

FAQ (Nov 2020)

**UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Call for  
Decade Actions n.º 01/2020**

**15 October 2020 - 15 January 2021**

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## 1. What is the difference between a Decade programme and a Decade project?

**Decade programmes** form the main building blocks of the Decade and are one of the targets of the Call for Decade Actions No. 01/2020. They are large scale, multi-year (normally 5 to 10 years), multi-partner, and typically multi-country initiatives. They will be implemented at the global scale, or in some cases, at the regional scale. They will be interdisciplinary, involving both generators and users of ocean science, and they will demonstrate a strong link between science and action. Decade programmes will be focused around one or more Ocean Decade Challenges. It is anticipated that for each of the Ocean Decade Challenges there will be around five different Decade programmes, although this may evolve over time.

**Decade Projects** are shorter, more focused initiatives than Decade programmes. They will normally - but not always - form part of the different programmes endorsed as part of the Decade. Projects can vary in size, geographical scope, and duration. The number of projects that make up each Decade programme will vary depending on the size and scope of the programme. Decade projects can be formally linked to Decade programmes, for example through shared financing or common coordination and management structures, but they do not need to be. In all cases, coordination between Decade programmes and Decade projects will occur through the Decade coordination structures. In some cases, Decade projects that involve transformative ocean science and contribute to the fulfillment of Ocean Decade Challenges without aligning with an existing Decade programme can also be proposed. Over time, Decade projects could evolve into Decade programmes; for example as the geographic scope or the number and type of partners increases. Decade projects are not being solicited through the current Call for Decade Actions. There will be specific Calls for Decade Projects starting in 2021.

If you would like feedback on whether your idea is a Decade programme or a Decade project [please register it as an idea](#) via the submission form for Decade Actions and the IOC Secretariat will provide initial feedback.

## 2. How can I get feedback on whether my idea is eligible for the Call for Decade Actions (including whether it is a Decade programme or a Decade project)?

You can register your proposed Decade Action as an idea via the submission form for Decade Actions. To do that you can go use the [Request for Endorsement form](#) on the Ocean Decade website. When you get to Question 1 on this form, select the option “I am interested in submitting a Decade Action but am not yet ready to get started with my submission” (please see screenshot below). This will then guide you through a few simple questions on your proposed Decade Action. By registering your idea, it will be downloaded into a database that is being regularly analysed by the IOC Secretariat and we will provide further advice on the eligibility of your Decade Action.



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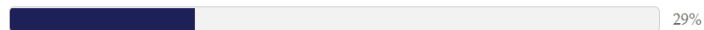


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## Ocean Decade: Call for Actions 01/2020

\* 1. Please select how you would best describe yourself in relation to your proposed Decade Action:

- I am ready to submit a Decade Action.
- I am interested in submitting a Decade Action but am not yet ready to get started with my submission.



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### 3. How can I find partners to collaborate with?

To find partners to collaborate there are two options. [Firstly, you can register your idea for a Decade Action via the online submission form.](#) This form will ask you if you are looking for partners and your information will then be included in an [online collaboration table](#) that will be regularly update and that potential partners can access. You can also check this same table at any time to see if there are any partners that you could collaborate with to further develop your idea.

### 4. How will the Call for Decade Actions help me fund my initiative?

The Call for Decade Actions is not a funding call. However, it can help proponents of Decade Actions that do not already have full funding for their work to attract new financing. Having endorsement as a Decade Action should increase the attractiveness of the initiative to a wide range of funders. In addition, proponents of the endorsed Decade Actions can make connections to potential funders via the Global Stakeholder Forum. In addition, when a request for endorsement is submitted, proponents will be asked to indicate if they have secured all the necessary funding for implementing the Action. The Decade Coordination Unit will then work with members of the Ocean Decade Alliance and other funders to align their priorities with priority Decade Actions that are seeking funding.

