workshop in 2023 to focus on small islands and is linked to the government's program, with topics covering aquaculture, pollution and mangrove seagrass. They are hoping that by lining up their activities with government priorities and promoting the Ocean Decade, it "may help our National Decade Committee get rolling."

Indonesia is keen to partner with other National Decade Committees, and has begun working on regional partnerships, including with Japan. They also welcome research partnerships: "I think colleagues from the North will be interested to study the tropical ocean."



# Catalysing new Decade Actions

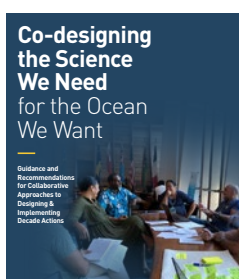
Calls for Decade Actions are launched by the Decade Coordination Unit every six months, on 15 April and 15 October every year, and are the primary mechanism for bringing new programs and projects into the Decade. One of the roles of National Decade Committees is supporting the process of Calls for Decade Actions, including sharing information on the Calls, making geographical and thematic connections, and supporting proponents to make relevant, strong proposals. **However, please note that endorsement is a global process and can only be granted by the Decade Coordination Unit.**

1. **Attend the information sessions the Decade Coordination Unit provides at the time of each new Call for Decade Actions.** Recordings of the sessions are available online and National Decade Committees can help to share these with interested partners that may not be able to attend the sessions.
2. **Translate materials (where relevant) to break the language barrier.** To facilitate national and local ownership of the Ocean Decade and the participation of as many stakeholders as possible, National Decade Committees are invited to translate key information, such as the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, Calls for Decade Actions, and communications assets. All assets are shared in an editable format on the Ocean Decade Network, on the Ocean Decade Trello board, or are available on request.
3. **Hold national information sessions.** Share information about the endorsement process, requirements for endorsement, and how to develop successful proposals, as well as information about specific Calls for Decade Actions. National Decade Committees can call upon the Decade Coordination Unit or the relevant decentralised structures to participate in or present to these sessions if it is useful!
4. **Provide support to applicants to strengthen their proposals and increase the probability of endorsement.** Future Calls for Decade Actions will invite applicants to contact their National Decade Committee for advice. Reach out to the Decade Coordination Unit or relevant Decade Collaborative Centre or Decade Coordination Office if you need information on the endorsement process or focus of the Call. However, please note that endorsement is a global process and can only be granted by the Decade Coordination Unit.
5. **Identify capacity needs in your country to help proponents develop and implement Decade Actions.** The Decade Coordination Unit will soon launch the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility that will play a match-making role between the capacity development needs of existing and future proponents of Decade Actions, and the providers of capacity development initiatives. Via this process, National Decade Committees can play a key role in collecting information about capacity development needs at a national level and work with the Decade Coordination Unit to find ways of fulfilling needs. This can be done in processes linked to the Capacity Development Facility or via the development of a national capacity needs assessment.
6. **Share with your community examples of successfully endorsed Actions.** Focus on what the Action's participants found to be the benefits of joining the Ocean Decade, to help motivate more stakeholders to apply for endorsement. National Decade Committee Canada uses this strategy and finds it successful. They also found that following up with endorsed Actions led them to learn about benefits they hadn't anticipated, such as growing sub-national networks and partnerships, and increased legitimacy when approaching potential Indigenous community partners.
7. **Facilitate international projects by reaching out to other National Decade Committees, Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices.** Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices are in charge of coordinating a thematic or regional community of Decade Actions and have precise knowledge of who's working on what, as well as the remaining gaps. They can advise you on who is looking for partners and how your national science teams or stakeholders can best come on board. Also, other National Decade Committees might also be looking for partners for their national teams or have interesting experiences to share.
8. **Don't wait for Calls for Decade Actions to play a matchmaking role!** If you think a future national project aligns well with the Ocean Decade, help your stakeholders to prepare their application. Identify the corresponding Decade Challenge and reach out to the relevant Decade Collaborative Centre or Decade Coordination Office to discuss how this project might best fill the gaps in the Ocean Decade. If it looks broad enough to be a Programme, help the applicants get ready for the next Call. If it's more suitable as a Project, start looking for the best Programme to host it and fine-tuning the Project to ensure a smooth endorsement process.





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The United Nations  
Decade of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
2021-2030



### Co-design of Decade Actions is a primary tenet of the Ocean Decade.

A co-design training course has been piloted in Africa and will be rolled out to other regions in the future. National Decade Committees are encouraged to identify when support is needed to develop skills and capacity in co-design.

National Decade Committees

such as that of the United Kingdom have laid out in their Terms of Reference a key objective to facilitate the co-design of Decade Actions. Their vision for the Committee is to enable connections within the national community to foster their 'all of society approach'. As with other Committees, they are still in the early stages of determining how best they can take on a roll in the co-design of Actions: "We are still thinking about how our Committee can engage with the Ocean Decade Calls and about how to mobilise the wider community to work with those Calls."



### Example

#### The private sector's connection to the ocean, National Decade Committee Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea's National Decade Committee has found connecting with the private sector to be a challenge, despite the direct benefits for disaster risk reduction: "Understanding ocean processes can help prevent modern disasters. And many of the industries in Korea are located close to the ocean. So that way I hope the industry supports the Ocean Decade Actions, but still they are not much aware of the importance of ocean science."

## Coordinating endorsed Decade Actions

National Decade Committees do not have a decision-making role during the process for endorsement of Decade Actions, but in some cases the Decade Coordination Unit may reach out for advice or feedback, and they receive regular updates on all endorsement decisions. They are also welcome to reach out to endorsed Actions and facilitate linkages between Actions to encourage collaboration during the implementation of complementary activities and initiatives, and promote innovation across the whole value chain, and the uptake of science.

By bringing diverse stakeholders together, National Decade Committees can on the one side facilitate the co-design of initiatives across groups of stakeholders, and on the other side facilitate access to data, products, science-policy advice or capacity development and ensuring outputs of activities implemented under the Ocean Decade are available to the community.

This may be done in a variety of ways including for example organising and facilitating webinars and meetings so that members can meet and discuss and exchange ideas, and/or maintaining an accessible database of Decade partners within the country.





## Case study: National Decade Committee France

After the announcement of the Ocean Decade, France's government began to plan its contribution in 2018. It drew up a Research Priority Program, '*Ocean and Climate*,' with funding for research "for a period of about ten years. The first calls for projects were launched in 2021." This program has been endorsed as France's Contribution to the Ocean Decade.

The government then created an National Decade Committee, with the aim of having the National Decade Committee disseminate Calls for Actions. "The role given to it, in the first few years, is very much one of transmitting information and federating the community around ocean science and the Ocean Decade."

### Role of the French National Decade Committee:

- ▶ Facilitate exchanges and dialogue between stakeholders to meet the challenges of the Ocean Decade based on co-design;
- ▶ Organise high-level events to mobilise communities;
- ▶ Establish communication channels and network building to address the challenges of the Ocean Decade; and
- ▶ Link the national and international levels (experience sharing, project endorsement, etc.).

