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| Summary  Introduction  Part I – Revised Programme and budget 2024–2025 as presented to and adopted by UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session (42 C/5)  Part II – Detailed IOC workplans based on Member States’ priorities as per IOC Resolution A-32/4(II)  Part III – Preliminary proposals for 2026–2029, first biennium 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5)  Decision proposed is referenced Dec. EC-57/5.3 in the Provisional Action Paper IOC/EC-57/AP. |

**Introduction**

1. In line with the established practice, the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session, 21–30 June 2023, considered document [IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc(1)](https://oceanexpert.org/document/32845) containing the Secretariat’s proposals for the Draft Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as submitted to the 216th session of UNESCO Executive Board in May 2023.
2. Considering it *‘as consistent with the guiding principles set out in Resolution EC-53/2 and the High Level Objectives defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029’*, the Assembly welcomed the UNESCO Executive Board’s decision 216 EX/44 to recommend that the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session *‘agree to an increase in the IOC’s share of the UNESCO regular budget of [1%], not to be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of the budget’* and *‘that a baseline be identified and agreed for the IOC’s share of UNESCO’s regular budget under document 42 C/5 and future C/5 documents and that no reduction to this baseline be made in the future unless agreed by the General Conference’*.
3. In adopting [IOC Resolution IOC/A-32/4](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387982.locale=en), the Assembly agreed on the *‘high-level principles should guide the Secretariat in the allocation of additional regular budget resources resulting from uplift of the IOC budget by 1% of the UNESCO budget’*.
4. Part I below presents the IOC part of the revised Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as presented by the Director-General of UNESCO to the 217th session of the UNESCO Executive Board in October 2023 and subsequently adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session in November 2023.
5. The revision of the 42 C/5 budget has been guided by two overarching imperatives: (a) the need to revise the budget ceiling given the return to an assessment base of 194 Member States (due to the United States of America re-joining the Organization [July 2023]), and (b) a commitment to significantly strengthen UNESCO’s programmatic support to Member States in times of existential global challenges.
6. Based on this revision of the overall UNESCO regular budget ceiling from US$ 534.6M to US$ 685.4M, the IOC regular budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) increased from US$ 13.5M (as considered by the Assembly at its 32nd session) to US$ 21.1M.
7. Part II below presents a short summary of how the increased budget will contribute to enhanced programme delivery, while Part III seeks to solicit Member States’ guidance on the 2026–2027 programme structure for the UNESCO Draft 43 C/5 preparation process, pending further guidance from the ‘IOC and the Future of the Ocean’ consultation process.

**Part I**

**Revised Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as presented to and adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session (42 C/5)**

*From pages 3 to 13: Abstract from document 42 C/5:* [*42 C/5 Approved*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389188.locale=fr) *Programme and Budget 2024–2025: second biennium of the 2022–2025 quadrennium*

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**Part II**

**Detailed IOC workplans based on Member States’ priorities**

**as per IOC Resolution A-32/4(II)**

**REVISED INTEGRATED BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

Table 1: Evolution of 42 C/5 Integrated Budgetary Framework

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Base Case Scenario - 216 EX Board** | **42 C/5 Approved** |
| **IOC Assembly 2023** | **217 EX Board & 42 GC** |
| **IOC Regular Budget** | **13,546,600** | **21,134,686** |
| Staff | 9,959,017 | 12,102,087 |
| Activities (non-staff) | 3,587,583 | 9,032,599 |
| **Voluntary Contributions (incl. funds to mobilize)** | **21,830,822** | **27,156,164** |
| **Total Integrated Budgetary Framework (IBF)** | **35,377,422** | **48,290,850** |

1. In developing its 2024–2025 workplans the Secretariat was guided by the following high-level principles adopted by IOC Member States in [IOC Resolution A-32/4.II](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387982.locale=en) for the allocation of additional resources under the regular budget, with a view to ‘stabilizing the functions of the IOC, including human resources, to address shortfalls and critical risks in order to provide a strong platform for the future’:

