

# 2024 OCEAN DECADE CONFERENCE

DELIVERING THE SCIENCE WE  
NEED FOR THE OCEAN WE  
WANT 10-12 APRIL 2024  
BARCELONA, SPAIN

As part of the Ocean Decade Week (8-12 April 2024)

# National Decade Committees

## Report from Barcelona meetings

**Prof. Matt Frost**

Chair, UK National Decade Committee  
Head of International Office, Plymouth Marine  
Laboratory



**U.S. National Committee for the UN Ocean Decade for  
Sustainable Development Fall 2024 Meeting, Washington,  
DC, October 24, 2024**



# 1<sup>st</sup> in person NDC meetings

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**The Ocean Decade from A National Perspective: what does success look like?**

**Professor Matt Frost**  
Chair, UK National Decade Committee  
Head of International Office, Plymouth Marine Laboratory



**Date/time:** 08th April / 0900 – 1100 CET

**Venue:** Marie Curie Room, Barcelona Biomedical Business Park (PRBB).

**Audience:** Invite only (NDC representatives and other selected invitees)

**Leads:** NDC UK, NDC India, NDC Brazil

**Format:** Introductions/overview (DCU, NDC UK); Case studies (India, Brazil, NZ, Belgium, USA); breakout sessions; close & plenary feedback

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**What can National Decade Committees do for you?**

Linking Global and National priorities through stakeholder engagement.

**Professor Matt Frost**  
Chair, UK National Decade Committee  
Head of International Office, Plymouth Marine Laboratory



**Date/time:** 11th April / 1330 – 1430 CET

**Venue:** Indian Ocean, MR127-128, level P1 – FL-NDC

**Audience:** Open to all

**Leads:** NDC UK, NDC India, NDC Brazil

**Format:** introduction / Role of NDCs (NDC UK); event one summary; Breakout sessions; close & plenary feedback



# The Ocean Decade from A National Perspective: what does success look like?”

- Brought together NDC representatives to:
  - *discuss operational and strategic issues such as how the NDCs can support transformational change at the national level (Management, funding of ocean science and its connection with policy and society)*
  - *hear from NDCs in order to share best practice (including how challenges have been addressed)*
  - *identify support / next steps for action for NDCs.*



# The Ocean Decade from A National Perspective: what does success look like?"



# What can National Decade Committees do for you? Linking Global and National priorities through stakeholder engagement

- More outward facing - brought together NDC representatives to:
  - *showcase the NDCs and provide a forum for Ocean Decade community to engage with NDC representatives to learn about the role of NDCs*
  - *Show /discuss how NDCs can support Ocean Decade stakeholders.*
  - *Foster stronger collaboration between NDCs and showcase best practice in support of NDC establishment*

