



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(Of UNESCO)**

**Seventeenth Intergovernmental Session of the UNESCO-
IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent
Regions (IOCARIBE) –
(May 9 – 11, 2023)**

Covers all items of the Revised Provisional Agenda

PROVISIONAL ACTION PAPER

This Action Paper provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items. This information includes: (i) identification of relevant documentation; (ii) identification, under each substantive agenda item, of the issue before the Session and the expected decision or draft recommendations when available to date; (iii) background information.

This Action Paper provides also the basis of the draft summary report of the session. It is written in past tense to streamline the reporting process. A summary of the discussion that led to decisions under each agenda item will be prepared by the Secretariat and the Rapporteur and will complete the draft summary report. Draft decisions and recommendations are proposed in the document in order to focus the debate of each agenda item without prejudice to the prerogatives of any Member State, partner organization, Officer or the IOCARIBE Secretary.

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1. OPENING

1. The Chairperson of the IOC (of UNESCO) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE, Mr. Arnulfo Sanchez (Panama) opened the online session of the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions SC-IOCARIBE-XVII at 09.00 hrs on May 9, 2023.
2. Mr. Sanchez introduced Her Excellency, Ms J. Elizabeth Taylor, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia. She addressed the Session and welcomed participants and delegations to Colombia and to the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.
3. IOC Executive Secretary and UNESCO ADG/IOC, Mr. Vladimir Ryabinin addressed the Session in representation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[Rule of Procedure 8]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/1 Prov. Rev.	Revised Provisional Agenda
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/1 Add. Prov.	Revised Provisional Timetable
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE- XVII/2 prov.	Provisional Action Paper (<i>this document</i>)
<u>Report:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBEXVII/3 Prov.	Executive Summary Report of the Sixteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions [Online Meeting] May 3-5, 2021/En. Sp. Fr.
<u>References:</u>	IOC/EC-55/SR Prov.	Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Council Paris, 14-17 June 2022
	IOC/A-31/EN, SP, FR	Thirty-first Session of the Assembly, Paris, 14-25 June 2021 [Online Session]

4. The IOCARIBE Chairperson, Mr. Arnulfo Sanchez introduced this item. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were submitted to the Session for adoption.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation

The Sub-Commission,

I. Agenda

1. Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in document IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVI/1 Prov. [with the following additional modifications:]

5. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION (CHAIR)

[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation

II. Rapporteur

1. On a proposal of [country], seconded by [countries],
2. Designates _____ of [country] Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the Session;

6. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

[Rule of Procedure 12]

7. The IOCARIBE Secretary, Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this item. The Session was requested to work in Plenary as far as possible. However, where deemed necessary, the Session was requested to constitute open-ended working groups.
8. She invited the Sub-commission to form three sessional committees, the Financial Committee, the Recommendations Committee and the Elections Committee, and invited proposals for additional technical sessional working groups.
9. These Working Groups may be formed to deal with specific questions arising from Agenda Items. Considering that the Session is hybrid, these Groups would meet before or after Plenary. Their product shall serve as the basis for and to facilitate the debate in Plenary. She then invited nominations for sessional working groups.
10. The IOCARIBE Secretary informed the Session that for this purpose a form would be available for countries to nominate and register to each of the Committees established. A slide with instructions and the deadline for receiving nominations was put on screen and link on the chat. Nominations will open until noon on Tuesday 09 May 2023. She also informed about the dates the Committees would meet.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation

The Sub commission,

III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups

1. Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and referred them to the following agenda items and responsibilities:
2. Financial Committee (to examine the financial implications of draft recommendations, and the financial strategy for project and programme implementation – item 8.1: Programme and Budget and propose a comprehensive draft recommendation: under the chairmanship of [name] (country) with the following Member States declaring their wish to participate: _____.
3. Recommendations Committee (to report on all draft recommendations duly presented for consideration at the session – item 10: under the chairmanship of [name] (country) with the following Member States declaring their wish to participate: _____.
4. Elections Committee (to examine all proposals of candidates for the elections to the chair and vice-chairs at the present session, and to report on them –item 8.2): under the chairmanship of [name] (country) with the following Member States declaring their wish to participate: _____. IOCARIBE Secretary provides the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

11. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTATION AND TIMETABLE (CHAIR)

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/1 Add Prov Rev. 3	Revised Timetable
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/1 Prov Rev. 3	Revised Provisional Agenda
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/4 Prov.	Provisional List of Documents
<u>Information:</u>	Logistics Note IOCARIBE XVII	Logistics Note
	Template IOCARIBE XVII	Template for submission of written records to the IOCARIBE Summary Report
	IOC/INF 1148	IOC Statutes
	IOC/INF 1166	IOC Rules of Procedure

12. The IOCARIBE Secretary, Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this item. She briefly reviewed the list of working documents and reminded the Session that the report would be focused on recommendations. The Secretary reminded that draft recommendations would be discussed at the Recommendations committee, and as early as possible, draft recommendations should be submitted to the Secretariat by Member States. The Action Paper was intentionally drafted as a pre-report in order to streamline the reporting process during the session. Member States that wished to have specific, particularly important, plenary interventions recorded, were invited to provide written records thereof in one of the three languages of the Sub-commission, to be annexed to the report. A template and a dedicated e-mail address (p.wills-velez@unesco.org) was set up to this end (IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVI/Inf. 1 Add.). Ms Inniss reminded Member States that all documents for the Session are available at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3873>. She informed the Session that a slide would be made available to be projected with the session page link to access documentation as well as it

would be provided at the chat for reference. The translation and the adoption of the report in two languages would be done by correspondence after the session.