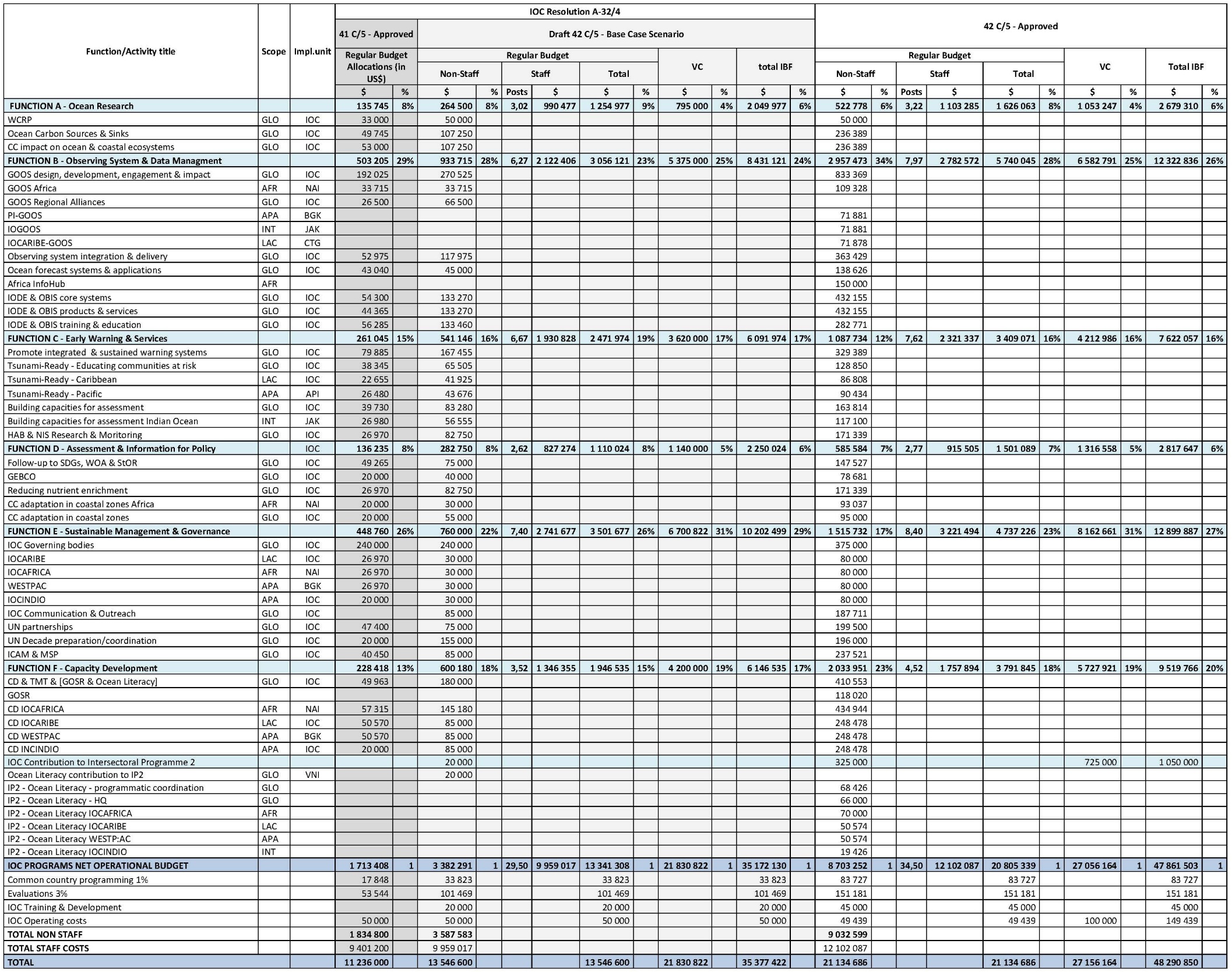
* ensure that an increase of no less than 1% of the IOC regular budget is allocated to IOCAFRICA
* aim at respecting the ratio of staff- versus non-staff costs supported from regular budget, as previously advised by the IOC Assembly in [Resolution XXVII-2](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373231.locale=fr);
* ensure that at least one third of additional resources is allocated to ‘stabilize all IOC existing functions, with the indicative pro-rata basis for distribution included in Annex 1 to IOC Resolution A-32/4;
* allocate at least one third of additional resources for targeted investment focused on critically vulnerable areas:

