

## UN Decade regional workshops: a step-by-step approach for productive working groups

### Introduction

This document provides a step-by-step approach to support the co-chairs and participants of the WG to achieve the objectives of the regional workshop and contribute critical input to the preparation phase of the Decade.

### Key underlying principles

These WG are organized around the six societal outcomes of the Decade, which are considered highly transformative. These WG will address solution-oriented research to generate new knowledge needed to achieve a given societal outcome.

These WG represent the core mechanism of this regional consultation and will contribute to:

- further develop the science questions identified at the First Global Planning Meeting (global consultation),
- identify the key research priorities and specific capacity-building/training needs for the region;
- identify the partnerships to be developed as well as concrete deliverables;
- put in place the organizational system that will be in charge of developing a regional plan and encouraging regional initiatives/partnerships and programs and that will report and contribute to the global planning/design of the Decade.

The overall objective is to generate information that are comparable from one working group to another and from one regional workshop to another, so that they inform the Implementation Plan and design process of the Decade.

Proposed steps includes:

Step 1 - Identification of the stakeholders participating in the working group and their networks (5% of the allocated time)

Step 2 - Definition and scope of the Societal Outcome (SO) of this WG (10% of the allocated time)

Step 3 - Identification of the specific science action priorities that are needed to achieve the SO for the region (40% of the allocated time)

Step 4 - Identify capacity-building/training and transfer of marine technology needs (10% of the allocated time)

Step 5 - Identify financing opportunities (5% of the allocated time)

Step 6 - Identify concrete deliverables, organize the regional process and stakeholder participation and pre-plan (30% of the allocated time)

Step 7 - Prepare the reporting back to plenary

**The following sections provide details on each step.**

## **Step 1 - Identification of the stakeholders participating to the working group and their networks:**

The Chair of the WG introduces himself, the co-chair and the rapporteur of the WG.

The Chair proposes to do a tour de table to give the opportunity to the participants of the WG to introduce themselves and to identify their organisation, the category of stakeholders to which they belong as well as whether they are part of regional networks/initiatives/partnerships.

Ideally, the list of participants will be sent to the co-chairs and participants of the WG ahead of the meeting. This list will be accompanied by a questionnaire inviting the participant to identify its networks/partnerships.

### **Outputs of this first step:**

- identification of the different category of stakeholders that will be participating to this WG to better understand the proposed inputs;
- identification of the existing regional networks/initiatives/partnerships.

## Step 2 - Definition and scope of the societal outcome of this WG:

The Chair of the WG offers a definition of the societal outcome (that will be shown on a slide displayed on screen) and recaps the knowledge gaps and research priorities identified at the First Global Planning Meeting as well as the recommendations outlined by the WG and/or that apply to all WG. At this stage, the WG Chair does not have to engage in an interactive session/discussion.

Ideally, this table will be circulated to the identified WG participants ahead of the meeting.

Example: Clean ocean:

Definition: This panel will foster new ideas for integrated research to assess the human and environmental risks of ongoing and future types of ocean pollution and to generate innovative approaches to reduce the ocean pressures by promoting recycling, pollution reduction measures and incentives.

Identified knowledge gaps and research priorities	Recommendations made by the WG	Global recommendations that apply to all WG
<p><b>Emphasis on controlling sources of pollution rather than cleaning</b>            Research priorities:            1) identify primary sources of pollution;            2) identify pathways and fates of pollution;            3) determine ways of eliminating, reducing, or mitigating effects of pollution</p>	<p>1) A new R&amp;D Priority area: collaborative work between UN agencies to create a global contaminants database, containing information on essential ocean pollution elements including threshold values (particularly of use for SIDS) building on the experience and achievements of GOOS.</p>	<p><b>Traditional and local knowledge</b>            Identify complementary knowledge holders (local and indigenous) and local ocean users who can help advance research and develop solutions</p>