3. IOCARIBE MATTERS AND REPORTS

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

<i>Information:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/Inf.3	Statement of the Chairperson on the Status of the Sub-Commission
<i>Information:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBEXV/3 Prov.	Executive Summary Report of the Sixteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions [Online Meeting] May 3-5, 2021

13. In accordance with rule of procedure 8.1(a), Mr. Arnulfo Sanchez (Panama) the IOCARIBE Chairperson, delivered an oral statement on recent developments in the work of the Sub-Commission since the Sixteenth Session of IOCARIBE (Online Meeting, May 3-5, 2021) and perspectives for the coming years.

3.2 IOCARIBE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE SIXTEENTH SESSION AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

<i>Working document:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/2 Annex 1	Secretary's Report work accomplished since Fifteenth Session on Programme and Budget
<i>Information:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XV/3 Prov.	Executive Summary Report of the Sixteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions [Online Meeting] May 3-5, 2021

14. The IOCARIBE Secretary, Ms Lorna Inniss, introduced this agenda item. She referred to the programme progress and to the implementation of decisions and recommendations during the period 2021 – 2023, particularly those made at the Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Commission held online in May 2021.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation

Report of the IOCARIBE Secretary on Programme and Budget

The Sub-commission,

1. Having examined document IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVI/2 Annex 1,
2. Takes note of the report of the IOCARIBE Secretary on programme and budget implementation, including the report on budget execution 2019-2021.

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

4.1 IOC MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2022–2029

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/INF 1314	IOC Medium Term Strategy 2022 - 2029
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15. The IOC Head of Marine Policy and Regional Implementation, Mr. Julian Barbieri introduced this agenda item.
16. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.2 REVISED IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

<u>Working document:</u>	OC-32/4.3. Doc 1	IOC Capacity Development Strategy for 2023-2030
	IOC-32/4.3. Doc 1 Annex	IOC Capacity Development Strategy for 2023–2030 Annex.
	IOC-32/4.3. Doc 2	Outreach And Communications Plan to Promote the Visibility and Reach of the IOC CD Strategy 2023 – 2030

17. Mr Peter Pissierssens, IOC Capacity Development Coordinator, introduced this agenda item, and discussed its potential implementation at the regional and national levels. Through IOC Decision A-31/3.5.3, the Assembly at its 31st session decided to extend the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2015-2021 until July 2023, reconstituting the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts with instruction to the Group to continue working on the preparation of the draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 and submit a final draft of the new CD Strategy and an outreach and communications plan to the Assembly at its 32nd session.
18. At the third meeting of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (October 2021), a Working Group on the revision of the IOC CD Strategy was established and tasked to continue working on the revision of the Strategy based on the recommendations of the GE-CD Task Team relating to the revision of the CD Strategy (IOC/INF-1396). The Working Group met three times in early 2022 to work on the draft IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030, which was presented and subsequently approved by the fourth session of the GE-CD (November 2022) for adoption by the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly. A Working Group on Outreach was also established to prepare an outreach proposal to promote the visibility and reach of the IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030.
19. The key updates made in the Strategy resulted in a slightly shortened version, removed references relating to selected projects, and instead captured by the Ocean CD-Hub, an online compendium of CD opportunities worldwide. The Executive Summary incorporated an increased recognition that the ocean plays in political, commercial, science and society and the importance of capacity development in the delivery of the Decade of Ocean Science. It also highlighted IOC's critical role in fostering international cooperation while using the strategy as the motivation to develop an implementation plan, such that IOC CD activities are clearly articulated and that the benefits are more readily identified.
20. The resulting IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030 framework maintained the original six outputs, with

16 activities detailed in 31 actions. It is noted that while this framework provides general guidance on elements of an implementation plan yet to be developed, it explores venues for elevating IOC's impact to the required scale.

