



UN – Portugal Ocean Fellowship
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM
ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN GOVERNANCE
AND BLUE ECONOMY



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



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JULY 2024

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Capacity Building Program on Sustainable Ocean Governance and Blue Economy

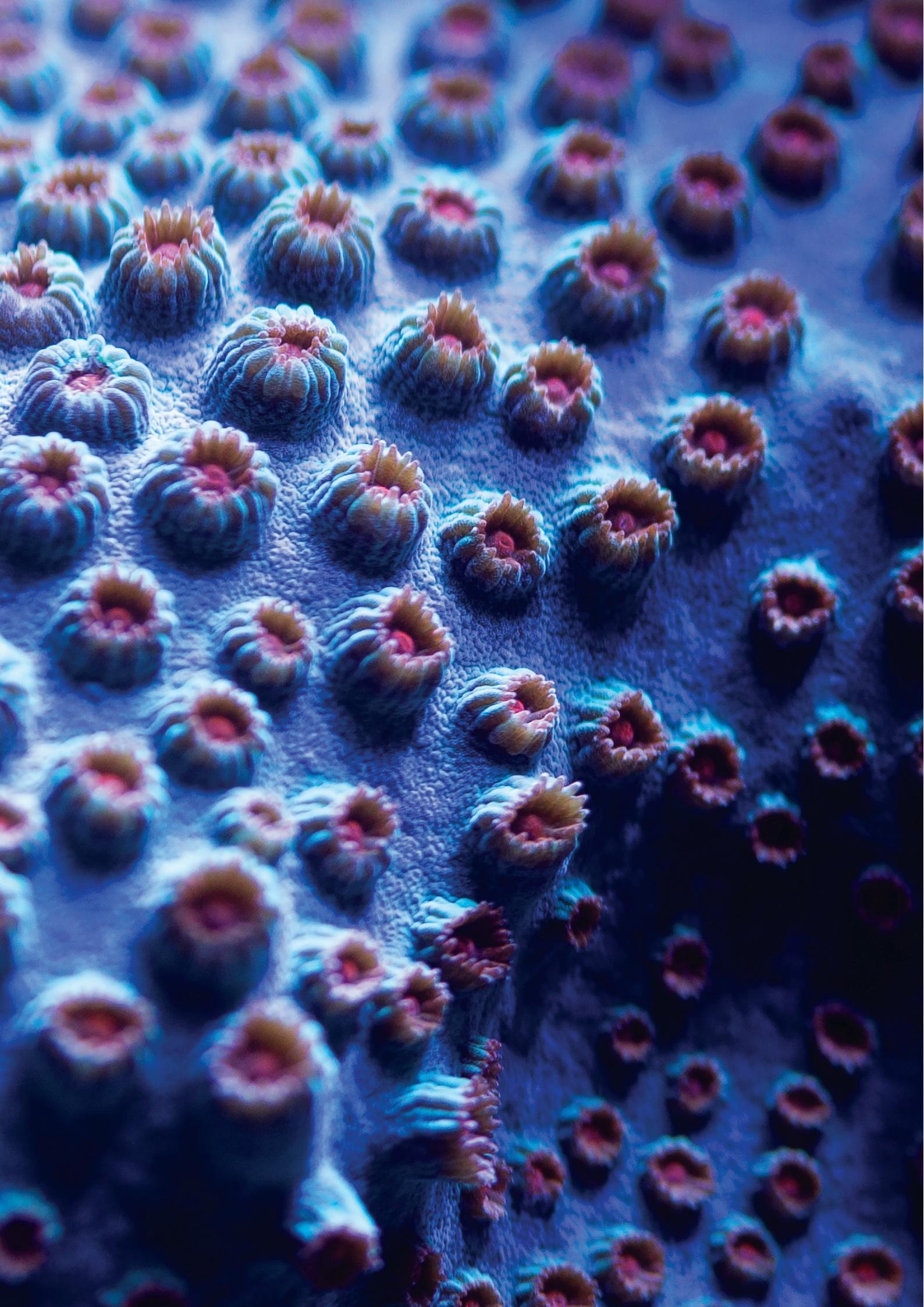


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1. INTRODUCTION

In today's world, the health of the ocean is more critical than ever before. As we face challenges such as climate change, overfishing, pollution, biodiversity loss and habitat destruction, it is imperative to prioritize sustainable ocean governance and focus on building a sustainable blue economy.

