



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# Decade Advisory Board

## Meeting No. 01/2022

28-30 March 2022

REPORT

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**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

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## **DECADE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NO. 01/2022**

### **MEETING REPORT**

#### **1. Welcome**

The IOC-UNESCO Executive Secretary followed by the Decade Advisory Board Co-Chairs welcomed participants and opened the meeting.

#### **2. Participant Introductions**

The individual members of the Board introduced themselves and in response to a request from the Co-Chair offered insight on how their colleagues view the Ocean Decade. Several Board members said that their colleagues were eager for the Decade to be successfully implemented as the focus on the ocean at the global level would support their ambition to have ocean science and policy prioritised at the national and local level. Others indicated that there was some apprehension surrounding the Decade caused by a lack of full understanding on the benefits of being part of the Decade. Overall, the members indicated that there was support for and interest in the Decade, but that it currently means many things, to many people. The Decade needs to strengthen its messaging around the benefits it brings, the costs of engaging, and what its overarching goal is - including its niche compared to other global initiatives.

#### **3. Overview of Agenda and Housekeeping**

The Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) presented the agenda (refer Annex 1) and provided an overview of logistical details, indicating that the meeting would follow Chatham House rules.

#### **4. Update on Decade Vision, Implementation and Future Perspectives**

The DCU provided an overview of the Ocean Decade history, rationale and implementation progress as well as key perspectives and challenges for the future..

The DCU reported continued strong enthusiasm to be part of the Decade – “exciting” “innovative” “transformative”, although it noted a growing desire for collective efforts to set strategic ambitions and not remain entirely ‘bottom-up’ which is a significant (but natural) change in opinion. The DCU also recognized the growing desire to understand how the Ocean Decade will contribute to sustainable ocean management and sustainable ocean economic development. The DCU noted increased engagement, and growing private sector and national engagement but reinforced to the Board that it is important to emphasize the Decade as a regional and global collaborative space so as to avoid a purely national focus resulting in 150 national Ocean Decades.

Challenges and opportunities for the Ocean Decade’s immediate future were presented. The challenges identified were growing requests and first signs of impatience vis-a-vis the role of Ocean Decade in resource mobilisation; weak leadership roles of partners from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); limited engagement with key

funding partners including multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international financing instruments; pressure growing to systematically measure and report on progress of Ocean Decade; and a systematic approach to capacity development and exchange is emerging but needs more attention and targeted support.

One question some Board members raised was ‘what legacy does the Ocean Decade want to leave?’ positing that it may be useful to identify if the underlying goal is to increase investment, produce science, place a mark on the SDGs and contribute to the post-2030 process; or all of these. The recommendation being that this will solidify the tangible benefit of being affiliated with the Ocean Decade and give direction to the energy that has been generated.

Other members emphasised the importance of engaging women and youth in the Ocean Decade and heightening the impact of regional action in which many stakeholders are already engaged. The Board showed support for and willingness to engage further with private sector enterprises, international financing institutions and instruments, and philanthropy to unlock investment in ocean science. An acknowledgment was made that SIDS and LDC mobilisation will require a strengthening of the “business case” of the Ocean Decade and the availability of dedicated resources.

## **5. Review of Ocean Decade Programmes**

The DCU reminded Board members of the review and decision making process, and updated them on developments such as the establishment of the Ocean Decade Expert Roster to facilitate review of programme proposals and set strategic ambitions. At the close of the Second Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021 there were 34 programme submissions. These were reviewed by the DCU for completeness, then by external experts for their alignment with programme criteria and the endorsement criteria. There were 11 submissions which matched closely enough the programme criteria. These were presented to the Board. It was clarified that discussion of the programme proposals should take into consideration existing programmes, but future Ocean Decade Actions would not be asked to merge with others as this was the function of the Communities of Practice.

The DCU presented each of the following programmes, including a summary of the external reviewer comments and IOC analyses. The Board considered each programme and made recommendations that will be used by the IOC-UNESCO Executive Secretary in his final decision on endorsement.

