



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



# OCEAN DECADE

## Creating the Ocean We Want

As the largest ecosystem on Earth, the oceans and seas are not just a source of endless fascination; they are also essential to the survival of humankind.

Traditionally seen as vast and inexhaustible, the truth is that this source of vibrant diversity and, in turn, the livelihoods and habitats of people, animals, and plants, is under threat.

But we can only protect and conserve what we understand. The ocean still conceals many mystery – unmapped ocean floors, hidden and little-explored ecosystems, processes, and unsuspected stress factors. More is known about the far side of the moon than the deep seas.

On 5 December 2017, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) declared the period from 2021 to 2030 the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. In line with the vision “The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want,” the Ocean Decade is establishing an unprecedented international scientific alliance. Its stated objective is to bring people and the ocean together, to boost ocean research, and to generate and propagate new knowledge.

Science and research are called upon to come together with policymakers, civil society, culture, and business to further explore the extraordinary potential of today’s ocean and marine research and to deliver science-based, innovative solutions for sustainable ocean stewardship.

This cross-sectional approach was central to the **virtual High-Level Launch Event** on 1 June 2021. In partnership with the IOC-UNESCO, **the Federal Ministry of Education and Research** hosted this event for politicians from Germany and abroad, UN representatives, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), representatives from the private sector, members of the ocean research community, and other interested parties. The Launch Event opened the solution-driven discussion focussed on “Creating the Ocean We Want”.

Following on from the High-Level Launch Event, the **Ocean Decade Laboratories** run from July 2021 to June 2022. This series of events offers a platform to facilitate new collaborations and pursue specific actions. With a range of virtual activities and formats, each of the Laboratories will devote 48 hours to one of the seven official Outcomes of the Decade and the key attributes of the ocean of the future – “The Ocean We Want”. Core Events lasting three to four hours will be organised by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in partnership with the IOC-UNESCO and lead into the Laboratories. Research institutions, NGOs, art and cultural institutions, associations, and societies are invited to submit proposals for the related Satellite Activities. A wide range of formats aim to

guarantee diversity and the participation of people from different time zones and parts of the world. The Laboratories will conclude with Wrap-up sessions, at which key outcomes of the Core Events and Satellite Activities will be presented.

<p><b>Initiator of the Ocean Decade</b></p>	<p>The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) declared the period from 2021 to 2030 the Ocean Decade.</p>
<p><b>The German network in the Ocean Decade</b></p>	<p>The <b>Federal Ministry of Education and Research</b> (BMBF) hosted the High-Level Launch Event for the Ocean Decade in partnership with the IOC-UNESCO – the first international conference of the Ocean Decade on 1 June 2021.</p> <p>Leading university and non-university ocean research institutions make up the supporting research community, accompanied by the <u>National Ocean Decade Committee</u>.</p>
<p><b>Tasks and goals</b></p>	<p>The UN Ocean Decade is linked to the <b>2030 Agenda</b>, an action plan for people, the planet, and prosperity adopted by the member states of the United Nations. The Ocean Decade aims to specifically improve the conditions for achieving the <b>17 Sustainable Development Goals</b> of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><b>Seven</b> key attributes describe “The Ocean We Want” and are thus the <b>Decade Outcomes</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A <b>clean ocean</b> where sources of pollution are identified and reduced or removed.</li> <li>2. A <b>healthy and resilient ocean</b> where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored, and managed.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. A <b>productive ocean</b> supporting sustainable food supply and a sustainable ocean economy.</p> <p>4. A <b>predicted ocean</b> where society understands and can respond to changing ocean conditions.</p> <p>5. A <b>safe ocean</b> where life and livelihoods are protected from ocean-related hazards.</p> <p>6. An <b>accessible ocean</b> with open and equitable access to data, information, technology, and innovation.</p> <p>7. An <b>inspiring and engaging ocean</b> where society understands and values the ocean in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development.</p>
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>01 June 2021</b> High-Level Launch Event of the Ocean Decade – first international conference of the Ocean Decade</p> <p><b>July 2021 to June 2022</b> Ocean Decade Laboratories event series:</p> <p><b>7 – 8 July 2021</b> <u><a href="#">An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean</a></u></p> <p><b>15 – 17 September 2021</b> <u><a href="#">A Predicted Ocean</a></u></p> <p><b>17 – 19 November 2021</b> <u><a href="#">A Clean Ocean</a></u></p> <p><b>9 – 11 March 2022</b> <u><a href="#">A Healthy and Resilient Ocean</a></u></p>



	<p><b>5 – 7 April 2022</b> <u>A Safe Ocean</u></p> <p><b>10 – 12 May 2022</b> <u>An Accessible Ocean</u></p> <p><b>31 May – 2 June 2022</b> <u>A Productive Ocean</u></p>
<p><b>Ocean Decade Laboratories</b></p>	<p>The Laboratories are dedicated to the seven official Outcomes of the Ocean Decade. They aim to generate partnerships, engage stakeholders, and pursue concrete courses of action. Core Events lasting three to four hours will be organised by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in partnership with the IOC and lead into the Laboratories. Research institutions, NGOs, art and cultural institutions, associations, and societies are invited to <u>submit proposals for the related Satellite Activities</u>. In this way, diversity and a multi-stakeholder approach will be pursued with a wide variety of formats, ensuring the participation of people from different time zones and parts of the world.</p>

More general information on the Ocean Decade can be found [here](#).

The program and further details of the virtual High-Level Launch Event and the Ocean Decade Laboratories can be found [here](#).

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