



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

CHARTER FOR ENDORSED DECADE PROGRAMMES

Congratulations! After a thorough review process following the process outlined in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) has endorsed your Decade Programme as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade).

This endorsement is a recognition that your programme will play a central role in supporting the Ocean Decade mission to catalyse transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and the ocean, in order to achieve the Ocean Decade vision of 'the science we need for the ocean we want'.

This Charter document sets out the responsibilities of the partners responsible for implementing the programme, as well as providing other useful information and conditions pertaining to the endorsement.

I. DURATION AND SCOPE OF ENDORSEMENT

1. The endorsement of the programme will be valid for the duration that you identified in your submission. If there is a change in the duration of the implementation period of more than six (6) months, please notify the Decade Coordination Unit in writing so that we can determine whether a subsequent endorsement evaluation is required.
2. The endorsement of the programme is for the scope that was detailed in the submission to the Decade Coordination Unit, any subsequent supplementary information provided to the Decade Coordination Unit during the evaluation process, and any conditions or requirements identified in the endorsement letter from the Executive Secretary of the IOC. If you plan any significant changes to the programme, including its strategy, plan and/or partners, please advise the Decade Coordination Unit as soon as possible so that we can determine whether a subsequent endorsement evaluation is required.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ENDORSED DECADE PROGRAMME

3. As a Decade Programme, your programme will play a prominent role in delivering against the ambitions of the Ocean Decade and contributing to one or more Ocean Decade Challenge[s]. Specifically, the endorsed programme will be responsible for:
 - i. Playing an active and lead role in relevant Communities of Practice via the Global Stakeholder Forum to optimise synergies and collaboration with other Decade stakeholders and thus contribute to the collective impact of the Decade.
 - ii. Ensuring close and regular coordination and communication with the relevant Decade coordination structures nominated by the Decade Coordination Unit including Decade Coordination Offices, Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Implementing Partners. This includes, amongst other issues, provision of information on attached Decade projects, as well as information needed for gap analyses, resources needs assessments, work planning, and annual monitoring and reporting. The Decade Coordination Unit will provide information on the Decade coordination structures relevant to your programme.
 - iii. Ensuring coordination across partners in the endorsed Programme. This will include facilitating co-design and co-delivery of programme initiatives to meet the Programme's stated objectives, as well as coordinating work planning, implementation of activities, collation of information on resource needs and monitoring, and contributing to communications and outreach.
 - iv. Contributing to gap analyses processes led by the Decade coordination structures and coordination of programmatic input to the development of Calls for Decade Actions at the project level. We may also ask you to provide recommendations and advice to the Decade Coordination Unit in relation to the requests for endorsement for Decade projects that apply to join the endorsed programme.

- v. Working with Decade coordination structures and relevant Network Programmes to catalyse the co-design and co-delivery of new Decade Actions and partnerships that could be attached to the endorsed programme as projects or activities. This will include actively fostering and creating a structure within which new projects can be identified and attached to the endorsed programme once endorsed by the Decade Coordination Unit.
- vi. Coordinating communication and collaboration with leads of attached Decade projects in order to ensure coherence in activities and contribution to overall work planning, implementation and monitoring. This will include supporting Decade projects to deliver required monitoring information, and collecting information to inform resource needs assessments and communications products.
- vii. Consolidating annual monitoring information at the programme level for sharing with the Decade Coordination Unit in line with the requirements of the Decade Monitoring & Evaluation framework that will be provided to the lead partner of the endorsed programme. The Decade Coordination Unit will provide information on the annual monitoring information that you will need to provide.
- viii. Providing regular information on resources needs and gaps for operational and coordination activities. Playing a lead and active role in resource mobilisation efforts for the endorsed programme, and ensuring close and regular coordination and communication with Decade coordination structures in relation to resource mobilisation efforts, achievements and opportunities.
- ix. Contributing to communications and outreach activities to engage new partners and new projects and raise awareness of the impact and achievements of the endorsed programme and its component projects.
- x. Contributing to regular review processes led by the Decade coordination structures that are envisaged in the Implementation Plan.

III. BENEFITS OF AN ENDORSED DECADE PROGRAMME

4. Your programme will be recognized and showcased on the Ocean Decade website (oceandecade.org), included in Ocean Decade communications materials and assets (e.g. social media channels, reports, Ocean Decade events).
5. As a Decade Programme, you will be able to use the Ocean Decade logo in line with the [Ocean Decade Branding Guidelines](#) in relevant materials and assets, including, but not limited to, peer-reviewed papers, reports, programme website, programme materials, press materials and/or social media channels. Please note that you cannot grant or authorise use of the logo by any third party.

IV. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF ENDORSEMENT

6. Please note that the IOC may terminate this endorsement on the basis of advice from the Decade Advisory Board if there is a failure to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in this Charter or if annual resources needs assessments indicate that despite the best efforts of the Programme Lead and the Decade coordination structures the programme has failed after a reasonable period of time to mobilise sufficient resources to operate as a Decade Programme.
7. Should the endorsement be terminated, you will no longer be able to use the Ocean Decade logo and it must be removed from any programme materials and assets.
8. The Programme Lead may also indicate in writing to the IOC at any time that it no longer wishes to be recognised as an endorsed Decade Programme.

Thank you for your engagement in the Ocean Decade and we look forward to creating the ocean we want by 2030!