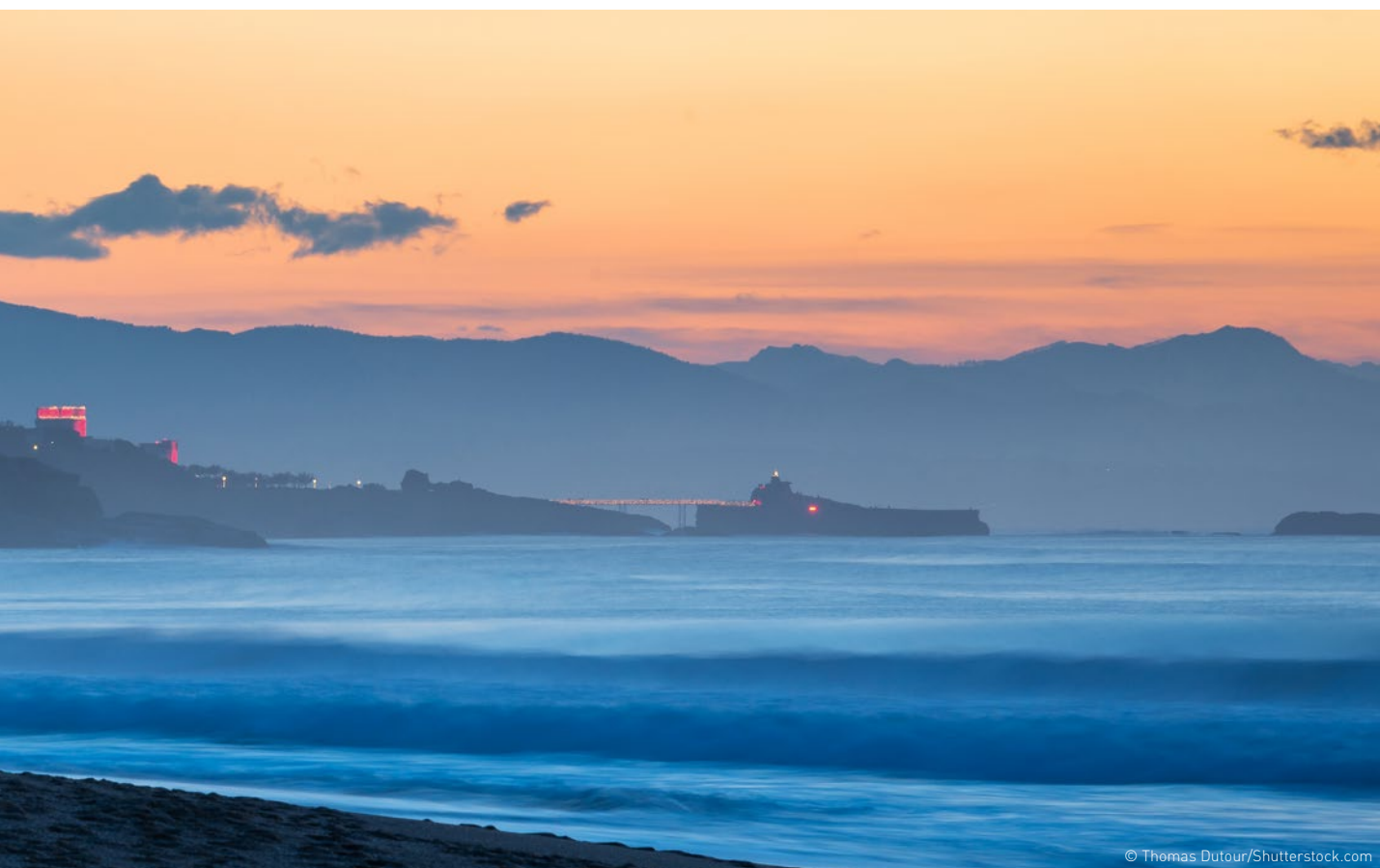
France's National Decade Committee membership includes representatives from relevant ministries, ocean science, private sector and more. "The stakeholder we're **missing is the corporate foundations**. Within the Committee, we would like to have corporate foundations as members since these foundations are potential donors for marine science research themes. We could then put them in contact with the other stakeholders already present in the Committee. Our difficulty for the moment is to have contacts within these corporate foundations established in France and having links with marine science."

### Connecting community and communicating the benefits

"In 2022, we held the first French national seminar of Ocean Decade Project leaders whose projects had been endorsed, so that they could explain what their projects were, why they had invested in the Ocean Decade, why they had had their projects endorsed, and what were the difficulties they faced. And in fact, to say to others, 'this is what it brings us, this is why you have to commit yourself to it.'"

France's National Decade Committee also keeps connected with its ocean community by producing a **newsletter** that explains different subjects related to the





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Ocean Decade, promotes the Calls to Decade Actions, and showcases endorsed initiatives. In 2022, they began translating a shortened version into English, and plan to share both versions with other Committees to support connections and the creation of partnerships for Ocean Decade Actions: “The objective for the French version is that it can be disseminated to other French-speaking countries, with a shorter version available in English.”

### Transformative science and aspirations for the Ocean Decade

For France, the ‘Ocean and Climate’ funding program is allowing them to support transformative science, which focuses on co-design: “If I launch a research programme, **I build it up from the start with others** and I don’t add them in as I go along. I think an important point for us, what we want or what we hope for, is co-design, changing mentalities. Success would be that. It’s not just French or European partners or large countries, like the USA or Canada, but also countries in the South or Small Island Developing States. We really need to transfer skills, share resources and contribute the results of research programmes to the Ocean Decade so that we can have science that responds to the needs of the world’s population. A science that can answer the questions of citizens, and the societal demand that

comes from citizens today, but also that supports public policies and our political decision-makers to make the best decisions so that we can have an ocean that is sustainable for the future. That would be the ideal legacy of the Ocean Decade.”

### Using a symposium to bring together the ocean science community, and by hosting it in a coastal city with a university offering ocean science programming, making it accessible for ECOPs

In 2022, France’s National Decade Committee organised a symposium, which welcomed 150 participants in person at an aquarium and science centre, and was offered virtually (with over 600 views to date on the centre’s YouTube channel). The symposium welcomed “scientists, people from industries, from the business world, from the private sector. There were associations. There were young people, because the conference was held in Brest, in France, and Brest is a very big centre for marine science and hosts a university, the University of Western Brittany, which has a centre around marine science.”



# Working across the science-policy-society interface



When we wrote the terms of reference of the National Decade Committee the Ministry approved it. This is an important point. That means that they recognise the National Decade Committee as the body that they can consult for any activities related to the Ocean Decade.

National Decade Committee Italy

National Decade Committees can play a central role in connecting the global Ocean Decade with national policies and strategies regarding ocean science and ocean management, and stimulating an influence on national priorities for ocean science, both in policy and more broadly in society.

A national implementation or action plan is an effective tool for aligning the global challenges of the Ocean Decade with national priorities and identifying how international collaboration through the Ocean Decade can help address national priorities. National Decade Committees are invited to involve the widest possible group of stakeholders across the science – policy – society interface in the development of their national implementation plans, to ensure a cross-cutting approach and optimise ownership of the final product.

Multiple National Decade Committees have found that a successful first step is to map the ocean science their country is undertaking onto the Ocean Decade Challenges or Outcomes. For instance, National Decade Committee New Zealand is having success in getting Actions endorsed using this method. As a next step, they would like to find ways to secure government support for Actions that seek to fill gaps under the Ocean Decade Challenges.

National Decade Committees that to date have had the most success at influencing ocean science funding in their countries are ones that have worked closely with funding bodies, including private foundations. In particular, they have representatives from funding bodies on their committees.

An effective way to align national priorities (or the priorities of private funders) with the Ocean Decade challenges is to develop a **sponsored and co-branded call** for projects between the funding organisation and the Ocean Decade. Applicants follow a single process to get both the endorsement by the Ocean Decade and the support (funding or in-kind) from funders.

The Decade Coordination Unit will work with National Decade Committees to provide further detailed support and guidance on tools and approaches to influencing national ocean science policy and resource allocation decisions in the future.





## Examples

### Mapping ocean activities onto Ocean Decade Outcomes, Decade National Committee India

India's National Decade Committee consists of 24 high level members, directors of agencies and institutions that deal with the ocean. In 2020, the Committee was tasked with creating a national implementation plan that, building on India's operational oceanography and research, maps India's ocean science work onto the Ocean Decade outcomes.

The National Decade Committee's initial focus on mapping activities helped them ensure activities can be undertaken, since national funding is already secured in those areas. By "picking the low-hanging fruit", they were able to engage with the Ocean Decade right from the beginning. "For example, I have resources to do ocean observations, to deploy a number of Argo floats or tide gauges or tsunami buoys, as a part of my national mandate and tsunami warning activity. But then it can easily be tied up to the safe ocean Outcome of the Ocean Decade, because it contributes to the region. That way we are trying to link all those programs that we have and try to bring those links to the Ocean Decade Outcomes."