21. Document 4.2 Doc. 2 'Outreach and Communications Plan to Promote the Visibility and Reach of the IOC CD Strategy' lays out the recommendations from the Outreach Working Group on concrete plans to highlight the core messages of the IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030, and proposed ways for the Strategy to reach its target audience. Other than promotional materials and activities, the plan contains strategies for communications in two stages following the launch of the IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030, utilizing existing platforms and resources of the IOC.
22. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.3 DRAFT UNESCO ROLLING OPERATIONAL STRATEGY/Framework FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES 2022–2029

<u>Working document:</u>		Draft Rolling Operational Strategy for SIDS
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23. Mr Jean-Paul Ngome, former Interim Regional IOCARIBE Coordinator, introduced this agenda item.
24. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.4 DRAFT REVISED IOC OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA EXCHANGE POLICY

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC-32/4.4. Doc 1	Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (2003, 2019)
	IOC-32/3.4.2. Doc 1	IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023–2029)

25. Mr Peter Pissierssens, Head of IODE, introduced this item.
26. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.5 DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW IOC-WIDE STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 16	Progress in the Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Strategy, Including Marine Spatial Planning, Sustainable Blue Growth and Large Marine Ecosystems
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27. Mr Julian Barbieri, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, introduced this item, recalling that over the last three decades, the IOC has embarked in the development of science-based approaches to support integrated ocean management efforts at local, national, and transboundary levels. These include: (i) the Large Marine Ecosystem approach focusing on transboundary management of marine resources with partners such as NOAA, GEF, and UNDP; (ii) the establishment of Integrated Coastal Area Management programme focusing on technical tools and related capacity development for coastal management, adaptation and hazard mitigation. (ref. *ICAM Strategy* endorsed by the IOC Assembly in 2015 through document [IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 16](#)); and
- (iii) since 2006, IOC has been leading international efforts in Marine Spatial Planning, developing technical guidance supported by related capacity development actions in all ocean basins.
28. This was reinforced in 2017, with the development of a joint roadmap between IOC and the European Commission to advance MSP implementation globally and the establishment of the MSPGlobal initiative. The Joint Roadmap was renewed in 2022 for a further five years. Building on the political commitments of the High-Level Panel to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction by 2030, the provisions of the UN Ocean Conference Lisbon Declaration highlighting the role of science-based actions and innovation to “informing integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making”; various initiatives of international, regional and national institutions to support the implementation of ocean management, sustainable ocean planning, marine/maritime spatial planning, and other area-based/ecosystem management approaches, there is now an opportunity to accelerate these efforts in all ocean basins through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030.
29. In light of these recent advancement in the area of ocean management and considering the objectives of the IOC Medium-term Strategy (2022–2029), it is timely for IOC and its Member States to consider adopting an IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning & Management which would guide the contribution of the Commission across its programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments, through the development of new services, ecosystem-based management tools, assessment and related information products, as well as capacity development in support to sustainable ocean management.
30. Mr Barbieri finally highlighted the process for developing the IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning Management (2024–2030), as well as the consultation process foreseen to collect inputs from Member States, IOC programmes and technical bodies as well as relevant stakeholders engaged in ocean management, prior to its presentation to the IOC Council at its 57th session in 2024.
31. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.6 DRAFT UPDATED IOCARIBE MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/4.6 Prov	IOCARIBE Medium-Term Strategic Science Plan (2023-2029)
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/4.6 Prov	PLAN ESTRATÉGICO DE CIENCIAS A MEDIANO PLAZO DE IOCARIBE 2023-2029.docx

32. Ms Lorna Inniss, IOCARIBE Regional Coordinator, introduced this item.
33. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

5. IOCARIBE CONTRIBUTION TO UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

5.1 UN OCEAN DECADE: GLOBAL UPDATE

34. Mr Julian Barbieri, Ocean Decade Focal Point, introduced this item, supported by Ms Alison Clausen, Programme Specialist. They presented an overview of the progress in operationalizing the Implementation Plan. He reported that to date, four Calls for Decade Actions have been concluded and have resulted in the endorsement of 47 Decade programmes, 235 Decade projects and 79 Decade contributions. The fifth Call for Decade Actions is currently open until 31 August 2023. He reported that while the portfolio of Decade Actions exhibits strong thematic diversity, there are still important gaps in leadership from partners in SIDS and LDCs.
35. Mr Barbieri reported that the growing network of nine decentralised coordination structures are essential partners to coordinate and support existing Decade Actions, analyse gaps and future priorities, and catalyse new Decade Actions in response to future Calls for Decade Actions. He thanked partner institutions for their commitments in establishing decentralised coordination structures but indicated that gaps in the network remained in priority thematic areas and geographies, and also reminded the Assembly that the Decade Coordination Offices led or proposed by IOC required additional resources to become fully operational. In this context he highlighted the proposal for the establishment of a Decade Coordination Office within IOCARIBE that will be discussed under Agenda Item 5.3.
36. Mr Barbieri confirmed that 34 National Decade Committees have been established and are operational but highlighted the uneven geographic distribution of these Committees with very few Committees in SIDS or LDCs.
37. Mr Barbieri indicated that priorities for the Ocean Decade over the next 12 to 18 months will include increased focus on engagement of African countries and SIDS, including exploration of mechanisms for dedicated streams of funding for Decade Actions led by partners in these countries. He indicated that the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility that will be operationalised in coming months would focus on delivering demand-driven capacity development to Decade partners, with a focus on LDCs, SIDS and Early Career Ocean Professionals. He recalled the importance of the work of the Foundations Dialogue and the Ocean Decade Alliance, both for direct support to Ocean Decade initiatives and to raise awareness of the importance of investing in ocean science, and thanked the members of these groups for their continued engagement.
38. He recalled that the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference will be generously hosted by Spain in Barcelona in April 2024 and will be a critical moment in the implementation of the Decade. This Conference will provide an opportunity to take stock of achievements of the Decade to date, and to set a collective vision for the way forward and recalled that strong engagement of partners from the region will be important. Mr Barbieri noted the importance of strong articulation of the outcomes of the Conference with the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference to be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica.

