

14th Meeting of the UK National Decade Committee

Meeting Minutes

15th - 16th September 2025, Cardiff University.

Attendees

Members Present: Matt Frost (Chair), Aline Da Silva Cerqueira (Online), Amy Bray, Antony Firth, Conor Savage, David Tudor, Elvira Poloczanska, Emma McKinley, Gareth Cunningham, Katrina Ryan (Online), Michelle Frost (Online), Natalie Fox (Online), Sien van der Plank (Online), Victoria Chinery.

Ex-Officio: Alan Evans (NOC), Caroline Culshaw (Defra), Frances Bird (Defra), Lowri Griffiths (FCDO).

Secretariat: David Hughes (Cefas), Suzanne Painting (Secretariat).

Apologies: Gina Reinhardt, Hayley Roberts, Lydia Bach.

Ex-Officio Apologies: Bee Berx (Scottish Government), Bekah Cioffi (Welsh Government), Colin Armstrong (Northern Ireland Executive), Dave Carlin (Defra), John Siddorn (NOC).

Invited Speakers: Ashley Hall (Royal College of Art), Jiawei Liu (Common Seas), Benjamin Jones (Project Seagrass), Shamim Zawadi* (Tanzania NDC), Erick Kajiru* (Tanzania NDC), Lilian Ibengwe* (Tanzania NDC), Jas Chambers* (Australia NDC).

*Invited speakers from Tanzanian and Australian NDCs were unable to attend on the day. Agenda items 7 & 11 were amended during the session.

Item 1: Welcome and Chair Updates

The Chair welcomed Committee members and delivered the following updates:

General Updates

- A contingency plan has been agreed that in an instance where the Committee Chair may be unable to join or attend a meeting, Management Group members (Defra) will lead in the Chair's absence.
- Members were informed of Richard Hixson's decision to step down from the Committee with the Chair expressing gratitude on behalf of the UK NDC for Richard's contributions to the Ocean Decade.
- The Chair invited former Secretariat member Anamul Islam to join virtually to provide thanks for his support and contribution to the UK NDC.
- The Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) have provided a guidance document on national strategy development for NDCs. Rather than developing a national strategy, this could be used to inform a specific UK NDC strategy aimed at ensuring a legacy for the Decade, whilst utilising the upcoming Policy Briefs to link to the UK policy landscape.

- It has been announced that there will be a day dedicated to the Ocean Decade at the 2026 AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting in Glasgow.

Focal Points Updates

- Portugal's NDC are working with the UK NDC Chair to co-design an Ocean and Human Health Workshop to be held in Lisbon on 11th & 12th December 2025.
- The Ocean Decade have launched a new capacity-building matchmaking initiative focused on financial and in-kind contributions (matchmaking.oceandecade.org).
- The DCU's Ocean Decade Communications Team are looking to promote a LinkedIn campaign throughout 2026, highlighting the role of National Decade Committees. They are currently seeking content (10 stories to be selected), therefore the UK NDC is asked whether it wants to provide a story on the Committee and its activities.

ACTIONS:

- Review DCU strategy guidance document and provide feedback on potential UK NDC strategy for the remainder of the Decade (All Committee Members).
- Consider whether to respond to the call for NDC stories for the Ocean Decade LinkedIn campaign (Communications & Engagement Sub-Committee).

Item 2. Minutes and Actions

Minutes from the June meeting were agreed, and actions were reviewed. A brief discussion was held around the possibility of aligning a small NDC event with the upcoming Ocean and Coastal Futures Conference on 28th and 29th January 2026, which could showcase a number of UK Decade Projects.

ACTIONS:

- Contact the Royal Geographical Society to enquire about a potential room booking to coincide with Ocean & Coastal Futures 2026 (EM).

Item 3. Ex-Officio Memberships

In this item, Committee members discussed the potential appointment of new Ex Officio members to the NDC. Members were presented with the following proposed criteria for consideration, developed by the Chair:

- Leads to better integration with specific sectors to support delivery of NDC objectives, particularly where there are gaps e.g. Funders such as Research Councils / industry.
- Leads to better coordination and better links across the marine community to the benefit of the NDC e.g. the new coordinating body for the marine research community being established
- Supports better links into government and particularly the DAs.

