

Ocean Decade Implementation: Summary of Developments

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Endorsed Decade Actions include 48 programmes, 276 projects and 84 contributions. They are led by partners from over 60 countries, although gaps persist in Decade Actions led by partners in SIDS and LDCs. Call for Decade Actions No. 05/2023 focusing on marine pollution and ecosystem management is open until August 2023. Ten Decade Coordination Offices / Decade Collaborative Centres have been established and are providing essential coordination support to the Decade Coordination Unit housed within IOC-UNESCO. The Decade Advisory Board comprising 15 expert members and five UN entity representatives met regularly throughout this period to review programme submissions and provide strategic advice on Decade implementation. 37 National Decade Committees are currently operational. There is significant action at the regional level including the establishment of the Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce and planning of new regional coordination structures in the South Pacific, Arctic, Africa and Caribbean. A major meeting of philanthropic partners was held in Monaco in June 2023 and identified new initiatives to support Decade implementation. The Ocean Decade Alliance has expanded to include ten Patrons and eighteen institutional members from government, industry, UN entities and philanthropy. The Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process has been launched to identify a collective and measurable ambition for each Ocean Decade Challenge which will facilitate identification of future priorities and resource needs for the Decade. The results of the Vision 2030 process will be presented at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in April, 2024 in Barcelona, Spain, which will be a milestone event in the lead-up to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.