5.2 STATUS OF PROJECTS AND TAC WORKING GROUPS, AND PREPARATION OF NEW PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT

39. IOCARIBE Secretary Ms Lorna Inniss, introduced this item and referred to the energy and momentum for Ocean Decade Actions during the previous IOCARIBE XVI Session, to begin work on the proposals for Decade endorsed projects and for engagement to advance a co-design process. Working groups were formed, workshops were held and the Regional Planning Group was meeting regularly. With the departure of the IOCARIBE Secretary, some momentum was lost, and it is envisaged that there will be significant progress during 2023 and beyond.
40. Ms Inniss presented as Interim Coordinator of the Ocean Decade Endorsed Project No 138.2. Integrating Coastal Hazard Warning Systems for TAC. She noted that this project is included in the Ocean Decade Endorsed programme CoastPredict, and it enhances the work of the ICG Caribe EWS. She reported on the transition of Lead Contact for the iCHEWS Project and advised that work is basically just beginning, with the confirmation of several partners already identified, and the ongoing review of a survey completed by UN DRR office in Barbados, focused on gaps and needs for early warning systems.
41. The project objectives are to prioritize the integration of existing and new coastal hazards early warning systems and services considering four components: Monitoring and Warning, Risk Knowledge, Warning Dissemination and Communication, and Response Capabilities, with cross cutting governance and capacity development considerations. Linkages to regional and international efforts and national and local priorities would be maximized and strengthened. Many ocean-related hazards and their impacts would be considered, including Tropical Cyclones, Climate Change, Tsunami, Sargassum, Wastewater, Oil Spills, and Coral Bleaching, mindful of the impacts and lessons from COVID-19. Regional, national and local impacts will be identified and common features of the underlying infrastructure elements will be enhanced and optimized.
42. Ms Soraya Silva reported on project No. 134.2 Pollutants Observatory. The TAC Pollutants Observatory project is one of the endorsed projects by the Ocean Decade and is part of the Marine Life 2030 Program. This project is based in the need to develop an inventory of contaminant sources along with a regional baseline database and current values, to better understand and interpret the impact of the pollutants and climate change on marine life along with future changes and trends.
43. Ms Silva noted that this work will focus on addressing key gaps in knowledge related to understanding the fate of pollutants in the region. The key and essential action toward success of this project is the integration of diverse ocean actors in the TAC region related to marine pollution and different stressors, to increase and use of ocean knowledge through cooperation and partnership.
44. The activities initiated so far includes the identification and engagement of key partners or contributors, as UNEP-CEP (Marine Pollution Regional Activities Centres-CIMAB-Cuba and IMA-Trinidad and Tobago). The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention will assist with coordination of its 26 ratified Member States in the Wider Caribbean region. Also conversations were initiated with different stakeholders, at the national and regional level, with networks, as GPML, the collaboration with the Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe), The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and other similar regional initiatives will be beneficial for development of regional initiatives and mechanisms.

45. Another network expected to contribute is REMARCO "Research Network of Marine-Coastal Stressor in Latin America and the Caribbean" with the goal to contribute to the definition of public policies towards the integral solutions of pollution problems. Meetings are now being held to establishing working groups, advisory group to co-design, to review, update and implement existing regional strategies and action plans and it is important to establish the timeline and management framework between all partners.
46. Mr Douglas Wilson introduced the endorsed project No. 135.2 - TAC Ocean Observing and Forecasting System.
47. Mr Francisco Arias introduced the endorsed project No. 133.2 - Gain knowledge to respond to multiple stressors.
48. Ms Elva Escobar introduced two endorsed projects No. 137.2 - Ocean Literacy in the Tac region, and No 136.2. Enhancing capacity development in the TAC Region.
49. Mr Diego Billings introduced the endorsed project No 140.2. MACHC-IOCARIBE Seabed 2030 Project.
50. Other TAC Ocean Decade Working Group Chairs were invited to contribute to the discussion regarding the role and current function of their working group chairs.

