



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2020

#04

UN DECADE OF OCEAN
SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (2021-2030)



FOREWORD

The countdown is on to the start of the Ocean Decade on the January 1, 2021! The scientific community is witnessing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global ocean observing activities, which created data gaps that threaten our ability to predict climate change impacts. Thus, our focus is more than ever on ensuring that the Decade is built on partnerships and actions that can transform ocean science into innovative solutions and sustain ocean science institutions and infrastructure in times of crisis.

In this October issue, we are pleased to announce the launch of the first 'Call for Decade Actions' that will be open from October 15th, 2020 to January 15th, 2021. This Call aims to identify transformative global and regional programs that focus on advancing science to support the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as major in-kind or financial contributions to Decade Actions or coordination functions.

In addition, in the lead-up to the start of the Decade, a series of activities are planned in the following months to promote the commitment of an increasing number of official Decade partners and strengthen the engagement of our regional stakeholders.

The Ocean Decade Team

SUMMARY

1. Ocean Decade Activities

- Launch of the first "Call for Decade Actions"
- The Ocean Decade presented to the Italian public
- Involving Youth in the Ocean Decade : "We are Ocean" project in Canada
- MSPGlobal Initiative : 25 events to support the Ocean Decade
- Ocean Decade Virtual Series : Highlights

2. News and Publications

- Canada commits to support the Ocean Decade
- Version 2.0 of the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan available in all 6 UN languages
- UN Global Compact engaged to mobilize the private sector in the Ocean Decade
- Regional Initiatives to support the Ocean Decade

3. Person of the month

- Meet Alfredo Giron, Early Career Ocean Professional

1. OCEAN DECADE ACTIVITIES

LAUNCH OF THE FIRST "CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS"

A first "Call for Decade Actions" will be launched on 15 October 2020. Via this Call partners are invited to request endorsement for transformative Decade Actions that contribute to the Ocean Decade vision. This Call for Decade Actions is the first of series that will be launched as part of the Ocean Decade and it focuses specifically on:

- large-scale, multi-country, transformative Decade programmes; and
- large-scale contributions of in-kind or financial resources for Decade Actions or coordination costs.

Programmes or contributions that will enhance the sustainability of ocean science, including infrastructure or individual or institutional capacity, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic are welcome in response to this call. Actions in any part of the world are welcome, and there is no limitation on who can submit a request for endorsement.

A suite of documents provides additional information on the Call including the [summary of the Implementation Plan](#), the [Guidance Note for Applicants](#) and an [FAQ](#) page on the Ocean Decade website. Interested parties should complete and submit the relevant online "Request for Endorsement" before 15 January 2021.

Two virtual sessions are planned to provide additional information on the Call for Decade Actions on the 20 October 2020 between 14h and 15.30h UTC and the 6 November 2020 between 6h and 7.30h UTC.

Details of the sessions will be posted on www.oceandecade.org and on the Ocean Decade social media channels. If you haven't already done so, sign-up to the Ocean Decade website to make sure you receive future updates!

"CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS"

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT
THE CALL FOR DECADE ACTIONS**

**Registration for Q&A
on 20 October 2020 (14h - 15h30 UTC)**

**Registration for Q&A
on 6 November 2020 (6h - 7h30 UTC)**

THE OCEAN DECADE PRESENTED TO THE ITALIAN PUBLIC

With over 80,000 km² of territorial sea, and almost 60% of citizens living on the coastline, Italy has a leading role to play in preserving the ocean. Since the proclamation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the Italian Oceanographic Commission has been supporting regional workshops and events for the Mediterranean, and has been strongly engaged throughout the preparatory phase of the Decade.

On October 22 2020, a public event is being organised by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and its partners Italian Oceanographic Commission, City of Milan, European Commission, Theatre No'hma, Worldrise, One Planet, One Future Foundation, and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change. The session will present the priorities and expected outcomes of the Ocean Decade to the wider public. This event will feature contributions from key players in the scientific community on how to achieve a healthy and resilient ocean that underpins human wellbeing to accelerate progress to reach SDG14 and the broader 2030 Agenda.

[Join us on October 22 for this event](#)

INVOLVING YOUTH IN THE OCEAN DECADE : "WE ARE OCEAN" ARTISTIC PROJECT IN CANADA

On the occasion of the Vancouver Biennale, the NGO ARTPORT_making waves launched the artistic initiative "We are Ocean" in Canada. From August to December 2020, this project aims to empower students from British Columbia to acquire knowledge on the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the relationship between local indigenous people and the ocean.

With the support of artists T'uy't'nanat Cease Wyss and Olivier Salvas, participants are being invited to reflect on the effects of climate change on the ocean and how this is affecting the ecosystems and indigenous culture of the traditional territories of Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh & Musqueam First Nations.

