

## Creating “Communities of Practice” in the Ocean Decade

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### What is an Ocean Decade Community of Practice?

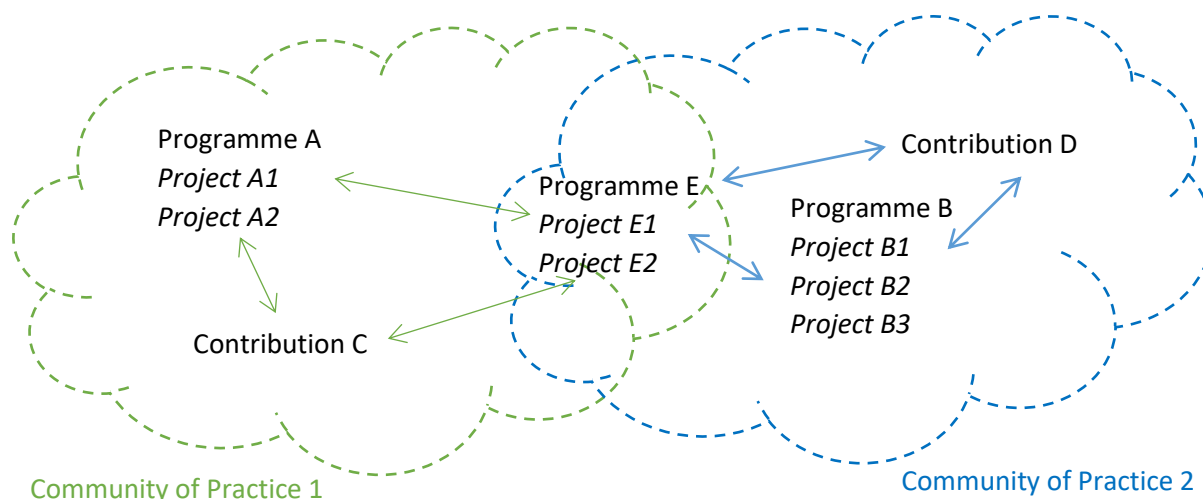
Throughout the Ocean Decade, partners around the world will lead numerous Decade Actions in the form of programmes, projects and contributions. In order to achieve the Decade’s aim of collective action around major global and regional priorities, a series of Communities of Practice will be created to allow partners to communicate, collaborate and work together. In simple terms, Communities of Practice are mechanisms to allow coordination amongst partners working on similar themes or in similar geographies to optimize the collective impact throughout the Decade.

Communities of Practice are a way of loosely organizing and making legible a very complex landscape throughout the Decade. There will be both thematic (i.e. based around the Ocean Decade Challenges) and geographic (i.e. based around major ocean basins) Communities of Practice. They will allow partners to work together - when it is advantageous - to carry out a range of essential functions including:

- Identification of thematic or geographic gaps and priority needs, leading to input to the design of future Call for Decade Actions
- Monitoring and reporting the impact of Decade Actions
- Communications and outreach
- Resource mobilisation
- Information exchange
- Development of joint initiatives and partnerships
- Joint work planning to avoid duplication and optimize use of resources

Communities of Practice will also allow a simpler entry point for the Decade coordination structures and other stakeholders wishing to engage with a group of partners working on similar issues.

Rather than being viewed as strict and solid boundaries between different silos of work, they can be thought of as dotted, fluid lines around a group of related Decade Actions. This group of Actions can interact and overlap with other related Communities of Practice. They will not dilute the individual identity of Decade Actions, nor change the internal operation of Decade Actions. Partners can choose to be part of more than one Community of Practice. Exchanges across Communities of Practice will be encouraged and facilitated through Decade mechanisms.



## What will Communities of Practice do?

It is anticipated that Communities of Practice will carry out the following broad functions:

- Horizontal coordination across partners to optimize communication, collaboration and synergies.
- Vertical coordination and collaboration with projects to ensure coherence in activities and contribution to overall work planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Consolidated monitoring in line with the requirements of the Decade Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
- Coordination of input to the development of Calls for Decade Actions.
- Work with Decade structures on resource mobilisation efforts, including resource need assessments.
- Communications and outreach activities to engage new partners and raise awareness of the impact and achievements of the Community of Practice
- Provide an entry point and information conduit for Decade coordination structures and other partners wishing to engage with partners.
- Facilitate exchanges across Communities of Practice to avoid siloing of efforts during the Decade.

## What Communities of Practice are proposed during the Decade?

The following Communities of Practice are currently proposed. Others – including sub-Communities of Practice - may emerge over the course of the Decade to address specific issues or respond to new areas of action.

Thematic Communities of Practice	Geographic Communities of Practice
Ocean Pollution	Southern Ocean
Ecosystems – Multiple Ocean Stressors	Arctic Ocean
Ecosystems – Deep Sea Research and Management	Indian Ocean
Ecosystems – Coral Reefs	North Atlantic
Fisheries and Blue Food	South Atlantic
Sustainable Ocean Economy	North Pacific
Sustainable Ocean Planning	South Pacific
Ocean – Climate Nexus	Mediterranean Sea
Ocean Observations	
Coastal Ecosystem and Community Resilience	
Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems	
Data, Information & Knowledge	
Capacity Development	
Ocean Literacy	
Cultural Values of the Ocean	
Early Career Ocean Professionals	

## Who can join?

The members of the Communities of Practice will primarily be: (i) the institutions and individuals who are leading or involved in Decade Actions – notably programmes, projects, and contributions, and (ii)

registered Ocean Decade Stakeholder Engagement Networks such as National Decade Committees or regional taskforces that have an interest in the Community of Practice. These partners can choose to join as many Communities of Practice as relevant to their work.

Other stakeholders or partners who have an interest in the topics addressed by the Community of Practice will have access to information and resources shared through the publically available elements of the Ocean Decade website and Global Stakeholder Forum.

### **Who will coordinate the Communities of Practice?**

Members of the Communities of Practice will drive the group's priorities and activities. Lead partners of programmes are expected to have a central role in coordinating and facilitating information flow within the group. Each Community of Practice will find a unique way of working to meet its needs and that takes account of available resources. Examples of coordination modalities could include designation of a lead partner that takes on a coordination role, the establishment of a working group to coordinate across key actors, identification of a seconded staff member, or mobilisation of resources for the establishment of a Decade Collaborative Centre or Decade Implementing Partner to lead facilitation and coordination activities. The Decade Coordination Unit will work with each group to support the definition and operationalisation of working methods, establish effective channels of communication, and where possible, help to mobilise additional resources.

The Decade Coordination Unit is also progressively developing and rolling out the Global Stakeholder Forum that will provide an online community platform with dedicated space for each Community of Practice to communicate and collaborate both internally and across different Communities of Practice. Once the forum is operational towards the end of 2021, a community manager will be hired to assist the overall facilitation and coordination of Communities of Practice.

Over time, Decade Coordination Offices or Decade Collaborative Centres will be established by partners to coordinate activities across the Ocean Decade Challenges and across different ocean basins. Over time, these structures will have a key role in supporting programs in the facilitation of the relevant Communities of Practice.

### **How can you join?**

Once endorsed, proponents of Decade programmes, projects or contributions will be provided with information on how to join the relevant Communities of Practice. Proponents can join as many Communities of Practice as relevant. Other stakeholders will be able to access information on the Communities of Practice via the Global Stakeholder Forum once it is operational.