1. IODE
2. GOOS
3. Capacity Development
4. Regional Subsidiary bodies
5. With the details of budgetary allocations shown further down in Table 2, the summary of key changes introduced regarding the regular budget is as follows:

* Two thirds (68%) of additional non-staff resources allocated across the board to stabilise all IOC functions
* One third (32%) of additional non-staff resources was further allocated to targeted investment in IODE, GOOS, Capacity Development and Regional Subsidiary Bodies
* IOCAFRICA non-staff regular budget increased by 3% points of the total IOC regular budget in the 42 C/5 Approved – from US$ 239K to US$ 937K
* Overall, additional resources 73% of additional resources were allocated to ‘field’ entities and 27% to Headquarters (HQ)
* 1 new post was created at HQ for GOOS
* 4 new posts were created in the field: 1 for IODE in Ostend; 1 to reinforce IOCAFRICA Secretariat in Nairobi, 1 for the new IOCINDIO Secretariat to be established in consultation with Member States and 1 to reinforce our action in favour of Pacific SIDS
* Intersectoral output 3.IP2 (strengthening Ocean Literacy in UNESCO designated sites) shows a 69% increase
* Staff/Non-Staff ratio: 57% staff and 43% non-staff (compared to 74 and 26% in the scenario considered by the Assembly, with the IOC Assembly [Resolution XXVI-2](https://oceanexpert.org/document/7788) calling for no less than 25% of regular budget for non-staff).

Table 2: IOC Integrated Budgetary Framework

In the format of Annex I to IOC Resolution A-32/4



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**ENHANCED PROGRAMME DELIVERY**

1. With the increased budget, programme delivery will be stepped up across all IOC functions and value chain, with particular focus on long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities in support of Africa and SIDS.

**Function A – Ocean Research**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. Focus remains on supporting international collaboration to foster new knowledge, to translate that knowledge into products for policymakers and to build research capacity on ocean acidification, ocean deoxygenation, harmful algal blooms (also Function C), blue carbon and the ocean carbon cycle at large, as well as eutrophication and plastic pollution. Strategic partnerships will ensure a wide scientific and geographical coverage and engagement. The increase in resources will allow, in contradiction to previous biennia, to fund activities and expert groups partly or fully including targeted capacity development.

*Examples of targets set:*

* 5 additional Member States (3 in Africa and 1 SIDS) supported in ocean acidification observation and data management
* 3 additional Member States (1 in Africa and 1 SIDS) supported in Blue Carbon science and action to protect and restore respective ecosystems
* A 100% increase in the IOC-UNESCO contribution to the World Climate Research Programme
* Provide global leadership in integrated ocean carbon research (IOC-R)

*Key deliverables:*

* UN reporting on SDG Target 14.3 on ocean acidification
* Summary for policymakers on methodologies to reoxygenate ocean ‘dead zones’
* Strategic white papers, guidance documents and summaries for policymakers on ocean carbon, e.g. ocean carbon cycle, coastal blue carbon ecosystems

**Function B – Observing system/Data management**

**International Data & Information Exchange (IODE)**

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*Focus 2024–2025:*

* 1. increasing the number of Member States participating in international ocean data and information sharing through the IODE network of data centres and the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS);
  2. starting the implementation of the Ocean Data 2030 Decade Action, expanding ocean data ecosystem;
  3. increasing the volume of quality content (data, information and knowledge) shared by, and available to Member States to underpin their sustainable ocean planning and management;
  4. enabling Member States to actively and equitably participate in and benefit from IODE programme activities.

*Examples of targets set:*

* At least 10 additional data centres established by Member States (2 in Africa and 1 SIDS)
* Focused support of African Member States with the development of ODIS/Ocean InfoHub partners and nodes in Africa
* At least 40 partner institutions connected to the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) including 5 regions (Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Indian Ocean, Pacific and P-SIDS) and 50 partner databases/nodes (baseline 28)
* At least 200,000 content items[[1]](#footnote-2) available from ODIS (baseline 130,000)
* At least 15,000 users in 140 countries (baseline 6,500)
* At least 1,000 new data sets representing 20 million new records, accessible in OBIS.