### 5. What is the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan and where can I find it?

The Ocean Decade Implementation Plan is the guiding document for the Ocean Decade. It is a non-prescriptive framework that identifies the priorities and guiding principles for the Decade, as well as the desired outcomes at the end of the Decade. It also provides information on how people can participate in Decade activities, how Decade activities will be financed, who will coordinate the Decade and how the impact of the Decade will be measured.

The current version of the Implementation Plan (Version 2.0 dated August 2020) is being presented to the 75th Session of United Nations General Assembly in 2020. The

Implementation Plan and a summary version can be found here <https://www.oceandecade.org/resource/109/Summary--Version-20-of-the-Ocean-Decade-Implementation-Plan>

## 6. What is a Decade Action?

Decade Actions are the tangible initiatives that will be carried out to fulfil the Decade's priorities. They will take several different forms:

Programmes are large scale, multi-year and typically multi-country initiatives that will be made up of different projects, activities and contributions. Programmes will be implemented at the global or regional scale and will typically be interdisciplinary.

Projects are shorter, more focused initiatives that will typically, but not always, form part of different programmes endorsed as part of the Decade.

Activities are one-off activities such as training events, workshops, conferences, or communication campaigns. They can be part of a programme or standalone activities that contribute to an Ocean Decade Challenges or Ocean Decade outcomes.

Contributions are in-kind or financial resources that are provided to a Decade Action or to support the coordination functions of the Decade.

To be officially recognized as a Decade Action, proponents must demonstrate how they meet a set of endorsement criteria.

## 7. Who can carry out a Decade Action?

There is no restriction on who can propose a Decade Action for endorsement or registration. We expect that a wide range of groups including research institutes, governments, UN bodies, NGOs, community groups, philanthropic Foundations, business and industry and individuals will carry out Decade Actions.

## 8. Why should I seek endorsement of my initiative as a Decade Action?

Endorsement of an initiative as a Decade Action provides official recognition that the initiative is part of a collective effort to meet the Ocean Decade vision. Proponents of endorsed Decade Actions will have the opportunity to join a highly visible, shared, global effort that builds on decades of achievement in ocean science. There will be opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, as well as opportunities to access new sources of support.

## 9. What types of initiatives are eligible for endorsement as a Decade Action?

Under the current Call for Decade Actions the two types of initiatives that are eligible for endorsement are Decade programmes and large-scale in-kind or financial contributions to Ocean Decade coordination costs. Future Calls for Decade Actions will target additional programmes as well as other types of Decade Actions, including projects.

## 10. What are the endorsement criteria for Decade Actions?

When requesting endorsement, proponents of proposed Decade Actions need to demonstrate how they fulfill those criteria in the following list that are relevant to their proposed Decade Action:



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- i. Contribute to fulfilling the Ocean Decade Challenges and to achieving the Decade objectives and the associated sub-objectives.
- ii. Accelerate the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.
- iii. Are co-designed or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, and thus facilitate the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision making, management and/or innovation.
- iv. Ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS, and are appropriately deposited in recognized data repositories consistent with the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy or the relevant UN subordinate body data policy.
- v. Strengthen existing or create new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.
- vi. Contribute toward capacity development, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.
- vii. Overcome barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational, and geographic diversity.
- viii. Collaborate with and engage local and indigenous knowledge holders.

#### **11. Can I still submit a request for endorsement even if I don't fulfill all of the endorsement criteria?**

Yes. Proponents will be asked to identify if there are criteria that are not relevant to their proposed Decade Actions. If proponents cannot fulfil one or more of the criteria there will be opportunity to explain this briefly in the Request for Endorsement form.

#### **12. Are ongoing or existing initiatives eligible for endorsement as Decade Actions?**

Yes. As for all proposed Decade Actions proponents will need to address their proposed Decade Action represents transformative ocean science including how they fulfil the Decade endorsement criteria.

#### **13. How can I find partners to develop my idea for a Decade Action?**

You can contact [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org) and we will aim to help you make connections. When you submit your request for endorsement you can also indicate that you would like to be put in touch with partners working on similar issues.