All Committee members supported the criteria presented, **which were formally agreed and signed off**. The process for appointment was also agreed, as follows:

- Proposals put forward by NDC members and / or current Ex Officio members.
- Proposals to be considered by the NDC Management Group who will oversee the appointment process.
- Final appointments will be made with the agreement of the whole NDC as stated in the TORs.
- Ex Officio appointments (other than those listed as permanent above) will be renewable on a 2-year basis.

The following discussion focused on determining which sectors of the UK ocean community may be underrepresented, and which organisations may be beneficial to consider for ex-officio appointment. It was highlighted that following the disbanding of the Decade Working Group, ex-officio representation from a UK funding body would help the UK NDC to facilitate funding for Decade related work. It was agreed that UKRI should be considered, who meet the criteria stated above. Further suggestions for interested parties included the Royal Society and The Crown Estate.

ACTIONS:

- Explore potential entry points for initiating conversation with UKRI for ex-officio involvement in the UK NDC (Defra Reps; Management Group).

Item 4. Secretariat Updates

The Secretariat provided the following updates to the Committee:

- The Decade Advisory Board is seeking new members to drive the implementation of the second half of the Ocean Decade. The open call for nominations is accepting submissions until 15th October 2025. Further details provided in Agenda Item 5.
- Decade Call for Action #9 closed on 31st August, with the tenth call expected to begin in October.
- Rio De Janeiro has been confirmed as the host city of the next Ocean Decade Conference, in 2027. The Ocean Decade have announced an open call for the newly established Conference Programme Committee, who will work with UNESCO Ocean to help shape the structure and content of the event. The call is open until 15th October.
- The Ocean Decade Network (formerly the Stakeholder Platform) will officially transition over to LinkedIn. The DCU will share further details to all registered members in due course.

Social Media Updates

Updates to the UK NDC website include the addition of newly endorsed projects (Think Ocean Challenge; Plastic Clever Schools) and updates to endorsed action maps. It was noted that both the Stakeholder Map and Member Biographies sections require attention ahead of the next meeting. The Action Calls Sub-Committee led a successful campaign on LinkedIn, spotlighting a number of UK Decade Actors to promote the Call for Decade Action #9. The UK NDC website had 880 active users during the last quarter, whilst the LinkedIn page gained 55 new followers (a total of 806) and achieved 2300 impressions (number of news feeds reached).

ACTIONS:

- Inform Secretariat of any updates to member biographies on the website (All Committee Members).

Item 5. UK Delegates to the IOC Updates

In this item, feedback from the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly was presented to the Committee by the UK delegate to the IOC-UNESCO. The Assembly covered four Decade-related agenda items:

Update on the Implementation of the UN Ocean Decade

It was reported that the Decade have endorsed 59 programmes, 535 projects and 109 contributions internationally. The IOC is currently leading 24 Decade programmes and projects, however only 6 are currently being led by other UN agencies. The UK delegation have highlighted that there is a need for better engagement with other UN agencies to maximise the reach of the Decade and ensure better integration of policy and understanding.

Revisions have been made to the Board's Terms of Reference, to increase the strategic focus and oversight as we move into the latter half of the Decade. A number of working groups have been established/renewed, including a data Coordination Group and the Decade Strategic Communications Group.

Summary of findings from the Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN Ocean Decade

The scope of the mid-term evaluation covered five key areas: governance and coordination; resource mobilisation; science and knowledge delivery; engagement and outreach; and leveraging of the Ocean Decade to contribute to the IOC vision and evolution.

The independent evaluation defined 8 main recommendations, to which the Decade have provided management responses to:

	Recommendation	Management response
1	Streamline and strengthen the governance and coordination framework for the Ocean Decade to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation and support progress toward its intended outcomes in the second half.	Changes to Decade Advisory Board ToRs. But if no (regular) financial resource found to support dedicated Decade staff incl. the Director position, then likely to be scaling back of DCU and Regional Offices activities.
2	Strengthen UN system-wide collaboration and alignment to support the achievement of the Decade's outcomes and reinforce its identity as a collective UN initiative, enhancing its global reach and impact.	Decade Advisory Board ToRs to include UN Agencies. Engagement at leadership level.
3	Put in place a comprehensive resource mobilization framework to ensure sustainable funding for the coordination of the Decade and to strengthen the enabling environment for funding and supporting Decade Actions.	Focus resource mobilisation on a limited set of high-priority themes or regions. Address the narrative of what the Decade is e.g. it does not come with funding.
4	Strengthen national and regional engagement, with a focus on LDCs, SIDS, and other under-represented regions, to facilitate more equitable participation and alignment with local and regional priorities.	Priority identified in the Barcelona Statement, DCU will enhance engagement with Decade governance and coordination mechanisms incl. NDCs, utilising the Decade Capacity Development Facility to support SIDS/LDCs.
5	Enhance the mainstreaming of inclusivity, diversity, and equity to ensure that all voices, particularly those of marginalised and underrepresented groups, are meaningfully included and benefit from the Decade.	Continue initiatives that already enhance gender equity and youth inclusion as well as to facilitate leadership by and engagement of Indigenous and local knowledge holders.
6	Strengthen the strategic focus and impact of Decade Actions to enhance alignment with global & national priorities, promote innovation, support knowledge use & ensure practical application for tangible benefits to Member States and the ecosystem.	Improve accountability through reporting from Actions on how they are collaborating and influencing decision making. Align Calls with identified priority knowledge and policy gaps. Improved monitoring and evaluation framework will demonstrate impact.
7	Enhance the existing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to transform it into a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) system.	Track impact and progress at the level of the Challenges, using the Vision 2030 process to guide. Evaluate the science-policy-society impact.
8	Systematically leverage the Decade to shape UNESCO-IOC's post-2030 agenda and amplify the impact of its programmes.	Identify and ensure core initiatives of the Decade are taken into account in ongoing IOC strategy setting, incl. the IOC and the Future of the Ocean process.

It was noted that changes to the monitoring and evaluation process (recommendation 7) would likely impact the annual UK NDC reporting process to the IOC. It was suggested that the Committee may be able to influence how the process could work in future, and will investigate any suggested changes to the process during the development of the new MEL system.

Revised Terms of Reference for the Decade Advisory Board

Following the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation to increase the strategic role for the Decade Advisory Board, the Terms of Reference have been amended to the following key areas: resource mobilisation; engagement of stakeholders; science to policy impact; the number of UN agency representatives; procedural improvements. A call for new members of the Advisory Board via a Circular Letter 3050 (deadline 15 October) has been announced for the term January 2026 to December 2027.

A discussion was held around the potential for the UK NDC to support a nominee for the board. Any strategic decisions should consider not only the science being undertaken, but also how it is being achieved (for example through volunteers and citizen science as well as industry and research institutions). It was decided that it would likely not be feasible for the Committee to formally support a UK nomination given the short timescale to the application deadline. It was also agreed that withholding a formal nomination from the UK may better promote representation from other nations.

ACTIONS:

- Investigate the newly developed MEL framework and how it may inform NDC strategy & annual reporting to the IOC (Secretariat).

Item 6. Horizon Europe Funding Call: Empowering the UN Ocean Decade

In this item, members were presented with details on the upcoming Horizon Europe funding call, titled 'Empowering the UN Ocean Decade'. The single stage call will provide funding for a 2026/27 work programme to support the legacy of the Decade, focusing on at least one of the ten Decade challenges and one of the seven Decade outcomes. The programme should provide substantial contribution to key global efforts, including capacity development and international coordination, undertaken through endorsed Programmes, Actions, DCC/DCO, or for the implementation of the Vision 2030 white papers or of the Ocean Decade data & information strategy. The call is expected to open in January 2026.

Discussions were held around the role of the UK NDC in raising awareness of the upcoming call, and how to aid preparation for submissions within the UK community. Key suggestions included the promotion of the call through UK NDC social media networks, alongside a potential online event to generate links between interested parties and break down the application process for potential applicants. With the Committee in agreement for hosting an online briefing event, further planning was discussed in agenda item 14.

ACTIONS:

- Promote the upcoming Horizon Europe Funding Call through website and LinkedIn (Secretariat, All Committee Members).

Item 7. Ocean Decade Engagement (Data Generation)

This item was focused on the recent meeting of the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing, aiming to better coordinate Decade Actions on data and information management. The aim of the meeting was to initiate conversations and collaboration in individual countries between National Decade Committees, UNESCO-IOC designated National Oceanographic Data Centres and Associated Data Units, and Ocean Biodiversity Information System nodes. The meeting was attended

by a representative of both the Committee and the Secretariat where a number of items were discussed:

- The meeting highlighted DCO-ODS's aims to support Decade Actions' data needs, advance marine data and information management, and help strengthen national and global ocean data networks. It was noted that the UK is well-placed given national efforts to improve access and stewardship of marine data, such as MEDIN and BODC.
- The DCO are currently running a Baseline Data Survey, which will promote greater understanding of the types of baseline data used, where it comes from and any potential challenges faced. It was agreed that the UK NDC will help to promote the survey through social media networks.
- The DCO presented the offer to run an information session for the UK NDC, and it was agreed that a representative will be invited to the next Committee meeting to facilitate conversation.

