



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO - 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

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6 October 2021

Dear Prof Abtahi,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to inform you of the endorsement of your Decade Action entitled "The West Asia Blue Waters, ID 131" as a project forming part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

Please accept my sincere congratulations for this achievement. Let me also thank you for your engagement and commitment to the Ocean Decade vision of the science we need for the ocean we want.

Within the structure set out in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, individual projects are typically attached to endorsed Decade programmes. In your case, there are not yet any Decade programmes to which your project can be attached. Such programmes may emerge over time, but in the meantime we encourage you to engage actively in the Communities of Practice that are described below to facilitate collaboration and synergies.

As you further develop and start implementing your project, we would like to remind you of the Ocean Decade endorsement criteria, including those related to co-design and engagement of users all along the ocean science value chain, and those related to open and accessible data management. We strongly encourage you to adopt these principles and approaches in your Decade project and to engage via the Communities of Practice that are described below to share experiences and access information and tools on these approaches. We have also attached here a recent publication from the Ocean Decade on co-design approaches that may prove useful in this regard.

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Prof. Behrooz Abtahi
UNESCO Category II Regional Education and
Research Centre on Oceanography
for West Asia (RCOWA)
No. 3, Etemadzadeh St., Fatemi Ave.
Tehran, 1411813389
Islamic Republic of Iran

Chairperson

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Technical Secretary
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

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Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Alexander FROLOV
Assistant to the President
National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"
Academika Kurchatova pl., 1
123182 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Frederico Antonio SARAIVA NOGUEIRA
Navy Captain (Ret) Directorate
of Hydrography and Navigation
Rua Barao de Jaceguai S/N
24048-900 Niterói
BRAZIL

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Dr Karim HILMI
Head of Oceanography Department
Institut National de Recherche
Halieutique (INRH)
02, Boulevard Sidi Abderrahmane
Ain Diab
20180 Casablanca
MOROCCO

Over the course of the Decade there is a potential for your project to grow into a Decade programme. This could occur, for example, through the inclusion of new partners or geographies in your initiative or through consolidation of your project with other projects. If you would like to discuss this possibility in more detail, please do not hesitate the Decade Coordination Unit at oceandecade@unesco.org.

The endorsement of your project marks an important step in your engagement in the Ocean Decade. To get things started I would kindly ask you to carry out the following steps:

- (i) Please review the attached Charter for Endorsed Decade Projects which includes further information on the functioning and roles of projects as part of the Ocean Decade.
- (ii) Please review the information the Communities of Practice provided at this [link](#) and sign up to one or more of the Communities of Practice that are relevant to your project. Via this link you will also be asked if you would be willing to play a lead role in co-organising a virtual “meet and greet” between Community of Practice members in coming months. We typically expect Decade programmes to take these leadership roles, but you are welcome to indicate your interest in these roles as well.
- (iii) Please review, print on your institutional letterhead, and then sign the attached acknowledgement letter confirming receipt of this letter and the information contained herein.

Again, on behalf of the entire Ocean Decade Team, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the endorsement of your Decade Action and together let us create the ocean we want!

Sincerely,



Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary, IOC



CHARTER FOR ENDORSED DECADE PROJECT

Congratulations! After a thorough review process, the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) has endorsed your Decade Project as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade).

This endorsement is a recognition that your project will play a central role in supporting the Ocean Decade mission to catalyse transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and the ocean, in order to achieve the Ocean Decade vision of 'the science we need for the ocean we want'.

This Charter document sets out the responsibilities of the partners responsible for implementing the project, as well as providing other useful information and conditions pertaining to the endorsement.

