IFAG – 3rd online meeting

16 April 2025

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Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Programme & Budget 2026-2027 preparation (Draft 43 C/5)

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – most recent developments

UNESCO Executive Board at it 221st session is currently reviewing:

2 ZNG scenarios and 1 ZRG (light) scenario under preparation:

- Both ZNG absorb additional costs approved by the 220th session of the Board (220 Decision/17)
- Both result in nominal allocation reduction for all sectors and services, including IOC
- IOC budgetary allocation is maintained at 3% of the total UNESCO regular budget

Regular budget for IOC: **ZNG Option 1 - $20.7 M**
ZNG Option 2 - $21.0 M

ZRG (light) - $21.9 M (vs 42 C/5 - $21.1M)

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – most recent developments

- ✓ No changes to regular budget staff establishment = no new posts
- ✓ Increase in UNESCO standard costs: +$1.1 M

	42 C/5		Draft 43 C/5					
			ZNG 1		ZNG 2		ZRG	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Non-Staff	9.0	43%	7.5	36%	7.7	37%	8.6	39%
Staff	12.1	57%	13.2	64%	13.2	63%	13.2	61%
Total	**21.1**		**20.7**		**21.0**		**21.9**	

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – most recent developments

Full alignment with IOC Medium-Term Strategy & Resolutions A-32/4 & EC-57/2

- ✓ **ZNG 1 – across the board non-staff regular budget reduction to 83 % of 42 C/5**
- ✓ **ZNG 2 – across the board non-staff regular budget reduction to 86% of 42 C/5**
- ✓ **Targeted funding for SIDS under UNSG Early Warning for All initiative**
- ✓ **ZRG – Functions B and F (GOOS, IODE, CD & RSBs) maintained at 42 C/5 level (100%)**

  Other functions at 86% of 42 C/5

  IOCAFRICA at 98% of 42 C/5 ($ 918K)

  Work with Member States and UN partners to increase the understanding of ocean-related risks and to implement effective multi-hazard early warning systems

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting: a very recent development

UNESCO Executive Board at it 221st session – yesterday - adopted the following decision:

New 8. Bearing in mind that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is established as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO with the IOC Assembly being the principal organ under the IOC Statutes,

New 9 Invites the Executive Secretary of the IOC to submit the Sections relating to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Volumes I and II of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-29 (43 C/5) to the IOC Assembly at its Thirty-third Session and to forward the recommendations of the IOC Assembly to the 43rd session of the General Conference;

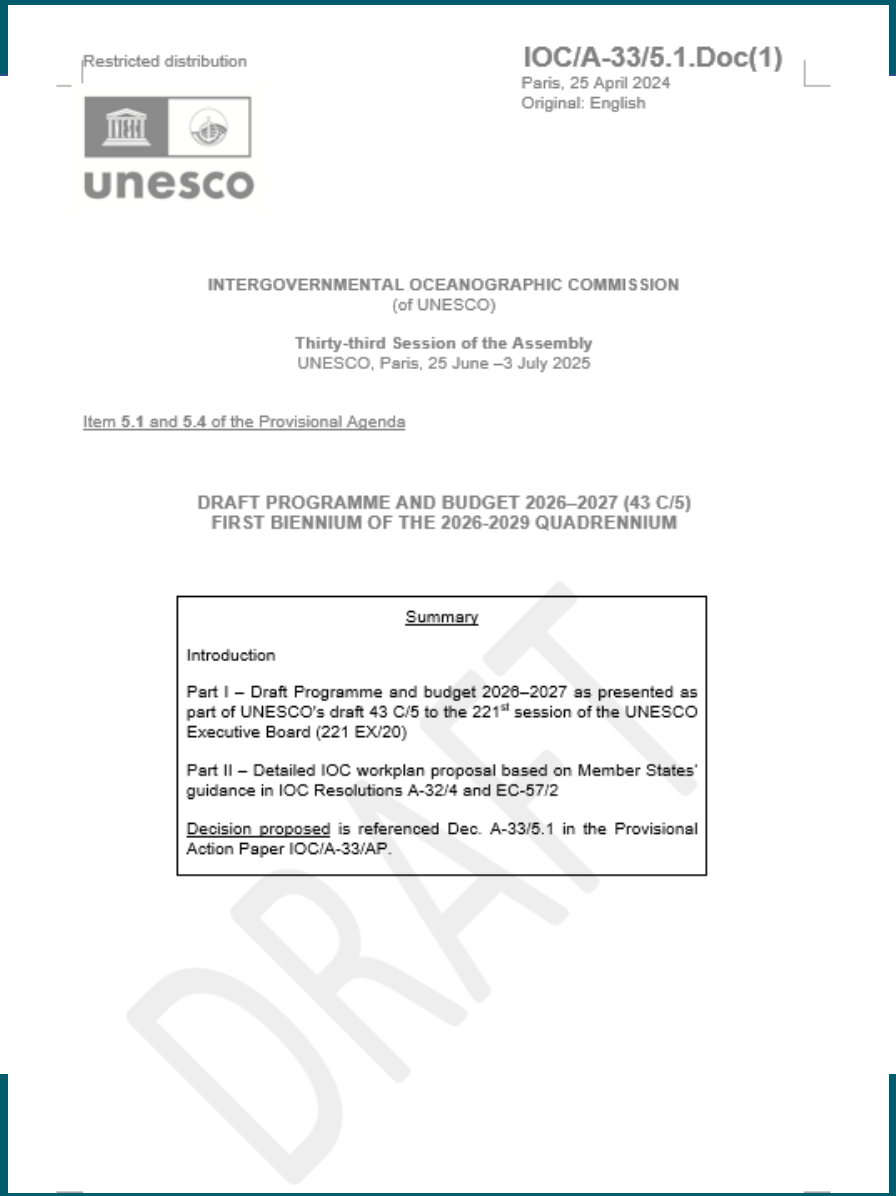
Adapting 2026-2027 Programme & Budget to new developments