ACTIONS:

- Invite a speaker from the DCO for Ocean Data Sharing to the next Committee meeting (Chair; Secretariat).
- Share the baseline data survey to UK NDC website and LinkedIn page (Secretariat).

Item 8. Engagement: Upcoming Opportunities

The Engagement Sub-Committee led conversations around a number of upcoming events and activities where the UK NDC may facilitate engagement with the Ocean Decade.

Upcoming Conferences

Ocean Sciences Meeting – Glasgow, 22-26th February 2026

It was highlighted that during the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Ocean Sciences Meeting, a day will be designated to the promotion of the Ocean Decade (formal agenda still to be announced). The Committee Chair is working with organisers to develop a series of proposed sessions, including a forum and plenary talk. It was also suggested that an ECOP session could be held, to better engage early career scientists with the Ocean Decade.

IPBES 12 Plenary and Stakeholder Day – Manchester, 2-8th February 2026

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will meet in Manchester for the 12th Plenary session in 2026. The UK government is drafting a paper ahead of the plenary session to outline contributions. Whilst it has been confirmed that no formal side events will be promoted, a parallel programme will be held which may provide an opportunity for the UK NDC. It was agreed that the Chair will communicate with organisers to better understand the content and structure of the event and parallel programme.

Ocean Advocates Summit – Bristol, 21st February 2026

The Ocean Advocates Summit, co-organised by Mindfully Wired, aims to bring together a wide variety of ocean stakeholders to celebrate conservation efforts internationally, with a strong focus on UK-led research and projects. UK NDC interaction at this event would help support the all-of-society approach, with invitees including research, education, the arts and general ocean users.

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity – Bruges, 17th November 2026.

The WCMB is a high-level international meeting that focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, providing a platform for policymakers, scientists, conservationists, industry representatives, and other stakeholders. The conference has been endorsed by the UN as an Ocean

Decade Activity, and provides a potential opportunity for NDC engagement. Suggestions included UK NDC support in organising a workshop or reception, which will be revisited at the next meeting.

The 8th International Congress on Underwater Archaeology – Oostende, 13-17th October 2025

This event aims to further the work of the Underwater Cultural Heritage community to convince society of the significant role underwater as well as coastal cultural heritage can play in achieving the goals of the Decade of Ocean Science. The event is held within the framework of the UN Ocean Decade, with focused Decade sessions to be featured throughout.

Engagement with UK government and policy

UK Updates on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) legislation

The UK government has introduced legislation to ratify the terms of the BBNJ agreement, seeking to support the High Seas treaty in protecting two thirds of the world's ocean. FCDO representatives are seeking support in getting the bill through parliament as soon as possible, by raising further awareness of the legislation. It was agreed that legislation and updates will be shared via UK NDC social media and amongst individual member networks.

Defra Chief Scientific Adviser Appointment

Defra representatives highlighted the recent appointment of the new Defra CSA, Professor Anjali Goswami. It was noted that Defra representatives of the UK NDC will soon meet with the CSA to provide a brief on UK contributions to the UN Ocean Decade. Committee members were welcomed to provide suggestions towards the briefing and were also welcomed to join the upcoming session if interested.

ACTIONS:

- Inform Secretariat if planning to attend the AGU meeting in Glasgow (All Committee Members).
- Share links to the UK government's BBNJ legislation on the UK NDC LinkedIn page (Secretariat).
- Schedule a date for Defra CSA briefing on the UN Ocean Decade, and share dates with Committee (Defra representatives).

Item 9. Summary of Day 1

The Chair provided a summary of outputs from the session and encouraged Committee members to consider how discussions may influence or impact Sub-Committee workplans.

Item 10. Welcome and aims for Day 2

The Chair introduced the aims for day 2, to engage with UK Ocean Decade actors and to consider the UK NDC's ongoing strategy and ambitions when developing Sub-Committee workplans.