5.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF UN OCEAN DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/5.3 Prov.	ESTABLISHMENT OF UN OCEAN DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE TROPICAL AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN
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51. Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this item, and invited IOCARIBE Consultant to present the concept paper and to report on his findings during his consultation with states and partner organizations

5.4 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TAC REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP TO ADVANCE AND COORDINATE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIONS FOR WTA ENGAGEMENT IN THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/5.4 Prov	Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Region Ocean Decade Taskforce
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52. Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this item and invited the IOCARIBE Consultant to present the document and report on his findings.

5.5 ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OCEAN DECADE ACTIVITIES, AND NATIONAL DECADE COMMITTEES

53. Ms Alison Clausen introduced this item and presented case studies on communication and engagement from other regional programs.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation**IOCARIBE CONTRIBUTION TO UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**

The Sub-commission,

1. Having examined documents briefs submitted on the Work of the Ocean Decade,
2. Takes note of the work accomplished and makes the following recommendations

6. REVIEW OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

54. The IOCARIBE Secretary introduced this agenda item and noted that in her discussions with IOC of UNESCO, the IOCARIBE Board of Officers, other Member States and partners, there were common themes:
- The need for a thorough rationalization of all IOCARIBE programmes in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
 - The need to configure the work of the Sub-Commission to demonstrate benefits to end-users and increase their engagement.
 - The need to mobilize resources so that the objectives of priority programmes identified by Member States may be fully implemented.
 - That priority be given in the coming biennium to the engagement of youth in IOCARIBE programmes, especially Early Career Professionals (ECOPs).
55. Ms Inniss noted that in the past four months since her arrival at the Sub-Commission, efforts have begun to address all the above themes. She noted that the participation of one of the ECOPs in the UN Decade Side Event and the presentation from the Caribbean Youth Environment Network under agenda item 7.1 represent the start of this youth engagement process.
56. Project Coordinators made brief presentations to the Session, focused on ongoing activities and/or future actions, as follows:

6.1 OCEAN RESEARCH**6.1.1 Harmful Algal Blooms**

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/Inf. 6	PROGRESS REPORT 2021-2023 TO IPHAB XVI
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57. Soraya Silva presented on this agenda item.

6.1.2 Ocean Acidification

58. Kirsten Isensee presented on this agenda item.

6.2 OBSERVATIONS, SERVICES, DATA AND INFORMATION, AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

6.2.1 IOCARIBE GOOS Report from Science Conference

59. John Cortinas, Vice Chair, presented this item. The GOOS Steering Committee at its twelfth session (25–27 April 2023, Halifax, Canada) assessed GOOS progress towards the 11 Strategic Objectives (GOOS 2030 Strategy, GOOS Report 239, GOOS Implementation Plan Summary 2024–2025, IOC/A-32/4.8.1. Doc (1)) and identified key priorities for the next intersessional period. These include: as a priority the change process for evolving GOOS Governance with stakeholders and its co-sponsors; advancing partnership for delivery with key global organizations and operational ocean forecasting systems; supporting the Ocean Decade through the GOOS Ocean Decade Programmes remains an important focus; strengthening regional and national coordination is an important part of evolving the GOOS structure, and work will continue to support the renewed activity for regional coordination in the Pacific Islands (PI-GOOS), Caribbean (IOCARIBE-GOOS), and Africa.

6.2.2 Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/IODE-XXVII/3s	Twenty-Seventh Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
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60. Peter Pissierssens presented this item.

6.2.3 IOC Ocean Info Hub and LAC Ocean Info Hub

61. The ODIS Catalogue of Sources (ODISCat) (<http://catalogue.odis.org>) is an online browsable and searchable catalogue of existing ocean related web-based sources/systems of data and information as well as products and services. The content of the catalogue has continuously been growing and (as on 18 April 2023) contains now 3105 entries of on-line content sources covering 16 content types. 2179 of those entries have already been quality controlled and this quality control process will continue in the future. ODICatt is the starting point for discovering sources that are compliant with the ODIS-Architecture that is defined in the Ocean InfoHub project.
62. The IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) is an e-environment where users can discover data, data products, data services, information, information products and services provided by Member States, projects and other partners associated with IOC. While ODIS will initially focus on "partners associated with IOC" this has been expanded, considering the partnership established under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. As such it will become a key contribution to the data chapter of the Ocean Decade implementation plan. The first Steering Group meeting for the ODIS project was held in August 2022.
63. The Ocean InfoHub (OIH) Project (<https://oceaninfohub.org/>) is a four-year project, funded by the Government of Flanders, Kingdom of Belgium. The aim of the project is to support the initial development of the Ocean Data and Information System architecture (ODIS-Arch), as well as develop communities of practice (information systems and their end users) in three pilot regions: Africa; the Latin America and Caribbean region; and the Pacific Island Developing states. Thus, it aims to improve access to global ocean information, data and knowledge products for management and sustainable development.
64. Since June 2020, three regional communities of practice (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific Small Island Developing States) have been established, and Steering Group meetings have been held over three sessions. An expert technical working group has grown, now with over 120 technical experts from partner projects and pilot regions, with technical working platforms on [Slack](#) and Github. The global ODIS-architecture has been established, and proof-of-concept achieved with several partners. The documentation for the

ODIS-architecture is openly available online <https://book.oceaninfohub.org/index.html>.