*Key deliverables:*

* Global ocean data and information system providing trusted, quality controlled and securely archived ocean data and information
* Member States enabled to share and use quality ocean data and information and applicable to SDG reporting, contributing to GOSR, StOR and other reporting mechanisms and legal frameworks.

**Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. increasing the number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observation through GOOS and the GOOS regional alliances, delivering key data and information for science-informed solutions;
2. Framework for Ocean Observing (FOO) and 2030 Strategy setting the technical and substantive framework and direction;
3. GOOS Management Team Plan providing an overview of activities and resources & identify needs, including beyond 2025.

*Examples of targets set:*

* 10 additional Member States (Africa 4, SIDS 6) engaged in advancing ocean observations through GOOS
* 12 additional Member States (Africa 5, SIDS 7) actively monitoring ocean biological variables.

*Key deliverables:*

GOOS design, development, engagement & impact

* Support GOOS expert panels and cross-panel activities, including roadmaps or implementation plans for global carbon ocean observing (and biodiversity observations) to meet the needs of relevant UN mandates
* Evolving vision, governance and system integration vis a vis Member States, the Ocean Decade, the scientific community, policymakers, relevant UN entities and multilateral agreement mandates and other stakeholders
* GOOS community and representatives of its components supported to communicate on GOOS and advancing ocean observations.

Observing system integration & delivery

* Integration and data delivery including with OceanOPS, IODE and WMO
* Strengthen support to and engagement with GOOS regional alliances and national focal points to advance ocean observations
* Support GOOS project implementation and evolvement.

Ocean forecast systems & applications

* Support delivery of operational forecasting including with WMO and ETOOFS and national capacity development for assessing and increasing operational readiness levels.

**Function C – Early warning and services**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. Focus remains on supporting international collaboration to provide a key direct contribution to the implementation of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) by coordinating the intergovernmental network of four regional tsunami warning and mitigation systems; acting as global standard setter for global tsunami warning and mitigation and coordinating 13 Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) running round-the-clock operational services.
2. Coordinating a large network of National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP), IOC will be able to achieve major improvements in accuracy and timeliness of tsunami warnings, including a 100% increase, over the currently existing level, of the number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready. The IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), approved by the IOC Executive Council in 2022, embodies 12 Assessment, Preparedness and Response Indicators that support communities at risk to build capacities to effectively respond to warning and tsunami threats.
3. Within the context of the [*Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (2024–2030)*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386603.locale=fr) Member States should develop technical foundations to integrate services for tsunamis generated from non-seismic sources like volcano-generated tsunamis. More importantly, with the aim of reducing societal impact, IOC will strive to make sure that, by 2030, 100% of at-risk communities in the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean and northeast Atlantic are recognized as Tsunami Ready. SIDS being solidly defined as a priority group in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029, special emphasis will be put on SIDS and LDCs.

*Examples of targets set:*

* 15 additional Member States (with an additional 5 in Africa and 10 SIDS) equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
* 100% increase of the number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready, with a focus on SIDS and LDCs
* 8 additional Member States (4 in Africa and 2 SIDS) with enhanced capacity for management of harmful algal blooms.

*Key deliverables:*

* Increased number of sea level stations contributing to the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) for coastal hazards, including tsunamis. Restoration of two GLOSS Core Networks (GCN) stations in North Africa
* 6 new Tsunami Ready communities recognised in 5 SIDS in the Caribbean Region, 2 communities in 2 SIDS in the Indian Ocean, and 5 communities in 5 SIDS in the Pacific Ocean (total of 13 new Tsunami Ready communities in 12 SIDS)
* 3 new Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in Africa and 4 in SIDS
* Stepped up intersectoral cooperation with the Science Sector and the UNESCO Pacific Office to foster collective learning to better address common threats from geohazards (earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, and tsunamis) in the Pacific Islands
* Strategic leadership and initiative provided by IOC-led or sponsored programmes in defining priorities for ocean and climate research, ocean carbon cycle research, ocean deoxygenation and eutrophication research, and on harmful algal bloom solutions.

