



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Marine Life Observations: Integrating Biology and ecology observations to enable indicators for conservation, restoration, and sustainable development of marine and coastal ecosystems

28th June, 15:05-15:50 Lisbon time, Portugal Pavilion/Wave stage (One Sustainable Ocean)

Organized by:

Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR; Portugal); Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre; Portugal); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration US Integrated Ocean Observation System (US IOOS; United States); Atlantic Technical University (UTA, Cape Verde); Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), Hokkaido University (Japan); Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science Technology (JAMSTEC; Japan); Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); Universidad Simón Bolívar; Ocean Knowledge-Action Network (Ocean KAN); University of South Florida (USF).

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Biodiversity information is a pillar of the Blue Economy; society benefits directly from the diversity of marine life and the ecosystem services it provides. Long-term, sustained monitoring of marine life, when integrated with physical, chemical, and socio-economic information provides compelling and extremely useful information for policy and decision-makers. This knowledge is fundamental to sustaining development and conserving living marine resources.

The UN Ocean Decade Conference (UNOC) was an opportunity to bring this vision to reality, to satisfy local needs and national reporting requirements for targets of Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

No single nation or group can alone advance the goals of a Marine Life 2030 initiative endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This grand challenge requires robust collaborations across the globe so that each community has the information needed to adapt and plan for resilience and sustainable use of the ocean.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

1. Good marine life science and data are needed to make every decision involving the ocean;
2. Existing efforts and co-design strategies targeting the integration of biological observations/ocean observing systems and monitoring programs for ocean conservation were reviewed in collaboration with the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), and other groups;
3. Collaborations, monitoring networks and common standards are in place to support marine life monitoring and to exchange and adapt our knowledge for the benefit of human communities;
4. Identification of significant gaps in investment and understanding.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

1. Invest in long-term efforts to provide and share knowledge about marine life and its changes in the face of multiple stressors to enable the conservation, management and sustainable use of Ocean ecosystems;
2. Encourage the use of standards and best practices for marine life data and metadata collection and sharing [Essential Ocean Variables (EOV), Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV), following Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) principles and CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics)];
3. Provide a space for meaningful dialogue among stakeholders, seeking collaborations to conserve and conduct responsible use of the Ocean, including deep ocean, marginal seas, and coastal ecosystems in the context of sustainable development goal 14 (SDG 14);
4. Increase co-production of knowledge and capacity development, to lessen regional inequalities and ensure informed collection and application of biodiversity and ecosystem information to address human community needs;
5. Increase support for the coordination and collaboration of regional efforts for a successful UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)