

2025-2026 Ocean Decade Monitoring & Evaluation Cycle: Decade Actions

*****THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR DRAFT PURPOSES ONLY AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN OFFICIAL SUBMISSION*****

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW BEFORE PROCEEDING

Thank you for contributing to the reporting process and helping us measure progress and improve the Ocean Decade! Please consult the [Guidance Note on the Monitoring and Evaluation \(M&E\)](#) for further instructions on the process.

The standard reporting year runs from July 1 to June 30; therefore, please report on the period from **July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026**. This is necessary to allow adequate time for collation, analysis and documentation of the results for presentation via statutory reporting to the IOC Governing Bodies and UN Secretary General. We kindly ask you to forecast data for the period between May and June for each year as best you can.

Please note that the deadline to submit your results is **April 30, 2026**. This will allow us enough time to process and analyse the answers to officially report them to the IOC Executive Council and publish them in the upcoming Annual Report.

Technical Guidance

- 1) Please make sure you submit only one report per Decade Action. All the focal points registered on the Decade contact list will receive the form. Therefore, if your Decade Action has more than one focal point, **liaise with your team to avoid sending out duplicate reports**. If there are duplicates, the DCU will consider the most recent submission.
- 2) The reporting form has up to **26 main questions** (excluding contact details and feedback questions).
- 3) If you need to stop filling in the report and to close the form, your answers will not be saved. You can find a **Word copy** of the reporting form to draft your answers [here](#). Please note that we will only accept answers submitted through this online form.
- 4) Before submitting your report, you can choose to automatically receive a copy of your answers via email.

Please contact oceandecade@unesco.org if you have any questions during the reporting process.

IDENTIFICATION

1. Contact Details
 - a. Name:
 - b. Email address:

 2. What's your Decade Action category?
 - Decade Programme
 - Decade Project
 - Decade Contribution

 3. Please specify the Unique ID and the name of Decade Action you are reporting on.

Example: XX. Name of Decade Action.

If you do not know the Unique ID of your Action, please visit [this page](#).
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***** THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO DECADE PROGRAMMES*****

RESOURCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2026-2027

In this section, please provide financial and in-kind information for action and coordination costs for the next year (**July 2026 - June 2027**) of your Programme. Please refer to the Guidance Note for the definitions of different types of costs. We understand that in many cases it is challenging to provide precise information on costs, so please provide the best estimates that you can and document any major assumptions in the last question.

4. Financial Resources (in USD)
 - a. Available financial resources for Action Costs:
 - b. Needs in financial resources for Actions Costs:
 - c. Available financial resources for Coordination Costs:
 - d. Needs in financial resources for Coordination Costs:

5. In-kind Resources (Please estimate in USD equivalent)
 - a. Available in-kind resources for Action Costs:
 - b. Needs in in-kind resources for Action Costs:
 - c. Available in-kind resources for Coordination Costs:
 - d. Needs in in-kind resources for Coordination Costs:

6. Please provide any qualitative description that can support the information provided above (max. 500 words)

7. What were the most relevant Decade Challenges addressed by your Decade Action during the reporting period?

Please select up to 3 Challenges.

Challenge 1: Understand and map land and sea-based sources of pollutants and contaminants and their potential impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to remove or mitigate them.

Challenge 2: Understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to monitor, protect, manage and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

Challenge 3: Generate knowledge, support innovation and develop solutions to optimize the role of the ocean in sustainably nourishing the world's population under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

Challenge 4: Generate knowledge, support innovation and multi-sectoral partnerships and develop solutions for equitable, resilient and sustainable development of the ocean economy under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

Challenge 5: Enhance understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and generate knowledge and solutions to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change across all geographies and at all scales, and to improve services including predictions for the ocean, climate and weather.

Challenge 6: Enhance multi-hazard early warning services for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, climate and anthropogenic related ocean and coastal hazards, and mainstream community preparedness and resilience.

Challenge 7: Ensure a sustainable and sustained ocean observing system across all ocean basins that delivers accessible, timely and actionable data and information to all users.

Challenge 8: Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, develop a comprehensive digital representation of the ocean, including a dynamic ocean map, which provides free and open access for exploring, discovering, and visualizing past, current, and future ocean conditions in a manner relevant to diverse stakeholders.

Challenge 9: Ensure comprehensive capacity development and equitable access to data, information, knowledge and technology across all aspects of ocean science and for all stakeholders.

Challenge 10: Meaningful society-ocean connections are strengthened, driving increased motivation, capability and opportunity for people, across all sectors of society, to make decisions, act and behave in ways that ensure a healthy ocean.

8. Which priorities outlined in the Barcelona Statement did your Decade Action address during the reporting period?

Please refer to the [Barcelona Statement](#) for more information on the priorities. Please select all that apply.

Understand global distribution and human health and ecosystem impacts of marine pollution across the land-sea continuum, including the identification of priority pollutants and consideration of emerging and unregulated pollutants.

Enhance and scale-up marine and coastal ecosystem-based management approaches, including a focus on better understanding of and solutions for multiple stressors.

Better understand deep-sea ecosystems, including vulnerability to climate change and new or emerging economic activities.

Encourage sustainable, resilient, and equitable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and facilitate sustainable management of industrial fisheries.

Strengthen sustainable aquatic food production and innovation for new frontiers with a focus on developing countries and strengthened public-private partnerships.

Underpin evidence-based Sustainable Ocean Plans at the national level and in relevant transboundary areas

Encourage sustainable and climate resilient ocean economy projects, prioritizing those that integrate environmental conservation with socio-economic benefits for local communities.