65. INVEMAR has developed a pilot regional hub of the Ocean InfoHub, available at <http://portete.invemar.org.co/chm#/> departing from the Clearinghouse mechanism for LAC previously designed and implemented two years ago, but now adapted to ODIS protocol. OIH Caribbean node includes the Caribbean Marine Atlas CMA (<https://www.caribbeanmarineatlas.net/>) as the repository for geospatial data and information for the region, this platform offers more than 350 cartographic layers related to more than 10 thematic around Integrated Coastal Zone Management ICAM. Many partner organisations ([working spreadsheet available here](#)) are working with the project to demonstrate proof-of-concept of the ODIS architecture. 18 project partners are fully operational nodes in ODIS, and are contributing openly discoverable content to the Ocean InfoHub knowledge graph. We have developed an Ocean InfoHub Global Search portal as a demonstration of ODIS (<https://oceaninfohub.org>), and this will be further developed over the duration of the project, to improve and refine services offered. The portal currently (April 2023) contains nearly 100,000 content items in 8 content categories: (i) Experts (24,000); (ii) Institutions (13,000); (iii) Documents (42,000); (iv) Training (1,900); (v) Vessels (238); (vi) Projects (3,500); (vii) Datasets (5,500); and (viii) Spatial data (8,700).
66. A training course was prepared and delivered via the OceanTeacher Global Academy platform in 2021: IOC/OTGA/OIH Training course: Implementing the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) architecture. <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=722>. The course resources remain open online and may be used at any time. <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=722>. Full course materials were translated into Spanish, French and Portuguese. Courses have been offered in four languages during April 2023.
67. A Programme called “An Ocean Data and Information System supporting the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” (OceanData-2030) has been registered with the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The 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’.

6.2.4 ICG CARIBE EWS

68. Report - Anthony Gutierrez presented this item. Se dio inicio con el reporte de los países, sobre su situación actual y lo que han avanzado en los últimos años, dentro de los elementos expuestos están: el manejo de sus mecanismos de comunicación y alerta, SOPs (Procedimientos operativos estándar), estaciones mareográficas (Dañadas, actuales y futuras; transmisión a la red global), participación en los ejercicios Caribe Wave, protocolos del país, proyectos vigentes, proyectos futuros.
69. Los países que brindaron sus reportes fueron: Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Guatemala, Francia, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Estados Unidos, Venezuela (brindo su reporte el día viernes).
70. PTWC como proveedor de alertas de tsunamis (TSP) brindo un informe sobre trabajo en el Caribe, comento que en la cuenca hay un faltante de estaciones Mareográficas, y que las boyas DART están por ponerse en funcionamiento nuevamente. Se generaron 9 reportes de evento por tsunami, de estos 4 tuvieron un tamaño importante (Islas Sandwich, Haití, HTHH y otro). Se plantea una estrategia de monitorear los volcanes que podrían generar tsunamis, además se está en fase de prueba el cambiar el orden de los reportes, para que pueda observarse los informes de tiempos de arribo (ETAs) agrupados por país y no por registro, esto a nivel mundial.

71. Respecto al Caribe wave 2023 se informó que la participación fue de 432.000 personas, 20.000 más que el en el 2022, y el mensaje de prueba "Dummy" fue recibido por 97% de los países miembros.
72. Los grupos de trabajo y los equipos de tarea brindaron sus informes sobre el avance desde la última ICG.
73. WG 1 Monitoreo y detección, WG 2 Evaluación de peligros y riesgos, WG 3 Revisión de Tsunami, WG 4 Concienciación pública, educación y resiliencia, TT Caribe Wave 2024, TT Tsunami ready, TT Ocean decade.
74. Se pretende que trabajo que hacen estos grupos de trabajo y equipo de tarea fueran alineados con el marco de Sendai, la Década de los Océanos de la Naciones Unidas, el programa de Tsunami de la IOC y el programa Tsunami ready, es por esto que se planteó la reorganización de estos, y sus coordinaciones quedando de la siguiente manera:
- WG 1. Conocimiento del riesgo (Chair y ViceChair)
 WG 2. Detección, Análisis y pronóstico (Chair y 3 ViceChair), Detección de fuentes de tsunami, Detección de olas de tsunami, Pronósticos de tsunami
 WG 3. Disseminación y comunicación de advertencias (Chair y 3 ViceChair), Capacidades de preparación y respuesta; TsunamiReady; y Mitigación
 WG 4. Preparación y capacidad de respuesta (Chair y ViceChair)
 TT Caribe Wave (Chair y ViceChair).
75. En este evento se hizo entrega del reconocimiento tsunami ready a las comunidades: Tivives, Barú, Dominical y Dominicalito del pacífico de Costa Rica.
76. Centro de Asesoramiento de Tsunamis de América Central, informo sobre sus acciones para entrar en operaciones como Proveedor de avisos de tsunami regional, expuso sobre la capacidades con las que cuentan, se espera que entre en operación total en abril del 2024.
77. Los escenarios seleccionados para el Caribe Wave 2024 son: El de la trinchera de Puerto Rica y el Cinturón deformado del Panamá (1882), y la fecha propuesta es el 21 de marzo.
78. Se eligio nuevos Chair (Gerard Metayer de Haiti) y Vice Chair: Regina Browne (USA), Anthony Murillo (Costa Rica), y Marie Noelle Raveau (France)
79. Y quedo abierta la búsqueda de sede para la ICG 2024, y se propuso que se realizara en la semana del 6 al 10 mayo, UNESCO va a enviar una solicitud de candidaturas a los países miembros.