### Mobilising existing resources and mapping onto existing ocean science, Decade National Committee New Zealand

New Zealand's National Commission for UNESCO has a priority area called 'oceans for the wellbeing of people and planet'. Through its secretariat, the commission offers in-kind support to operate New Zealand's National Decade Committee, its website and its social media: "It was a given that with the start of the Ocean Decade, we would add it to our work, and we would integrate the Decade into our strategic plan for the ocean."

### Coordinating national policies in the creation of a national implementation plan and a National Decade Committee, Decade National Committee Norway

In 2019, three ministries central to ocean science in Norway mandated the Research Council of Norway to lead the country's contribution to the Ocean Decade. "The first thing we did was appoint an expert group to propose priority areas for the Ocean Decade in Norway." They presented the priorities in a document to the Research Council and the ministries in 2020.

"We have used the document to identify the priorities when we have Ocean Decade Calls, and we have also encouraged the ministries that are financing us to use it in their strategies and plans. I also use this document when I talk about the Ocean Decade both within Norway and when I'm in other countries as a way to communicate which parts of the Ocean Decade are particularly important from a Norwegian perspective."

In 2021, when the concept of National Decade Committees was announced by IOC/UNESCO, the Ocean Secretariat in the Research Council appointed such a new multi-stakeholder Committee.

A strength of being connected to the Research Council is that the National Decade Committee can access in-kind support for activities, such as the annual public science event, 'Research Days', which in 2022 had ocean science for a theme and held over 150 events across the country.





### Case study: National Decade Committee Chile

Chile's national body for coordinating ocean science, CONA (Comité oceanográfico nacional – Chile), which was established over 50 years ago, “joins all components of national interest in oceanographic matters.” With resources and stakeholders already in place, **the 40-person multi-stakeholder committee became the coordinating body** for Chile's contribution to the Ocean Decade.

Every ten years CONA creates a national oceanographic plan, and the start of the Ocean Decade coincided with a renewal of this plan. In 2019, CONA began work on the updated plan and used the opportunity to incorporate the broad objectives of the Ocean Decade.

CONA is a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, including representatives from academia, governmental institutions, the Navy, a scientific society, and the private sector. For example, “We have some mining companies that are part of CONA, because they're doing their best to contribute with science to minimise the effect of the mining activity in the northern part of Chile.”

They saw the Ocean Decade as a way to **merge what was already happening in Chile with the objectives of the Ocean Decade**. “It was a great opportunity for our community to orient their research with a clear objective, not just a national objective, but also an international objective.”

There was no change in research funding in Chile for the Ocean Decade but the country's academic institutions have been keen to engage with the Ocean Decade to **make their research known internationally**. “A big success has been the response of various entities and researchers in charge of specific national initiatives that were channelled into Actions contributing to the Ocean Decade.”

In future work, the Committee plans to target **ocean literacy**. “Probably because we are affected by tsunamis, our people really are keen to learn more about the ocean. There's no one beach that you go to here in Chile that doesn't have a sign: Where are the areas of protection? Where are the areas of danger?” And yet, “Our biggest city is Santiago, the capital, where about 50% of our population is located. And that city is 200 kilometres away from the ocean. Also the governmental institutions, the house of the president and all the ministries are located in Santiago. So our decisions aren't based in the ocean. And as well, if we look at school programs, the knowledge of the ocean is not as well covered as we would like. So I will say that there is room for improvement for our mission as part of the Ocean Decade.”





## Case study: National Decade Committee Finland

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Finland's ocean science community kick-started the country's work on the Ocean Decade by requesting through the Prime Minister's Office – which has cross-cutting access to the ministries – that they take action. That request led to a **working group to create Finland's Ocean Decade Implementation Plan**.

Finland used a **"top-down approach"**, inviting representatives from the bodies they wanted in the working group, focusing on science. These included the universities and institutions involved in ocean science, three ECOPs (ocean scientists), an association of ocean researchers and relevant government ministries: **"We have government officials there that cover the most important parts of the Ocean Decade so that if the Committee proposes this or that, they are there and part of the decision and then go to the ministries and get the money for it."** The idea is to take policy-makers along in the country's work in the Ocean Decade so the decision-making is done together and the government ministries responsible for the funding of Ocean Decade Actions are prepared when the Calls for Decade Actions happen.

For Finland, the regional context is the Baltic Sea. Emphasising the role of providing science and

information to decision-makers through the Ocean Decade, will support governments around the Baltic Sea to take the actions needed to save the sea: "We are kind of a knowledge-based society. First you have to have evidence and then you can do something."

Having a population of 5.5 million people has made connecting and working together straightforward: "In a small country like Finland, we all know each other more or less, although we do not necessarily all the time work together, but it's so easy to be relaxed and think about different ideas, for example conserving the ocean or biodiversity and so on, because the mindset is quite similar in the group." As a result, discussions can focus on the methods to achieve Finland's goals.

The Prime Minister's Office is in the process of forming a more permanent National Decade Committee with a similar makeup to their working group. Their Committee is on the informal side, and other groups such as NGOs are free to express their interest and can be invited to join. The new Committee's initial task will be to **create an ocean science strategy** based on their implementation plan, as well as **planning a regional conference**.



# Resource mobilisation

Resource mobilisation is an important role but also a challenge for National Decade Committees. National Decade Committees are concerned with resource mobilisation in two ways; first, in terms of securing resources for their own operation and activities, and second, in terms of their advocacy role to ensure national resources for ocean science are increased from their existing generally very low values, and aligned to Ocean Decade priorities. National Decade Committees are working in various ways to secure funding for the contributions they aspire to make to the Ocean Decade.

Many National Decade Committees act as community-builders, bringing their ocean science community together via discussions, workshops and conferences, and providing, coordinating or partnering on ocean literacy initiatives that also promote the Ocean Decade. In these roles, National Decade Committees are sometimes aided in their missions by in-kind support and small funding amounts for the operations of a small secretariat and engagement activities such as workshops and a website.



**We're quite fortunate in that we have some resource support from the government but it's only for the secretariat. It seems like having buy-in from the government is really key to helping National Decade Committees get up and running. We've also got different bits of discrete budget to support particular Decade Actions. What we don't have is a sort of ring-fenced budget for Ocean Decade activities nor a process to invite bids into that."**

**National Decade Committee United Kingdom**

Many National Decade Committees have prioritised securing funding or in-kind support for the operations of their Committee, especially in the first few years of operation. Countries who have support for a secretariat, website, and social media find this critical to their success. National Decade Committees that don't have this support, or who need to periodically secure funding find it a challenge to focus on their core tasks as an National Decade Committee. For instance, in Indonesia, the government has provided in-kind support of physical office space as well as employee time, and

the Committee is responsible for securing funding for activities.

Having an National Decade Committee that is formed by the government, or members representing ministries that support ocean science, can facilitate support for National Decade Committees from the government. In some cases, such as in Finland and Türkiye, government representatives on their National Decade Committees seek out funding on a case-by-case basis depending on the goals set out by the National Decade Committee.

The advocacy role of National Decade Committees in relation to resource mobilisation is a more challenging and complex role. Globally, the majority of ocean science funding comes from national governments. There is thus a huge potential role for National Decade Committees to work with government to align funding priorities to the priorities of the Ocean Decade. While many National Decade Committees desire to play this role, in these early years of Decade implementation it is a role that is still evolving and an area where the DCU will provide additional support and guidance over time.

In many countries, this task is complicated by the fact that there is not one ministry responsible for all matters related to the ocean. For instance, Italy's challenge in securing government funding lies in the complex system of interrelated ministries, none of which has a mandate covering all marine activities. In Germany, a challenge in securing funding for National Decade Committee activities relates to the multi-stakeholder nature of the Ocean Decade: there are a multitude of ministries that each have a piece of the mandate related to the Ocean Decade, making it unclear which one should take the lead on the country's contribution.