I. DURATION AND SCOPE OF ENDORSEMENT

1. The endorsement of the project will be valid for the duration that you identified in your submission. If there is a material change in the duration of the implementation period of more than six (6) months, please notify the Decade Coordination Unit in writing so that we can determine whether a subsequent endorsement evaluation is required.
2. The endorsement of the project is for the scope that was detailed in the submission to the Decade Coordination Unit, any subsequent supplementary information provided to the Decade Coordination Unit during the evaluation process, and any conditions or requirements identified in the endorsement letter from the Executive Secretary of the IOC. If you plan any significant changes to the project, including its strategy, plan and/or partners, please advise the Decade Coordination Unit as soon as possible so that we can determine whether a subsequent endorsement evaluation is required.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ENDORSED DECADE PROJECT

3. As a Decade Project, your project will play a prominent role in delivering against the ambitions of the Ocean Decade and contributing to one or more Ocean Decade Challenge[s]. Specifically, the project will be responsible for:
 - i. Ensuring close and regular coordination and communication with the nominated Decade coordination structures including any relevant Decade Programmes, Decade Coordination Offices, Decade Collaborative Centres and Decade Implementing Partners. This includes, amongst other issues, provision of information to your umbrella programme, such as information needed for resources needs assessments, work planning, and annual monitoring and reporting. The Decade Coordination Unit, and if applicable your umbrella programme, will provide information on the Decade coordination structures relevant to your project.
 - ii. Playing an active role in relevant Communities of Practice via the Global Stakeholder Forum to collaborate with other Decade partners and thus contribute to the collective impact of the Decade.
 - iii. Ensuring coordination amongst partners involved in your project. This will include facilitating co-design and co-delivery within your project to meet the stated objectives, as well as coordinating work planning, implementation of activities, collation of information on resource needs and monitoring, and contributing to communications and outreach.

- iv. Working with Decade coordination structures to catalyse the co-design and co-delivery with new Decade Actions and partnerships. This will include actively participating in the structure within which your project resides
- v. Consolidating monitoring information at the project level for sharing with your umbrella programme if applicable, or the Decade Coordination Unit in line with the requirements of the Decade Monitoring & Evaluation framework. The Decade Coordination Unit will provide information on the annual monitoring information that you will need to provide.
- vi. Providing regular information on resources needs and gaps for operational and coordination activities. Playing a lead and active role in resource mobilisation efforts for the programme, and ensuring close and regular coordination and communication with Decade coordination structures in relation to resource mobilisation efforts, achievements and opportunities.
- vii. Contributing to communications and outreach activities to raise awareness of the impact and achievements of your project.
- viii. Contributing to regular review processes led by the Decade coordination structures that are envisaged in the Implementation Plan.

III. BENEFITS OF AN ENDORSED DECADE PROJECT

- 4. Your project will be recognized on the Ocean Decade website (oceandecade.org), and included in Ocean Decade communications materials and assets (e.g. social media channels, reports, Ocean Decade events).
- 5. As a Decade Project, you will be able to use the Ocean Decade logo in line with the Ocean Decade Branding Guidelines in relevant materials and assets, including, but not limited to, peer-reviewed papers, reports, programme website, programme materials, press materials and/or social media channels. Please note that you cannot grant or authorise use of the logo to any third party.

IV. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF ENDORSEMENT

- 6. Please note that in extreme cases the IOC may suspend or terminate this endorsement if there is a failure to fulfil the responsibilities outlined in this Charter or if annual resources needs assessments indicate that despite the best efforts of the Project Lead and the Decade coordination structures the project has failed after a reasonable period of time to mobilise sufficient resources to operate as a Decade Project.
- 7. The Project Lead may also indicate in writing to the IOC at any time that it no longer wishes to be recognised as an endorsed Decade Project.

Thank you for your engagement in the Ocean Decade and we look forward to creating the ocean we want by 2030!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER – PLEASE PRINT ON YOUR INSTITUTIONAL LETTERHEAD AND SEND A SIGNED COPY TO j.barbiere@unesco.org with copy to a.clausen@unesco.org and oceandecade@unesco.org

Dear Executive Secretary,

I confirm receipt of your letter dated [INSERT DATE] advising of the endorsement of [INSERT PROJECT NUMBER AND NAME] as an endorsed project of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. I have read and acknowledge my understanding of the information contained in the letter and attachment.

Sincerely,

[NAME AND TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEAD PARTNER OF THE DECADE PROJECT]

[DATE]