

2025-2026 Ocean Decade Monitoring & Evaluation Cycle: National Decade Committees (NDCs)

*****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 NDC. All the focal points registered on the Decade contact list will receive the form. Therefore, if your NDC 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 **22 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. Please specify which NDC you are reporting for:

3. Which priorities outlined in the Barcelona Statement did your NDC 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, behaviour 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.

4. Please provide a qualitative description of up to 5 (five) main outcomes of your NDC, 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.

5. Did your NDC 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.

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

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

7. 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".

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8. Did you involve Indigenous and Local Knowledge Holders in the implementation of your NDC in the reporting period?

Yes

No

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

10. Is your NDC 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 NDC. 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

11. How many ECOPs are currently involved in your NDC?

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

12. Does your NDC 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)

13. What is the gender of the current leader(s) of your NDC?

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

Female

Male

Other

Prefer not to say

14. If the current leader(s) of your NDC 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
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15. How would you characterize the change in perception, priorities and investments in ocean science as a result of the work of your NDC during the reporting period? (max. 500 words)

16. What were the biggest challenges in carrying out the activities of your NDC during the reporting period? (max. 500 words)

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

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

18. How many social media followers do you have combined across all your NDC platforms?

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

19. 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)

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

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

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 NDC. 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.

21. 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:

22. In-kind Resources (Please estimate in USD equivalent)

- e. Available in-kind resources for Action Costs:
- f. Needs in in-kind resources for Action Costs:
- g. Available in-kind resources for Coordination Costs:
- h. Needs in in-kind resources for Coordination Costs:

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

FEEDBACK

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