Item 11. Ocean Decade Engagement (Promoting the UK NDC)

In this item, the Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee presented the final version of a video trailer aiming to inform wider society of the work of the UK NDC. The trailer was well received **and signed off by all Committee members**. It was agreed that the Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee will liaise with the secretariat to add the video to the UK NDC website and promote via LinkedIn, ensuring that credits are provided and thanks are extended to the voluntary team of developers.

ACTIONS:

- Add the UK NDC video trailer to the website and LinkedIn (Communications & Engagement; Secretariat).

Item 12. National Engagement with the Ocean Decade

In this session, three guest speakers were invited to present on Decade-related topics, followed by a brief plenary discussion.

Project NEMO - Guest speaker: Professor Ashley Hall (Royal College of Art, online)

Professor Ashley Hall (Design Innovation, Postgraduate Research Lead in the School of Design) introduced the Decade Implementing Partnership between UNESCO and the New Economic Models for the Ocean (NEMO) project led by the Royal College of Art. The project's aims are to:

- Research and design novel technologies to address major climate impacts in and around the ocean to create balanced and sustainable economic and behavioural models for the future.
- Facilitate ocean science to connect new knowledge with impact actions and stakeholder communities.
- Co-design innovations that go beyond 'human first' and address ocean ecosystem values at local and planetary levels.

The NEMO initiative encompasses numerous discrete projects, including: 'NEMO Ocean Data', which utilises AI camera technology to identify objects on and above the ocean's surface from marine vessels; 'NEMO Coastal Communities', which examines relationships between coastal communities and the ocean to understand connections between the ocean, local knowledge and cultures; and 'NEMO Grand Challenges', the biggest single-institution postgraduate design project in the world, and a unique and innovative learning experience for MA students in the School of Design. Discussions highlighted that the motivation for UN endorsement was to achieve an understanding of global efforts to address climate impacts, particularly from a design perspective. Endorsement has enabled greater collaboration and co-design, ensuring that stakeholders and their lived experiences are drawn in to decision making processes.

Plastic Clever Schools – Guest speaker: Jiawei Liu (Common Seas, online)

Jiawei Liu, Education Partnerships Officer at Common Seas, introduced the Committee to the newly endorsed Decade project 'Plastic Clever Schools'. Common Seas collaborate with a variety of national governments (including many Small Island States), the science community, schools and educators to deliver ocean literacy materials focused on the health impacts of plastic pollution. The Plastic Clever Schools project provides school resources, including teacher toolkits, student workbooks and ocean literacy lesson packages to over 400 schools across 27 countries. Common Seas promote the annual 'International Day of Action' which involves coordinated school engagement across the globe to provide talks, local clean-up activities and expert workshops.

Motivation for endorsement was driven by the alignment between Common Seas' values, and the Ocean Decade challenges (particularly 1, 9 and 10). Endorsement has enabled Common Seas to develop a strong international network and to better understand global efforts in promoting ocean literacy. It was also highlighted that UN endorsement provides added value when seeking funding for specific tasks and activities.

Project Seagrass & Seagrass Spotter – Dr Benjamin Jones (Project Seagrass)

The Committee were joined by Dr Benjamin Jones, Chief Conservation Officer (CCO) & Co-Founder of project Seagrass, to discuss opportunities for engagement with the Ocean Decade. Project Seagrass is the world's largest seagrass conservation organisation, founded by scientist wanting a greater pace of change in the protection and restoration of the world's seagrass species. The team

works across a range of national and international partners, including NGOs and local organisations to support capacity building in coastal communities.

Project Seagrass works alongside the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as a Decade Implementing Partner, but have expressed the desire to engage with the UN Ocean Decade which also aligns with the team's work. Specifically, the 'Seagrass Spotter' citizen science app utilises seagrass sightings as a ground-truthing method for satellite mapping assessments, which could be of great benefit to the UK science and restoration community with greater exposure through Ocean Decade endorsement. Despite potential difficulties in aligning the project with relevant existing Decade programmes, it was highlighted that the work of Project seagrass could be considered for endorsement under Decade Contributions, which review and accept applications on a rolling basis. The UK NDC would provide guidance where needed throughout the application process.

Item 13. Sub-Committee Breakout Groups

Sub-Committees were provided time to continue developing workplans for the upcoming year. Members were encouraged to consider the overall strategy and ambition of the UK NDC to determine how to best progress with activities. Feedback from breakout sessions was delivered in plenary in agenda item 14.