### **No 22.2 - HOPE FOR REEFS - California Academy of Sciences**

There was general good support for this initiative, but further information is needed regarding funding prospects, links to policy creation, and engagement with national and sub-national authorities governing the fieldwork sites. There were discussions within the Board as to whether this initiative would constitute an Ocean Decade programme or project.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponent on the above issues and presented to the Board before proceeding with endorsement decision.**

## **No 20.2 - HEALTHY RIVERS, HEALTHY OCEAN - Global Water Partnership Organization**

There was great enthusiasm and support for the importance of this issue and making a space for it within the Ocean Decade. However, given that the majority of partners are from the freshwater community, it is felt that to fully exploit the potential of this action, identification of additional ocean partners, and consideration of key ocean science needs and gaps, must take place. Projects could be solicited to fill out scientific gaps if the proponents themselves did not have the expertise to address them directly. Some concerns were raised regarding the clarification of issues around AI and to ensure links to relevant initiatives such as the Global Framework for Climate Services. United Nations Environment Programme indicated that it would be willing to work directly with and provide technical support to the proponents to improve their submission.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues and presented to the Board before proceeding with any endorsement decision.**

## **No 2.2 - SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS®: CONSERVING THE TROPICS - Khaled Bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation (KSLOF)**

There was support for this proposal although Board members felt that information was lacking in some key areas. It was felt that while this submission proposes relevant action for the Ocean Decade, further information is needed on how co-design has been integrated into the initiative development and the extent of in-country partnerships. Specifically, there is a need to better understand how ongoing and planned local and international programmes will be integrated. Additionally, Board members raised questions around the accessibility of data. There were discussions within the Board as to whether this initiative would constitute an Ocean Decade programme or project.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues and presented to the Board before proceeding with any endorsement decision.**

## **No 4.2 - CENTER: CHEMICAL CURRENCIES OF A MICROBIAL PLANET - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

There was good support for the science proposed as part of this initiative. However, Board members noted that the work was already funded and underway and thus that this proposal appears to describe science which is already being done. The Board would have liked to see the submission built out beyond the scope of ongoing projects already being funded

**RECOMMENDATION: Re-categorise to Ocean Decade Contribution, with the potential to build out to an Ocean Decade Project in future phases of the project.**

## **No 5.2 - CLIMATE RESILIENT AQUATIC FOOD: FEEDING THE FUTURE - Institute of Marine Research**

There was very strong support for the theme addressed by this proposal however the Board raised questions on the level of strategic ambition, as well as the milestones and deliverables. Board members requested clarification on the scope and timing of additional case studies beyond Zanzibar that were proposed and that would be either developed by proponents themselves or solicited as projects. The Board raised questions on in-country partners and requested more information on elements of co-creation and engagement of stakeholders, as well as links to other processes e.g. MSP. The Board recommended that unless the climate focus of the proposal is strengthened, it may be more relevant that this submission be reconsidered as part of the evaluation process for Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022 that will focus on blue foods and sustainable ocean economy.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues and presented to the Board before proceeding with any endorsement decision.**

## **No. 8.2 - GLOBAL OCEAN NEGATIVE CARBON EMISSION - Xiamen University on behalf of Ocean Negative Carbon Emission (ONCE)**

The Board was strongly supportive of this proposal but requested additional information on diversity and inclusion of SIDS / LDCs partners as well as more information on proposed capacity development, including the development of skills to access and use the data that will be generated. The Board requested that the proponents further explain the foreseen relationship to the private sector and the links to WMO initiatives beyond WCRP and GOOS, including questions around data accessibility and sharing. The Board noted the need for the proposal to ensure alignment with the London Protocol and other relevant global governance mechanisms.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues before final review by Board.**

## **No 11.2 - GLOBAL OCEAN DECADE PROGRAMME FOR BLUE CARBON - The University of St Andrews**

The Board was in general agreement of the importance and quality of this proposal. More information was requested by the Board regarding SIDS and LDCs partners, co-design, and local community engagement. There is some uncertainty about the proposed approach to data management and data accessibility. The Board suggested that private sector engagement should be explored as a source of sustainable financing. The Board raised questions on the proposed budget and felt that it may be underestimated. They also raised questions on the source of existing financing. Lastly, clarification is needed on the definition of blue carbon adopted for the programme and whether it includes deep-sea sediments.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues before final review by Board.**

**No 18.2 - OCEAN TO CLIMATE SEAMLESS FORECASTING SYSTEM- First Institute of Oceanography (FIO), Ministry of Natural Resources**

The Board was strongly supportive of this proposal but felt that this proposal needs to elaborate on how proponents will coordinate with WMO and GOOS, including the Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems and other existing initiatives. Further information is also needed regarding co-design to ensure stakeholders do not have a passive role in programme implementation. There is also concern that the data and information flow will struggle to integrate with the existing observation systems and that the data sharing will not be adequate. Further information on this issue is required and a final recommendation on endorsement will be conditional on this issue being adequately addressed.