To add to the complication, because the work of National Decade Committees includes promoting international partnerships for Decade Actions, ministries related to trade and international relationships (with no direct line to ocean science) may also be candidates for supporting National Decade Committees. Even in countries with a ministry that deals specifically with ocean matters, such as Canada, there may still be many others that touch on the ocean, such as ministries of environment or transportation.

For some National Decade Committees, the line to funding is more direct. For example, Norway's National Decade Committee was formed by The Research Council of Norway, which funds ocean research in the country.





The development of a national implementation or action plan can be a critical first step in working with national governments to influence funding decisions. Such an action plan, which translates the global ambition of the Ocean Decade to the national level, can be used as a tool in discussions with government and other national funders to identify priorities. The Ocean Decade has developed a number of mechanisms including sponsored Calls for Decade Actions or joint initiatives via the Ocean Decade Alliance, which can be used as a means to channel national funding to Ocean Decade priorities at the global, regional or national level.

### Example

#### **Resource Mobilisation,** National Decade Committee Türkiye

Türkiye's National Decade Committee was formed as a subgroup of a standing national board that handles ocean science in the country. The board is made up of about 70 members, including representation from the ministries involved in ocean affairs. After forming the National Decade Committee as a subgroup, they have been adding nongovernmental members to take a multi-stakeholder approach. Their process for funding involves the National Decade Committee bringing its priorities to the broader board, and on getting approval, funding is allocated.





UN Ocean Decade and EU Mission Ocean interactive session during the Marine Science Day 2023 of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ). Participants wrote down their thoughts on what is needed to act as 'one ocean' on a Spilhaus projection puzzle as a symbol of interconnectivity among seas and oceans. © VLIZ (Verhaeghe, Els)

## Ocean Literacy and ocean education

Many National Decade Committees are supporting Ocean Literacy activities, regardless of their countries' geographies, economies, and ocean science capacity. It is an important and complementary aspect of the 'all of society approach' of the Ocean Decade, and National Decade Committees see it as a way to influence the public and policymakers in support of advancing ocean policies and actions. To promote the Ocean Decade in their countries, they are showcasing ongoing ocean science and its uses, as well as promoting the achievements of endorsed Decade Actions.

National Decade Committees are also targeting schools for Ocean Literacy programming. In particular, through activities or the development of ocean-focused curricula. For example, the Italian National Decade Committee supported ocean-themed competitions among school children: one for paintings of the ocean, and the second for a message to be put in a bottle.

Building on IOC/UNESCO's support to Ocean Literacy as well as on international partnerships and networks, the Decade Programme, Ocean Literacy With All (OLWA), seeks to foster good practices and build capacity by

designing and implementing transformative research-based activities and projects for diverse stakeholders, including National Decade Committees. For example, OLWA is supporting the "[Ocean Literacy Educational Programme](#) – Ocean Health and Protection" in Cabo Verde that aims to promote private and public partnership under the lead of the Ministry of Maritime Economy.

OLWA aims to facilitate the co-production of knowledge and empower segments of society such as citizens, teachers, traditional and Indigenous communities. It encompasses a global Ocean Literacy research programme, the promotion of international collaborations, the development of specialized Ocean Literacy trainings and the strengthening of networks that support Ocean Literacy incorporation across all Decade Programmes.

OLWA also hosts the Ocean Literacy Dialogues, a series of open and participative events to exchange knowledge across different geographical and socio-cultural contexts and catalyze new joint actions to re-imagine humanity's relationship with the ocean.



The National Decade Committee Brazil contributed to the Ocean Literacy Dialogues in Santos by gathering teachers, local communities and surfers, to bring mindfulness on the importance of Ocean Literacy and highlight the fundamental role of the ocean in our lives.

Here are a few examples of Ocean Literacy activities led or supported by National Decade Committees that can be supported by OLWA:

- ▶ Providing training courses, fellowships, and opportunities for different target groups, including educators, media, government, the private sector, civil society, NGOs, and diplomacy professionals. IOC/UNESCO has developed trainings for governments, educators, media, architects, urban planners which can be promoted and translated to local contexts by interested National Decade Committees.
- ▶ Organizing international events such as the Ocean Literacy Dialogues, promoting multicultural and multigenerational dialogue and expanding the network.
- ▶ Developing a national Ocean Literacy strategy, with tailored mentorship from networks;
- ▶ Facilitating the development of regional Ocean Literacy networks and boosting international collaboration, expanding the networks and adherents.
- ▶ Improving the accessibility of existing educational resources, by producing resources in different languages and promoting the use of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, etc. National Decade Committees can collaborate with OLWA experts and develop joint resources in local languages, adapted to regional and cultural needs.
- ▶ Developing creative Ocean Literacy approaches such as outdoor activities. For example, the “Kindergarten of the Lagoon” in Venice aims to build a direct connection between children aged 3-6 and the nature through outdoor activities and the contact with the local community.
- ▶ Promoting Ocean Literacy in the educational sector, with the objective to translate resources in local languages and include ocean contents in educational curricula across the world, building on IOC/UNESCO’s “Ocean Literacy for All: a Toolkit” and the Blue Curriculum initiative.

The Ocean&Climate Village traveling exhibition about the ocean and climate, produced by IOC/UNESCO to encourage citizen engagement, can be co-hosted with National Decade Committees interested in promoting a sensory experience.



Ocean Literacy Dialogues 3rd edition in Canada. Photo: Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition.

© Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition - M





## Examples

### **Ocean Literacy, National Decade Committee India**

India has a population of 1.3 billion people, with densely populated coastal areas. The Committee felt ocean literacy was of critical importance: "We wanted the ocean to become a daily discussion, to bring the importance of the ocean to each and every stakeholder."

In 2022, in a collaborative effort between the country's ocean institutes, they ran a campaign called 'Clean Ocean Safe Ocean' during which 75 beaches across the country were cleaned. "There were all kinds of stakeholders starting right from the government, the NGOs, the students, the general public who were mobilised. This was actually taken up as an event commemorating the 75 years of Indian independence. So the government has actually put a lot of focus on the ocean, the cleanliness of the ocean and the coastal areas and then took it up as a big campaign. That is something which enhanced a lot of awareness on the importance of the ocean's cleanliness."

### **Partnering with the private sector to innovate in ocean education, National Decade Committee Italy**

"Scrittori di Classe", or 'Class Writers', promoted by the Italian National Decade Committee in partnership with and funded by the country's largest cooperative of supermarkets, created ocean science materials for elementary and middle schools. Over 27,000 schools across the country participated. The materials were targeted at teachers, not only their students: "I think this is an important point to consider, because if we want to go to the young generation, we should teach to the young generation. But we should also teach the teachers of the young generation."

To achieve the vision of an inspiring and engaging ocean for a new ocean generation, the activity's core features are:

1. Spreading fundamental values, such as the pleasure of knowing through reading, writing and drawing the mysterious ocean.
2. A more dynamic, multidisciplinary, integrated and student-centered approach to teaching.
3. Stimulating cultural growth through a joint collaboration between schools, private companies, and research institutions.
4. Developing critical sense through knowledge and exchange in terms of sharing and evaluating.
5. Giving credit and prestige to the pragmatic achievement by prizes for the young ocean writers-designers and a special day devoted to the "Stories of the Ocean".

The collaboration between one of the largest supermarket chains in Italy, a national research institute, and an Italian magazine for teachers allowed participating classes to

delve into marine science and sustainability topics, through innovative and integrated multidisciplinary teaching, learning and producing approaches. In addition to the availability of educational materials developed for primary and secondary school students and dedicated training courses for teachers created in Italian, the initiative includes the realization of a literary competition and prizes to be given in the final closing ceremony day. This is an important event to create a link between the young generations. Students were invited to explore educational materials, to choose a topic, to write a story together with the whole class, create an illustration inspired by the same story, share the outputs and evaluate three works from other classes. The winning stories were collected in a book gifted to schools and distributed in supermarkets.