**Function D – Assessment and Information for Policy**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. Focus will be on strengthening engagement and contributions of IOC to global assessment initiatives such as the World Ocean Assessment, the International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as well enhancing its own assessment process and products (from design to dissemination), such as the *State of the Ocean Report* (SToR), products developed through GESAMP, and SDG reporting process for SDG targets 14.3. and 14.a. In the framework of global ocean meetings such as the CBD COP, UNFCCC COP and the forthcoming 2025 UN Ocean Conference, targeted policy briefs will be developed to inform and raise awareness of Member States on latest scientific findings and key messages for enhancing investment in ocean research and infrastructure. Further partnership with other UN and non-UN partners will be broadened to deliver on this function. Contribution to GEBCO will be strengthened with particular focus on the education and training activities, as well as communication and outreach. IOC’s longstanding work on nutrient pollution will be reinforced through faster finalization of the development of the indicator for SDG 14.1.1, (ICEP, the Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential) as well as through engagement with new partners in implementing a roadmap for a global ocean free from the harmful impacts of pollution.

*Examples of targets set:*

* 5 additional Member States (3 in Africa and 1 SIDS) contributing data and information to ocean assessment processes
* A fully developed IOC-UNESCO *State of the Ocean Report* (StoR), ambitiously disseminated and communicated
* A 50% increase in the IOC-UNESCO contribution to the work of GEBCO
* Focused support of African Member States and SIDS with regards to capacity development related to ocean assessment, in cooperation with relevant UN partners
* A fully developed and validated indicator for SDG 14.1.1., the Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP)
* Global initiative to compile, share and assess data on pollution and data on the effect of pollutants, launched with IOC-UNESCO as a lead partner.

*Key deliverables:*

* 3 policy briefs prepared and contributing to CBD, UNFCCC and UNOC 2025
* SToR 2024 Edition
* Regional training courses on ocean assessment implemented in 2 regions (Africa, Caribbean)
* Education and outreach strategy supported through the GEBCO Guiding Committee
* All Member States (can) report on SDG Indicator 14.1.1. on coastal eutrophication using ICEP

**Function E – Sustainable management & governance**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. IOC will build on its leadership in Marine Spatial Planning to deliver technical support at the regional level focusing in West/Central Africa, the Western Pacific and Caribbean regions in cooperation with IOC Regional Sub-commissions. The development of an IOC-wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management, as well as the development of a dedicated Ocean Decade Programme will be spearheaded. Partnerships will be enhanced with the GEF, UNDP and the European Commission to deliver ecosystem-based management applications at the regional and national level. The engagement and visibility of IOC in key international process will be enhanced, in particular the UN Ocean Conference 2025, CBD COP 16, UNFCCC COP 29 and 30, and the BBNJ preparatory phase. The Commission will revamp its communication strategy, review its vision statement and identify priority communication themes, audiences and channels, leveraging the ecosystem of the Ocean Decade. The work of Regional Sub-Commissions will be enhanced by creating stronger synergies with national and regional ocean policy mechanisms and other relevant science end-users.

*Examples of targets set:*

* 10 additional Member States (including 3 in SIDS and 3 in Africa) supported in implementation of science-based ocean management
* MSP Rapid Assessment methodology implemented in 4 Member States leading to the adoption of national workplans for institutionalising MSP/Sustainable Ocean Planning processes

*Key deliverables:*

* International guidance developed on the inclusion of climate change, conservation, indigenous and local knowledge in MSP processes
* New IOC communication strategy developed
* High-level event organised at UNFCCC, CBD, and UNOC in partnership with Member States and partners (UN and non-UN).

**Function F – Capacity development**

**Coordination**

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. Capacity development is an essential cross-cutting function, it enables all Member States to participate in and benefit from ocean research and services, guided by the priorities of the *IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030)* and supported by IOC Ocean Capacity Development Hub and the Ocean Teacher Global Academy platforms.

*Key deliverables:*

* The IOC Ocean CD Hub will be expanded to operationalize the matchmaking of needs to opportunities and help identify potential collaborations and partnerships
* Regular meetings of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development will guide the implementation, co-designed in close collaboration with Regional Subsidiary Bodies’ secretariats as well as global programmes and technical subsidiary bodies
* increased promotion and outreach to raise the visibility of IOC’s capacity development works, including the publication of the CD strategy booklet, policy briefs, brochures, and other publicity materials.