6.2.5 MACHC-IOCARIBE Seabed 2030 Strategy and Work Plan 2023

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/IOCARIBE-MSS WORKPLAN 2023	MACHC-IOCARIBE Seabed 2030 DRAFT Work Plan for 2023
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80. Contribution to IBCCA. Dagoberto David and Diego Billings presented this agenda item.

6.3 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

6.3.1 Ocean Teacher Global Academy

81. The OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) is a global network of seventeen Regional and Specialised Training Centres delivering training on ocean sciences, services and marine and

information data management (including marine biodiversity data and ocean best practices) relevant to IOC Programmes and contributing to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, using the OceanTeacher e-Learning Platform. OTGA aims at building equitable capacity related to ocean research, observations and services in all IOC Member States.

82. OTGA is contributing primarily to the priority area 7 of the UN Decade for Ocean Science through the implementation of capacity development through, *inter alia*, transfer of marine technology, ocean literacy, education and training. OTGA will also contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to conserve and sustainably manage ocean and marine resources and to build the scientific and institutional capacity needed to achieve the SDGs.
83. **OTGA fully contributes to the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, addressing key outputs identified in the strategy through increased support in the training activities of all IOC programmes. This support includes the Tsunami Unit, Ocean Literacy, Harmful Algal Bloom programme, IODE, Ocean Sciences and the Ocean Decade, amongst others. OTGA supports IOCARIBE to ensure the capacity development needs of the region are being met by supporting the OTGA Regional and Specialized Training Centres.**
84. Since 2020 OTGA has delivered more than 30 online training courses in the IOCARIBE region through its network of Regional and Specialized Training Centres in Argentina (Escuela de Ciencias del Mar), Brazil/Uruguay (University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and University of Uruguay (Udelar)), Colombia (Marine and Coastal Research Institute in Colombia (INVEMAR)), and Ecuador (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL)). Courses are delivered in Spanish, Portuguese and English. The result of this training will be increased national and regional capacity to effectively address the priority areas of the Ocean Decade and 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.
85. The direct benefits of OTGA for IOCARIBE include:
- Increased learning opportunities to broaden the knowledge-base, skills and job competencies of Member States in the region
 - Increased access to facilities and equipment in the Regional and Specialised Training Centres to provide access to existing learning services for developing competencies
 - Increased quality of learning services offered by Regional and Specialized Training Centres
 - Increased interaction with IOC Programmes and other relevant global and regional initiatives
 - OTGA has developed collaborations beyond UNESCO/IOC to position itself as the 'training hub' for ocean sciences, including topics related to the management of the impact and interactions with human activities.
86. Paula Sierra will present on this agenda item.

6.4 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION FOR POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

6.4.1 Ocean Literacy

87. Ms Francesca Santoro and Elva Escobar presented this agenda item.

6.4.2 Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Ocean Economy

<u>Working document:</u>	MSP forum doc. 1 edition	Regional MSP forum for Latin America and the Caribbean
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6.4.3 Procaribe+

<u>Working document:</u>	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) And PROCARIBE+
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88. Ms Anamaria Nunez presented this agenda item.

6.4.4 Sargassum and Oil Spills Capacity Development and Monitoring

89. Joaquin Trinanes presented this item.

90. After the review of the regional programmes of the Sub commission, the Chairman informed the Session about proposed actions and recommendations. Those proposed recommendations will be reviewed by the Recommendations Committee.

91. The representatives of ___ Member States and Organizations took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

7. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

7.1 STATUS OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

92. The IOCARIBE Secretary Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this agenda item. She provided a general introduction on the progress made in the established cooperation with international organizations and other regional programmes. She noted the importance of forming sustained partnerships with organizations, especially related to the revitalization of the IOCARIBE GOOS Regional Alliance.

93. Representatives from cooperating Organizations present at the Session were invited to present:

94. Ms Jessica Snowden presented AtlantOS, and how it will enhance IOCARIBE GOOS to develop a partnership.

95. Dr Mark Oduber, presented on the Islands Innovation Network, and how it can support the implementation of the Draft Rolling Operational Strategy for SIDS in the region.

