UN Ocean Decade Roadmap for Africa

Dr Ir. Zacharie SOHOU

IOC AFRICA Vice Chair
Director of the Benin Fisheries and Oceanological Research Institute (IRHOB)
The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap

Dr Zacharie Sohou
Vice Chair, IOC’s Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFICA)
The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, 1960->, 150 Member States

• Intergovernmental body of the UN system for ocean science, observations, data exchange, services, capacity development, and science-to-governance work
AGENDA 2063: Recognizes that Africa’s Blue economy shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation of and beneficiation from deep sea mineral and other resources

✓ Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050

✓ **Declaration of 2015-2025 as the "Decade of African Seas and Oceans"**

✓ Declaration of 25 July as the African Day of Seas and Oceans.

✓ Preparation by UNECA of the Africa’s Blue economy handbook

✓ Adoption of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy

✓ UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
FOCUS AREAS OF IOCAFRICA.

- **Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management:**
  - Oceanographic Expeditions & Coastal Observation platforms
  - Climate variability and climate change (weather forecast & extreme events)
  - Marine Spatial Planning, Coastal/ Marine Atlases, Marine Biodiversity

- **Ocean Science and its Application to Management:**
  - Modeling and forecasts of ocean state
  - Assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems in Africa
  - Vulnerability & adaptation of marine/coastal ecosystems to climate change
  - Harmful Algal Bloom: Detection and Early Warning
  - Ocean Acidification: Observation and Research
  - Marine Pollution: Survey and assessment

- **Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology and Ocean Literacy:**
  - Basic training in the ocean sciences (UNESCO Chairs in Universities, Research Institutions, development of portal for training opportunities,)
  - Continuous Professional Development (Focused workshops, Regional Training Centres, Fellowships,
  - Ocean Literacy (Artwork/Essay competitions, exhibitions, conferences,
  - Partnerships and collaboration (WIOMSA, UNEP, National Institutions)

**AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY**
- PORT AND SHIPPING
- FISHERY
- AQUACULTURE
- SUSTAINABLE BLUE ENERGY
- COASTAL TOURSIM
- BLUE CARBON AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS
Why an Ocean Decade?
...because humanity depends on the ocean...

- Oxygen production
- Absorbs 93% of anthropogenic heat & regulates climate/weather
- Transports 90% of world’s goods
- Coastal protection
- Underpins food sources of 3 billion people
- Contributes USD 1.5 trillion to the economy & hundreds of millions of jobs
- Immeasurable cultural and educational values
- As yet unknown values
...but the ocean is under threat

Climate change → Destruction of habitats & ecosystems → Pollution – plastic + many others → Overfishing → New emerging threats?

No longer linear nor predictable - potential for negative feedback loops via ocean-climate nexus
Why an Ocean Decade linking science & sustainable development?

“Humanity is running out of time to manage the ocean sustainably...”
2016 World Ocean Assessment
Towards the Ocean Decade: 2017 - 2021

UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development
Regional Consultations for Africa and the Adjacent Island States
Nairobi, Kenya, 27-29 January 2021
The Decade Action Framework

**Vision**

*The science we need for the ocean we want*

***

**Mission**

*Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.*

---

**Knowledge & Solutions Challenges:**

1. Marine Pollution
2. Protect and Restore Ecosystems
3. Sustainable Blue Food
4. Sustainable Ocean Economy
5. Ocean-Climate Nexus

**Infrastructure Challenges:**

6. Community Resilience
7. Ocean Observations
8. Digital Ocean

**Foundational Challenges:**

9. Capacity Development
10. Behaviour Change

---

Decade Programmes, Projects, Activities and Contributions solicited on a regular basis.
The Decade is also a growing ecosystem of societal actors...