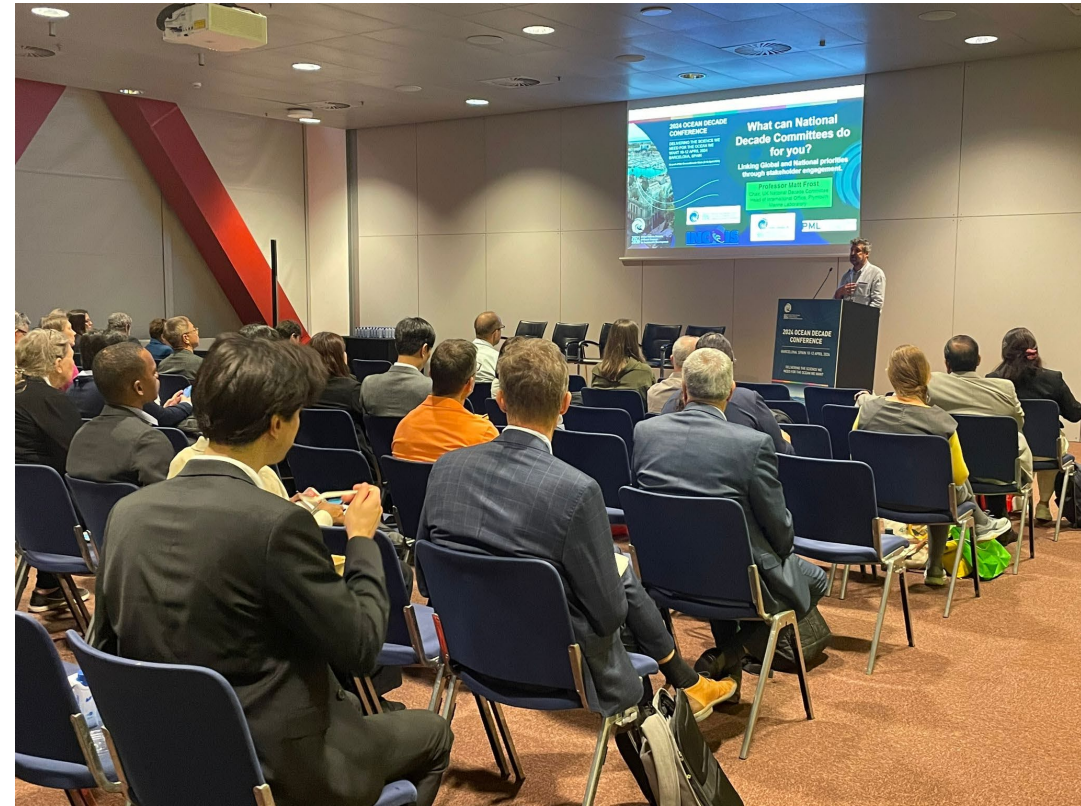


# What can National Decade Committees do for you? Linking Global and National priorities through stakeholder engagement



1. Having different sectors involved  
 2. Connection & Collaboration  
 3) Explain Decade Structure + purpose  
 4) share info about OD with public

Republic of Korea  
 NORWAY  
 SLOVENIA  
 Russia  
 Australia!  
 Italy  
 PORTUGAL  
 NEW ZEALAND



BELGIUM  
 NETHERLANDS  
 BRAZIL  
 USA  
 UK  
 CHINA  
 Denmark, Greenland, Faroe Islands

what does the NDC do (in ...?)  
 (quickly + QC) identify needs + expertise in  
 can you help us apply to be a programme?  
 Land support applications  
 identify contacts in other NDC's working on same challenges (maybe a chat?)

could NDCs feed back to funders re Decade research, needs + priorities?

Mobilised resources to establish a central hub  
 - UK - Coastal SIG, APPOC member

Run a webinar on the Ocean Decade / outcomes / NDCs for UK marine science / NDC community - it's so unique + so!

share lessons learned success + failures  
 -> mobilize resources (staff + \$) from

DOES ANYONE HAVE FUNDING FOR THE NDC?

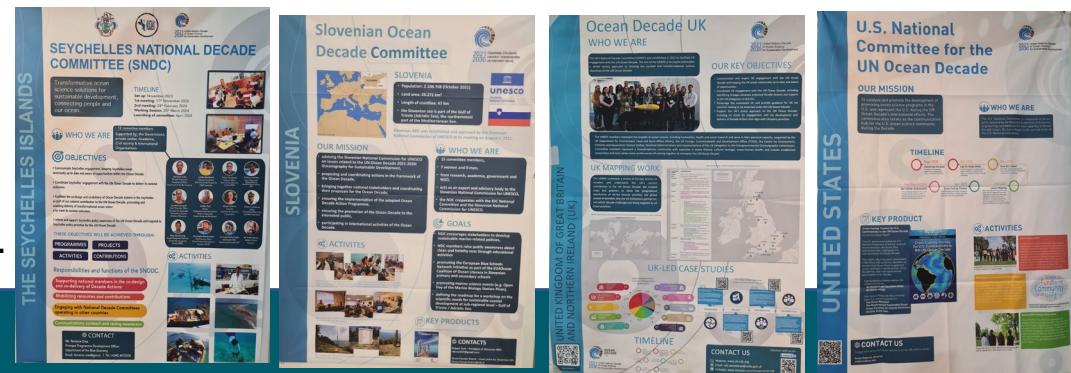
Would NDCs link Decade activities & invite collaboration