**RECOMMENDATION: Supplementary information to be requested from the proponents on the above issues before final review by Board.**

**No 27.2 - INUNDATION SIGNATURES ON ROCKY COASTLINES - Williams College**

The Board considered that this proposal represented an important contribution of knowledge to the Decade but did not consider that it met the requirements for a Decade programme. The Board requested more information about the engagement of end-users, including disaster managers and UN agencies in relation to this proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION: Re-categorise to Ocean Decade Contribution provided that the above information is provided and deemed to be sufficient by the Decade Coordination Unit.**

**No 28.2 - GLOBAL FUND FOR CORAL REEFS - United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**

The Board warmly welcomed this submission and encouraged the DCU to pursue a conversation with the proponent to investigate a strategic partnership and the potential role of the Ocean Decade as a key knowledge partner of the Fund. The Board recommended that discussions include exploring how elements of co-design could be built into the design and delivery of the projects which will be supported by the Fund, and to ensure that relevant ocean science is used in the identification and implementation of projects funded by this initiative.

**RECOMMENDATION: Re-categorisation as a significant Decade Contribution and commence discussions with the Fund to investigate a strategic partnership.**

## **No 170 - SCIENCE ENABLES AQUATIC FOODS (SEAFOODS) WITH HEALTHY OCEANS - OceanForesters**

The Board supported the theme addressed by this proposal but overall felt that it was strongly lacking in clarity on the goals and actions that would be undertaken, and they questioned the feasibility of the scope and desired outcomes. The lack of secured budget was considered to be an issue of concern given the overall budget estimate. They also suggested that there was a general lack of clarity throughout the proposal concerning the primary goals and that the initiative contained too many tangential components. There were questions raised about the degree of implication of named partners.

**RECOMMENDATION: Endorsement refused but proponents to be encouraged to engage with existing Decade Actions and/or submit smaller scale initiatives to future relevant Calls for Decade Actions.**

### **6. Online read-through of recommendations from review of Decade Programmes**

The Board and DCU read through the recommendations and reconciled outstanding programme submission recommendations and came to a consensus that is included in this report.

### **7. Scope and process for Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022**

The DCU presented the gap analysis of Decade Action coverage and the proposed scope for the Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022 to be launched 15th April 2022. Based on the discussion, the Board recommended that the Call solicit programme submissions relating to Challenge 3 - Blue Food, and Challenge 4 - Sustainable Ocean Economy, as well as projects submitting to those existing endorsed programmes that have indicated their willingness to participate in the Call.

The Board further recommended that technical support be offered to partners from SIDS and LDCs who would like to submit proposals to the Call and that the Call documentation provides a narrative around the connections between and definitions of blue food and sustainable ocean economy to support the development of aligned proposals. Additionally, feedback from the Board will be incorporated into the application materials to make the process more user friendly both for applicants and reviewers.

The Board also recommended that, as was the case for previous Calls for Decade Actions, an Expression of Interest process would be put in place for programme submissions that did not fully align with the priorities of the Call but which were considered to be worthy of inclusion in the process.

### **8. Strategic Questions on Decade Implementation and Perspectives** **a. Measuring Progress**

Feedback on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework was overall very positive, with Board members expressing their enthusiasm for the work done so far, particularly given its



complexity. Main suggestions included to use the outcomes as building blocks for post-2030 priorities and consider how the Framework will measure at what point the Challenges are no longer challenges. Everyone acknowledged the complexity of identifying appropriate indicators and teasing out the impact of the Decade amongst relevant initiatives such as Agenda 2030, but all agreed that it was important to do so. Board members were also cognizant of the capacity of the DCU and Decade Actions suggesting that the Framework only be re-evaluated and adapted after lengthier periods of time and that appropriate technology is secured to support the process.

