



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Marine.Science

Decade Contribution

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Lead Institution

Bertarelli Foundation

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KEY PARTNERS

- Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
- Oceanswell
- Stanford University
- University of Lancaster

DECADE CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

CHALLENGE 2: Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity

CHALLENGE 9: Skills, knowledge and technology for all

CHALLENGE 10: Change humanity's relationship with the ocean

OCEAN BASINS

Indian Ocean



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Summary

Marine.Science is advancing our understanding of large marine protected areas (MPAs) so they can be better managed. Our focus is on the Indian Ocean, using science to inform management and conservation. Our highly collaborative and interdisciplinary projects are led by some of the world's leading marine scientists who are pushing the boundaries of their fields. We have a strong emphasis on effective and innovative communication, capacity building and increasing regional opportunities and access to marine science.

Over the next five years (2021-2025), our research is expanding to use marine science to support management and conservation across the Indian Ocean region (SDG target 14.5). We are working with regional universities and NGOs, and research partners in Europe, North America and Australia, to increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology (SDG target 14.A). We are funding and proactively recruiting early career scientists and students from within the Indian Ocean region. Finally, we will explore the effectiveness of a variety of approaches to improve communication of marine science to different audiences.

Duration: 01/03/2021 - 01/03/2025

Priority Activities (first 2 years)

- International, interdisciplinary teams receive funding to carry out projects that advance the science of large marine protected areas.
- A regional cohort of early career marine scientists, PhD and MSc students are recruited within project teams.
- Regional fieldwork is implemented, involving ~10-15 expeditions per year, across the Indian Ocean.
- Scientific outputs are published in open access peer-reviewed publications with all data made findable, accessible, available, and retrievable on existing and emerging platforms.
- Scientific outputs are summarised into policy and management briefs and shared with appropriate stakeholders.
- Collaboration, knowledge exchange and capacity-building will be encouraged and facilitated through online and in-person workshops, webinars, and conferences.
- Marine science from the programme will be made accessible through a range of communication tools.

"If we are to make the massive leaps needed in marine science, then it will only be by encouraging collaboration between different groups of researchers. The UN Ocean Decade is helping to do just that and the Bertarelli Foundation is extremely proud that our programme has been endorsed as a Decade Action."

Ernesto Bertarelli