<p><b>Links between pollution, ecosystem impacts and human health impacts</b>          Research needs to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Accurate long-term impacts of pollutants on ecosystems;</li> <li>2) effects of pollutants on seagrass/ecosystems;</li> <li>3) Cumulative impacts of contaminants (all types) on the biology;</li> <li>4) quantifying impacts</li> <li>5) impacts of nano-plastics on the food chain;</li> <li>6) effects and implications of underwater noise and its effects on reproduction and healthy ecosystems;</li> <li>7) effects of deep-sea mining on the ocean health;</li> <li>8) effects of plastic pollution on coastal communities globally;</li> <li>9) overall population effects</li> <li>10) effects of plastics</li> <li>11) how cultural heritage is impacted by different form of pollution</li> </ol>	<p>2) Encourage and enable scientists in pollution-related Decade programmes to spend 10% of their time committed to communication and outreach about pollution issues;</p>	<p>Establish partnerships between local research institutions and citizen science programmes to develop protocols and use technology that permits citizens to make high-quality measurements and become valued partners in ocean observations</p>
<p><b>Climate change impacts and cumulative stressors</b>          Research needs to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) prediction of new forms of pollution as a consequence of sea-level rise;</li> <li>2) how rising sea level and acidification will change ocean chemistry;</li> <li>3) how climate change will impact the toxicity or degradation of pollutants</li> </ol>	<p>3) provide guidance to local authorities and the private sector to improve waste and wastewater treatment facilities</p>	

	4) Develop cleaning solutions in order to take significant steps to remove plastic pollution from the ocean and determine what levels are safe	
	5) Provide information needed to increase the social and political willingness and ability to define pollution issues and respond, such as developing a cost-benefit analysis of reducing pollution.	
	6) Carry out a horizon-scan for future pollution issues in collaboration with the blue economy sectors.	

The Co-chairs invite the participants of the WG to be separated into two (or more) sub-groups to conduct Steps 3, 4, 5 (40 min) and:

- (i) define and analyse the existing conditions;
- (ii) refine the knowledge gaps to take into consideration regional features and the science questions that need to be addressed at a regional scale to reach the societal outcome as well as the data requirements and necessary transformations to achieve this outcome;
- (iii) identify existing initiatives and new ones;
- (iv) identify specific capacity-building needs;
- (v) identify resources opportunities.

### Step 3 - Identification of the science action priorities for the region:

#### Tips:

- *Considering time constraints, we encourage you to focus the discussions on science action priorities and avoid getting into re-defining or changing the societal outcome, which has been defined at the global level.*
- *Keep in mind that the process includes time at a later stage for discussions on barriers such as funding and resources. If limitations and barriers (other than funding and resources) are raised, acknowledge and capture them so that they can be compiled at a later stage.*
- *Encourage thinking beyond business as usual and open discussion to long term. Identify what has worked well and why*
- *Get organized: identify a facilitator (the person who will be asking questions and capturing key words in the conversation using post-it notes), the barriers harvester and the timekeeper (to keep track on time).*

This session can be organized freely depending on the methodology that the chair of the sub-group wants to apply. Nevertheless, we are offering two different methodologies that could support co-chairs in achieving the WG objectives and deliver on the expected outputs if needed.

The initial conversation is about harvesting limitless creative ideas and possible solutions.

Start the conversation on the knowledge gaps in order to identify specific research priorities for the region. The facilitator can use these questions to prompt the conversation.

#### Option 1

- 1) Do the knowledge gaps and research priorities identified at the global level correspond to the knowledge gaps and research priorities of the region?
- 2) If yes, is there a specific regional dimension of this knowledge gaps/research priorities?
- 3) If no, identify additional/different knowledge gaps and research priorities.
- 4) What are the existing initiatives and networks that line up with these research priorities? What are the networks that should be developed to meet these research priorities? What are the initiatives/programs/networks that exist at a global level but are not sufficiently developed/don't exist at a regional level?
- 5) What kind of data would be needed? Is there a regional platform collecting these data at the regional level?
- 6) How traditional knowledge could help to get to the solution?
- 7) What are the existing technologies that could be used to achieve this societal outcome?
- 8) How could the private sector contribute to achieve this societal outcome in the region?

