



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

A contribution to the Ocean Decade

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade) is calling for a transformation in how to generate and use ocean research. To reverse the decline in ocean health, the Ocean Decade strives for sustainable development of the ocean, seas, and coasts. To that effect, it provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to co-design and co-deliver the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate advances in ocean science. The Ocean Decade has a focus on inclusive and transformative science and aims to ensure that no one is left behind.

As part of its resource mobilisation strategy, the Ocean Decade Coordination Unit works with key partners who are supporting ocean science around the world to align priorities and financing decisions via joint calls such as the current one with the Research Council of Norway (RCN). Joint calls aim to ensure that new and innovative ocean science initiatives that are being funded by partners contribute to the global vision and mission of the Ocean Decade. They also allow participants of funded initiatives to benefit from being part of the Ocean Decade stakeholder system including through new partnerships and networks and visibility for their work. Funded projects will contribute to one or more of the ten Ocean Decade Challenges that represent the most immediate and pressing needs for ocean science:

1. Understand and beat marine pollution
2. Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity
3. Sustainably feed the global population
4. Develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy
5. Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change
6. Increase community resilience to ocean hazards
7. Expand the Global Ocean Observing System
8. Create a digital representation of the ocean
9. Skills, knowledge, and technology for all
10. Change humanity's relationship with the ocean

RCN financed projects to this call will be followed by an evaluation from the Decade Coordination Unit to ensure that selected research projects are also eligible for endorsement as Decade Actions. Endorsed projects will be able to use the Ocean Decade branding in their communications and awareness raising activities in accordance with Decade Brand Guidelines. Furthermore, participants of the successful proposals will be invited to become members of the Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum and use this Forum to collaborate with partners around the world to achieve a collective impact as part of the Ocean Decade.

Evaluation for endorsement as Ocean Decade action

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation process to attribute the endorsement as Decade Actions. Projects for funding through this RCN joint call should demonstrate alignment with those criteria in the following list *that are relevant* to their proposed initiative:

- Contribute to fulfilling the Ocean Decade Challenges and to achieving the Decade objectives and the associated sub-objectives.
- Accelerate the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.
- Are co-designed or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, and thus facilitate the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision-making, management and/or innovation.
- Ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner.
- Contribute toward capacity development, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.
- Overcome barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational and geographic diversity.
- Collaborate with and engage local and indigenous knowledge holders.

The above criteria coincide to a high degree with the requirements for the call by The Research Council.