96. Ms Shannon Weekes presented on the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN). She noted that it is important to incorporate young people into the work of the IOC Sub-Commission, recognizing that they are the ocean governance leaders of tomorrow, and will inherit the successes and failures of the present generation of leaders. She presented a brief overview of the CYEN's work and presented a recommendation that the meeting agree to include young people and Early Career Professionals in all committees, working groups and programs.

97. Ms Andrea Miralles-Barboza presented on the Local 2030 Islands Network and explained the benefits of partnership for the implementation of the Draft Rolling Operational Strategy for

SIDS in the region. Additionally, the renewed emphasis of UNESCO on cooperation with SIDS also requires engagement with several organizations that will support the Secretariat in its implementation.

98. Ms Joanna Akrofi presented on the proposal for the LAC Region through GEMS Ocean. The Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme is focusing on integrating global observing systems to provide fit-for-purpose information and data to member states/regional bodies and support policy making to conserve, restore and properly manage coastal and marine ecosystems. The transdisciplinary partnership is convened by UNEP. The GEMS Ocean proposed pilot project, The Caribbean Digital Twin prototype (CDTp) is an innovative initiative that aims to improve our understanding of the Caribbean region's coastal and ocean environment and ultimately inform policy making. The CDTp will be supported by a Data Hackathon in the region, which will bring together experts and stakeholders to analyze and interpret data collected in the region and understand the constraints and opportunity for the development of the prototype. The hackathon will help identify the critical environmental factors, including the state of the ocean, the health of the marine ecosystem and the impact of human activities on these ecosystems. The results supported by capacity building activities in the region will be used to develop a digital twin prototype that can be used to monitor, model, and manage the use of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems. The CDTp will try to integrate existing sources of data and information from a range of stakeholders to provide a comprehensive almost real-time, virtual representation of the Caribbean's coastal and marine environment. This will provide support to ongoing efforts by the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and other regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations to develop period state of environment reports for the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean region.
99. The Sub-Commission in close coordination with IOC continues actively to enhance and strengthen links with other United Nations Programmes and other international and regional organizations.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

8.1 REPORT BY FINANCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR NEW BIENNIUM 2024-2025

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/2 Annex 1	Report of the Chair of the Financial Committee on Programme and Budget
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100. The Chair of the Financial Committee presented to the Plenary the result of deliberations of the Financial Committee.

8.2 ELECTIONS OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

101. [Rules of Procedure No. 25(3) and Appendix I] *[On 11 May 2021 the Sub-Commission is expected to elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Rules of Procedure 13 and 17) for a two-year period (intersessional)].*

8.2.1 Election of the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission

8.2.2 Election of Vice-Chairpersons of the Sub-Commission

<u>Information:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/Inf. 2	Procedure for Elections of the Officers of the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission
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102. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee introduced this item. The Committee worked in conformity with the technical arrangements for the elections of the Officers of the Sub-Commission as laid down in Appendix I of the Rules of Procedure. The list of nominations (to be received by 18.00 hours local time on 09 May, 2023) was put before the Sub-commission.
103. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee thanked former members of the Board for the great work accomplished during their term and asked them to take the floor to address the Session. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee congratulated the newly elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and asked them to take the floor.
104. The Sub-commission congratulated newly elected Officers.
105. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

8.3 DATES AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

[Statutes, Art. 6C.7; Rule of procedure 19.2]

106. The Chairman presented this agenda item.
107. The IOCARIBE Chairperson introduced this item.
108. He recalled that Regional Sub-Commissions of IOC should meet every two (2) years, preferably before the IOC Assembly, to review their activities and timely submit their Recommendations and budgetary request to the main governing body of IOC.
109. The IOCARIBE Chairperson requested Member States to present their nominations to host the 18th Session of the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission during the first quarter of 2023.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII, Recommendation

Dates and Place of next Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE

The Sub-commission,

1. Decides to hold:

- (i) The 18th Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE in the first quarter 2023 at a place to be decided,

2. Calls on the Member States to consider the possibility of hosting this session or providing voluntary extrabudgetary contributions to allow its effective organization.

9. OTHER MATTERS

10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/ Addendum 1	Addendum for Adoption of Decisions and Recommendations
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110. The Chairperson of the Recommendations Committee reported to the Sub-Commission on the work of the Committee during the session.
111. The Chairperson of the Session invited the Sub-Commission to adopt the Draft Recommendations of its present Session

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

Adoption Decisions Recommendations

The Sub-Commission,

1. Adopts the Recommendations and Draft Summary Report for the present session;
2. Requests the IOCARIBE Secretary to circulate the summary report to Member States within one month after the closure of the session.

11. CLOSURE

112. The Sub-commission met in plenary session during three days from May 9 to May 11, 2023, considered __ items on its agenda and approved __ decisions and ___ recommendations.
113. The Chairperson of the IOCARIBE Sub-commission closed the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE at __ on May 11, 2023.