Item 14. Sub-Committee Report Backs

Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee

As agreed in agenda item 11, the UK NDC video trailer, produced by the Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee, has been signed off and will be uploaded to the Committee website. Simple word summaries of each of the Vision 2030 white papers has been produced by the Sub-Committee, to be shared via a LinkedIn campaign over successive weeks. The Secretariat will conduct a final content review for content and language before posts are uploaded, and the Sub-Committee will draft a timeline for the campaign.

The Sub-Committee also shared interest in hosting a small engagement session at the Ocean Advocate Summit, to be held in February 2026. The session would entail an ocean citizen assembly of around 40 participants, with organisers offering space free of charge. The event would require volunteer members of the Committee to act as facilitators, identifying the key priorities for ocean action in the UK. Committee members were in support of the event, which will fulfil UK NDC priorities such as engaging with new audiences and presenting opportunities for ECOPs. The Communications & Engagement Sub-Committee will draft a proposal for the event, and if agreed by the Management Group, FCDO representatives will investigate any potential avenues to provide support for travel and subsistence.

Policy Sub-Committee

The Policy Sub-Committee presented the final timeline to completion of the initial policy brief, which will require a review and sign-off by the Management Group. The Secretariat will support the final template design and allocate a host page on the website. The following series of policy briefs will be focused on the Decade Challenges and White Papers, but first the Sub-Committee will focus on developing a matrix aimed at matching relevant themes to government departments and policy makers to maximise impact of the briefs. Further plans for briefs will begin to look at the legacy of the Ocean Decade within the science-policy interface.

Action Calls Sub-Committee

The Action Calls Sub-Committee produced a LinkedIn campaign for the previous Call for Decade Action, spotlighting UK Decade actions and highlighting motivations behind seeking endorsement. A further campaign will be led by the Sub-Committee upon the announcement of Call for Decade Action #10, expected to arrive in October 2025. The Sub-Committee have also updated Action Calls FAQ documents, alongside updates to endorsed action maps and figures on the UK NDC website. The Sub-Committee plan to put out a call to both Committee members and stakeholders, to gauge interest in developing blog posts for the website, to be featured around UK-led actions and activities. The Sub-Committee also plan to revisit the stakeholder mapping task, ensuring that existing maps are updated to reflect all relevant stakeholders.

Engagement Sub-Committee

The Engagement Sub-Committee discussed opportunities to generate UK interest in the Ocean Decade in the lead up to the next Ocean Decade Conference, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in April 2027. All Committee members were in support of a suggestion for a UK stakeholder event, to be held in autumn 2026 with a focus on the impact of endorsements and showcasing UK engagement. Potential funders will be invited to the event, to facilitate support for the legacy of the Decade beyond 2030.

Further to discussions around the Horizon Europe funding call in item 6, the Engagement Sub-Committee agreed that the UK NDC will host an online briefing for the UK science community, drawing on experience from stakeholders who have participated in the bidding process for Horizon Europe. An FAQ document will also be developed to present to the community and shared through UK NDC social media platforms.

Finally, UK NDC resources were discussed, including existing digital resources such as presentation templates and slides (shared on the NDC Google Drive) as well as a potential need for physical resources such as pop-up posters and banners to be used at events. FCDO representatives will seek to secure funding for an NDC poster and the Committee will decide on practicalities around transport and storage.

ACTIONS:

- Share proposal for NDC event (including costs & benefits) at the Ocean Advocate Summit for Committee feedback and Management Group review (Communications & Engagement; Management Group).
- Produce a timeline for the Vision 2030 white papers LinkedIn campaign (Communications & Engagement Sub-Committee).
- Finalise content and design of policy brief for Management Group sign off and publication on the website (Policy; Management Group; Secretariat).
- Consider options for printing an NDC pop-up poster (FCDO representatives).
- Engage with the DCU, Innovate UK and Cardiff University around supporting a Horizon Europe funding call online event (Engagement Sub-Committee, Management Group).

Item 15. Forward Look

The date and time for the next virtual meeting of the UK NDC was agreed for Monday 8th December 1-4pm. Potential locations for the next in-person meeting were also discussed, with an offer of Falmouth in March 2026. Prospective dates will be determined by the Management Group and a Doodle Poll will be sent to Committee members in due course.