#### **14. Do I need to have secured funding before I submit my request for endorsement?**

No. During submission of your request you will be asked to indicate if you have secured any or all of the funding for your proposed Decade Action and if you need support to find additional funding.

#### **15. How can I get funding for my Decade Action?**

The Ocean Decade is not a financing mechanism, but it can help proponents of Decade Actions that do not already have financing for their work to make connections to potential funders via the Ocean Decade Alliance or the Global Stakeholder Forum. Further information on these structures is provided in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan. When a request

for endorsement is submitted, proponents will be asked to indicate if they have secured all the necessary funding for implementing the Action.

#### **16. What are Decade programmes?**

Decade Programmes are a type of Decade Action. They are large scale, multi-year and typically multi-country initiatives that will be made up of different projects, activities and contributions. Programmes will be implemented at the global or regional scale and will typically be interdisciplinary.

#### **17. If I am submitting a programme for endorsement, do all the component projects need to be identified before submission?**

No. However, you should be able to describe the types of projects that will form part of the programme, the timing and process to identify projects, and the governance or coordination structure for the programme and its future projects.

#### **18. How do I know if my initiative is a programme or a project?**

Decade programmes are large scale, multi-year and typically multi-country initiatives that will be made up of different projects, activities and contributions. Programmes will be implemented at the global or regional scale and will typically be interdisciplinary. Decade projects are shorter, more focused initiatives that will typically, but not always, form part of different programmes endorsed as part of the Decade. If you are not sure of whether your initiative is a programme or a project please contact [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org).

#### **19. What is a Decade Contribution?**

Decade Contributions are a type of Decade Action. They are in-kind or financial resources that are provided to a Decade Action, or to support the coordination functions of the Decade.

#### **20. What constitutes a contribution to Ocean Decade coordination functions?**

Contributions to Ocean Decade coordination functions can be financial contributions or in-kind contributions (e.g. secondment of staff, hosting of a decentralized coordination structure, or provision of office space or equipment). They can be made at the central level i.e. to support the Decade Coordination Unit, or at a regional or programmatic level i.e. to support the Decade decentralized coordination structures. The Decade coordination structures are currently being established. For more information on priority needs for Ocean Decade coordination support please contact [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org).

#### **21. Can I check if my proposed Decade Action is likely to be eligible before filling out the online form?**

Yes. You can send a short summary of your proposed Decade Action to [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org) and we will get back to you with advice on its eligibility.

#### **22. What are the decentralized coordination structures?**

The decentralized coordination structures will be hosted around the world by governments or partner organisations in existing or newly created institutions. They will work at the regional, programmatic or thematic level to assist the Decade Coordination Unit to coordinate, monitor and communicate about the Ocean Decade. Decade Collaborative Centres are one form of decentralized coordination structure.

### **23. What is a Decade Collaborative Centre?**

Decade Collaborative Centres will be hosted by one or more countries or by an international or regional organization engaged in Decade activities in an existing or newly established institution. These Centres will be legally separate from the IOC and operated under the responsibility of the host organisation. They will catalyse Decade Actions at the regional or programmatic / thematic level by providing technical, logistical, and financial support for: (i) scientific coordination and planning; (ii) the identification of collaboration opportunities; (iii) communications, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement; and (iv) technical and scientific capacities to support Decade Actions. They will provide advice to the Decade Coordination Unit on requests for endorsement of Decade Actions that fall within their purview. These Centres will also assist the Decade Coordination Unit to track the implementation of endorsed Decade Actions in their respective domain, thus contributing to the overall monitoring and evaluation effort.

### **24. Who can host a Decade Collaborative Centre?**

Any government or partner institution with expertise and experience in coordinating ocean science programmes or activities at the regional or global level can apply to host a Decade Collaborative Centre. Potential hosts will be asked to provide information on the geographic or programmatic area of focus of the Centre as well as information on the human, material and financial resources that they have available for the operation of the Collaborative Centre. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact the IOC Secretariat at the contact addresses provided in the 'Guidance Note for Applicants' to discuss their proposal before submission.