**GLOBAL PRIORITY AFRICA**

1. Three major strategic frameworks were put in place in 2022–2023, laying the foundation for future work:

* *The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap*, born from a robust participative process, was launched in May 2022 and identified 3 priority themes, aligned with Priority Africa Flagship 5 objectives. The sustainable ocean management framework will be elaborated by the end of 2024
* The IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2029 was adopted by the IOC Assembly, supported nationally and regionally by the OceanTeacher Global Academy training system, bolstered by targeted efforts increased by NORAD funding, and the Ocean Literacy programme
* The new Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility, launched with the US$ 1.1M investment by the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), to support the capacity strengthening needs of individuals and institutions involved in the Ocean Decade in a flexible and demand-driven approach.

1. The 42 C/5 budget dedicated to Global Priority Africa is increasing by 79% compared to the 41 C/5 (US$ 5.6M) representing 26% of IOC IBF budget compared to 22% for the 41 C/5.
2. The Secretariat of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (UNESCO Nairobi) is reinforced with a second established post at P3 level. The Office will also host the regional Decade Coordination Centre.
3. Our major programme in the pipeline is the development of an Ocean Decade programme on “Science and Knowledge for a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Africa” which has four elements focussing on:
4. sustainable management of marine resources,
5. climate change and marine biodiversity,
6. tackling ocean pollution for enhanced human health,
7. extreme events and disaster risk reduction. A new training programme on co-design will be launch for Africa to build expertise and capacities to generate African-led Decade actions.
8. Collaboration continues with the Belmont Forum to develop new funding opportunities for Ocean Decade Actions in Africa.

*Focus in 2024–2025:*

* Data & observations – ‘We cannot manage what we cannot measure’: 26 additional Member States will be supported in ocean observations and data management, facilitating access of the regional community of practice to global ocean information, data and knowledge products for management, incorporating indigenous and local knowledge
* Further development of an African Ocean Observations System, to inform national blue economy, marine conservation and climate change strategies
* Sustainable Ocean Economy: Support to 10-15 countries in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) workshops and piloting of MSP transboundary cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea region
* Establishment of a regular Africa MSP Forum to share experience and build capacities of MSP experts in the region
* Early Warning: 5 additional Member States will be equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards and at-risk communities in at least 5 additional African countries and 10 additional island States will be engaged in the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme
* Capacity Development: The OceanTeacher Global Academy will expand its network of training centres in Africa and make full use of regional and local expertise to deliver needs-tailored training
* Regional initiatives on Climate Change adaptation, including policy briefs prepared to support African delegates in COP conferences, and facilitation of regional proposals through the GEF/Green Fund
* Regional oceanographic expeditions, using the South African Oceanographic Research vessel, the *SA Agulhas II*, the Kenyan oceanographic research vessel the *RV Mtafiti*, and the Norwegian vessel managed by FAO the *Dr Fridjhof Nansen*
* At least 5 additional Member States will have access to multi-language ocean literacy resources and training programmes
* The network of Early Career Ocean Professionals (with hubs already established in 4 countries – Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal & Togo – with the support of NORAD) will be further expanded, supported by a dedicated coordinator.

**SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

1. Activities to support SIDS are planned to benefit from a US$ 3.3M increase in resources (+46% compared to 41 C/5). A new P3 international post is proposed to reinforce the action in favour of Pacific SIDS and a project appointment for the Caribbean.

*Focus 2024–2025:*

1. Alliances with partner organizations in the Atlantic and Pacific will ensure engagement of ocean basins not covered by IOC regional subsidiary bodies. Targeted investments will allow customized approaches to capacity development based on SIDS-specific requirements and priorities, contributing to the implementation of the *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS (2023–2029)* and related accelerators. Ocean literacy and Intersectoral Programme IP2 dedicated action will be considerable strengthened in SIDS.
2. With particular focus on resilience to tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards, the goal is that, by 2030, 100% of at-risk communities in the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic are recognized as Tsunami Ready. IOC’s contribution to the new Blue Wisdom initiative (to facilitate the integration of local and indigenous knowledge in ocean and water conservation) will have a strong SIDS focus:

* 10 additional SIDS supported in ocean observation and data management through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and IOC Ocean Data & Information System (ODIS)
* 10 additional SIDS equipped with increased preparedness and resilience to the risks of tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
* At least 1 Tsunami Ready recognized community in 10 additional SIDS

1. IOC will lead the implementation of *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS (2023–2029)* Accelerator 2: Strengthen Sustainable Ocean Knowledge, Spatial Planning and Water Management capacities of SIDS in support of the growth of their blue economies.
2. The framework will ensure that SIDS are supported to develop and implement sustainable ocean and water planning and management in the framework of the Ocean Decade; and that inter- and intra-regional SIDS to SIDS collaboration, exchange and learning is facilitated.