The ocean plays a crucial role in regulating climate, providing food security, supporting biodiversity, and sustaining livelihoods for millions of people worldwide, underpinning almost all Sustainable Development Goals. The importance of sustainable ocean governance for global environmental stability and resilience cannot be overstated. Effective ocean governance is instrumental to ensure a healthy planet and the achievement of sustainable development. Furthermore, the ocean provides vast opportunities for economic growth, in particular for developing countries, which can unlock their full potential for economic development while safeguarding the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. A thriving blue economy can create jobs, enhance food security and gender equality, alleviate poverty, and stimulate innovation in coastal communities, driving inclusive development pathways and ensuring long-term prosperity for both present and future generations.

Against this backdrop, the establishment of an ocean fellowship program is meant to cultivate a new generation of leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to address these pressing issues facing the ocean. By fostering collaboration and the sharing of information and experiences among participants, as well as by tapping into the expertise of Portuguese and international scientists, policymakers, economists, and stakeholders, this program will also seek to build capacity in developing countries, enabling them to drive innovative solutions to protect and preserve our marine ecosystems while promoting economic growth and equity. In doing so, this fellowship program aims to strengthen the collective effort towards the successful achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

This concept note offers an overview for such a capacity building program, which will start in 2024 and is designed to continue in subsequent years, in line with both the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the priorities of the 2030 Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy. This overview outlines the program's structure, organization and training outcomes, as well as substantive contents and lecturing/learning methodology. Further information, including on the guidelines for selection, can be found [here](#).



2. CONCEPT

2.1 LOCATION

The annual training session will take place on the premises of Oceano Azul Foundation, located in Oceanário de Lisboa, Esplanada D. Carlos I

1990-005 Lisbon, Portugal

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xaYfEdAHU1sU37wP6>

Note: Only 10 minutes away from the Lisbon international airport

2.2 SCHEDULE AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The capacity building program will be scheduled over five working days and will consist of 30 effective teaching hours in total (including Fieldtrips), excluding lunches and coffee breaks, unless otherwise agreed. Teaching will be scheduled Monday–Friday from 9:00 to 18:00.

Lunches, as well as coffee breaks, will be served in the Oceano Azul Foundation’s premises.

The recommended daily structure is outlined below but may be adapted.

Day	Time	
1	08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration
	09:00 – 11:00	Opening and welcome
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
	11:30 – 13:00	Lectures & Teamwork
	13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
	14:30 – 15:45	Lectures & Teamwork
	15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
	16:00 – 18:00	Lectures & Teamwork
2		
	09:00 – 11:00	Lectures & Teamwork
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
	11:30 – 13:00	Lectures & Teamwork
	13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
	14:30 – 15:45	Lectures & Teamwork
	15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
	16:00 – 18:00	Lectures & Teamwork
...
5	09:00 – 11:00	Lectures & Teamwork
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
	11:30 – 12:30	Lectures & Teamwork
	12:30 – 13:00	Course wrap-up and Program Closing
	13:00 – 13:30	Group photo
	13:30 – 15:00	Lunch

2.3 PROGRAM

The program will address the main substantive priorities aligned with the concept and purpose of the fellowship, as well as the areas where the organizers feel that more value can be added.

When identifying lecturers and teachers for the program, the organizers will take into account national and international partners with academic and practical expertise on the covered subjects, as well as demonstrated experience and excellence in such areas.

These partners will include relevant departments of the United Nations, relevant departments of the Portuguese Public Administration, the Portuguese Task Force for the Extension of the Continental Shelf, the Oceano Azul Foundation, the NOVA University, the Portuguese Institute for the Law of the Sea, among others.

The main substantive components of the program will be as follows:

Setting the stage: Introduction to the ocean crisis (total: 1.5 hour)

- Ocean challenges (Sea-level rise, harmful fishing, ocean warming and acidification, pollution)
- Ocean priorities on the road to 2030
- The importance of a global collaborative effort

1. Ocean Governance: frameworks at the international level (total: 8 hours)

1.1. Ocean governance frameworks

1.1.1. The legal regime established under UNCLOS and the institutional system of bodies created under the Convention (ISA, CLCS and ITLOS)

1.1.2. UN ocean related agencies: IMO, FAO, UNEP

1.1.3. UN ocean related processes: UNFCCC and CBD

1.1.4. The ocean under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1.2. The BBNJ Treaty

1.2.1. Ratification procedures

1.2.2. Tools for effective implementation of the BBNJ Treaty

1.2.3. Harnessing BBNJ for sustainable development

1.3. Sea-Level Rise

1.3.1. The legal implications of sea-level rise

1.3.2. Strategies for building resilience against sea-level rise

2. Sustainable Blue Economy (total: 8 hours)

2.1. The framework for a Sustainable Blue Economy

2.1.1. What is a Sustainable Blue Economy: definition, sectors and impact

2.1.2. Legal, policy and financial enablers of a Sustainable Blue Economy

2.1.3. The Sustainable Blue Economy in developing countries: challenges and opportunities

2.2. The Sustainable Blue Economy and innovative finance

2.2.1. Investing in the Blue Economy: challenges and opportunities

2.2.2. Innovative financial mechanisms

2.2.3. Conservation as an economic enabler - case study analysis

2.3. Tools for managing the ocean space

2.3.1. Marine spatial planning (MSP) and the different uses of the sea

2.3.2. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): legislative, policy and financial enablers