The challenge of aligning parallel processes between the Decade M&E Framework and M&E requirements of funders was raised. The DCU suggested that it was unavoidable that Decade Actions would need to report separately to the Decade and to their funders, but that was a key motivation for developing a light system of M&E for the Decade.

The Board commented that it is also important to develop a process through which the long term impact of Decade actions is captured (for example the impact in influencing policy), which potentially would not be visible until after their action has 'closed.'

Board members were in support of the use of existing indicators to avoid duplication and unnecessary work.

Some support was expressed for using National Decade Committees (NDCs) as a resource in supporting M&E, alongside Decade Collaborative Centres (DCCs), and Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs), which are to act as bridges between Actions and the DCU.

Reporting across the UN is also an important consideration and the DCU will liaise with UN agency representatives to best align processes in this regard.

#### **b. Resource mobilisation**

The Board members highlighted the link between resource mobilisation and the challenges of messaging of the benefits of the Decade. They recognised the work done with philanthropic organisations to date and highlighted the importance of increasing engagement with Member States / governments and international financing instruments, including multilateral and regional development banks. The Board members emphasised the potential role of National Decade Committees in mobilising resources at a national level and indicated that more systematic engagement with these Committees would be useful in this regard. They emphasised that the 'ask' needed to be very clear that pitching to potential investors needed to be right and tailored, and that Board members could leverage their networks to support fundraising efforts.

#### **c. Increased engagement of SIDS and LDCs & Engagement of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) holders**

Board members recognised that there are a number of barriers preventing stakeholders from LDCs and SIDS, and Indigenous communities from engaging to their full potential in the Decade. These include a lack of understanding around the Decade's benefit to their communities, a need for increased capacity development concerning co-design at the outset of programme development, and a lack of knowledge of the ethical principles governing engagement with relevant communities.

A number of suggestions were provided to try and overcome some of the above challenges including exploring synergies with other international organisations who work in the ocean science space with LDCs, SIDS, and Indigenous communities. They suggested setting parameters for engagement by endorsed Decade programmes as a starting point, given that it will take long term goals to achieve the levels of inclusion and diversity desired.

An important component to ILK engagement is to ensure that it is valued as an equal to academic research, which is not currently the case. Several Board members volunteered their time and prior learning to support the step-change required.

Demonstrating the cross-cutting nature of this topic, it was also pointed out that funding and access to institutional resources is a major barrier to engagement of the aforementioned communities.

#### **d. Role of Board members as resource persons for cross-cutting themes and regional and national issues**

Several Board members nominated themselves to support a number of the above strategic issues and the DCU will reach out to them to leverage their knowledge and networks. It was proposed that small group or individual inter-sessional discussions are organised and that the results of these discussions are reported at the next meeting of the Board.

### **9. Next steps/looking ahead**

A yearly schedule for Board meetings was proposed to align with ongoing processes, with the caveat that intersessional meetings will be needed on an ad hoc basis e.g. to ensure supplementary information provided by proponents can be reviewed in advance of final recommendations.

The Board discussed that the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon will be a key moment to raise global visibility of the Decade and its achievements. The DCU will contact all Decade Actions with information on planned events during the conference and solicit interest to participate.

The next meeting of the Board will take place in early May 2022 as an intersessional online meeting to review supplementary material provided by the programme proponents. This will be followed by a scheduled convening online over a few days in September as the next full meeting of the Board.

## Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

**28th March 2022: 2pm –5.30pm**

1. Welcome
2. Participant introductions
3. Overview of Agenda and Housekeeping
4. Update on Ocean Decade Vision, Implementation and Future Perspectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Philosophy and history of the Ocean Decade</li><li>Current processes and approaches</li><li>Current status of implementation</li><li>Future perspectives, opportunities, and challenges</li><li>Summary of initial set of strategic guiding questions for Board consideration during meeting</li></ol> <p><i>Discussion: Reflection on strategic approaches for the Decade, including bottom up vs. top down framework. Priority issues and role for DAB over time.</i></p>
Working Dinner

**29th March 2022: 9.30 am - 5.30 pm**

5. Review of Decade Programmes <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Summary of results of Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021</li><li>Process for programme review</li><li>Endorsement ready programme review</li></ol>
Lunch break
5. Review of Decade Programmes (continued)

**30th March 2022: 9.30am - 1pm**

6. Online read-through of recommendations from review of Decade Programmes
7. Scope and process for Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022
8. Strategic Questions on Decade Implementation and Perspectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Measuring progress</li><li>Resource mobilisation</li><li>Increased engagement of SIDS and LDC partners</li><li>Engagement of indigenous and local knowledge holders</li><li>Role of Board members as resource persons for cross-cutting themes and regional and national issues</li><li>UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, June 2022</li></ol>

9. Next steps/looking ahead
  - a. Annual timeline and milestones
  - b. Decade Advisory Board meeting schedule 2022 and 2023

## **Annex 2: Members of the Decade Advisory Board**

### ***Expert Members***

Professor Kouadio Affian, University Felix Houphouet-Boigny (Côte d'Ivoire)

Dr. Frida Maria Armas-Pfirter, University of Buenos Aires and at Austral University (Argentina)

Dr. Tamatoa Bambridge, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), University of New Caledonia & University of French Polynesia (French Polynesia)

Dr.rer.nat. Silvia Chacón Barrantes, National University (Costa Rica)

Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia) (online)

Vidar Helgesen, Nobel Foundation (Sweden)

Professor Gideon Henderson, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, UK)

Charlotte Hudson, The Pew Charitable Trusts (USA)

Dr. James Gitundu Kairo, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

Dr. Margaret Leinen, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego (USA)

Angelique Pouponneau, AOSIS Climate Change Fellowship Programme at the United Nations

Dr. Bente Pretlove, Ocean Space in DNV (Norway)

Dr. Fangli Qiao, International Eurasian Academy of Sciences & First Institute of Oceanography (FIO), Ministry of Natural Resources of China (online)

Dr. Katy Soapi, Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science at the Pacific Community (SPC, New Caledonia) (online)

Dr. Alexander Turra, Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo (IOUSP, Brazil)

### ***UN Agency Representatives***

Jessica Howley, DOALOS (online)

Dmitry Gonchar, DOALOS (online)

Charlotte Salpin, DOALOS (online)

Florence Descroix-Comanducci, IAEA (online)

Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC-UNESCO

Henrik Enevoldsen, IOC- UNESCO

Emma Heslop, IOC-UNESCO

Bernardo Aliaga, IOC-UNESCO

Marie Bourrel-McKinnon, ISA (online)

Sonakshi Mishra, ISA (online)

Katharina Serrano, ISA (online)

Leticia reis de Carvalho, UNEP

Johan Stander, WMO

## Addendum I

### DECADE ADVISORY BOARD RESULTS OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETING MEETING REPORT

#### 1. Welcome

The Decade Advisory Board Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the goals of the session namely (i) to finalise recommendations on endorsement for 11 programme submissions to the Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021 that were reviewed by the Board during Meeting No. 01:2022; and (ii) outline a way forward for the consideration of a series of key strategic issues related to Decade implementation in advance of the next meeting.

#### 2. Key Updates

The Decade Coordination Unit shared key updates regarding the launch of Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022, upcoming events including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, continued resource mobilisation and the Foundations Dialogue, new Decade Alliance members, publications, and the opportunities at the IOC Executive Council.

#### 3. Review of Supplementary Information

The Board reviewed the supplementary information provided by the proponents of the following submissions.

##### *2.2 Science Without Borders ® (SWB): Conserving the Tropics*

The Board felt that the proponents provided a complete response to the questions asked of them. They agreed that this submission fills an important gap. However, there is still concern around the scope of the initiative and whether it fulfils the criteria to be considered as a programme particularly in terms of its geographical scope.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Recategorise this submission as a project and endorse but encourage the proponents to consider whether this could be built out to a programme in the future.*