[About "We Are Ocean" Project](#)



MSPGLOBAL INITIATIVE: 25 EVENTS TO SUPPORT THE OCEAN DECADE

Between September and December 2020, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, through its joint initiative with the European Commission MSPglobal, is organizing and taking part in over 25 events at the national, regional and global level on various topics related to Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy. These activities will assist countries in the development and implementation of marine plans and contribute to achieve the outcomes and Ocean Decade Challenges of the Ocean Decade by promoting a sustainably harvested and productive ocean.

[More information will be available on our website](#)



OCEAN DECADE VIRTUAL SERIES : HIGHLIGHTS

'CO-DESIGNING THE SCIENCE WE NEED FOR THE OCEAN DECADE' (24/09)

This first virtual session 'Co-designing the science we need for the Ocean Decade' was convened by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in partnership with the International Science Council, as part of the Ocean Decade Virtual Series. With the panelists, 450 participants explored opportunities and challenges to deliver co-designed, solution-oriented research that will lead to transformative Decade Actions with long-lasting benefits to the ocean and society. This first global session will be followed by a series of regional sessions this month to discuss regional priorities and needs for co-designed/co-delivered ocean science.

[Watch the replay.](#)

'OCEAN AND HUMAN HEALTH' (05/10)

More than 150 participants joined a virtual session that brought together Global Voices of Ocean and Human Health and Ocean Decade representatives to discuss emerging areas for cooperation and how Ocean and Human Health can contribute to the Ocean Decade. The session was convened by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, H2020 Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE) Project, H2020 Blue Health Project and the European Marine Board.

[Watch the replay.](#)

2. NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

CANADA IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE OCEAN DECADE

The Government of Canada, through Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has provided a four-year financial contribution to the Ocean Decade. This generous contribution will contribute to the establishment of effective governance structures, and support core coordination and engagement and communication activities, including the development and launch of the new Ocean Decade website and stakeholder platform.

VERSION 2.0 OF THE OCEAN DECADE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AVAILABLE IN ALL 6 UN LANGUAGES

Version 2.0 of the Implementation Plan - as well as a summary of the Plan - is now available on the Ocean Decade website in the four working languages of the IOC - English, French, Russian and Spanish. Arabic and Chinese versions will be available soon, so stay tuned! The Plan is currently being presented to the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

[Download the publication](#)

OCEAN DECADE VIRTUAL SERIES UPCOMING WEBINARS - 2020

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • A sustainable Ocean Economy for Small Island Developing State (SIDS) through Science and Innovation | NOVEMBER |
| • Co-designing the science we need for the Ocean Decade - Part 2 | NOVEMBER |
| • Empowering Women and Girls in the Ocean Decade | NOVEMBER |

UN GLOBAL COMPACT ENGAGED TO MOBILIZE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE OCEAN DECADE

Reinforcing their shared commitment to advance science-based sustainable ocean business, the IOC-UNESCO and the UN Global Compact signed a letter of intent to mobilize the private sector around the framework and expected outcomes of the Ocean Decade. Together, the UN agencies will continue to foster science-industry collaboration for a sustainable and thriving blue economy. Rapid declines in ocean health and marine ecosystems underscore the urgent need to intensify collaboration.

[More details online](#)

TWO REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE OCEAN DECADE

Following the Decade Regional Planning workshops that were held throughout 2019 and 2020, informal stakeholders platforms have been established in several regions to advance the identification of regional initiatives and programmes for the Ocean Decade. These structures will play a key role in guiding regional activities to support the development of programmes, projects and activities that will be endorsed as “Decade Actions”.

- The Western Tropical Atlantic Regional Planning Group (WTA IPG) was established in July 2020 to advance and coordinate strategic partnerships and actions for the Western Tropical Atlantic region, and benefits from the support of [IOCARIBE](#) as its official Secretariat. In 2020, WTA IPG developed a framework of major challenges and actions around each Decade outcomes, and will organize a series of virtual workshops to support the elaboration of a regional action plan.
- The Arctic Task Force is presently preparing an Arctic Ocean Action Plan that will offer stakeholders an opportunity to identify actions and priorities for the Arctic Ocean in the Ocean Decade. Lead by the [Danish Center for Marine Research](#), the Task Force will host a series of virtual working group meetings starting this month and will hold an online consultation on the first version of the Arctic Ocean Action Plan (March 2021). It will also offer participants of the working groups networking opportunities with other Arctic actors from science, governments, industry and NGOs.

3. PERSON OF THE MONTH

ALFREDO GIRON, EARLY CAREER OCEAN PROFESSIONAL

The Ocean Decade offers an exciting opportunity for Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) to be involved in ocean and environmental decision-making processes. This month, meet Alfredo Giron, PHD in US Santa Barbara University, whose approach to fisheries work embodies the Ocean Decade's vision : The Science we need for the ocean we want.

[Read the interview](#)



Canada