*Key deliverables:*

* Programme for Sustainable Ocean Plans developed in SIDS within the context of the Ocean Decade Sustainable Ocean Planning Programme (SOP)
* Regional Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) framework established and supported to ensure the full engagement of ILK holders in the Ocean Decade and ensure exchange and collaboration of alternative knowledge systems to complement ocean science for sustainable ocean management
* Working through the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility and IOC Capacity Development (CD) section, develop and deliver new CD initiatives for SIDS
* Co-design and implement a new SIDS-SIDS Ocean Decade Exchange and Collaboration Forum to promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

**SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE USE OF THE 2023 USA CONTRIBUTION**

1. With the USA having rejoined UNESCO with effect from 10 July 2023, IOC could also benefit from US$ 1.5M out of the USA contribution to UNESCO for the period 10 July to 31 December 2023 (ref. [217 EX/30.II](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386789.locale=en)).
2. With this funding, IOC will upscale its action in the following areas:

(a) Develop an IOC-wide **Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Framework** and deliver **technical support to coastal nations** in the form of decision-making tools, ecosystem assessments, data and information products for targeted ocean economic and policy sectors, capacity development, and a network of practitioners that can support each other through exchange of best practices. This will respond to the growing demands of Member States and other stakeholders for science-based sustainable ocean plans that are resilient to climate change and the development of scientific services to inform sustainable ocean economy. The framework will draw from IOC-UNESCO programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments and will be a major contribution of UNESCO towards the outcome of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France.

(b) Make targeted investments towards **building capacity of the IOCARIBE** Secretariat and developing a new programmatic framework to address the needs of the **Pacific SIDS region**, with a view to enhancing opportunities for accelerated and transformative actions to reach the SDGs in SIDS through ocean science, data and information, innovative solutions for nature-based responses. Leveraging the Ocean Decade and its portfolio of actions dedicated to SIDS, these investments will support the delivery of *UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS* and IOC-led actions related to the UNESCO SIDS Accelerators, in the framework of the UN SIDS Conference in 2024 and the new global SIDS agenda that will emerge (IOC).

**Part III – Preliminary proposals for the Draft 43 C/5**

**Programme and Budget 2026–2029 (first biennium 2026–2027)**

1. IOC’s Programme and Budget for the next programmatic quadrennium 2026–2029 will continue to be guided by the Commission’s **mission statement, vision, high level objectives and functions** as defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029.
2. Ending just before the Ocean Decade and the SDG 2030 finishing line, this four-year programme will be designed to reflect Member States’ priorities as defined in the IOC Governing Bodies resolutions and decisions and will benefit from the consultation process ‘IOC and the Future of the Ocean’ as we will take stock and review how our work can best contribute to larger development change in the areas of our mandate.
3. In this context and pending the outcome of the above-mentioned Member States’ consultation, it is proposed that the IOC work in the first biennium of the 43 C/5 continue to support:

**IOC Output 1: Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities.**

1. In accordance with IOC Resolution A-32/4 of the IOC Assembly (2023), the Secretariat shall make every effort, in the draft programme and budget proposal for 2026–2029 (first biennium 2026–2027), to reflect the IOC priorities in terms of long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities and Member States’ capacity building*,* which are fundamental to:

* Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services
* Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
* Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation
* Scientifically-founded services for the sustainable ocean economy; and
* Foresight on emerging ocean science issues.

1. In its ambition to build and apply scientific knowledge for the achievement of the above high-level objectives, particular attention will be given to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them, in line with the UNESCO Global Priorities (Africa and Gender Equality) and Priority Groups (SIDS and Youth).

1. Content items are metadata records that may describe documents, data sets, information on experts, institutions, research vessels, projects and training opportunities. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)