Draft document sent to IFAG on 11 April 2025

Part I – IOC part of the UNESCO 221 EX/20

Part II – IOC draft text for the Assembly

with a placeholder for new
IOC Results Framework



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Paris, 25 April 2024
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the Assembly
UNESCO, Paris, 25 June –3 July 2025

Item 5.1 and 5.4 of the Provisional Agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026–2027 (43 C/5)
FIRST BIENNIUM OF THE 2026-2029 QUADRENNIUM

Summary

Introduction

Part I – Draft Programme and budget 2026–2027 as presented as part of UNESCO's draft 43 C/5 to the 221st session of the UNESCO Executive Board (221 EX/20)

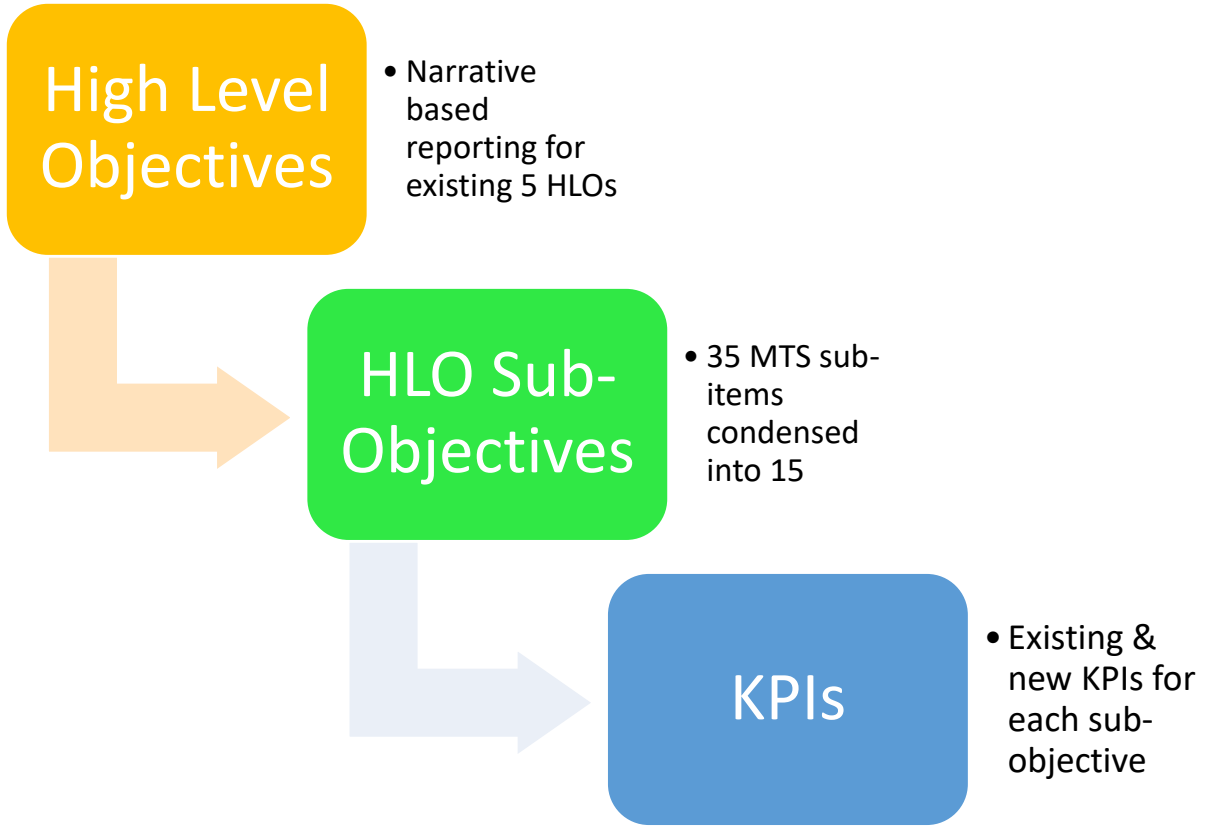
Part II – Detailed IOC workplan proposal based on Member States' guidance in IOC Resolutions A-32/4 and EC-57/2

Decision proposed is referenced Dec. A-33/5.1 in the Provisional Action Paper IOC/A-33/AP.

