

## Call for Decade Actions No. 11/2026 - Programme Expression of Interest

Information - Please read it entirely before proceeding with your application

### Call for Decade Actions No. 11/2026 - Expressions of Interest for Programme proposals

According to the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, a **Decade Programme** "is typically global or regional in scale and will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges. It is long-term (multi-year), interdisciplinary and will consist of component projects and potentially enabling activities."

Applicants are first invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) demonstrating the urgency of the initiative and the alignment with the [Barcelona Statement](#), how they align with [existing programmes](#) and science-policy integration.

Please read all the supporting documentation to the Call carefully before submitting your application:

1. [Guidance Note](#)
2. [FAQ](#)
3. Ocean Decade [Implementation Plan](#) and [Summary](#)
4. Publication [Co-designing the science we need for the ocean we want](#)
5. Publication [Ambition, Action, Impact: the Ocean Decade Pathway to 2030](#)
6. [FAIR](#) and [CARE](#) principles of data sharing

The deadline for submission of this form is **31 May 2026 23:59 UTC**.

If you wish to submit another type of Decade Action during Call for Decade Actions No 11/2026, please refer to the [Guidance Note](#) and the [Call page](#) for more information.

#### **Important Information:**

- 1) Please note that all character limits include spaces.
- 2) The Ocean Decade **is not a financing mechanism**. You will find more information on the benefits and commitments of Endorsed Decade Actions in the [Guidance Note](#) (section VI).
- 3) You can find the PDF and Word versions of the form [here](#). Please note that these are for your use only, e.g. to help prepare your submission. Only submissions sent via the online form will be accepted.

For any questions, please contact [oceandecade@unesco.org](mailto:oceandecade@unesco.org) with "Call for Decade Actions No. 11/2026" in the subject line.

## Eligibility - Read before proceeding

**Decade Programmes** are large-scale initiatives implemented at the global or regional scale. Programmes can contribute to any of the [10 Decade Challenges](#) and will be long-term, multi-year, interdisciplinary and multi-national. Programmes will be made up of component projects, which may or may not be fully or partially defined at the time of endorsement. All the following requirements will be used during the evaluation process as guidance to determine whether an initiative can be defined as a Decade Programme.

### **Requirements:**

1. Leadership: ability to host and support coordination of endorsed Decade Projects. Programmes must solicit Decade Projects through the Calls for Decade Actions;
2. New addition to the Ocean Decade: addresses a thematic area or geographic region that has not yet been substantially covered by [existing endorsed Decade Programmes](#);
3. Scope for growth: demonstrates an ability to grow and expand over time and incorporate new partners or geographies;
4. Scale: either global reach or major regional scale;
5. Duration: at least 4 years;
6. Disciplines: evidence of multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary approach and team;
7. Science to policy impact: evidence of clear pathways for scientific knowledge to inform decision making;
8. Funding: at least 5% of the total programme budget must be secured at the time of submission. In addition, proponents must either have identified reliable funders committed to supporting the Programme or demonstrate that they are actively seeking funders who can secure the remaining budget partially or fully in the future;
9. Lead partner: international scope and experience that matches ambition of programme;
10. Partners: international group of partners;
11. Capacity development: includes relevant elements of capacity development;

**If all the criteria above are met, applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a potential Decade Programme proposal that demonstrates how it:**

12. contributes to one or more of the priorities identified in the [Barcelona Statement](#);

13. creates synergies and demonstrates proactive collaboration with [existing Decade programmes](#);

14. demonstrates tangible pathways for science and knowledge to inform decision making; and

15. meaningfully involves partners from Africa or in [Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, including Land-Locked Developing Countries](#). There is no geographical limitation for Decade programmes submitted to the Call. However, all applicants will be required to demonstrate how they meaningfully involve partners from Africa or SIDS/LDCs.

\* 1. Before proceeding with your submission, please ensure that all requirements for a Decade Programme, as outlined above, are met.

Yes, I confirm that all requirements are met

No, my proposal does not meet all the requirements

### Proposal scope

**\* 2. On which Ocean Decade Challenge will your Decade Action have a primary focus?**

Challenge 1: Understand and map land and sea-based sources of pollutants and contaminants and their potential impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to remove or mitigate them.

Challenge 2: Understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to monitor, protect, manage and restore ecosystems and their biodiversity under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

Challenge 3: Generate knowledge, support innovation and develop solutions to optimize the role of the ocean in sustainably nourishing the world's population under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

Challenge 4: Generate knowledge, support innovation and multi-sectoral partnerships and develop solutions for equitable, resilient and sustainable development of the ocean economy under changing environmental, social and climate conditions.

