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2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



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TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

REGIÓN TROPICAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS Y EL CARIBE

RÉGION DE L'AMÉRIQUE TROPICALE ET DES CARAÏBES

UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021–2030 TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

One Planet, One Ocean / Un Planeta, Un Océano / Une planète, un océan

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KNOWLEDGE AND SOLUTIONS

FADILAH ALI

1. DEVELOPING A TROPICAL AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL POLLUTANTS OBSERVATORY
2. INCREASING KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

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DEVELOPING A REGIONAL POLLUTANTS OBSERVATORY

Summary of Decade Action

During preliminary workshops, key oceans-related research priorities were identified for a regional program in the Western Tropical Atlantic. These included a need for developing an inventory of contaminant sources along with a regional baseline database & current values, to better understand & interpret the impact of the combination & synergy between pollutants and climate change on marine life along with future changes and trends. Furthermore there is a need to unify programs & efforts whilst enhancing technical capacities through institutional expertise across the region to develop integrated solutions. Thus the development & implementation of a transboundary, multidisciplinary, & cross-sectoral approach such as a regional pollution observatory was warranted. This will help to coordinate, analyze & regularly publish information on marine pollution & produce data that will be curated, credible & open access – to better guide & inform key stakeholders & decision makers.



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DEVELOPING A REGIONAL POLLUTANTS OBSERVATORY

Objectives:

- Foster interdisciplinary work, facilitate collaboration with social sciences & capture and incorporate local and indigenous knowledge
- Develop a digital atlas of the ocean which can be used to assess risks of current and future types of ocean pollution whilst generating ideas to reduce ocean pressures, and strengthening governance regimes that encourage more sustainable production and consumption
- Encourage the transfer of knowledge and capacity building through the development of manuals and training with harmonized methods and strengthening of databases for decision-making.
- Facilitate cooperation and partnerships by fostering discussion and dialogue between multi-sector stakeholders to create networks to develop suitable and tailor-made solutions
- Strengthen collaboration and networking to develop research partnerships that could improve the relationships between local communities and the oceans.
- To achieve a clean ocean, there is a need for better governance and for national policies and regulatory frameworks to be updated with more forceful policies, penalties and mechanisms to facilitate better compliance and infrastructure to mitigate the pollution.

DEVELOPING A REGIONAL POLLUTANTS OBSERVATORY

Outcomes / Expected Contribution:

- Development of an inventory of contaminant sources along with a regional baseline database
- Standardization and best practices for coordinated data collection, management
- Strengthened global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms
- Development of ocean research policies in order to support sustainable development objectives
- Improved data collection and sharing, capacity building, and inter-institutional cooperation
- Creation of databases of institutions, researchers and experts in the region to help facilitate cooperation between institutions in research and training and access to technology.
- Improved training and participation in standardizing the collection of key biological data for sustainable development and conservation, data formatting using standard formats, sharing data through open databases such as the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)
- Improved governance where national policies and regulatory frameworks are updated with more forceful policies, penalties and mechanisms to facilitate better compliance and infrastructure
- Inter-sectoral and multinational efforts that facilitate collaboration amongst different disciplines and initiatives such as oceanographic and coastal observatories whilst encouraging the strengthening of decision-making

DEVELOPING A REGIONAL POLLUTANTS OBSERVATORY

Existing and Potential Partners:

UNEP: CEP & ROLAC

World Meteorological Organization

International Maritime Organization

NOAA

US EPA

OECS e.g. RePLAST

CARICOM

CARPHA

Global Partnership on Marine Litter

INVEMAR

CLME+ / PROCARIBE+

Institute of Marine Affairs

RAC/REMPEITC

CEFAS

Ocean Conservancy/ GGGI

IWEco

LBS Focal Points

Local & Regional Universities / Research Institutes

Local and Regional NGOs

Other partners to be identified

RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Summary of Decade Action:

During preliminary workshops, key oceans-related research priorities were identified & it was recognized that in order to manage multiple stressors, there is need for observations on marine & coastal life & related socio-economic impacts. There is a need to fill priority knowledge gaps of ecosystems, & their responses to multiple stressors & develop tools to implement management frameworks that build resilience, recognize thresholds & avoid ecological tipping points. There is a need to unify programs & efforts whilst enhancing technical capacities (lack of data, information & research) through institutional expertise across the region to develop integrated solutions. There is a pressing need to develop solutions to monitor, protect, manage & restore ecosystems & their biodiversity under changing environmental, social & climate conditions whilst addressing the lack of baseline scientific information on oceans & their biological diversity as well as the low investment in ocean science.

RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Objectives:

- Develop solutions to monitor & protect ecosystems & their biodiversity under changing conditions while addressing the lack of baseline scientific info
- Promote drafting of sustainable ocean plans to respond to multiple stressors, as it provides a credible basis for safeguarding long-term ocean health & resilience, attracting investment & creating jobs for the benefit of communities and national economies
- Promote ocean literacy & science-policy dialogue by expanding use of citizen and user-oriented data collection & local/traditional knowledge & practices
- Facilitate cooperation & partnerships by fostering discussion between multi-sector stakeholders to create networks to develop tailor-made solutions
- Promote the joint construction, publication & dissemination of products which consolidate knowledge gained via different information exchanges
- Strengthen collaboration & networking to develop research partnerships to improve relationships between local communities & the ocean

RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Outcomes / Expected Contributions:

- Solutions developed to monitor, protect, manage, and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social, and climate conditions
- Baseline scientific information collected regionally
- Standardization and best practices for coordinated data collection, management
- Strengthened global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms
- Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives
- Improved data collection and sharing, capacity building, governance, inter-institutional cooperation
- Creation of databases of institutions, researchers and experts in the region which can help facilitate cooperation between institutions in research and training and access to technology.
- Improved training and participation in standardizing the collection of key biological data for sustainable development and conservation, data formatting using standard formats, sharing data through open databases such as the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)
- Inter-sectoral and multinational efforts that facilitate collaboration amongst different disciplines and initiatives such as oceanographic and coastal observatories whilst encouraging the strengthening of decision-making.

RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Existing and Potential Partners:

UNEP: CEP & ROLAC

NOAA

US EPA

CARPHA

INVEMAR

UNAM

CLME+ / PROCARIBE+

Regional Activity Centres

Local & Regional Universities / Research Institutes

Local and Regional NGOs

Other partners to be identified



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MUCHAS GRACIAS

.....
THANK YOU
.....

MERCI BEAUCOUP

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