



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2019

#01

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

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## DISCOVER OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER



I am very happy to launch the first edition of our new Ocean Decade Newsletter series. Over the last months, the vision for the Decade and its framework have shaped up significantly, and we felt a need to update the growing Ocean Decade community on a more regular basis.

As you know, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is working with many partners to prepare ideas and plans for the Decade. This is the meaning of the Preparatory Phase. The Executive Planning Group is very active and has proven itself as an abundant source of wisdom and new ideas. After the successful First Global Planning Meeting in Copenhagen last May, that brought together to brainstorm and left excited about 200 experts from around the world, we conducted three regional workshops with the incredible support and leadership of regional partners (SPC, PICES, CPPS) in Japan, New Caledonia, Ecuador and there are more to come.

The Decade logo embodies dynamism and action. Shaped as a sea wave, its circularity also reminds us of the snowball effect! This is exactly the effect we would like to achieve and it is emerging! We are moving forward with the development of the Science Action Plan. This essential component of the Implementation Plan for the Decade will guide the transformation of ocean science enabling it to tackle the great societal challenges of our time, notably climate change, food security and marine health.

We look forward to sharing with you the Science Action Plan outline in the coming months. I encourage you to subscribe to the Ocean Decade Newsletter to get our latest information.

Vladimir Ryabinin, Assistant Director General and Executive Secretary  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

## GLOBAL OCEAN SOCIAL SCIENCES EVENT

On 5-6 November, a Global Ocean Social Sciences Event, labelled as an Ocean Decade Event, brought together researchers in human and social sciences, in all their diversity, to understand how social sciences can be integrated into the mission-oriented research agenda of the Decade and promote social studies in this context.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- FALL MEETING  
American Geophysical Union  
9-13 December 2019 - San Francisco  
<https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting>
- UN OCEAN CONFERENCE  
2-6 June 2020 - Lisbon  
[www.oceanconference.un](http://www.oceanconference.un)

## CONSULTING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS WORLDWIDE

Following the First Global Planning Meeting, held in May (Denmark), a series of regional workshops was initiated in 2019 in order to provide an opportunity to engage and consult with ocean stakeholders across the globe, enriching the Decade's debates and influencing its design.

These regional workshops aim to identify:

- Knowledge gaps and regional ocean science priorities for the 2030 Agenda
- Existing relevant partnerships/networks/initiatives and potential ones/interested partners
- Priorities in capacity-development/training
- Priority themes and topics to be addressed by the Decade
- Other regional initiatives and meetings to be aligned with the Decade.

The next one will take place **on 25-27 November 2019, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** to investigate regional issues and define how South-South cooperation could be implemented to address Southern-Atlantic Ocean sustainable development challenges.

Further workshops are set to take place in **North Atlantic, Mediterranean, North, Central and Western Indian Ocean and the Arctic.**

## #OCEANDECADE EVENTS

- REGIONAL WORKSHOP - SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN  
25-27 November 2019
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP - NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN  
07-10 January 2020 - Halifax
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP - NORTH AND CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN  
08-10 January 2020 - Chennai
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP - MEDITERRANEAN  
21-23 January 2020 - Venice
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP - WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN  
27-29 January 2020 - Nairobi
- ARCTIC OCEAN DECADE WORKSHOPS  
29 January 2020 - Tromsø
- FOUNDATIONS DIALOGUE  
27-28 February - Copenhagen

## LAUNCH OF THE DECADE ALLIANCE

Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the IOC-UNESCO, announced the Ocean Decade Alliance at the Our Ocean Conference, taking place in Oslo on 23-24 October. As mandated by the UN General Assembly, the IOC-UNESCO coordinates the Decade's preparatory process, inviting the global ocean community to get involved in this great challenge!

### An Alliance to support the development of ocean knowledge

The Ocean Decade Alliance will **stimulate support and participation in the Decade from the scientific community, governments, businesses, foundations, NGOs and all other stakeholders**. The idea is to form a network of ocean leaders that will stimulate and motivate others to take ambitious actions in advancing ocean science toward addressing societal needs.

Through the promotion of scientific innovation, science-based approach to ocean management, and targeted investment in ocean research infrastructure and capacities, the Ocean Decade Alliance result in movement delivering fit-for-purpose ocean knowledge for all components of the ocean science value-chain, benefitting all users, from citizens to policy makers.

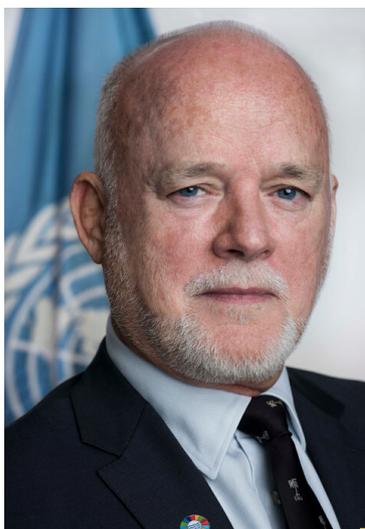
### The Alliance comprises three distinct pillars

- **Raise awareness** about the Decade objectives and activities world-wide and build support to the Decade by all stakeholders
- **Create a platform** demonstrating the role and power of science in providing solutions for ocean sustainability
- **Establish a broad international network** that stimulates actions and commitments in the framework of the UN Decade at all societal levels.

The Decade Alliance will shape up in the next few months. Keep up to date by subscribing to the Ocean Decade newsletter!

## THE EUROPEAN UNION OF AQUARIUM CURATORS AND CHINESE AQUARIUMS SIGNED A COMMON DECLARATION TO SUPPORT THE OCEAN DECADE

During the European Union of Aquarium Curators Conference 2019, 90 European and 200 Chinese aquariums signed a Common Declaration in response to the call of the United Nations, governments and citizens to implement actions to support the acceleration of ocean science and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda.



## PERSON OF THE MONTH

Peter Thomson, the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, is an Ambassador for the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and delivers all around the world the main messages of the Decade.

"The perspective from now until 2030, is the time frame agreed by all members of the United Nations to be crucial for a sustainable future. Within the next decade, the goal is to provide nutritious food, clean energy, water, medical services and decent living conditions for all people on Earth in a sustainable way, without overstepping the carrying capacity of the planet."

Peter Thomson will be one the key voices of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, 2-6 June 2020), promoting science and innovation for a more sustainable ocean.