

Ocean Decade Implementation: Summary of Developments

The Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was completed following an intensive review process and presented to the 75th session of the General Assembly, which noted with appreciation the Plan and requested UNESCO's IOC to coordinate and report on Decade implementation. The Decade officially commenced on 1 January 2021; a milestone that was celebrated with global, online events in February and June 2021 that together attracted nearly 20,000 viewers. The first Decade Actions were endorsed following Call for Decade Actions No. 01/2020 which received nearly 250 submissions from partners around the world. The 28 endorsed programmes and 33 contributions are led by diverse partners. Together they address all ten Decade Challenges, and range across all ocean basins. They were selected following review by the Interim Decade Advisory Board for their transformative nature and solutions-oriented focus. Together with the six registered Decade Actions led by UN entities, they form the first building blocks of the Decade. They touch on subjects as diverse as management of the mesopelagic zone, resilient fisheries, underwater cultural heritage, coral reef resilience and ocean observations. Cross-cutting initiatives address capacity development, the engagement of women and Early Career Ocean ProfDecade Alliance, a network of eminent partners who are committed to mobilising resources to support ocean science, were announced in February 2021 and this group will be built out over 2021.