### **Developing a website for community- building and ocean literacy, National Decade Committee New Zealand**

New Zealand's Ocean Decade website showcases New Zealand and Pacific Ocean science and Ocean Decade Actions, and promotes the Ocean Decade. It is aimed at the ocean community and public, brings everyone into the fold and is an endorsed Ocean Decade Action. They are having a lot of success with generating interest in the Ocean Decade, in particular with the public, which they attribute to the country's interest in the ocean: "Almost everyone in New Zealand is interested in the ocean because most people live by the coast. Nowhere in New Zealand can you be further away than 120 kilometres from the ocean." For the New Zealand National Decade Committee, their website is a way to celebrate all the work being done in their country: "New Zealand is such a small country but there is so much happening in the ocean science space because we have this massive coastline and the ocean is part of our identity."

### **Ocean Literacy Creativity, National Decade Committee Norway**

In 2022, the Research Council, which the National Decade Committee is connected to, created teaching materials about the ocean for primary school: "You can fill one week with ocean content in every subject; in mathematics, in language, in arts, etc."

To promote the ocean-themed 'research days' (see Coordinating National Policies in the creation of a national implementation plan and a National Decade Committee, an example from Norway), a film called 'The Pizza' was created, which was an experiment to see, "is it possible to make pizza only with marine ingredients? And have someone taste it." (One of the National Decade Committee members stars in the film.)



# The Ocean Decade Network

To facilitate connections between the numerous stakeholders of the Ocean Decade, the Decade Coordination Unit has set up the [Ocean Decade Network](#).

This online platform is the main space to actively engage in the Ocean Decade and provides many features to allow members to connect as a worldwide community, as smaller targeted groups, and across valuable one-to-one interactions. It is accessible by invitation of existing members or direct registration of new users.

The Ocean Decade Network allows users to get to know the endorsed Decade Actions and easily connect to them, find out who's doing what within the Ocean Decade, share information, promote events and activities, share documents and discuss with other members, either publicly (i.e., with all registered members) or privately within groups.

All National Decade Committee members are welcome to join the Ocean Decade Network to get first-hand

information on the Ocean Decade. Every National Decade Committee also has a [dedicated group on the Ocean Decade Network](#), with two different options depending on the priorities of the Committee: a private group limited to the members of the Committee or invited by the Committee, that allows for private discussions or sharing working documents; and/or an open group accessible to all Ocean Decade Network members without restriction that will showcase the activities of the Committee to a larger audience.

In both cases, the group will be curated directly by the National Decade Committee and the Decade Coordination Unit will provide the training of the designated group administrator.

A [global group for National Decade Committee focal points](#), curated by the Decade Coordination Unit, allows the sharing of information between National Decade Committees and with the DCU.



Marine reserve of Santa Luzia Island, Cabo Verde. © Biosfera.cv





## Case study: National Decade Committee Slovenia

Slovenia's National Decade Committee, established by the National Commission for UNESCO, is made up of 15 members from government, research institutions, universities, and marine protected areas. Their yearly funding cycle applies to the commissions to IOC/UNESCO and UNESCO, though funding is not enough to cover the activities they would like to do.

For 2023, they have planned a **series of lectures** delivered by five National Decade Committee members, targeted at the elderly: "We call it the university for the third period of life." Another goal is to translate the Ocean Decade implementation brochure into Slovenian, for use in promoting the Ocean Decade: "We plan to spread this awareness among the local government, like mayors and local, regional governments." In particular, Slovenia has four coastal municipalities along its 47 kilometres of coastline, and the vice mayor of one, and also a member of the National Decade Committee, has invited the Committee to present to the city council.

**By having a diversity of perspectives within the Committee**, Slovenia's National Decade Committee has developed partnerships and activities that may not have been possible otherwise. For example, coastal construction is being undertaken to mitigate flooding of the city of Pirana, which is home to the country's Marine Biological Station. The catch was the biologists weren't consulted to assess the potential impacts on nearshore marine life. Members of the National Decade Committee "spoke with the professor of civil engineering who is also a member of the national committee regarding that. And he said, 'I love the sea. I want to do my best for the sea. But they didn't teach us how our work affects the sea and the life there and the organisms in it.' So we, together with him, we planned that this year he will come with his students to have a field work right here at the marine biology station." Their aim is to help the students to see that in their work, "they also have to think much more beyond their field."



# Reporting and sharing of information

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I think it would be helpful if there was a way that National Decade Committees could report in a very simple way what they've done every year.

National Decade Committee Germany

Telling the story of the success of National Decade Committees is important to garner government and funding support and stimulate other countries to create National Decade Committees and address common regional and global challenges. It can also be used to promote the accomplishments of National Decade Committees within their national communities, the National Decade Committee community and the global Ocean Decade community. The Decade Coordination Unit prepares an Annual Progress Report that is presented to the 150 Member States of IOC/UNESCO every June, and to United Nations Member States via reporting of the IOC/UNESCO to the UN Secretary General. Information for this Report is gathered from National Decade Committees via the formal monitoring and evaluation framework for the Decade. In addition, several National Decade Committees develop their own annual reports that the Decade Coordination Unit helps to share widely via its communication channels.

## Steps for annual monitoring and evaluation

1. **As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the Ocean Decade, Committees are asked to submit basic annual reports to the Decade Coordination Unit**, including information such as:
  - a. List of members, i.e., name, location, contribution to the Ocean Decade, etc.
  - b. Activities implemented to convene and coordinate the national ocean community, events and workshops.
  - c. Catalysing and supporting Decade Actions.
  - d. Joint activities with other National Decade Committees.
  - e. Outreach and communication efforts.
  - f. Impact of the activities.
2. **Collect basic data about National Decade Committee activities** for reporting and partnership-building. When such information is shared, common interests can be identified between Committees.

### Coming soon! – National Decade Committee fact sheets

Beyond these basic data, which are key to measuring the momentum of the Ocean Decade, National Decade Committees are invited to share more detailed information on their priorities and undertakings. We will design together a template for an National Decade Committee fact sheet. The national fact sheets will complement this Manual with up-to-date information.



# National Decade Committee visions for the Ocean Decade

The visions of existing National Decade Committees for the Ocean Decade are ambitious and match the aspirations of the Ocean Decade, with creativity and national context. Below is a sample of the hopes and visions that emerged during interviews for this Manual:

“We are a nation that looks towards the sea. But sometimes we just forget that it’s there, how important it is for our lives. So that’s also something that I would say is an ambition of the decade.” – National Decade Committee Brazil

“We aim to build long-lasting partnerships and collaborations with Indigenous communities and scientists. We want to connect New Zealanders with their moana (ocean) through: leveraging education opportunities to promote and learn about their role as kaitiaki (guardians) embedded in their identity, culture and history with the ocean; engaging scientific and mātauranga knowledges to understand both the harm and solutions to protect the health of the ocean; and, supporting community engagement to mobilise grassroots solutions to protect the ocean.” – National Decade Committee New Zealand

“I would like the people and the politicians to understand that the Baltic Sea is part of the global ocean.” – National Decade Committee Finland