- Challenge 5: Enhance understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and generate knowledge and solutions to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change across all geographies and at all scales, and to improve services including predictions for the ocean, climate and weather.
- Challenge 6: Enhance multi-hazard early warning services for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, climate and anthropogenic related ocean and coastal hazards, and mainstream community preparedness and resilience.
- Challenge 7: Ensure a sustainable and sustained ocean observing system across all ocean basins that delivers accessible, timely and actionable data and information to all users.
- Challenge 8: Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, develop a comprehensive digital representation of the ocean, including a dynamic ocean map, which provides free and open access for exploring, discovering, and visualizing past, current, and future ocean conditions in a manner relevant to diverse stakeholders.
- Challenge 9: Ensure comprehensive capacity development and equitable access to data, information, knowledge and technology across all aspects of ocean science and for all stakeholders.
- Challenge 10: Meaningful society-ocean connections are strengthened, driving increased motivation, capability and opportunity for people, across all sectors of society, to make decisions, act and behave in ways that ensure a healthy ocean.

**\* 3. Which priority outlined in the *Barcelona Statement* does your proposal aim to address?**

**Please refer to the [Barcelona Statement](#) for more information on the priorities.**

**Please select up to three options.**

- Understand global distribution and human health and ecosystem impacts of marine pollution across the land-sea continuum, including the identification of priority pollutants and consideration of emerging and unregulated pollutants.
- Enhance and scale-up marine and coastal ecosystem-based management approaches, including a focus on better understanding of and solutions for multiple stressors.
- Better understand deep-sea ecosystems, including vulnerability to climate change and new or emerging economic activities.
- Encourage sustainable, resilient, and equitable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and facilitate sustainable management of industrial fisheries.

- Strengthen sustainable aquatic food production and innovation for new frontiers with a focus on developing countries and strengthened public-private partnerships.
- Underpin evidence-based Sustainable Ocean Plans at the national level and in relevant transboundary areas.
- Encourage sustainable and climate resilient ocean economy projects, prioritizing those that integrate environmental conservation with socio-economic benefits for local communities.
- Rapidly scale up climate mitigation including through marine renewable energy and management of coastal ecosystems.
- Allow timely understanding of the technical, ecological, and social feasibility, potential impacts of proposed marine carbon dioxide removal initiatives and contribute to future policy and regulation development.
- Underpin adaptive governance and management systems and decision support tools for the assessment of vulnerability and risk to coastal communities and marine industries.
- Develop economic models, policies, and innovative financial instruments to diversify and accelerate investment in ocean science, including for enhanced digital representation of the ocean and sustained and sustainable ocean observing and infrastructure.
- Inform knowledge drawn from transdisciplinary social science and ocean literacy research on human-ocean connection, behavior change, and cultural engagement that can be integrated into Ocean Decade digital infrastructure and used to map and measure the impact of ocean literacy initiatives.
- Increase engagement with the health sector and better understand connections between ocean health and human health.

**\* 4. Please provide more details on how this proposal aligns with the priorities identified in [The Barcelona Statement](#) (max 3000 characters).**

## Proponent and Partner Details

### **\* 5. Lead Institution Name**

The lead institution is the one responsible for the programme and where the lead contact is affiliated to.

**\* 6. Lead Institution Type**

**\* 7. Lead Institution Physical Address**

Street Address

Town/City

Postal/Zip Code

**\* 8. Lead Institution  
Country**

**\* 9. Is your institution based in a Least Developed Country, Small Island Developing State, or Africa**

Please find a list of SIDS [here](#)

Please find a list of LDCs [here](#)

Yes

No

**\* 10. Lead Institution Website**

**\* 11. Lead Institution Primary Contact**

This is the person responsible for the proposal and who will be directly contacted in future communications throughout the review process and will be expected to sign the letter of endorsement should your application be successful.

First Name

Last Name

**\* 12. Lead institution primary contact gender**

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

**\* 13. Lead Institution Primary Contact Email Address**

**\* 14. Email contact of person completing survey**

This person might not be the same as the lead institutional contact but will be someone we will include in future communications throughout the review process.

**\* 15. Partner Institution Names**

Please provide the names of up to five partner lead institutions. Other partner details can be provided if you are invited to submit a full application.

Partner No. 1 Institution name

Partner No. 2 Institution name

Partner No. 3 Institution name

Partner No. 4 Institution name

Partner No. 5 Institution name

**Decade Action Description**

**\* 16. Name of Decade Action**

The public facing name used to refer to your Decade Action. Your Action name must be fewer than 50 characters.