ACTIONS:

- Discuss potential dates for the next in-person meeting and send Doodle Poll to Committee (Management Group; Secretariat).
- Continue to add any relevant updates to the UK NDC Google Drive, including Stakeholder Networks and Upcoming Events calendar (All Committee Members).

Item 16. AOB

No further business was raised by the Committee.

Item 17. Summary and Close

All actions were summarised and agreed by the Committee.

Actions

No.	Action	Deadline	Owner
1	Review DCU strategy guidance and provide feedback on potential UK NDC strategy for the Decade.	31/10/25	All Committee members
2	Consider a response to the DCU's call for NDC stories LinkedIn campaign.	31/10/25	Comms SC
3	Contact the Royal Geographical Society re: room booking for Coastal Futures.	03/10/25	EM
4	Explore potential entry points for initiating conversation with UKRI for ex-officio involvement in the UK NDC.	31/10/25	CC; Management Group
5	Inform Secretariat of any updates to member biographies on the website.	31/10/25	All Committee members
6	Investigate the new MEL framework and how it may inform strategy & annual reporting to the IOC.	05/12/25	Secretariat
7	Promote upcoming Horizon Europe Funding Call through website and LinkedIn.	TBC	Secretariat; All Committee Members
8	Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite speaker to next meeting. - Share the baseline data survey to UK NDC website and LinkedIn. 	31/10/25 26/09/25	Chair; Secretariat
9	Inform Secretariat if planning to attend the AGU meeting in Glasgow.	05/12/25	All Committee members
10	Share links to BBNJ legislation to UK NDC LinkedIn.	30/09/25	Secretariat
11	Schedule a date for Defra CSA briefing on the UN Ocean Decade, and share dates with Committee.	TBC	Defra (CC, FB)
12	Add the UK NDC video trailer to the website and LinkedIn.	05/12/25	Comms SC; Secretariat
13	Share proposal (incl. costs & benefits) for NDC event at the Ocean Advocate Summit for feedback and Management Group review.	15/10/25	Comms SC; Management Group
14	Produce timeline for Vision 2030 White Papers LinkedIn campaign.	15/10/25	Comms SC
15	Policy Brief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise content - Final sign off - Formatting and publication on website. 	31/10/25 TBC 05/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy SC - Management Group - Secretariat
16	Consider options for printing an NDC pop-up poster.	05/12/25	FCDO (LG)
17	Engage with stakeholders re: Horizon Europe event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DCU - Innovate UK - Cardiff University 	15/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MF - CC - EM
18	Discuss dates for the next in-person meeting and send Doodle Poll to Committee.	30/09/25	Management Group; Secretariat
19	Add any updates to relevant Google Drive folders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder Networks - Upcoming events calendar 	Ongoing	All Committee members

Agenda

Monday 15th September 2025

Time	No.	Item	Owner
13:30-14:00	1	Welcome & Chair Updates	Verbal: MF
14:00-14:10	2	Minutes & Actions	Paper: SP
14:10-14:25	3	Ex-Officio Memberships	Paper: MF
14:25-14:30	4	Secretariat Updates	Verbal: DH
14:30-15:00	5	UK Delegates to the IOC updates	Verbal: AE; CC; FB
15:00-15:30	6	Horizon Europe Funding Call: Empowering the UN Ocean Decade	Verbal: CC
15:30-16:00	Break		
16:00-16:30	7	Engagement with other NDCs: Tanzania*	Verbal: EP; SP
16:30-16:50	8	Engagement: Upcoming Opportunities	Verbal: Eng. SC
16:50-17:00	9	Summary and Close of Day 1	Verbal: MF

Tuesday 16th September 2025

Time	No.	Item	Owner
09:30-09:40	10	Welcome and Aims for Day 2	Verbal: MF
09:40-10:00	11	Engagement with other NDCs: Australia*	Verbal: Comms SC
10:00-11:00	12	National Engagement with the Ocean Decade	Invited Speakers
11:00-11:30	Break		
11:30-13:00	13	Sub-Committee Breakout Groups	Verbal: MF
13:00-13:45	Lunch		
13:45-14:45	14	Sub-Committee Report Backs	Verbal: MF; SC reps
14:45-14:50	15	Forward Look	Verbal: MF
14:50-14:55	16	AOB	Verbal: MF
14:55-15:00	17	Summary and Close	Verbal: MF

*Invited Speakers unable to attend, Agenda amended accordingly.