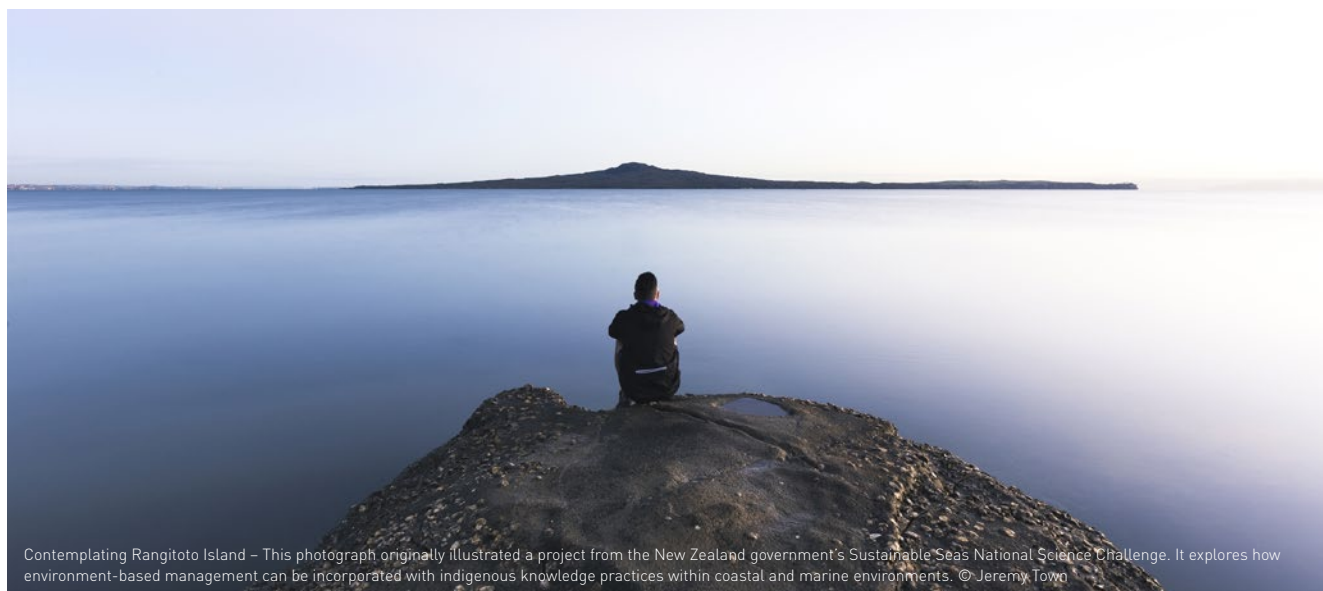
“Global partnerships to tackle global and local issues in the marine environment; That developing countries have strong repositories of ocean data and information” – National Decade Committee Madagascar

“For this year number one, our agenda is to get a roadmap, some sort of strategic document so we know how the Ocean Decade is implemented. The second part of our vision is we would like to have a national conference every other year around the ocean. The Decade is a good motivation for that. But we want that anyway. The third one is to really make the Ocean Decade or the ocean more known to the German general population, including across our sectors. Some awareness raising of the richness of the ocean. On the one hand, that it deserves protection, but it also is supporting our lives and livelihoods.” – National Decade Committee Germany

“I think the real gap that we could fill with the National Decade Committee is to have this stronger link with other organisations that are not the science ministries, because the science ministries in some sense, they’re working together in any case.” – National Decade Committee Italy

“Part of the plan is to have the ocean move closer to the centre of many conversations in the country, and then to improve ocean literacy for the general public or as part of education.” – National Decade Committee Brazil

“All kinds of campaigns on ocean literacy would not have happened without the Ocean Decade. But having both the European Union, for us, and globally the Ocean Decade makes it possible for us to do things that we would not otherwise get other funding for or the political will to do. I find the most important part for us in the Ocean Decade is that we can use that as a tool to get good ideas through politically.” – National Decade Committee Finland



Contemplating Rangitoto Island – This photograph originally illustrated a project from the New Zealand government’s Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge. It explores how environment-based management can be incorporated with indigenous knowledge practices within coastal and marine environments. © Jeremy Town



# 5.

## National Decade Committees Working Together







Tuna school in the Mediterranean. © G. Greco, Fondazione Acquario di Genova (FADG)

# Strengthening international synergies

The role of National Decade Committees is not limited to strengthening the national ocean science community. They also contribute to breaking the national and language barriers and developing international synergies.

The Ocean Decade is a great opportunity to strengthen the visibility of national ocean science at the international level and National Decade Committees can work together to facilitate international partnerships to develop new Decade Actions.

## Example

### **Breaking the language barrier to make ocean science more accessible,** National Decade Committee Italy

The Italian National Decade Committee contributes to making the ocean more accessible through open and equitable data, overcoming communication and language barriers. They have supported the publication of an “Italian-annotated bibliography on tunas, tuna-like and billfish species”.

This book provides, for the very first time, annotation in English for all papers published by Italian authors over the centuries in various languages on these species, that are an essential component of the Italian and Mediterranean culture and are nowadays not only essential elements of the marine trophic chain, but also important components of human seafood and the related fisheries economy. This book makes all these papers internationally available for all scientists, helping them in their research activities and the annotations facilitate the searching work by species and keywords.



# Supporting other National Decade Committees



Help for those small developing nations that don't have a Committee, I think there should be a major focus on it.

National Decade Committee Finland

National Decade Committees are strongly encouraged to connect or partner with other National Decade Committees, in particular, for mutual benefit and to provide capacity development support. Current National Decade Committees report being particularly interested in connecting with others that share commonalities, such as geographical (region), ocean science priorities (e.g., polar research), and language. For instance, with a common interest in prioritising Indigenous knowledge, the New Zealand and Canadian National Decade Committees have connected and are meeting to share experiences. The Decade Coordination Unit will help to trigger and facilitate these connections via regular online meetings and via the Ocean Decade Network, but Committees should feel empowered to make direct connections as well!

## Recommendations for finding support and learning from other Committees

### 1. Partner with other National Decade Committees.

Based on commonalities as well as on existing partnerships.

### 2. Engage with other Ocean Decade decentralised coordination structures, starting with regional

Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices. The first have been created for the Western Pacific, hosted by IOC-WESTPAC; the Northeast Pacific, hosted by the Tula Foundation; and the Indian Ocean Region, hosted by the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services. These Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Coordination Offices are important partners for knowing what's happening in your region, to discuss regional priorities for ocean science and to catalyse partnerships. These structures complement and support existing regional fora, such as the Regional Seas Conventions. We also suggest you connect with the thematic Decade Collaborative

Centres and Decade Coordination Offices that cover your priority challenges.

### 3. Use regional networks and conferences to promote the Ocean Decade and invite new countries to join and create a National Decade Committee.

You're welcome to organise side-events or one-on-one meetings to explain how the Ocean Decade works and what you're doing and get more countries on board. The Decade Coordination Unit can assist you in preparing such activities.

### 4. If you can offer support – experience, expertise, funding opportunities, etc. – connect with National Decade Committees who may be in need, especially newly formed committees or committees from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

For instance, the Italian National Decade Committee is interested in supporting Committees from countries that border the south of their shared Mediterranean Sea. India, with its newly formed Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region and other regional operational oceanographic hubs (such as through the Global Ocean Observing System), sees the possibility of supporting community-building and training in the region. The National Decade Committee of India says, "the main thing is to bring countries with more experience to those with less."

Madagascar and Nigeria identified expertise as a key support need; to connect with specialists to help them develop scientific projects, such as on ocean acidification, ocean energy and technology, and supporting women-led inshore fisheries.

Some National Decade Committees have expressed interest to create 'Twin Committees', partnering Global North with Global South National Decade Committees, and many Committees were receptive to this idea, such as the National Decade Committee in Finland: "It's an excellent idea, and we can both learn from each other, but also support Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States," and the National Decade Committee in New Zealand: "I'm always happy to discuss and help if needed." Throughout 2023, the Decade Coordination Unit will work with National Decade Committees and Member States that have not yet created a National Decade Committee to develop a system of match-making for potential twinning and support.





## Case study: National Decade Committee Madagascar

In 2022, the government of Madagascar organised a **national stakeholder workshop** for the Ocean Decade to which they invited researchers and government representatives, and “all operators, companies working on the sea, associations, NGOs, exporters of products.” There, **using the Ocean Decade Challenges as a base, participants identified priority areas for the country.**

Madagascar’s National Decade Committee, formed by the government, is **unresourced**, including for secretariat purposes, so even though the committee would like to take initial steps, such as to develop a website, they haven’t been able to do so. They have, for example, been invited to meetings outside of Madagascar, where they could learn and develop partnerships, but without resources, are unable to take advantage of such opportunities.