# National Decade Committees Attendance / contribution



NDC attendees: *Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Denmark, Germany, Greenland, Faroe Islands, France, Finland, Ireland, Italy, India, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Sweden, Madagascar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Tanzania, United Kingdom, USA.*



# Summary report - Key points & outcomes

- 1) There was widespread support for the importance and role of NDCs. Numerous benefits of a country having an NDC were identified with NDCs reported as being able to:**
  - *Provide a link between international initiative and ambition and national action.*
  - *Enhance / promote coordination at the national level.*
  - *Promote diversity and inclusion within the decade i.e. engaging with diverse groups beyond the ‘traditional’ scientific audience / stakeholders (e.g. NDC NZ Mobilization Support Groups)*
  - *Identify gaps in Decade action e.g. in geographical, sectoral, scientific sectors and Decade themes*
  - *Act as a neutral broker between stakeholders*
  - *Influence action at the national level including funding allocation*
  - *Promote / Support development of endorsed actions at the national level*
  - *Inform the establishment and running of regional centers*



# Summary report - Key points & outcomes

**2) There are common challenges facing all NDCs (e.g. resources, capacity) but it was also recognized that there are sector / country specific challenges, which means there is a need for overall best practice but solutions may need to be ‘tailored’ to specific situations.**

- Challenge I - How can NDCs deliver against a lack of resources?
- Challenge II - How can NDCs work together on delivery against a global backdrop of variability in resourcing?
- Challenge III - How can NDCs broaden engagement?
- Challenge IV - How can NDCs support coordination at the national level?
- Challenge V - How can the NDCs support filling gaps in Decade actions?
- Challenge VI - How can NDCs support UN Decade actions?
- Challenge VII - How can NDCs be a bridge from global to local action?



# Summary report - Key points & outcomes

**2) There are common challenges facing all NDCs (e.g. resources, capacity) but it was also recognized that there are sector / country specific challenges, which means there is a need for overall best practice but solutions may need to be ‘tailored’ to specific situations.**

- Challenge VI: **How can NDCs support UN Decade actions (and other activities) at the National level.**
- Suggestion: NDCs could have a greater role in the endorsement process of UN Decade actions / activities. This could include a ‘fast-track’ endorsement of NDC endorsed proposals.
- Suggestion: The benefits of engaging with The Decade need to be explained to multiple audiences / sectors with information tailored accordingly. This could be done for example through NDC led webinars.
- Suggestion: NDCs need a stronger voice in influencing government funding for the UN Ocean Decade and ensuring alignment of funding priorities with Decade priorities
- Suggestion: NDCs should be able to advise on the application process although there is also a need for the IOC to look at simplifying this process.
  - *Case Study*: UK NDC has collected ‘advice/tips’ on best practice for design and submission of actions / programs at the UK level and made available on the website. This helps the NDC as a ‘go to’ place for providing in country support.



# Summary report - Key points & outcomes

**3) There is strong support for a mechanism whereby NDCs can meet together (online and in person) for Collaboration & Support at the PAN-NATIONAL level. Ideas include:**

- **Regular** (e.g. twice a year) **online meetings of the NDCs** where we speak to each other and share best practice, advice. This can also be a forum for countries looking into establishing an NDC who could also be invited to attend.
- **Support from the IOC for in-person (or hybrid) gatherings of NDCs whenever possible** at other international ocean meetings (e.g. IOC Executive meetings, UNOC2025, UNFCCC & CBD COP meetings)
- **The next UN Ocean Decade conference (2027) to again facilitate in-person meetings specifically for NDCs and those interested in establishing NDCs** – additional effort should be made to include the global south and less well-represented countries  
*(N.B. An annual in person meeting recently suggested by IOC is a well received suggestion)*
- **More online resources** (best practice, guidance, forum to ask questions) to be made available to NDCs



# Summary report - Key points & outcomes

## - Report submitted to IOC



### National Decade Committees

### Barcelona meeting outcomes report

Report Prepared for IOC-UNESCO by Matt Frost (UK NDC) and NDC India and NDC Brazil. June, 2024.

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- Report to be available via IOC UN Decade website
- Recommendations being taken forward e.g. pilot phase for NDCs to endorse activities
- Future meetings of NDC reps planned for UNOC2025 et al...