- 9) Is there some public/private initiative in the region to achieve this societal outcome?
- 10) What are the limitations/barriers and necessary transformations to achieve this outcome? What could be a real transformative change to achieve this societal outcome?

The facilitator maps out the answers to these questions in the following table/co-design canvas:

Specific knowledge gaps and science action priorities of the region	Initiatives existing at the global level that could be developed at the regional level	Regional initiatives that don't exist at a global level and may be valued	How the private sector could contribute	Existing technologies at a regional level/needs for new technology	Data collection, management and sharing at a regional level	Existing barriers/limitations other than resources or funding

## Option 2

### The issue/need:

- What is the actual issue/need and to what extent (area and time dimension of the issue/need)? (for example: What are the different types of pollution in the region?)
- Do we have sufficient knowledge to address this issue? what kind of knowledge do we need to address this issue? Do we know what are the causes of this issue?
- What could be done to address this issue/need?
- Has this issue/need been identified at the global level or in other regions (if yes, is there a specific regional dimension to this issue/need)?



### **The solution:**

- what could be done?
- What would be a real transformative change?
- What is happening already that works? (give some examples), what are the existing initiatives and networks that line up with what we want ? Do they work well?
- How could we make things better in a near future/short (what could be done now to kick-start the process), middle and long term?
- if there were no barriers what could we actually do?
- What is our experience when we experienced this issue/need?
- What would be the impact?

### **What is needed to reach the solution?**

- Who is already involved but could be better involved (at a regional level)? How?
- Who is not involved today (at a regional scale) and could be involved?
- What is needed at the regional scale to empower/learn/adjust/adapt/do something? (for example, are there some observing systems/programs in the region?)
- What do YOU need and what could YOU do? With WHOM?
- What would be the impact in the region?
- How could we get excited about this? How could we get others excited about this? What do we need to get them excited?
- What are the opportunities?

- What are the initiatives/programs/networks that exist at a global level but are not sufficiently developed at a regional level?
- How traditional knowledge could help to get to the solution

The facilitator maps out the answers to these questions in the following table/co-design canvas :

Issue/need	Solution	Empowerment	Barriers
	Short term (1 to 3 years)	partnerships:	
	Middle term (3 to 5 years)	infrastructure:	
	Long Term (5 to 10 years)	gender balance/women empowerment:	
	Transformative change		

#### Step 4 - Identify capacity-building/training and transfer of marine technology needs:

What are the specific needs in terms of capacity-building, transfer of marine technology and ocean literacy (human resources, institutions and citizens)?

#### Step 5 - Identify financing opportunities:

What are the financing opportunities?

What kind of support do the regional scientific programs receive? Are there any regional foundations that could be interested in engaging in the Decade?

## **Step 6 - Identify concrete deliverables, organize the regional process and stakeholder participation and pre-plan:**

The WG reconvenes. The facilitator and barrier harvester from each sub-group report to the WG. The rapporteur fill in the table included in Step 7. Then, the WG answer the following questions (5 to 10 min):

- 1) Recommendations for actions/concrete deliverables
- 2) Who will be in charge in the region to implement actions and to draft a regional plan?
- 3) Who are the regional/national stakeholders to be associated in the formulation of activities/projects?
- 4) Who will be in charge of reporting to the global planning process of the Decade?
- 5) Identify experts/institutions that will represent regional interests in the global consultation?

### Step 7 - Prepare the reporting back to plenary:

Co-chairs will meet after the session (at lunch break) with sub-groups facilitators and rapporteurs of the WG, to complete the table and prepare the reporting for Day 3 using the following table.

Research priorities for the region to meet the societal outcome (clean ocean)	Existing initiatives/programs that line up with the research priority to be linked with the Decade regional plan and/or scaled up	New partnerships/networks/programs to be developed	Recommendations for action/concrete deliverables	Organization/individual expert responsible for this research priority/action	Specific needs for capacity-building and transfer of marine technology to achieve the societal outcome (clean ocean)	Financing opportunities	reporting process to IOC/organisation in charge of the reporting to IOC	Regional experts/institutions that will represent the region at a global level
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								