Given adequate resources, partnerships are seen as straightforward within Madagascar’s ocean community: it is already well-connected, in part due

to ocean research conducted in partnership with local communities and the fisheries sector.

The country lacks funding also for research that would contribute to the Ocean Decade. For example, related to blue carbon research, “if we want to have the quantity determined for carbon sequestration, we have to send our samples outside the country, because we don’t have the labs.” A process that adds costs to research budgets.

The Madagascar National Decade Committee is keen to **partner with others** and on research projects, including identifying funding opportunities, though they emphasise that partnership isn’t just about funding: “We always talk about money, but **we must not forget human resources; exchanges between researchers or between Committees.** Because there are some things that we don’t know, that other people know easily. I always insist on that, because money is something else, but the exchanges are very, very important.”





## Case study: National Decade Committee Nigeria

Nigeria's National Decade Committee was formed by its National Commission for UNESCO, which tasked the country's Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research with assembling a Committee. It required that the Committee have a federal character, with representation from the country's various geopolitical zones, local governments, and students. The challenge the Committee faces as a result is coping with different levels of engagement and understanding of the ocean environment and Ocean Decade: "Since it's a marine-related activity, it should be based on stakeholders working on the marine environment."

The National Decade Committee has outlined their priorities for 2023 to 2025. The Committee felt that, even though they are low-resourced and may not do all the work they would like, establishing goals is the best way to begin getting on track.

Nigeria's top priority relates to ocean education: ocean literacy; capacity building of ECOPs; and developing ocean curricula, particularly at the university level.

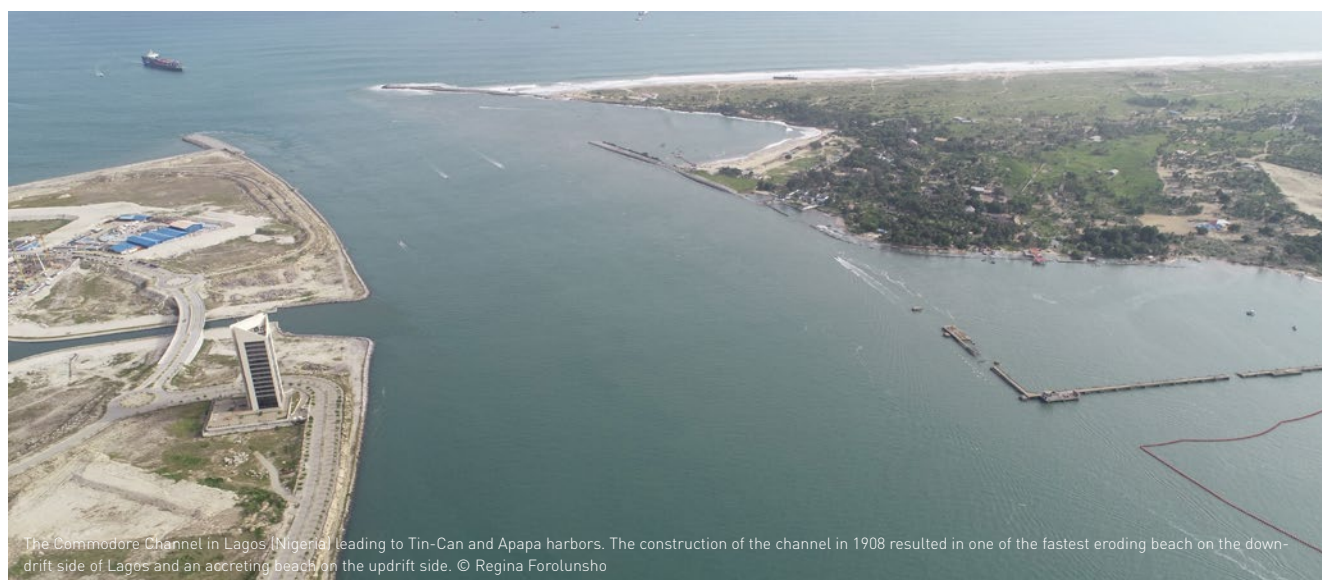
A second priority relates to non-academic paths to ocean technology careers. "The young innovators in our system, they're able to dismantle computer systems, and redesign different things, for it to work in different ways. These are people that we need to bring on board. They have no marine science background, but they understand mechanisms. And I think that we need to encourage greater participation, especially in terms of youth involvement. These are people who are doing all sorts of things, they just need you to describe to them what they should create. And the moment we can get one or two on board, others will love to also be part of that. For example, in Nigeria, we have people, who

have not even gone to the university, who can design a drone to take pictures of some areas." The National Decade Committee sees the potential for these people to support the sustainable ocean economy, in particular working on extracting energy from tides, waves and thermohaline circulation.

And a third priority is women in coastal fisheries, who are harvesting oysters, periwinkles, shrimps, and more, as well as processing the fish. Yet, these women's activities are not part of national fisheries discussions: "They are kept in the shade." The National Decade Committee hopes to promote the women's activities and get sponsorship from local governments. For instance, to provide freezers (because currently, fish that isn't processed on time is wasted); and support for the women to clean mangrove areas of plastics that accumulate due to tidal circulation and impact the harvest. "From there, to form some kind of cooperatives whereby they are encouraged to establish businesses."

Though the National Decade Committee has assigned members to each priority area, it does not have the expertise to move forward on all its aspirations. Connecting with global experts they feel would allow them to get the advice to be able to locally carry out successful programs.

The National Decade Committee also identified that regional issues, such as coastal erosion or tsunami early warnings in the Gulf of Guinea, could promote regional cooperation and the creation of new National Decade Committees, "Because the examples of what others are doing will push some countries to also increase their momentum with regards to that issue."



The Commodore Channel in Lagos (Nigeria) leading to Tin-Can and Apapa harbors. The construction of the channel in 1908 resulted in one of the fastest eroding beach on the down-drift side of Lagos and an accreting beach on the updrift side. © Regina Forolunsho



# 6.

## Building momentum





# If we do things together, it's more than only what each country puts into it.

National Decade Committee Norway

An ocean swell is building around the Ocean Decade. National Decade Committees and each individual dedicated to supporting the vision of the Ocean Decade are contributing waves to the effort of breaking down barriers and silos, and to making the world aware that there is one global ocean that is vital to all and needs care from all.

National Decade Committees are essential in this perspective. By connecting their national community with the global effort and connecting national needs and priorities with the global challenges, they “localize and contextualize” the Ocean Decade and make it tangible, accessible and effective.

The case studies and examples throughout this Manual attest to the motivation and aspirations of National Decade Committees to make the Ocean Decade a success. National Decade Committees are assembling; gathering wide-ranging stakeholders who may not have sat at the same table before. National Decade Committees are engaging with their broader community, including the public, educators and students, to increase ocean literacy and promote the Ocean Decade. They're working with governments to set ocean science priorities, strengthen the science-policy-society interface and creating advocacy with national funding

bodies to prioritise Ocean Decade goals that are most relevant to their countries.

