

DRAFT SUMMARY

Input #2:

Capacity Development Chapter of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021—2030 ; hereafter “- the Decade ”) aims to develop scientific knowledge, build infrastructure, and foster relationships for a sustainable and healthy ocean. As Capacity Development cuts across addressing the Decade Challenges and Objectives and as an essential tenet of the Decade actions, a strategic framework for capacity development initiatives was provided in the CD Chapter of the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan (IP). In this regard, the Task Team made an initial comparison between the key elements in the CD Chapter, vis-à-vis the current IOC CD Strategy. The aim was to identify how the CD Framework of the Ocean Decade IP may inform the need for revision of the current IOC CD strategy.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision of the Decade is “The science we need for the ocean we want”, while its mission is “Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean”. Its rationale highlighted that the most pressing need today is to collectively find transformative solutions to the existing and future challenges that face the ocean and what the world requires: a “transformational, large scale, adequately resourced, innovative campaign to mainstream ocean science.”

The vision statement of IOC’s Capacity Development Strategy states “Through international cooperation, IOC assists its Member States to collectively achieve the IOC’S high-level objectives (HLOs), with particular attention to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them.” Its mission statement states that “The IOC will undertake relevant actions to assist Member States with developing and sustaining the necessary capacity to undertake activities necessary to achieve the IOC vision at the national level as well as at the international cooperation level.”

As expressed by the members of the Task Team during the TT’s first meeting, the new IOC CD strategy should focus the context with the Ocean Decade objectives and challenges. The Decade calls for actions to build capacity to do science, to influence design of science, to co-design, to develop solutions, to understand the importance of ocean science for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The capacity

development actions should focus on developing capacity for science, assist in monitoring progress against SDGs and in some cases reaching the SDGs and be interdisciplinary. It was also recommended that the new strategy should include a focus on transferring scientific knowledge to decision makers and that the new strategy should sufficiently succinct so it is most likely to be read by decision makers.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The strategic framework in the CD Chapter of the Ocean Decade IP (see Table 2.1) maps the principles, expected outcomes and priority activities for capacity development initiatives to be undertaken during the Decade. While it can be said that they closely align with the outputs and activities in the current IOC CD Strategy, there were several substantial elements in the CD Chapter to consider in revising the current IOC CD Strategy.

Output 1. Human resources developed

Both documents include human resources as one of the outputs, since it is important to develop at individual and institutional levels the very foundation required for any research or management activity. On priority activities, however, the Ocean Decade IP includes new elements that were not in the current IOC strategy. These refer to online and distance learning, training of trainers, integration of ocean science in curricula in primary and secondary schools including information on ocean science careers, and actively improving gender, generational and geographic diversity.

Output 2. Access to physical infrastructure established or improved

Both documents include the need for substantive infrastructure in ocean research and observation including research vessels, scientific instruments, buildings, commodities (appropriate internet broadband, sustained electricity supply), etc. Technology is a focus that needs to be added in the IOC CD strategy including: high power computing, digital telecommunications, etc; skills building for leadership in technology and infrastructure development; and promoting technical and technological cooperation, and peer to peer exchange between stakeholders.

Also, as edproposed in the Decade, the use of low-bandwidth / low-technology tools in areas where access to digital telecommunications is limited.

Output 3. Global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened

The call for Decade actions that are transformative, requires strengthening global, regional and sub-regional mechanisms which are essential to enhance close interaction and communication among global and regional and subregional programmes. The Ocean Decade IP raises their profile to be leaders and amplifiers of capacity development as a requirement for successful programme implementation and capacity development. This is an important element to scale-up and accelerate CD efforts that may be considered in the revision of the IOC CD strategy.

Output 4. Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives promoted

Both documents emphasize this crucial need for targeted natural and social science research that builds understanding of ocean processes, helps identify possible solutions to critical challenges, and provides the knowledge needed to catalyse transformational changes in human behaviour.

Output 5. Awareness and understanding increased, and exchanges facilitated on role and values of ocean

While both documents include output on visibility and awareness, the current IOC CD strategy may need to include an emphasis on exchanges facilitated on the role and values of ocean, as stated in the Ocean Decade IP and including informal education through museums, zoos or aquariums.

Output 6. Sustained, long-term resource mobilisation reinforced

This is the most similar output among the six outputs in both documents. The new IOC CD strategy may need to explore this part more in the context of partnerships and collaboration, optimizing opportunities for cooperation and exchange as a pillar of the Decade actions.