### **25. Who can seek endorsement for a Decade Action?**

There is no limit on who can seek endorsement for a proposed Decade Action.

### **26. Can Decade Actions be located anywhere in the world?**

For the current Call for Decade Actions there are no geographical limits on proposed Decade Actions.

### **27. How long will the endorsement process take?**

Decisions on endorsement under the current Call for Decade Actions will be made in the first quarter of 2021.

### **28. Who will decide if I receive endorsement?**

Under this Call for Decade Actions, the Decade Advisory Board will review and make recommendations on Decade programmes and Decade Collaborative Centres. As part of its regular reporting to the IOC Governing Bodies, the Decade Coordination Unit will provide information on the recommendations for endorsement developed by the Decade Advisory Board. The Decade Coordination Unit will review and decide requests for endorsement of other Decade Contributions in consultation with any relevant decentralised coordination structures or any relevant Decade endorsed programme.

### **29. What is the Decade Advisory Board and who is on it?**

The Decade Advisory Board will be an advisory body to the IOC Governing Bodies and will provide strategic advice and recommendations for the implementation of the Ocean Decade. The Board will comprise up to 20 members including representatives of UN entities and experts from relevant scientific disciplines, as well as from stakeholder groups. Open calls for nominations will be used to identify candidates for the Board. Expertise, geographic,



generational, and gender balance will be taken into account in the selection of members. The Decade Board will be established via a call for nominations for members in 2021.

### **30. What is the Decade Coordination Unit and where is it based?**

The Decade Coordination Unit is the central coordination structure of the Decade. Its three main functions are to act as the: (i) primary coordination office for the implementation of Decade Actions; (ii) Secretariat for the Decade Board; and (iii) Secretariat for the Ocean Decade Alliance. The Decade Coordination Unit is currently being established and it is anticipated that it will be located within the IOC Secretariat.

### **31. Will I be notified if my request is refused?**

Yes. All proponents who have submitted requests will be notified of the outcome. Where possible, we will aim to provide information on why the request was refused and recommendations to improve the alignment of the initiative with the Decade vision.

### **32. Can I resubmit my request if it is refused?**

Yes. Where possible, when requests are refused we will aim to provide information on why the request was refused and recommendations to improve the alignment of the initiative with the Decade vision.

### **33. If I am not ready for this Call for Decade Actions, will I have another chance to submit?**

Yes. Calls for Decade Actions will be launched regularly throughout the Decade. It is expected that the next Call will be launched in the first few months of 2021.

### **34. What happens once my Decade Action is endorsed?**

Once a Decade Action is endorsed it will be part of a collective, global effort to fulfil the vision of the Decade. Once it is endorsed the proponent can use the logo of the Decade when communicating about their initiative in accordance with the Ocean Decade Brand Guidelines that are currently being developed.

Proponents will be asked to provide simple annual reporting on the progress of their Action via an online template.

### **35. Once my initiative is endorsed can I use the Ocean Decade logo in my communications activities?**

Yes, but only in accordance with the Ocean Decade Brand Guidelines that are currently being finalized.

### **36. What support will I get to communicate about my Decade Action if it is endorsed?**

The Decade Coordination Unit will work with proponents of endorsed Decade Actions to carry out diverse joint communications activities including social media, videos, or presentation of Decade Actions during conferences and events.

### **37. Do United Nations bodies need to get endorsement for their Decade Actions?**

No. United Nations bodies do not need endorsement. They will register their Decade Actions via a separate process.



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**38. Do I need approval from the national Government (e.g. the IOC focal point) before submitting my request for endorsement?**

No. If you have a letter of support you can attach it to your request for endorsement but it is not obligatory.

**39. How can I get regular updates on what is happening during the Ocean Decade?**

Join us on social media!

Website: [oceandecade.org](http://oceandecade.org)

Twitter: [@locUnesco](https://twitter.com/locUnesco)

Instagram: [@ioc\\_unesco](https://www.instagram.com/ioc_unesco)

Facebook: [@locUnesco](https://www.facebook.com/locUnesco)

Or write to us at [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org)