Rapidly scale up climate mitigation including through marine renewable energy and management of coastal ecosystems.

Allow timely understanding of the technical, ecological, and social feasibility, potential impacts of proposed marine carbon dioxide removal initiatives and contribute to future policy and regulation development.

Underpin adaptive governance and management systems and decision support tools for the assessment of vulnerability and risk to coastal communities and marine industries.

Develop economic models, policies, and innovative financial instruments to diversify and accelerate investment in ocean science, including for enhanced digital representation of the ocean and sustained and sustainable ocean observing and infrastructure.

Inform knowledge drawn from transdisciplinary social science and ocean literacy research on human-ocean connection, behavior change, and cultural engagement that can be integrated into Ocean Decade digital infrastructure and used to map and measure the impact of ocean literacy initiatives.

Increase engagement with the health sector and better understand connections between ocean health and human health.

None of the above.

9. Please provide a qualitative description of up to 5 (five) main outcomes of your Decade Action, highlighting the achievements throughout the reporting period, referring to the answers provided to the previous questions (max. 500 words). Please refer to the Guidance Note on main definitions for activities and achievements. You can refer to any events, publications, milestones, etc. that might be relevant.

10. Did your Decade Action develop any knowledge products during the reporting period?

A knowledge product is in-print or digital products developed using the science or knowledge generated by your Decade Action. Examples include peer-reviewed publications, grey literature, white papers, policy briefs (newspaper, magazine, blog publications), etc.

No

Yes. Please indicate the number of knowledge products produced during the reporting period)

11. Did your Decade Action conduct any capacity development activities during the reporting period?

Capacity development refers to a broad range of opportunities that enable individuals, institutions, and industries to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are essential to sustainable development and human well-being. These opportunities include access to equipment and infrastructure, as well as funding mechanisms such as grants, scholarships, and fellowships. They also extend to internships, jobs, and mentorships; research and training; conferences, workshops, and webinars; and professional networks that support community building. Capacity Development may further involve access to ocean data, information, and documentation, public communication and literacy initiatives, and opportunities such as expeditions, travel grants, and visiting scholars or lecturers.

No

Yes. Please indicate the number of capacity development activities carried out during the reporting period)

12. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please provide a qualitative description of the capacity development activities undertaken by your Decade Action, highlighting the main achievements (max. 500 words).

If you answered "No", please input "NA".

13. What is the approximate number of beneficiaries of your capacity development activities?

Note that we define a "beneficiary" as an individual who has participated in one or more Decade Action activities. The individual can be anyone, from any country, who may or may not be otherwise involved in the Action.

If you have not carried out capacity development activities, please input 0.

14. In which country(ies) were **capacity development activities** implemented during the reporting period?

If you have not carried out any capacity development activities, please select the last option, "Not applicable".

15. In which country(ies) was **your Decade Action implemented** during the reporting period?

16. Did you involve Indigenous and Local Knowledge Holders in the implementation of your Decade Action in the reporting period?

Yes

No

17. Regarding the previous question, please explain your answer (max. 500 words)

18. Is your Decade Action currently led by an Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP)?

This question refers only to the leader of the initiative, i.e. the person who takes on the role of coordinating or directing the Decade Action. An ECOP is a person who self-identifies as being early in their career, within 10 years or less of professional experience in any field related to the ocean. This definition includes post-secondary students and any volunteer roles, so not only employed/paid positions. The term 'professional' is used in order to be inclusive of professionals from various sectors of society.

Yes

No

19. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, the ECOP leadership position is:

If there is more than one ECOP leader, select all that apply. If there are no ECOP leaders, please select "Not applicable".

- Fully voluntary
- Partially compensated (in-kind or financial resources)
- Fully financially compensated
- Not applicable

20. How many ECOPs are currently involved in your Decade Action?

"Involved" refers to ECOPs who are part of the team and actively engaged in managing the Action's activities, including leadership. Please enter a whole number.

21. Does your Decade Action currently carry out specific activities to address gender equity including actions to identify, dismantle, or overcome barriers to gender diversity in ocean science?

- No
- Yes. Please explain how (max. 500 words)

22. What is the gender of the current leader(s) of your Decade Action?

The leader is the person who takes on the role of coordinating or directing the Decade Action. If there is more than one leader, please select the categories that apply.

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

23. If the current leader(s) of your Decade Action are female, the leadership position is:

If there is more than one female leader, select all that apply. If there are no female leaders, please select "Not applicable".

- Fully voluntary
- Partially compensated (in-kind or financial resources)
- Fully financially compensated
- Not applicable

24. Did you notice any improvement in funding, networking, new partnerships, or overall visibility during the reporting period?

- Yes
- No

25. Regarding the previous question, please explain your answer (max. 500 words)

26. Which communication channels do you use most often to access Ocean Decade updates?

- Website
- LinkedIn
- Instagram
- X/Twitter
- Facebook
- Newsletters
- Other (please specify)

27. How many social media followers do you currently have combined across all your Decade Action platforms?

Please ensure that your answer is a whole number. If you do not have social media accounts, please enter 0.

28. Please share your feedback on the support provided by the Ocean Decade communications team, including what worked well and what could be improved. (max. 500 words)

29. Please provide here the links to any articles, features, or photo galleries you have published, or the media have published about your Decade Action.

If you do not have any, please leave this field blank.

FEEDBACK

30. Please feel free to provide any comments on your experience responding to this form to help us improve the reporting process (max. 500 words)