



2024 Ocean Decade Conference

CALL FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

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 Nàutica 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 submissions for presentations that will be made during the Conference.

2. What types of oral presentations are being solicited?

As part of the Conference, [four sessions](#) will address science and solutions across the Ocean Decade Challenges. During the parallel sessions within each of these sessions, presentations are being solicited to showcase innovative science and solutions relevant to the Challenges. The presentations, which will each be 5 minutes in duration, should demonstrate how the work being showcased will contribute to the [vision and mission](#) of the Ocean Decade, including how it is filling critical gaps or priorities for the Ocean Decade Challenges.

Presentations that demonstrate clear evidence of co-design and co-delivery of solutions - oriented ocean science, and that provide examples of multi-partner collaborations that have led to the use of ocean science are strongly encouraged. Presentations from [Early Career Ocean Professionals \(ECOPs\)](#) and representatives from [Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#) and [Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#) are also highly welcome.

3. Who is eligible to apply for a Presentation?

Anyone is eligible to apply for a Presentation; however, Presentations that showcase initiatives and projects from multiple partners will typically be given priority. The previous and ongoing engagement of the authors of the Presentation with the Ocean Decade will be considered as one of the selection criterion.

4. How will Presentations be selected?

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

- i. Demonstrated link to the Conference outcomes.
- ii. Innovative and transformative nature of the substance of the Presentation, including evidence of co-design and co-delivery of science and uptake of science and knowledge for solutions.
- iii. Contribution to filling critical gaps and priorities for the Ocean Decade Challenges.
- iv. Link to the Ocean Decade of the Presentation authors.

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

Please note:

- Due to constraints on the number of available slots for Presentations, some applicants might be encouraged to submit their work as a poster presentation instead.
- The acceptance for an oral presentation does not imply that the organisers will cover travel expenses. However, presenters from LDCs, SIDS, or ECOPs are encouraged to apply for travel support.

5. What is the process to apply for a Presentation?

To apply for a Presentation, applicants must complete all relevant sections of this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/presentation-2024>

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