

BACKGROUND

Under the leadership of [UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission](#), the [United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#), or 'Ocean Decade', represents a historic opportunity to unite nations, organisations and individuals in a concerted effort to safeguard the future of our ocean.

2024 will mark the fourth year of implementation of the Ocean Decade. The time is now ripe to address key questions: What have been the main achievements since the launch of the Ocean Decade? What should be the key areas for action over the next three to five years?

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Focused on 'delivering the science we need for the ocean we want', the [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#) will be hosted by the Government of Spain in Barcelona from 10-12 April 2024 at the Barcelona International Convention Centre (CCIB). It will be the largest gathering of the global ocean community in 2024, with over 1,500 expected in-person participants coming together to celebrate and take stock of progress. It will be the highlight of an entire Ocean Decade Week taking place on 8-12 April 2024, with over 120 diverse partner-led [Satellite Events](#) throughout the city.

A crucial stepping-stone for defining joint priorities for the future of the Ocean Decade, the Conference will also unveil the initial results of the [Vision 2030 process](#). This collaborative initiative aims at identifying key targets and milestones to measure progress of the [10 Ocean Decade Challenges](#) by 2030. The key outcome will be a white paper for each Challenge, whose final drafts will be discussed at the Conference, providing a global platform for stakeholders to engage, share insights and collectively advance the implementation of the Ocean Decade.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The Conference will feature a [diverse programme](#) including:

- High-level plenary sessions with world-renowned ocean experts, policymakers and thought leaders.
- Thematic 'Science Solutions Forums' addressing two to three Ocean Decade Challenges, complemented by a series of [100 oral presentations](#) and posters on innovative science-society solutions.
- On-site and off-site Satellite Events addressing a wide range of ocean-related topics.
- Networking opportunities for participants to connect, collaborate and forge partnerships for ocean action.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Raise global awareness about the Ocean Decade:** The Ocean Decade isn't just a programme – it is a global movement poised to revolutionize how we understand, protect and utilize our planet's most vital resource. The Conference will position the Ocean Decade as a leading force in driving sustainable ocean management initiatives and shaping the future of ocean governance worldwide, with its results feeding into upcoming international meetings including the 4th United Nations International SIDS Conference (Antigua and Barbuda, May 2024), the One Ocean Science Congress (6-8 June 2025) and the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (9-13 June 2025) in Nice, France, and related ocean events.
- **Foster multidisciplinary collaboration:** The Conference will be a milestone event uniting experts from various fields, including scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. It will advance discussions, knowledge-sharing and progress towards the development of transformative and interdisciplinary ocean solutions in the framework of the Ocean Decade.
- **Showcase innovations and best practices:** The Conference will feature a series of plenary and interactive parallel sessions as well as 100 oral presentations showcasing concrete ocean solutions worldwide. Throughout the Ocean Decade Week, more than 120 Satellite Events will provide a platform for partners to highlight cutting-edge research, innovative technologies and successful initiatives to address global ocean challenges, in line with international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Empower stakeholders:** The Ocean Decade aims to foster cooperation, synergies and inclusivity through its multidisciplinary framework, offering equal opportunities to all to contribute meaningfully to ocean governance and conservation efforts. The Conference's interactive sessions, workshops, networking opportunities and Satellite Events will facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration across diverse sectors and communities.
- **Inspire action:** Through inspirational talks, engaging discussions and collaborative sessions, the Conference will create a ripple effect of action, driving global momentum towards achieving the goals of the Ocean Decade. By sharing best practices and success stories and empowering participants, ambitious ocean goals will be transformed into tangible outcomes that benefit the well-being of humanity and the planet, instilling a sense of collective responsibility and mobilizing action at all levels.

The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference represents a unique opportunity to accelerate progress towards the goals of the Ocean Decade. By convening diverse stakeholders and fostering collaboration, innovation and action, the Conference aims to inspire and catalyze transformative science-based solutions for the ocean we want.

The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference is co-organised by:

