

Ocean Visions – UN Decade Collaborative Center for Ocean-Climate Solutions

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2023/2024



MOTIVATION

The climate crisis is the greatest threat to the ocean, which nurtures 80 percent of all life on Earth. At the same time, the ocean is critical to planetary climate regulation. The scale of climate impacts to the ocean, and hence risks to the climate, is immense and will take planetary-scale action across multiple dimensions. The Ocean Visions – UN Decade Collaborative Center for Ocean-Climate Solutions (OV-UN DCC) can contribute significantly to ameliorating the ocean-climate crisis by convening and mobilizing global actors to identify, test, develop, scale, and amplify innovations and solutions globally. The OV-UN DCC will provide visible leadership within the UN Ocean Decade structure to advance awareness of the need for integrated ocean-climate solutions, identify the tools available to develop and advance these solutions, and build effective collaborations and partnerships to move forward critical priorities as identified in the OV-UN DCC strategic plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

With support from Georgia Aquarium, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Ocean Visions, the OV-UN DCC will lead and support processes to co-design, develop, test, and ultimately help deliver scalable and equitable ocean-based solutions to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change.

The Center's work contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by leveraging the framework of the UN Ocean Decade to extend and strengthen a focus on ocean-based climate solutions and innovation.

The Center will pursue, among other things:

- Supporting ocean-climate innovations and solutions
- Focused ocean-climate solutions research collaborations
- Education, outreach and capacity-building specifically tied to the core objectives
- Advancing international collaboration and policy frameworks for development and deployment of ocean-based climate solutions

The OV-UN DCC will engage with an international set of stakeholders and institutions to further build international understanding and agreement around the suite of new solutions that need to be developed, tested and ultimately deployed widely to arrest and reverse the ocean-climate crisis. The Center will function as a global think tank and policy center, convening and supporting key experts, sectors and interests to better design and advance ocean-climate innovation agendas globally.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES OUTLINE



1. Ocean-Climate Solutions Innovation Exchange

The Ocean Visions – UN Decade Innovation Exchange is designed to raise awareness and increase international visibility of emerging ocean-climate solutions and innovations. The Innovation Exchange will explore synergies, overlaps, gaps and opportunities to advance the development of ocean-climate solutions and actions. The Innovation Exchange will leverage the UN Ocean Decade Framework via establishing the Ocean-Climate Solutions and Innovations Community of Practice, hosted by the UN Ocean Decade Network.

Objectives

- Increase international visibility of emerging ocean-climate solutions and innovations and facilitate knowledge-sharing
- Profile a wide array of ocean-climate innovations and solutions to a global audience

In partnership with aligned Decade Actions and broader Ocean-Climate community:

- Identify and work on key barriers to adoption and scaling of ocean-climate innovation/solutions
 - » Political, cultural, social, economic barriers
 - » Science and engineering barriers
- Help create enabling policy, social, cultural and economic frameworks to advance ocean-climate innovation and solutions



2. Ocean-Climate Solutions Community

The Ocean-Climate and Solutions Community will identify and support a new generation of ocean-climate solutionists and innovators. The community will support continuing education opportunities via internships and fellowships, as well as workforce development opportunities via supporting the US ECOP node. The community will also explore targeted ocean-climate literacy opportunities.

Objectives

- Identify and support a new generation of ocean-climate solutions innovators, including but not limited to, students, postgraduates, early career professionals, and individuals that are new to the ocean-climate nexus sector
- Support equitable and broad dissemination of knowledge
- Help facilitate capacity-building for 21st century conservation
- Facilitate continuing education opportunities
- Identify and seek to help fill workforce development needs
- Identify points of engagement to educate and leverage Georgia Aquarium guests



3. UN Ocean Decade Support

The Ocean Visions – UN Decade Collaborative Center provides support to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) within the IOC-UNESCO Secretariat by catalyzing and coordinating Decade Actions related to Climate (Decade Challenge 5). At the thematic level the OV-UN DCC will provide technical, logistical, and financial support for: (i) stakeholder engagement; (ii) catalyzing new Decade Actions; (iii) communications, awareness-raising and outreach; (iv) resource mobilization, and (v) monitoring and reporting for aligned Decade Actions.

To advance this mission, the Center will engage with a global set of stakeholders and institutions to connect those with the capacity for generating new science and engineering knowledge to those with capacity to develop and test innovations and solutions.

OV-UN DCC will coordinate across all Decade Actions focused on ocean-based solutions to ameliorating climate change, enhancing food security (Decade Challenge 3), and building the climate resiliency of critical marine ecosystems and coastal communities (Decade Challenges 2 and 6).

Objective

Leverage the framework of the UN Ocean Decade to extend and strengthen a focus on ocean-based climate solutions and innovation.

PRIMARY ALIGNED DECADE ACTIONS

In partnership with the DCU, the OV-UN DCC has identified an initial set of primary aligned Decade Actions. Primary aligned Decade Actions will contribute to the OV-UN DCC's work by implementing key functions and initiatives at the program and project level. Leveraging the networks generated by aligned Decade Actions is vital to the success of the OV-UN DCC's goals and objectives.

- [Global Ecosystems for Ocean Solutions \(GEOS\)](#)
- [Blue Climate Initiative](#)
- [Global Oxygen Ocean Decade \(GOOD\) Programme](#)
- [Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems Through Global Knowledge Networks \(SMARTNET\)](#)
- [1000 ocean startups](#)
- [Fisheries Strategies for Changing Oceans and Resilient Ecosystems by 2030 \(FishSCORE 2030\)](#)
- [Integrating Coastal Wetlands Data into Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Inventories for Developing Countries: A New International Blue Carbon Initiative](#)
- [International Ocean Discovery Program](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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