



TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
REGIÓN TROPICAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS Y EL CARIBE
RÉGION DE L'AMÉRIQUE TROPICALE ET DES CARAÏBES

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030: Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region

Regional Kick-off Conference

December 16 -17th at 9h00 Colombia Time (10h00 AST, 14h00 UTC).

Hosted by IOC of UNESCO Sub commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions-
IOCARIBE under the auspices of the governments of Barbados and Colombia

Web: <http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/rkoc>

Register at: <http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/rkoc/regrkoc>

Simultaneous interpretation: English, French and Spanish will be provided.

Programme

Convened by IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions-IOCARIBE with UN Agencies and Partners under the auspices of the governments of Barbados and Colombia, the Regional Kick-off Conference will mark the launch of the UN Ocean Decade in the Tropical Americas and The Caribbean (TAC).

Highlight emerging regional engagement in co-designing partnerships for Regional Ocean Decade Actions and mobilize contributions and expressions of interest by UN and regional agencies, governments, industry and private sectors, and other stakeholder groups.

The Regional Kick-off Conference will represent the beginning of the region-wide efforts in a substantive development and implementation of Decade Actions. It aims to catalyse partnerships among various ocean stakeholder communities in the region, and catalyse co-design of transformative ocean science solutions to the Ocean Decade Challenges to achieve the Ocean Decade Outcomes and Sustainable Development Goals.

The first day will review the proposed transformative ocean science solutions and assess the value, feasibility, and priority of the potential Regional Ocean Decade Actions.

The second day will highlight emerging regional engagement in co-designing partnerships for Regional Ocean Decade Actions; mobilize contributions and expressions of interest by

the IOC of UNESCO and regional agencies, national governments within TAC, industry and private sectors, and other stakeholder groups, finishing with a Regional Call of Action.

Background

As a result of the Ocean Decade planning process, a Regional Planning Group (WTA RPG) for the UN Ocean Decade was established in 2020 to advance and coordinate strategic partnerships and actions for Western Tropical Atlantic and the Eastern Tropical Pacific -The Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region - engagement in the Ocean Decade. The WTA RPG established seven Working Groups to promote multi-disciplinary, inclusive co-design and implementation partnerships to achieve each of the six initial the Societal Outcomes and one specific for Capacity Development, recognizing the efforts of the Working Groups and strategy for advancing the Ocean Decade in the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Region. The seventh societal outcome, an Inspiring and Engaging Ocean, has been addressed as a cross cutting theme.

Seven online workshops were organized around the corresponding WTA Working Groups (conducted July – October 2021). The workshops aimed to review knowledge gaps, barriers, identify priority areas and needs in capacity development, and catalyse a co-design process to find transformative ocean science solutions and develop potential Regional Ocean Decade Actions (programmes / projects / activities / contributions) as part of the global collective effort under the Ocean Decade.

During the consultation process for the co-design of proposals and actions during the first day of the Kick-off Conference three themed sessions to address the ten Ocean Decade Challenges will be called – The sessions will condense the Ocean Decade Challenges with a cross reference to the Associated Regional Planning Working Groups for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region. Major aims of the Breakout Sessions will be to contribute to the co-design of the proposals to the Ocean Decade considering the Regional Needs and Challenges. A review of the achievements and the implementation of the regional endorsed action from the first call, and the regional participation of relevant Decade endorsed Programmes (i.e. Coast Predict; Ocean Best Practices), will be part of the consultation process to provide a feed-back to the High level Second Day of the Kick Off conference and the Regional Call for Action.

1. Knowledge and Solutions

Challenge 1 Understand and beat marine pollution

Challenge 2 Multiple stressors on ecosystems

Challenge 3 Sustainably feed the global population

Challenge 4 Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy

Challenge 5 Ocean-climate nexus

Regional Working Groups: Clean Ocean – Healthy Ocean – Productive Ocean

2. Essential Infrastructure

Challenge 6 Increase community resilience to ocean hazards

Challenge 7 Expand the Global Ocean Observing System

Challenge 8 Create a digital representation of the Ocean

Regional Working Groups: Safe Ocean – Transparent and Accessible Ocean – Predicted Ocean