##### *5.2 Climate Resilient Aquatic Food: Feeding the Future (ClimeFood)*

This submission continued to demonstrate the importance of the action through the additional information provided. However, the Board felt that there were still important partnerships and linkages missing. They also had concerns that while this submission was received via Call No. 02/2021 focusing on the ocean-climate nexus call, it may be more appropriate to consider it in the context of Call No. 03/2022 focusing on sustainable blue food. The proponents didn't provide the concrete information on how they anticipated expanding study sites beyond Zanzibar and the Board had remaining questions as to whether the initiative was better categorised as a programme or a project.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Advise proponents that this will be considered in the review of submissions to Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022 and encourage the proponents to continue to build partnerships to submit additional information on the expansion of sites beyond Zanzibar*

## *8.2 Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emission (Global ONCE)*

The Board felt that the proponents of this submission explained well how they would address diversity and inclusion. They also provided adequate information clarifying data accessibility. There was some concern that the proponents didn't fully understand the question about private sector engagement, however the information provided was comprehensive enough, particularly in demonstrating their active intersection with global governance structures.

***RECOMMENDATION:*** *Endorse the submission as a programme.*

## *11.2 Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon (GO-BC)*

The proponents of this submission responded to the request for additional information very well. There is interest from UNEP in engaging with the proponents further.

***RECOMMENDATION:*** *Endorse the submission as a programme.*

## *18.2 Ocean to climate Seamless Forecasting system (OSF)*

The Board was pleased to receive the additional responses from this submission. They feel that the proposal addresses a significant need to improve forecasting capability. There were still some outstanding concerns about how end users would be engaged, and linkages to other existing forecasting initiatives.

***RECOMMENDATION:*** *Endorse the submission as a programme with conditions that the proponents ensure there is active engagement with users of forecasting applications, services and products.*

## *20.2 Healthy Rivers, Healthy Ocean (HRHO)*

The Board members agreed that this submission is filling a critical gap thematically for the Decade. They were pleased to receive the additional information from the proponents. There was support from IOC and UNEP offered to help the proponents ensure they had access to the necessary ocean science expertise.

***RECOMMENDATION:*** *Endorse the submission as a programme with conditions that the proponents work actively with willing additional partners to fully address the ocean science component of the programme.*



## 22.2 Hope for Reefs (H4R)

The Board acknowledged the importance of this submission in the context of the Decade coral reef community. However, there were still concerns regarding links to national government actors and the Board felt that this submission was best categorised as a project with encouragement to build to a programme over time if desired by the proponents.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Recategorise this submission as a project and endorse but encourage the proponents to consider whether this could be built out to a programme in the future.*

## 27.2 Inundation Signatures on Rocky Coastlines (ISROC)

The Board welcomed this submission's additional information. It further clarified the scope of the proposal as being a continuation of ongoing, funded work.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Recategorise this submission as a contribution and endorse.*

## 28.2 Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)

The Board felt that the proponents of this submission adequately addressed the questions posed and noted the ongoing discussions with the Decade Coordination Unit to develop a strategic partnership.

**RECOMMENDATION:** *Recategorise this submission as a contribution and endorse.*

## 4. Strategic Issues and Next Meeting

The Decade Coordination Unit presented the below schematic to describe the process for the Board to address a series of strategic issues before its next meeting. The next meeting of the Board will be in early to mid-September and will focus on: (i) scoping of Call for Decade Actions No. 4/2022; (ii) report back on strategic issues from working groups; and (iii) an initial read-out of the submissions received to Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022.

SIDS / LDC	Indigenous & Local	Resource Mobilisation	Measuring Progress
<p>Working group to be established to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support needs</li><li>• Concept of regional support facility</li><li>• Engagement &amp; outreach</li><li>• Catalysis of new partnerships</li></ul>	<p>Initial discussions on proposed framework underway</p> <p>Series of regional workshops and discussions leading to IMPAC5 (February 2023)</p>	<p>Working group to be established discuss issue in more depth and way forward</p>	<p>Individual discussions on specific issues e.g. measuring uptake</p>

## United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), provides a convening framework to develop the scientific knowledge and partnerships needed to catalyse transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean. The Ocean Decade is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

Established during the Preparatory Phase and to continue throughout implementation until 2030, the IOC's Ocean Decade Series will provide key documentation about this global initiative and aims to serve as a primary resource for stakeholders seeking to consult, monitor and assess progress towards the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade.