**\* 17. Short name or acronym of Decade Action**

**\* 18. Is the project you are proposing an ongoing initiative or new?**

Ongoing Initiative

New Initiative

**\* 19. Please succinctly describe your proposed Decade Action (max. 3000 characters).**

**\* 20. Please describe how your Decade programme proposal creates positive synergies and integrates with existing [endorsed Decade programmes](#) (max. 3000 characters).**

Please clearly identify all Decade programmes you have had consultation with in the preparation of the EOI and provide concrete examples of how you will create synergies and collaboration with these programmes.

**\* 21. Please identify the specific policy and/or decision-making processes that you will inform through the science and knowledge generated by your work, and describe the tangible activities that you will carry out to achieve this (max. 3000 characters)**

**\* 22. Have you contacted any relevant decentralized coordination structure(s) (Decade Coordination Office or Decade Collaborative Centre) in the development of your proposal?**

Full list can be found [here](#).

No

Yes. Please inform which one and briefly summarise the results of the discussion.

**\* 23. Have you contacted any relevant National Decade Committee(s) in the development of your proposal?**

Full list can be found [here](#).

No

Yes. Please inform which one and briefly summarise the results of the discussion.

**\* 24. When will your proposed Action start and end?**

Please use the first of the month in which your Action will start if you do not have a specific start date.

Start Date Date

DD/MM/YYYY

End Date Date

DD/MM/YYYY

**\* 25. Total Budget estimate for the Decade Action to the nearest whole number with no punctuation.**

**\* 26. Please indicate the currency of the above budget.**

**\* 27. Estimate of percentage of total budget secured**

*This can include in-kind and financial resources.*

**\* 28. Please select all countries in which the Decade Action will be implemented.**

All Countries	Bhutan	Congo
Afghanistan	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Cook Islands
Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Costa Rica
Algeria	Botswana	Cote d'Ivoire
Andorra	Brazil	Croatia
Angola	British Virgin Islands	Cuba
Anguilla	Brunei Darussalam	Cyprus
Antigua and Barbuda	Bulgaria	Czechia
Argentina	Burkina Faso	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Armenia	Burundi	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Australia	Cabo Verde	Denmark
Austria	Cambodia	Djibouti
Azerbaijan	Cameroon	Dominica
Bahamas	Canada	Dominican Republic
Bahrain	Central African Republic (CAR)	Ecuador
Bangladesh	Chad	Egypt
Barbados	Chile	El Salvador
Belarus	China	Equatorial Guinea
Belgium	Colombia	Eritrea
Belize	Comoros	Estonia
Benin		

Eswatini	Japan	Mongolia
Ethiopia	Jordan	Montenegro
Fiji	Kazakhstan	Morocco
Finland	Kenya	Mozambique
France	Kiribati	Myanmar
Gabon	Kuwait	Namibia
Gambia (Republic of The)	Kyrgyzstan	Nauru
Georgia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Nepal
Germany	Latvia	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
Ghana	Lebanon	New Zealand
Greece	Lesotho	Nicaragua
Grenada	Liberia	Niger
Guatemala	Libya	Nigeria
Guinea	Liechtenstein	North Macedonia
Guinea-Bissau	Lithuania	Norway
Guyana	Luxembourg	Oman
Haiti	Madagascar	Pakistan
Honduras	Malawi	Palau
Hungary	Malaysia	Palestine
Iceland	Maldives	Panama
India	Mali	Papua New Guinea
Indonesia	Malta	Paraguay
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Marshall Islands	Peru
Iraq	Mauritania	Philippines
Ireland	Mauritius	Poland
Israel	Mexico	Portugal
Italy	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Qatar
Jamaica	Monaco	Republic of Korea
		Republic of Moldova

Romania	South Africa	Ukraine
Russian Federation	South Sudan	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Rwanda	Spain	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sri Lanka	United Republic of Tanzania
Saint Lucia	Sudan	United States of America (USA)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Uruguay
Samoa	Sweden	Uzbekistan
San Marino	Switzerland	Vanuatu
Sao Tome and Principe	Syrian Arab Republic	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Saudi Arabia	Tajikistan	Viet Nam
Senegal	Thailand	Yemen
Serbia	Timor-Leste	Zambia
Seychelles	Togo	Zimbabwe
Sierra Leone	Tonga	
Singapore	Trinidad and Tobago	
Slovakia	Tunisia	
Slovenia	Türkiye	
Solomon Islands	Turkmenistan	
Somalia	Tuvalu	
	Uganda	

**\* 29. Please select all ocean basins in which the Decade Action will be implemented.**

- North Atlantic Ocean
- South Atlantic Ocean
- North Pacific Ocean
- South Pacific Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Southern Ocean

Mediterranean Sea