



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 2020

#02

UN DECADE OF OCEAN  
SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT (2021-2030)

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## FIVE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTION POINTS OF THE OCEAN DECADE

The consultation process for the preparation of the Ocean Decade continued **to identify ways forward to develop scientific knowledge and innovative technologies** for the sustainability of our shared ocean. Key questions that have been raised by stakeholders during this process include: What are acceptable pollution levels to define threshold values and ecological boundaries for the optimal functioning of ecosystems? How can we foster interdisciplinary science and integrate indigenous and local knowledge to support a positive change for the ocean? Which science-based actions should be implemented to reduce the effects of climate change on ocean based food security?

These issues were discussed in several workshops that were held around the world **to enhance the Ocean Decade's role in addressing regional priorities** in ocean science. In Halifax, Chennai, Venice, Nairobi, and Tromsø\*, these meetings aimed at fostering regional collaboration and ensuring that ocean science is mainstreamed into reflection and decision-making at the national level. Members of public institutions, universities, UN agencies, business and industry, NGOs, foundations and regional bodies were among those who discussed knowledge gaps, scientific priorities and implementation solutions to achieve the Ocean Decade outcomes and objectives, and more broadly, the the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Summaries of the Ocean Decade Regional Workshops can be downloaded [online](#).**

\*North Atlantic Ocean workshop (7-10 January), Western, North and Central Indian Ocean workshop (8-10 January), Mediterranean Sea Workshop (21-23 January), African and the adjacent island States (27-29 January), Arctic Ocean Decade Policy Business Science Dialogue (29 January).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2ND EXECUTIVE PLANNING GROUP MEETING

One year after their first meeting, 19 members of the Ocean Decade Executive Planning Group (EPG) met between the 15 & 17 January 2020 at UNESCO in Paris, France to discuss advances in the Ocean Decade's preparatory activities.

With the support of various experts and representatives of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs), EPG members discussed a number of key issues for the success of the Ocean Decade including the need to:

- **Reinforce the participation of Early Careers Ocean Professionals** in the preparatory phase of the Ocean Decade, strengthening their role in terms of intersectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation;
- **Mobilise resources to ensure more stable and long-term funding** for ocean science across the globe;
- **Formulate strategies for establishing common data collection**, management and accessibility standards, and the co-design and delivery of products and services associated with these technologies that respond to the needs of end-users; and
- **Engage diverse ocean actors in the identification of priority scientific and societal issues** to be addressed during the Ocean Decade for example issues related to climate change, food security and the links between the ocean and human health.

Ariel Trosi, Chair of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, also stressed the importance of collaboration in the field of capacity development and ocean literacy worldwide, **taking into consideration specific needs of developing countries and Small Island Developing States**.



## A NEW PAPER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE OUTCOMES OF THE OCEAN DECADE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL "ONE EARTH"

One Earth Journal recently published a paper called "Roadmap for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in support of Science, Policy and Action". This paper, which is authored by researchers and marine science experts, is based on the analyses and experiences of both scientific experts and policy makers. The paper hopes to **provide a simple list of key ocean issues that may be used by national and local authorities** to facilitate transformative action and achieve the ocean we need for the future we want.

[More details online](#)



### LATEST HEADLINES

- 2020 is a big year for the Ocean and the last year of the Preparatory Phase of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Major challenges have to be tackled such as overfishing, coastal resilience or mercury pollution.
- Recent earthquake events in Puerto Rico highlighted the need to raise disaster research and readiness above the whim of changing fiscal and political priorities.
- In Australia, floating nurseries and robotic fleet deliver coral babies to damaged parts of the Great Barrier Reef.
- NASA simulation reveals how Earth would look if the oceans drained away.

### DOWNLOAD THE LATEST OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL WORKSHOP REPORTS

- **Summary Report of the Southern Ocean Regional Workshop**  
San Diego, 16 February 2020
- **Summary Report of the North Atlantic Regional Workshop**  
Halifax, 07 - 10 January 2020

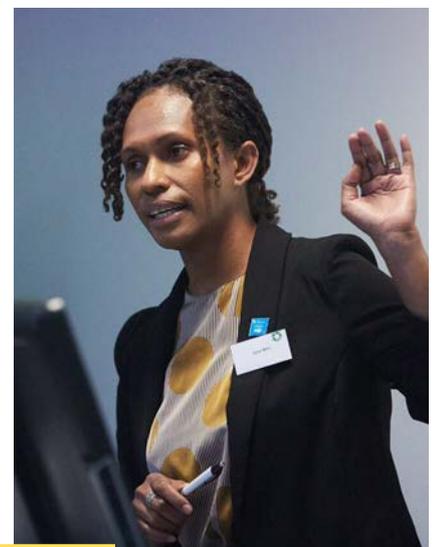
### PERSON OF THE MONTH

In the latest in our blog series in the lead-up to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, we catch up with **Lysa Wini-Simeon, Ocean Governance Officer for the Solomon Islands**. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), **the Solomon Islands are on the front line of climate change**, encapsulating the range of acute to long-term risks such as extreme floods, sea-level rise and natural disasters.

Lisa is working with 12 different Ministries to develop an integrated ocean governance framework and to support International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania.

According to Lisa, "scientific evidence should be used to inform decision-making. Through the planning process, policy-makers and communities will realize that Salomon's islands do not have enough scientific evidence to really understand which resources are being used."

[More details about this interview online](#)



## DIALOGUE MOBILIZES FOUNDATIONS TO BUILD OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE NEXT DECADE

In February 2020 in Copenhagen over twenty of the world's leading ocean-minded philanthropic and corporate foundations took part in a two-day dialogue focusing on building partnerships to enhance and drive ocean action into the next decade.

Co-organized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Velux Foundations (Denmark), the international dialogue triggered a series of outreach initiatives aimed at mobilizing the global philanthropic community around the upcoming Ocean Decade. Foundations and private donors are engaging in ocean science at increasingly active levels, financing ground-breaking research, developing innovative solutions to ocean-related developmental issues, and contributing to policy and scientific priority setting.

The foundations dialogue for the Ocean Decade was a first step to acknowledge and fully incorporate philanthropy as a driving force for delivering the science we need for the ocean we want by 2030.

Several foundations expressed their willingness to support ocean science as a solution to address sustainable development challenges. REV Ocean committed themselves to closely work with UNESCO's IOC to advance global ocean data sharing and applications and The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection offered to pursue this dialogue and to host the second Foundations Dialogue meeting next year in Morocco.

[Download the press release](#)



## WEBINARS ON OCEAN DECADE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Following the cancellation of the Second Global Planning Meeting for the Ocean Decade, two webinars are planned on the 31 March and 2 April to present the Draft Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade and seek stakeholder feedback.

The content of the two webinars will be the same. You can register here for one of the webinars:

March 31, 2020  
18:00 - 20:00 (CEST)

April 2, 2020  
08:00 - 10:00 (CEST)

Each webinar can host 500 participants and registration is on a first come, first served basis!

Recordings of the webinars will be available online in April so stay tuned for more information.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: HEARING YOUNG WOMEN COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE #OCEANDECADE

A new generation of women and girls are tackling some of the greatest scientific challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, working every day to support Sustainable Development Goal 14 in order to secure a healthy Ocean in the future.

At the last meeting of the Ocean Decade Executive Planning Group, we heard the captivating testimonials of three successful young women scientists: Harriet Harden-Davies, Evgeniia Kostianaia and Erin Satterthwaite.

[Discover their interviews online by clicking here](#)



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