Ocean Decade IP – CD Chapter

Desired Results	Priority Activities
1. Human resources developed at individual and institutional levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic and higher education opportunities including through online and distance learning 2. Continuous professional development 3. Sharing of knowledge and expertise including through community building 4. Training, including training of trainers 5. Integration of ocean science in curricula in primary and secondary schools including information on ocean science careers 6. Actively improving gender, generational and geographic diversity

Current IOC CD Strategy

Output	Activity	Action
1. Human resources developed	1.1 Academic (higher) education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Promote and assist with the establishment of consortia of higher education at the appropriate geographical scale 1.1.2 Promote collaboration between UNESCO Chairs and IOC
	1.2 Continuous professional development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.1 Promote and assist with the organization of training courses, workshops and “summer schools” relevant to the IOC mandate 1.2.2 Establish, or collaborate with other organizations on an internship/fellowship programme (including on-board training) 1.2.3 Establish and collaborate with other organisations on a visiting lecturer programme 1.2.4 Promote and assist with the establishment of regional training (and research) centres relevant to the IOC mandate 1.2.5 Promote the sharing of training materials
	1.3. Sharing of knowledge and expertise/community building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.1 Establish a travel grant “fund” 1.3.2 Establish or collaborate with other organizations on a mentoring programme 1.3.3 Promote and assist with the development of IOC alumni networks 1.3.4 Promote and support “young scientist” awards
	1.4 Gender balance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1 Promoting participation of women in ocean research

Ocean Decade IP – CD Chapter

Desired Results	Priority Activities
2. Access to technology and physical infrastructure established or improved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Facilitating access to technology and infrastructure (e.g. research facilities, instruments, research vessels, high power computing, digital telecommunications) 2.2 Developing skills to lead and participate in technology and infrastructure development 2.3 Promoting technical and technological cooperation and peer to peer exchange between stakeholders
3. Global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Identifying specific national and regional capacity development needs through needs assessments 3.2 Strengthening existing national and regional resources and networks for capacity development 3.3 Supporting regional and sub-regional organisations to be leaders in, and amplifiers of, capacity development

Current IOC CD Strategy

Output	Activity	Action
2. Access to physical infrastructure established or improved	2.1 Facilitating access to infrastructure (facilities, instruments, vessels)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 Establishing and maintaining a register of infrastructure to facilitate access 2.1.2 Promoting the development of, and expand access to, regional sustainable scientific infrastructure
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Improve staffing of secretariat of regional sub-commissions 3.1.2 Reinforcing budgeting of regional sub-commissions
3. Global, regional and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened	3.1 Further strengthening and supporting secretariats of regional commissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.1 Improve staffing of secretariat of regional sub-commissions 3.1.2 Reinforcing budgeting of regional sub-commissions
	3.2 Enhance effective Communication between regional sub-commission secretariats and global programmes as well as other communities of practice (incl. other organisations)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.2.1 Establishing an effective coordination and communication mechanism between the secretariats of the regional sub-commissions and the global programmes

Ocean Decade IP – CD Chapter

Desired Results	Priority Activities
4. Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development promoted	4.1 Supporting identification of ocean research priorities 4.2 Supporting development of national marine science management procedures and national policies
5. Awareness and understanding increased, and exchanges facilitated on role and values of ocean	5.1 Ocean literacy initiatives 5.2 Informal education including through museums, zoos or aquariums 5.3 Public information and communication (refer Section 2.7 for more detail)
6. Sustained, long-term resource mobilisation reinforced	6.1 Mobilising in-kind and financial support for capacity development initiatives as part of the Decade (refer Section 3.2 for more detail)

Current IOC CD Strategy

Output	Activity	Action
4. Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives promoted	4.1 Sharing of information on ocean research priorities 4.2 Developing national marine science management procedures and national policies	4.1.1 Compare and compile information on existing ocean research priorities among government and other organizations 4.2.1 Assist Member States with the development of marine science management procedures and national policies
5. Visibility and awareness increased	5.1 Public Information 5.2 Ocean Literacy	5.1.1 Promote the development of public information (communication) departments in ocean research institutions 5.2.1 Foster development of an IOC ocean literacy programme as a community of practice to share experience within and across regions
6. Sustained (longterm) resource mobilization reinforced	6.1 In-kind opportunities 6.2 Financial support by MS to IOC activities	6.1.1 Fostering partnerships to increase in-kind support opportunities 6.2.1 Resource mobilisation from Member States, Institutional and Private Sector Partners