- Scientists
- National & local government
- Philanthropy
  - NGOs
- Industry
- Investors
- Indigenous & local knowledge holders
- Local communities
- UN agencies
- Regional organisations
- Early Career Ocean Professionals

- National Decade Committees
- Regional / Thematic Coordination Structures
- Ocean Decade Governance & Coordination
- Foundations Dialogue
  - Working Groups
- Decade Actions / COPs
- Regional Taskforces
The Ocean Decade in Africa

FIGURE 3

Steps in the development of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap.

- Nairobi Consultation (January 2020)
- Extensive literature review
- Surveys

LIST OF PRIORITY FUTURE DECADE ACTIONS

- Consultation of outcomes at the pre-conference workshops (January 2022)
- African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (May 2022)

REGIONAL GAP ANALYSIS

LAUNCH OF OCEAN DECADE AFRICA ROADMAP

Source: IOC-UNESCO [2022]
The Ocean Decade in Africa

Nine Priority Future Decade Actions

1. Sustainable ocean management in Africa
2. Ocean and human health in Africa
3. Unlocking the blue carbon potential of Africa
4. Fisheries and IUU in Africa
5. Strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems and community resilience
6. Ocean observations and forecasting systems for Africa
7. Digital twin for Africa - Establishing an African ocean knowledge hub
8. Strengthening capacities and skills for marine science and technology
9. Regional ocean literacy programme for Africa

Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap

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

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

2021-2030
How can you get engaged in the Ocean Decade movement?
Throughout the week!

How can the science and knowledge you are hearing about:

- Be used as a basis for co-designing a new Decade Action that would contribute to the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap?
- Be used to transform policy, resource management or other decisions through targeted communication and uptake?
- Be complemented by new partnerships including with industry, civil society, local governments or philanthropy?
- Be complemented by engagement with holders of Indigenous or local knowledge?
- Be replicated or scaled up to have greater impact in Africa Be complemented by capacity development initiatives including those that target ECOPs?

What is your individual role or the role of your institution in the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap and in the broader Ocean Decade?
Governance & Coordination Structures

Resource mobilization for IOCAFRICA as African DCO / regional coordination hub

Thematic DCCs relevant to African initiatives

Regional / thematic DIPs throughout Africa

UN General Assembly

IQC / UNESCO Governing Bodies

Decade Advisory Board

Decade Coordination Unit (IQC Secretariat)

Decade Coordination Offices

Decade Collaborative Centres

Decade Implementing Partners

UN Entities
UN DOALOS • UN-Oceans

African and adjacent island states represented on Board – 3 of 15 experts
Voluntary Stakeholder Structures

**African Regional Taskforce**

- Multi-stakeholder taskforce to guide implementation of Africa Roadmap. Liaises with DCO.

**National Decade Committees**

- Nigeria NDC
- Cabo Verde NDC
- Madagascar NDC
- Angola NDC
- Other NDCs?

Voluntary multi-stakeholder groups to convene partners around national priorities. Liaise with DCO and DIPs.
Other Entry Points for Governments, Institutions & Individuals

Ocean Decade Alliance
Private Sector Taskforce
Foundations Dialogue
Ocean Decade Expert Roster
Informal Working Groups

Contact oceandecade@unesco.org for more information on these structures!
15 October 2022 - 31 January 2023

Call for Decade Actions
No. 04/2022 is soliciting:

Programmes contributing to:
Challenge 6 - Coastal Resilience and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
Challenge 8 - Digital Representation of the Ocean

Projects contributing to more than 20 endorsed Decade Programmes!

TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE
IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND
Join Our Community

ECOP PROGRAMME

Empower the Next Generation of Ocean Leaders

http://ecopdecade.org
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Working together for the Ocean We Want

Join The Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum
The Ocean Decade is for Everyone. Sign up to our interactive platform to start taking action now!

forum.oceandecade.org
UNESCO/IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA)

oceans.nairobi@unesco.org

m.odido@unesco.org

oceandecade@unesco.org
http://oceandecade.org
Thank You.
Medaase.
Oyiwaladon.