2.3.3. Case-study: ocean conservation at the local level

3. Managing and harnessing the potential of the continental shelf (total: 8 hours)

3.1. What is the continental shelf?

3.1.1. Geologic and legal definitions

3.1.2. The marine environment of the seabed and subsoil thereof

3.1.3. Knowing the continental shelf: the science and the technology

3.2. The extension of the continental shelf

3.2.1. The legal framework

3.2.2. Preparing the submission: scientific and legal requirements

3.2.3. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf: the process for evaluation and engagement with the Commission

3.3. Management of the continental shelf

3.3.1. Governance of the seabed and subsoil thereof

3.3.2. Conservation and sustainable use of the continental shelf

3.3.3. Relationship with international frameworks (e.g. ISA and BBNJ)

2.4 TEACHING METHOD

A mixed method approach will be applied to link both theory and practice. Field visits are also envisioned, when pertinent.

Ample time for questions and discussions on both specific and broad questions is incorporated. Group assignments will be included.

The format of the program is envisioned to focus on two main methods: Sessions and Breakout Groupwork.

- **Sessions** will focus on theoretical lectures from top experts in each of the substantive components and its subsections.
- **Breakout Groupwork** aims to provide a more individualized time with the speakers/experts, allowing participants to raise questions and topics that are specific to their countries. It is envisioned that participants make a small introduction giving a status on their country's actions under a specific topic. On the part of the speakers, they should be prepared to provide knowledge (including possible useful resources and contacts) that most fit the needs of the specific group of countries (eg: SIDS, LDCs). The breakout groupwork should also serve as an opportunity for participants to share with each other best practices, methods, and strategies that they have employed in their countries and that could be useful to other participants in the context of the specific Session being discussed.

2.5 TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Envisaged participants are high level officials from different developing countries, namely heads/deputy heads of national agencies overseeing and responsible for Ocean Policy and/or Ambassadors or their equivalents holding decision-making responsibility in the areas of ocean policy, governance and economy. Given their special relationship with the ocean, as well as the myriad of challenges stemming from their geographical specificities, priority will be given to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the first iterations of this program.

Seminar cohorts will be dimensioned for 20-25 in-person participants. For each in-person participant, virtual access may be provided to 5 additional capital-based officials.

2.6 DATES AND TIMELINE FOR OPERATIONALIZATION

The first fellowship cohort will occur in the second semester of 2024, from 14 to 18 October.

The operationalization of the program will be subject to the following timeline:

- 27 May – Announcement of the program and indication of deadline for application
- 16 August – Deadline for submission of applications
- 30 August – 5 September – Selection of participants
- 10 September – Announcement of participants
- 14 – 18 October – First edition of the program

2.7 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Capacity Building Program will seek to address, among others, the following questions, taking into account developing countries' specific challenges:

- **How** can ocean governance tools be effectively mobilized to support the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources? Which policy, legal and financial instruments are there to address challenges such as sea-level rise? What are the ratification procedures, the tools for effective implementation of the BBNJ Treaty, as well as the ways to harness BBNJ for sustainable development?
- **Which policy**, legal and financial instruments are there to promote a sustainable blue economy? How can the economic potential of old and new ocean industries be harnessed? To what extent, and through which means, can developing countries benefit from such potential?
- **What** are the main tenets of a successful submission for the extension of the continental shelf? What measures – scientific, legal and in terms of policy – can be developed to ensure the sustainable management of the resources of the continental shelf?

These questions will be addressed through **three intensive courses** (each focusing on the main themes described above) which will touch on multiple theoretical and practical aspects of each topic.

The methodology envisaged adopts an **active learning approach**, with discussion, examples, lessons learned, and practice as key constituents. Peer-to-peer and problem-based learning will be encouraged during the courses. The teaching team will pay particular attention to proposing activities meant to stimulate debate.

2.8 EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP

An evaluation of impact of the Capacity Building Program will be carried out regularly, with a view to assessing its implementation, drawing lessons and improving its added value.

A follow up to the Capacity Building Program will also be provided, including by the setting up of an alumni network that can serve as a repository for knowledge and expertise to support future capacity building needs or initiatives.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



JULY 2024