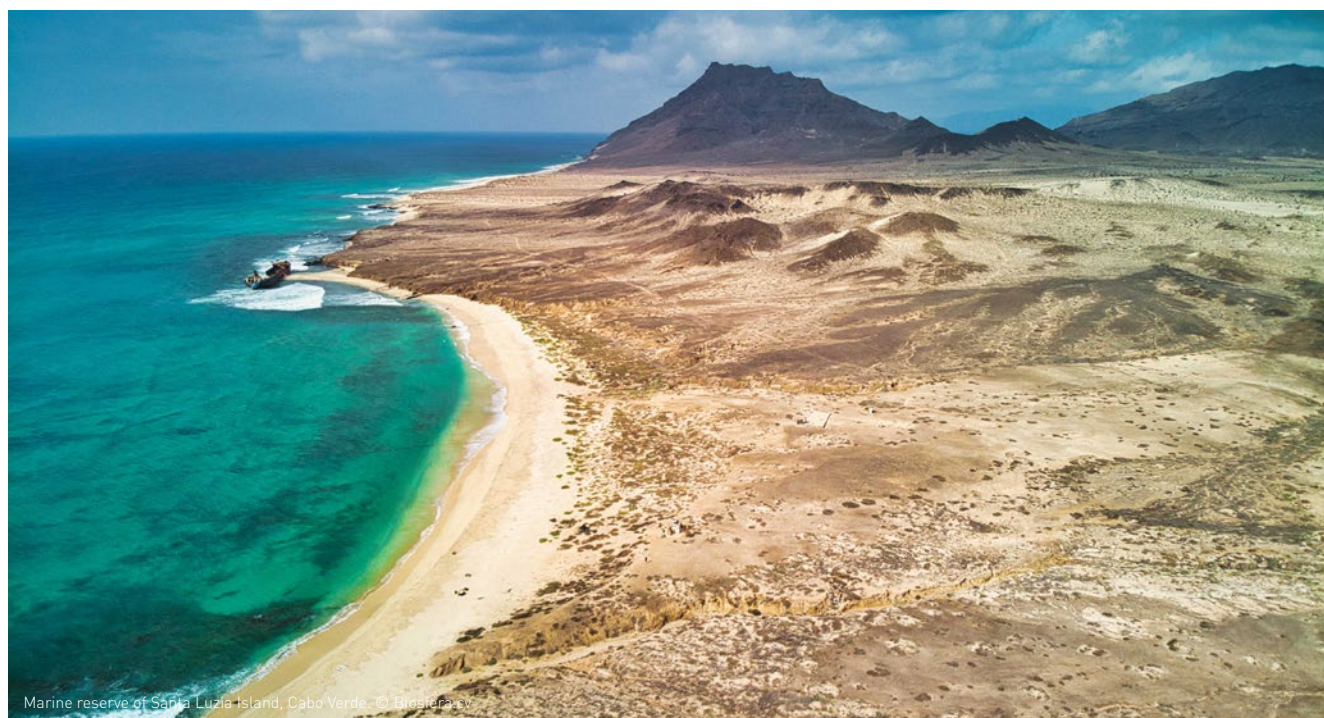
Many have already taken a good start, but the road is still long. The success of the Ocean Decade will largely depend on the ability to mobilise as widely as possible, to leave as few people as possible behind.

For the Ocean Decade, IOC/UNESCO has set **the goal for all its 150 Member States to participate in the Ocean Decade and have a National Decade Committee**, soon enough so that it can have a significant impact.

And these National Decade Committees should reach beyond the existing networks and beyond the ocean science community, to the many ministries, local governments, private companies and civil society at large that somehow interact with the ocean.

This is the necessary condition for a lasting change in the way we perceive the ocean and how we collectively shape “the ocean we need for the future we want”.

Looking past the end of the Decade in 2030, it is the hope of the entire Ocean Decade community that the National Decade Committees that will have played such a vital role in the success of the Decade will live on as a legacy of the Decade and continue to work to promote the importance of ocean science for sustainable development.



Marine reserve of Santa Luzia Island, Cabo Verde. © R. B. Gonçalves



# Acknowledgements

IOC/UNESCO thanks all the individuals and institutions who gave so freely of their time to participate in the conversations that led to this and participated in the review processes.

A particular thanks to Ms Carol-Anne Black of CarolAnne Black, Consulting Science Writers, who facilitated the consultation process and led the drafting of the Manual.

## Interviews

Thank you to those who participated in an in-depth one-on-one interview in support of this Manual:

Country	Interviewees
Brazil	Roberto Dantas de Pinho
Canada	Marie-Elaine Boivin, Liisa Peramaki
Chile	Juan Fierro, Hugo Gorziglia, Carlos Zuniga
Finland	Jussi Soramäki
France	Aurélie Chamiot-Prieur
Germany	Martin Visbeck
India	Nagarja Kumar, Nimit Kumar, Srinivas Kumar
Indonesia	Zainal Arafin, Henry Manik
Italy	Alessandro Gibertini, Roberta Ivaldi, Rosalia Santoleri
Madagascar	Lanto Ranivoarivelo
New Zealand	Silke Bieda
Nigeria	Regina Folorunsho
Norway	Siri Granum Carson, Kjersti Fjalestad, Mette Mila
Slovenia	Vesna Flander-Putrlle
Türkiye	Emre Tükenmez
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Stephanie Ockenden, Suzanne Painting, Zain Razvi
Republic of Korea	Youn-Ho Lee
ECOP Programme	Evgeniia Kostianaia



# Resources

## Ocean Decade resources

- ▶ [Ocean Decade](#)
- ▶ [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#)
- ▶ [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan – Summary](#)
- ▶ [National Decade Committees – Operational Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Communications assets - Ocean Decade Trello board](#)
- ▶ [Co-designing the Science We Need For the Ocean We Want](#)
- ▶ [State-of-the-art of ocean literacy](#)
- ▶ [Ocean Literacy Portal](#)
- ▶ [Advancing Science for Sustainable Ocean Business: an opportunity for the private sector](#)

## National Decade Committees online

- ▶ Please check the Ocean Decade website for the [full list of National Decade Committees](#) with contact details.
- ▶ Please join the [Ocean Decade Network](#) for more information on National Decade Committees and what's happening in the Ocean Decade. Some National Decade Committees have chosen to open their group to share news and resources: [Canada](#), [France](#) and [USA](#).
- ▶ You can also check the following websites and useful online resources:
- ▶ [Brazil – National Plan for the Implementation of the Ocean Decade](#) (in Portuguese)
- ▶ [Co-design de Iniciativas para Década – Webinar on Co-Design of Ocean Decade Actions](#) (in Portuguese)
- ▶ [Canada - Advancing gender equity in the Ocean Decade: A summary of 3 sessions hosted as part of the Ocean Decade virtual series 2020-21](#)
- ▶ [Chile – National Oceanographic Plan 2021 - 2030](#)
- ▶ [Colombia](#)
- ▶ [Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands](#)
- ▶ [France: First national Decade workshop \(recording in French\)](#)
- ▶ [Germany](#)
- ▶ [India](#)
- ▶ [Italy](#)
- ▶ [Japan](#)
- ▶ [New-Zealand](#)
- ▶ [Nigeria](#)
- ▶ [Norway – Call for proposals: UN Decade Ocean Science communication and dissemination – Teaching programmes](#) (in Norwegian)
- ▶ [Sweden](#)
- ▶ [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#)
- ▶ [United States of America](#)



# Notes







## CATALYSE DECADE ACTION

Decade Actions will be implemented by a wide range of proponents throughout the Ocean Decade. Inform and support your national ocean community. Regular Calls for Actions are released twice per year and opportunities exist to set up joint Calls with the Decade Coordination Unit.

## USE AND PROMOTE THE OCEAN DECADE NETWORK

The Ocean Decade Network is the primary engagement mechanism for the Ocean Decade, to share your news, join a Community of Practice, find partners and inspiration, and learn about events and opportunities. Make sure your country is visible and invite stakeholders to join at [forum.oceandecade.org](https://forum.oceandecade.org)

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN DECADE ALLIANCE

The Ocean Decade Alliance is a key mechanism for resource mobilization during the Decade and includes Heads of States and government supporters of the Ocean Decade amongst its members. Visit [www.oceandecade.org/ocean-decade-alliance](https://www.oceandecade.org/ocean-decade-alliance) to learn more.

## ESTABLISH A NATIONAL DECADE COMMITTEE OR A REGIONAL DECADE COLLABORATIVE CENTRE

Coordination at the national and regional levels are key to the success of the Ocean Decade. They foster inclusion, engage stakeholders and facilitate regional and national contributions to the Decade, as well as promote awareness and interest in ocean science. Contact us to learn more [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org)

### HOW CAN YOUR COUNTRY ENGAGE?

Learn more about engaging  
in the Ocean Decade on  
[oceandecade.org](https://oceandecade.org)



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