



unesco

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(Of UNESCO)**

**EIGHTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION OF THE
UNESCO-IOC SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND
ADJACENT REGIONS (IOCARIBE-XVIII)
(Brasilia, April 23-25, 2025)**

**ADAPT ADAPTING OCEAN BEST PRACTICES TO THE LOCAL CONTEXT:
CARIBBEAN PILOT PROJECT**

ADAPT is a proposal of training, as well as supporting collaborative development of guidelines on ocean observation and best practices, using the Caribbean as a pilot region. It is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and is being developed among the Ocean Best Practices team, in collaboration with several experts, as well as OTGA, INVEMAR, and IOCARIBE.

The initiative is conducting in-person workshops and creating educational resources to address the need for capacity development in ocean observation within the Caribbean region. These experiences will be used to develop an online training course that will be accessible to a wider audience. The project's ultimate goal is to encourage the adoption and adaptation of best practices and methodologies for ocean observation in regions with limited infrastructure, tailored to their capabilities and regional context, while maintaining interoperability.

The team of OBPS CD WP has been thinking of ways to address data gaps and needs in best practices for ocean observation, and there was an opportunity for developing a training program, which aims to connect with local/regional institutions to partner for a training program co-development. Building the ADAPT training schema consisted of three key working phases. 1st a Preliminary assessment: Community inputs were gathered through an online survey sent to project partners and regional stakeholders. Information from the survey was analyzed and ranked to finally get the prioritization of key gaps and requirements. The ADAPT survey received 50 responses from 18 different countries and 6 different types of organizations. The survey results showed a general interest in topics related to Marine Biodiversity data and management, with a focus on the best practice methods for field data collection across different ecosystems. The most popular training topics include data management, satellite images for ocean assessment, coastal habitat mapping, water quality and species distribution modeling. The survey also revealed gaps in knowledge of Essential Ocean Variables and the need to strengthen the capabilities for data access and management in general. Many respondents expressed the need for training to adapt or harmonize methodologies in the Caribbean region, especially when there is limited infrastructure and capacity.

The second phase of the work was getting in place: a training content schema outline, serving as the foundation for the training co-development. A pilot training program is created

to serves as a foundational initiative for future ocean observation workshops, to be adapted following best practices according to this pilot experience. The training content has a program structured into comprehensive modules that integrate complementary subjects, ensuring a holistic learning experience. Offered initially in Spanish, it will be an English version soon. This initial phase will lay the groundwork for a self-paced online course. Building on the outcomes of two prior in-person workshops, the final version will incorporate enhanced digital resources, multimedia content, BEST PRACTICES and expert connections, providing participants with extensive access to ocean observation knowledge.

The third phase was the creation of an expert advisor's group, which was created by inviting professionals with high experience in certain topics to contribute to the ADAP team to co-develop the training content and materials. This work was conducted in collaboration with OBPS ambassadors, s and local partners (INVEMAR).

We are happy to announce that we are ready to serve with the first ADAPT workshop in Spanish happening at INVEMAR next 28 April to 2nd of May, with 16 students from 7 countries, and three trainers.