2024 Ocean Decade Conference

CALL FOR POSTERS

1. Introduction to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

Hosted by Spain and co-organised with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) in its role as the coordinating agency of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference will take place on 10-12 April 2024 in the coastal city of Barcelona.

It will be a 3-day, in-person event co-led with a range of partners: Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council through the Barcelona Capital Náutica Foundation, and the Spanish National Ocean Decade Committee, which is led by the Ministry of Science and Innovation through the Spanish Research Council (CSIC).

The conference will be a key moment for governments, leaders, maritime sectors, philanthropy, universities, private sector, NGOs, and the general public, to take stock of the achievements of the first three years of the Ocean Decade and define a collective vision for the coming years. Participants will benefit from concrete examples and best practices in ocean science to deliver "the science we need for the ocean we want".

A key outcome of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference will be the publication of a set of white papers related to the 10 Decade Challenges, that will identify future priorities for the Ocean Decade to generate the knowledge needed for science-based solutions related to global challenges, such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable ocean economy, pollution and natural hazards.

The Conference has the following objectives:

i. Showcase and celebrate achievements of the Ocean Decade from 2021 to 2024.

ii. Generate consensus on science – policy – society priorities for the Ocean Decade over the next 3 to 5 years through structured dialogue around white papers resulting from the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 Process.

iii. Create opportunities for networking to catalyse new partnerships and initiatives amongst diverse stakeholder groups and to bring new partners to the Ocean Decade.

iv. Provide a global platform for announcements and commitments to support the solutions-oriented goals of the Ocean Decade.

v. Prepare existing and future Ocean Decade partners and initiatives for a visible and meaningful role in the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and related events.

vi. Highlight initiatives led by local partners relevant to the Ocean Decade, in particular in relation to activities related to the role of science in the sustainable ocean economy.

vii. Raise visibility and awareness of the Ocean Decade and the role of ocean science in sustainable development amongst the general public in Barcelona.

This Guidance Note has been developed to provide information on Poster submissions to the Conference.

2. What types of Posters are being solicited?

We are inviting submissions of Posters focused on initiatives, projects, organizations, or groups that work to contribute to the fulfillment of the Ocean Decade Challenges and enhance cooperation and collaboration within the Ocean Decade. Of particular interest are posters that showcase efforts that aim to bridge across disciplines, sectors, and thematic areas while also promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion.

3. When and where will Posters be exhibited?

Posters will be exhibited in the Banquet Hall of the main conference venue, the Barcelona International Convention Centre (CCIB). Posters will be exhibited throughout the entire duration of the Conference from 10 to 12 April 2024. Oral poster sessions will be organised during lunchbreaks of the Conference.

4. Who is eligible to apply for a Poster?

Anyone is eligible to apply for a Poster; however, Posters proposed by more than one partner will typically be given priority. The previous and ongoing engagement of Poster authors with the Ocean Decade will be considered as one of the selection criterion.

5. How will Posters be selected?

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate and select the Posters:

    i.   Demonstrated link to the Conference outcomes

    ii.   Innovative nature of the substance of the Poster

    iii.   Link to the Ocean Decade of the Poster author(s)

In their application, organisers will need to succinctly demonstrate how they meet the above criteria.

6. What is the process to apply for a Poster?

To apply for a Poster, applicants must complete all relevant sections of this form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/poster_2024

Please ensure your poster is formatted to A0 portrait dimensions. Following selection, further details on printing arrangements will be provided in subsequent communications.

Applications must be submitted before 23.59h CET on 1 December 2023. Applicants will be informed of the decision on their submission in February 2024.