DRAFT

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – New IOC Results Framework

- New IOC Results Framework, distinct from UNESCO 43 C/5
- Aligned with the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS)
- Monitor progress towards achievement of the MTS from 2026 – 2027 by tracking status, gaps and needs in relation to IOC support to Member States
- Next steps to consolidate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and identify targets
- Will be further refined in line with the outcomes of the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' consultation process and discussions at the Assembly



New IOC Results Framework – Draft/Work In Progress

High Level Objectives	Sub-Objectives		
1. Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services	**1.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased understanding of ocean vulnerability to multiple stressors**	**1.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge adapted to regional and national needs to inform sustainable management of ecosystems**	**1.3 Enhanced application of best practices, tools and approaches for ecosystem-based management**
KPIs	*Number of Member States supported in ocean acidification and deoxygenation observation and data management* *Number of Member States engaged in GOOS Regional Alliances routinely collecting EOVs for ecosystem health* *Percentage implementation of the GOOS biodiversity plan* *Status of development of SDG indicator 14.1.1*	*Number of global and regional assessment products addressing ocean ecosystems and vulnerability to multiple stressors, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions* *Number of Member States supported with capacity development in ocean acidification research*	*Number of pilot early warning systems (EWS) initiated for stressors on ocean ecosystems (marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, HAB or pest species)* *Number of Marine Spatial Planning and sustainable ocean planning management guidelines / tools specifically addressing ecosystem-based management approaches, biodiversity issues and/or multiple ocean stressors* *Number of Member States supported with capacity development for ecosystem restoration*
2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	**2.1 Improved ocean observations and data to underpin models and forecasting for ocean hazards**	**2.2 Increased access to data and information products for coastal planning and hazard mitigation**	**2.3 Enhanced deployment of regionally or nationally adapted decision support tools including multi-hazard early warning and mitigation systems**
KPIs	*Number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observations required for ocean hazards through GOOS*	*Number of Member States conducting ocean research aimed at supporting forecasting and early warning systems for ocean hazards, including sea level rise, marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms and pest species* *Number of global and regional assessment products contributing data/information for use in EWS, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributing*	*Number of Member States piloting or implementing early warning systems for coastal inundation* *Number of Member State marine spatial plans or sustainable ocean plans that consider ocean related hazards* *Number of Member States supported in capacity development for preparedness and risk reduction for ocean hazards* *Number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready*

High Level Objectives	Sub-Objectives		
3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation	**3.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased scientific understanding of the ocean dimension in climate change**	**3.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge on impacts of climate change on the ocean and on ocean-based climate solutions**	**3.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose tools for Member States to integrate ocean issues in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions**
KPIs	*Status of implementation of GOOS plan on carbon and GHGs* *Number of Member States routinely collecting EOVs for climate* *Number of Member States contributing data for reporting on SDG indicator 14.3.1.* *Number of Member States supported with capacity development for collecting and managing observations of ocean acidification* *Number of Member States supported with capacity development for collecting and managing observations of sea level rise*	*Number of global and regional assessment products addressing climate change, mitigation and adaptation, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions* *Number of national vulnerability assessments initiated with IOC science inputs* *Number of Member States supported with capacity development for accounting for blue carbon* *Number of Member States engaged in research networks for ocean acidification and deoxygenation*	*Number of Member States supported to integrate ocean issues in Nationally Determined Contributions or National Adaptation Plans* *Number of Member States with Marine Spatial Plans or Sustainable Ocean Plans that integrate climate adaptation and mitigation* *Number of capacity development tools developed to support integration of ocean issues in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions*
4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy	**4.1 Enhanced evidence base on the societal and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure**	**4.2 Enhanced dissemination of relevant scientific knowledge to marine industries and economic actors**	**4.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose knowledge-based sustainable ocean planning and management tools**
KPIs	*Number of knowledge products, case studies, analyses contributing to the evidence base on societal, environmental and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure*	*Number of partnerships / networks with private sector actors related to ocean science, data cooperation and co-design of knowledge* *Number of economic actors in Member States supported with end-user assessment of data and information needs for sustainable ocean planning and management*	*Number of Member States supported with capacity development in Marine Spatial Planning* *Number of Member States supported in establishing evidence-based sustainable ocean planning and management* *Number of non-State partners supported with capacity development in sustainable ocean planning and management*
5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues.	**5.1 Improved capacity and processes to anticipate and prioritize emerging ocean science and technology issues**	**5.2 Enhanced dissemination of scientific understanding of priority emerging ocean science issues**	**5.3 Improved ability to account for and respond to priority emerging issues in decision making**
KPIs	*Number of Member States, including through GOOS Regional Alliances, undertaking planning or risk assessment processes for ensuring observation systems are adaptable to emerging science and technology issues*	*Number of global and regional assessment products addressing emerging ocean science issues, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions*	*Number of capacity development initiatives delivered on emerging ocean science issues* *Number of policy briefs highlighting emerging ocean issues*

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses

GOAL:

Identify underserved Member States needs across 3 issues identified by the IOC Assembly:

i. Sustainable Ocean Planning
ii. UN Conventions and Frameworks
iii. Sustainable Ocean Economy

METHODOLOGY:

- Interviews completed with 20 Member States, UN bodies, and private sector actors
- Regional focus group discussions (2025) – one completed and rest ongoing through RSB meetings
- Survey of all IOC Member States (> 65 responses to date)
- Consolidation of data sources to prepare Assembly documentation (ongoing)

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses
OVERALL SUMMARY OF INITIAL FINDINGS

- Common themes emerged across all three issues => strengthened action will lead to multiple benefits

- Priority themes that are “mostly” or “fully met” and relatively “unproblematic”:
  - **Ocean hazard prediction and preparedness / early warning systems (tsunami focus)**
  - **Marine spatial planning**
  - **Marine scientific research support**

- Priority themes that are only “somewhat met” and “problematic”:
  - **Marine biodiversity including tools for MPAs and ABMTs**
  - **Ocean observation infrastructure and systems**
  - **Marine geology and geophysics**

- High level observations => need for increased access to and interoperability of data, expanded observing and monitoring coverage, and increased support to Member States to generate and apply scientific knowledge in areas where gaps persist

- Regional differences exist and are being analysed in more detail

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING

- Gaps in accessibility, integration and operationalisation of ocean data and science to underpin Sustainable Ocean Planning
- Lack of baseline and integrated biological and ecosystem observations and data (e.g. marine pollution, invasive species, acidification, HAB, marine geology and geophysics, marine biodiversity, food security)
- Poor integration of data across sectors (fisheries, energy, coastal infrastructure) and across scales
- Need for ecosystem-based, climate-responsive planning models co-developed with decision makers reflecting dynamic nature of the ocean
- Demand for actionable guidance for MPAs, ABMTs and ocean hazard prediction and preparedness integration in spatial planning (e.g., MSP global-style toolkits)
- Improved coordination structures, particularly at regional levels

UN CONVENTIONS & FRAMEWORKS

- Limited readiness for BBNJ => marine biodiversity, marine geology and geophysics, and planning for MPAs and Area Based Management Tools
- Inadequate integration of national ocean strategies and UNFCCC objectives / obligations (e.g., coastal carbon)
- Siloed ocean observing/data systems and lack of standardization
- Weak alignment among global agencies (e.g., ISA, IEA, OECD)
- Need for clearinghouse mechanisms and interoperable data and tools to facilitate national reporting and monitoring to global conventions
- Need for investment in national scientific institutions

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses
SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

- Underserved needs in scientific information for marine biodiversity and marine geology, including data to monitor long term ecosystem impacts
- Uneven capacity for risk-informed decision making
- Lack of shared definition of 'sustainability' in ocean economy & need for science-based sustainability indicators across sectors
- Limited scientific cooperation with / for infrastructure and industry development (e.g., offshore wind)
- Weak linkages between ocean science and economic policy => collaboration with national statistics offices and innovation sector
- Opportunities for tech innovation: smart sensors, open-source tools

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses
CROSS-CUTTING / FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES

- **Science-Policy Interface:** scientific outputs often abstract or untimely, absence of standing advisory mechanisms for rapid policy support and need for agile, co-designed products linked to policy cycles
- **Ocean literacy:** Critical lack of ocean literacy in both public and political domains including for decision makers & need for IOC-led global initiatives targeting education systems and broad sectors of society
- **Capacity Development:** Local capacity often exists but lacks resources/support, shift from 'capacity building' to 'building on capacity' and build long-term, sustainable investment models (e.g., ECOPs, OTGA)
- **Visibility and Autonomy of IOC:** IOC visibility and functional autonomy need reinforcement
- **Sustained Investment:** GOOS and other foundational systems underfunded hence undermining global monitoring efforts
- **Technology & Innovation:** Better use of technology & innovation, and role for IOC as a convener for ocean tech R&D