3. Foundational

Challenge 9 Skills, knowledge and technology for all

Challenge 10 Change humanity's relationship with the ocean

Regional Working Groups: Cross cutting – Capacity Development Inspiring Ocean

DAY 1

16 December, 2021

Cartagena Time	ITEM
09:00 – 09:40	Part 1 Plenary and Opening
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome / Framework of the Conference Cesar Toro. IOCARIBE of IOC UNESCO Secretariat
09:10 – 09:25	Overview of Ocean Decade Vladimir Ryabinin. IOC Executive Secretary
09:25 – 09:40	Setting the context – Regional Developments Elva Escobar. Member Regional Planning Group
09:40 – 11:40	Part 2 Break out Session
09:40 – 09:50	Introduction to the Breakout Sessions Edgard Cabrera – Member Regional Planning Group
	Three themed sessions to address the ten Ocean Decade Challenges
09:50 – 11:40	<u>Breakout Session 1 - Knowledge and Solutions</u> Clean Ocean – Healthy Ocean – Productive Ocean Moderators: Francisco Arias – Alejandro Acosta – Ileana Lopez Rapporteur: Fadilah Ali <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAC Pollutants Observatory • TAC Understanding multiple stressor effects • TAC Fisheries/Tourism/Sustainable Development
	<u>Breakout Session- 2 - Essential Infrastructure</u> Transparent and Accessible Ocean – Predicted Ocean – Safe Ocean Moderators: Christa Von Hillebrandt – Julio Morell / Douglas Wilson Rapporteur: Carlos Torres Navarrete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Ocean Observing System for the TAC Region • Implementation of TAC Regional Modelling and Forecasting Systems • Early Warning Systems and Services for the TAC Region

11:40 – 11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Data and Information Management, Access and Delivery Systems for TAC / climate Digital Twins for the coastal ocean <p>Breakout Session– 3 - Foundational Moderators: Elva Escobar – Arthur Paterson Cross Cutting – Capacity Development – Inspiring Ocean Rapporteur: Milena Maltese Zuffo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practices: standardizing local, national, and international data Ocean literacy: towards ocean equity in TAC region The blue economy: enhancing capacity development in the TAC region Partnerships / cooperation in TAC region
	<p>Break – Participants to return to Plenary Session Videos of the Ocean Decade</p>
11:50 – 12:40	<p style="text-align: center;">Part 3 Plenary Review</p> <p>Moderators: Albert Martis & Edgard Cabrera – Members Regional Planning Group</p>
11:50- 12:40	<p>Round Table with leaders of the Breakout Sessions Report of the outcomes of each Breakout Session Discussion on findings and recommendations</p>
12:40 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Part 4 Day 1 Summary – Recommendations</p>
12:40 – 12:45	<p>Poll - Feedback Participants</p>
12:45 – 12:55	<p>Meeting summary and Way Forward Elva Escobar. Member Regional Planning Group</p>
12:55 – 13:00	<p>Closing Cesar Toro – IOCARIBE of IOC UNESCO Secretariat</p>

DAY 2

17 December, 2021

Cartagena Time	ITEM
9:00 – 9:30	Part 1 Opening (Master of Ceremony and Facilitator Ada Monzon)
09:05 – 09:10	Vice-president of Colombia & President of Colombian Ocean Commission H.E. Martha Lucia Ramírez
09:10 – 09:15	Barbados Minister of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy H.E. Hon. Kirk Humphrey
09:15 – 09:20	Opening message (Video) Audrey Azoulay - UNESCO DG
09:20 – 09:30	The Regional Implementation of the Ocean Decade Ariel Troisi – IOC of UNESCO Chairperson
09:30 – 10:00	Part 2 Wrap up day 1. Outcomes and Recommendations
09:30 – 09:45	Report of the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean co-design process Christa Von Hillebrandt / Elva Escobar/Ileana Lopez Moderator: Ada Monzon
09:45 – 11:00	Part 3 Dialogues / Panels
09:45 - 10:00	Introduction to the Session Moderator: Ada Monzon <i>Participants: Countries with National Committees; National Councils of Sciences; Industry and NGOs; UN Agencies and Regional Organisations; Financial and Funding institutions; ECOPs and Youth, Indigenous community representatives</i>

10:00 -11:00

Conversation Panels – Round Table - Three Dialogues

Moderator: Ada Monzon.

PANEL 1 - National Committees and National Science Commissions

Moderator: Leo Brewster Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit

Participants:

Colombia National Ocean Decade Committee

Juan Camilo Forero

Brazil National Ocean Decade Committee

Roberto De Pinho

Mexico National Ocean Decade Committee

María Guadalupe Falcón

USA National Ocean Decade Committee

Mark Abbott

PANEL 2 - Regional Cooperation - UN and Regional Agencies Cooperation

Moderator: Christa von Hillebrandt

Participants:

Rodney Martinez - Regional Office - WMO

Carlos Uribe - Regional Office - UNDRR

Milton Haughton - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism - CRFM

- Presentation on the Hydromet Alliance – The Systematic Observation Financing Facility -

PANEL 3 - Partnerships, Funding – Resource Mobilization

Moderator: Ada Monzon

Participants:

Albert Martis – Vice-President WMO

Georgia Lumley - Sandals Foundation

Francisco Arias – Director General INVEMAR

11:00 – 11:30

Part 4

Closing remarks - Call for Action

Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Region - Call for Action

Arnulfo Sanchez IOCARIBE of IOC UNESCO Chairman

Moderator: Cesar Toro. IOCARIBE of IOC UNESCO Secretariat