



The UK National Decade Committee (NDC)

Progress Report

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

*"Working together to develop the science we need for the ocean we want"
(UN Ocean Decade)*



Participants at the 14th UK NDC Meeting, 15th - 16th September 2025, Cardiff University.

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1 Foreword by Professor Matt Frost, UK NDC Chair

As we move beyond the halfway point of the UN Ocean Decade the focus is shifting onto delivery of the [outcomes of the Vision 2030 process](#), developing solutions and securing a legacy for the Decade. The UK NDC is once again at the forefront of this activity through leading on the promotion of the Horizon Europe funding call ‘Empowering the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development’, co-leading on the Ocean Decade Solution for Biodiversity and being a core member of the new regional dialogues among other activities as detailed in this report.

The wide range of expertise and sector representation across the UK NDC means that, at the UK level, we were able to link national level activities, including major programmes, projects and other activity being led by UK organisations to the international agenda. We also continued to promote the Decade to UK Stakeholders and provide support where required for those seeking to engage.

The UK continues to play an important role not just in the Decade but in contributing to the international ocean science and policy landscape, with upcoming roles including hosting the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) forum in 2027 as well as ongoing roles such as membership of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (with a commitment to produce a Sustainable Ocean Plan by 2027). Ongoing support from the UK government for the work of the UK NDC is key to supporting alignment of effort so the UN Decade activities support a range of policy objectives.

This year, as we plan for the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Brazil in April 2027, the focus will continue to be on promoting and supporting national action whilst linking to the global community. As we do this, the strength of the UK NDC continues to be the passion, commitment and knowledge of the committee members who are excellent ambassadors for the Decade and it continues to be a privilege to serve this group in my next term as Committee Chair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Frost', with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Matt Frost, UK NDC Chair, May 2026

2 Executive Summary

The UK National Decade Committee (NDC) plays an important role in raising awareness and promoting engagement with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Key functions of the committee are to support and facilitate coordination across the UK's ocean science community to advance the societal outcomes and priorities highlighted by the Decade, and to showcase UK scientific contributions working towards addressing global knowledge gaps which will inform future policy decisions.

Throughout FY 2025/26, the UK NDC have successfully delivered on a number of achievements in line with their Terms of Reference. The committee has continued to inspire UK engagement with the UN Ocean Decade, achieved through delivery of a full programme of committee governance across four quarterly meetings and featuring invited speakers representing Decade Actions, stakeholder groups, other NDCs and UN Decade advisory structures. The committee has also expanded its public-facing engagement and ocean literacy activity through the launch of its first dedicated public outreach workshop '*Imagining the Ocean We Want*', held at the Ocean Advocate Summit in Bristol (26th Feb 2026). The event brought together participants to capture public perspectives, barriers to engagement, and test a Citizen's Assembly-style approach for future scaling.

The committee continued to serve as the UK focal point for engagement with the UN Ocean Decade, raising the profile of UK contributions to endorsed Decade Actions through events, conferences and social media. By 31 March 2026, the UN had endorsed 10 UK-led programmes, 36 projects and 18 contributions across all ten Ocean Decade Challenges, while UK organisations also contributed to 21 programmes, 38 projects and 3 contributions led internationally. To strengthen UK policy engagement, the committee produced the first in a series of Policy Briefs setting out the Decade's objectives, outcomes and relevance to UK policy, with future briefs focused on implementation and solutions-based approaches.

The UK NDC continued to promote research and policy priorities nationally and internationally, including through the *Empowering the Decade* Horizon Europe webinar on 26 January 2026, which highlighted a Decade-aligned funding opportunity to more than 100 attendees and offered guidance from guest speakers. The committee also increased its digital reach, with unique website visitors up 30% year on year and LinkedIn followers rising to 991. Both platforms supported targeted campaigns on the webinar, the Ocean Advocate Summit workshop, UN Oceans Conference updates, the Ocean & Human Health conference, and Calls for Decade Actions.

Moving into the latter half of the Decade, the committee will continue to build upon its successes and begin to shift focus toward consideration of the legacy of the UN Ocean Decade across the UK marine science and policy interface. Key milestones for the year ahead will include preparations for the upcoming Ocean Decade Conference in Rio (April 2027) which will be focused on long-term ocean solutions, and continued engagement with key stakeholders and government departments to maintain a science-policy dialogue, raising awareness of the tools and opportunities that the UN Ocean Decade can offer to UK policy makers.

3 About the Committee

The UK NDC is a non-statutory, independent expert group. Appointed Committee members include established researchers and other members of the marine community along with several early career ocean professionals from across the breadth of ocean science. Members serve in their personal capacity, supported by a Secretariat led by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas). The NDC also includes ex officio roles with government representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Devolved Administrations (DAs), and representatives to the IOC. Interim Co-Chairs from Defra and FCDO were in place until an independent Chair was recruited in 2024.

The mission statement of the UK NDC is ‘To amplify the UK’s collective voice in accelerating transformational ocean science to facilitate the delivery of clean, healthy and resilient, productive, predicted, safe, accessible, inspiring and engaging oceans and seas’. The UK NDC vision is “for the United Kingdom and its citizens, to support the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade, and help achieve “The Science we need for the Ocean we want by 2030.”

3.1 Committee Structure

In 2023, the UK NDC formally introduced a Sub-Committee structure to focus workplans based on the objectives described in the Committee [Terms of Reference](#) (Figure 1).

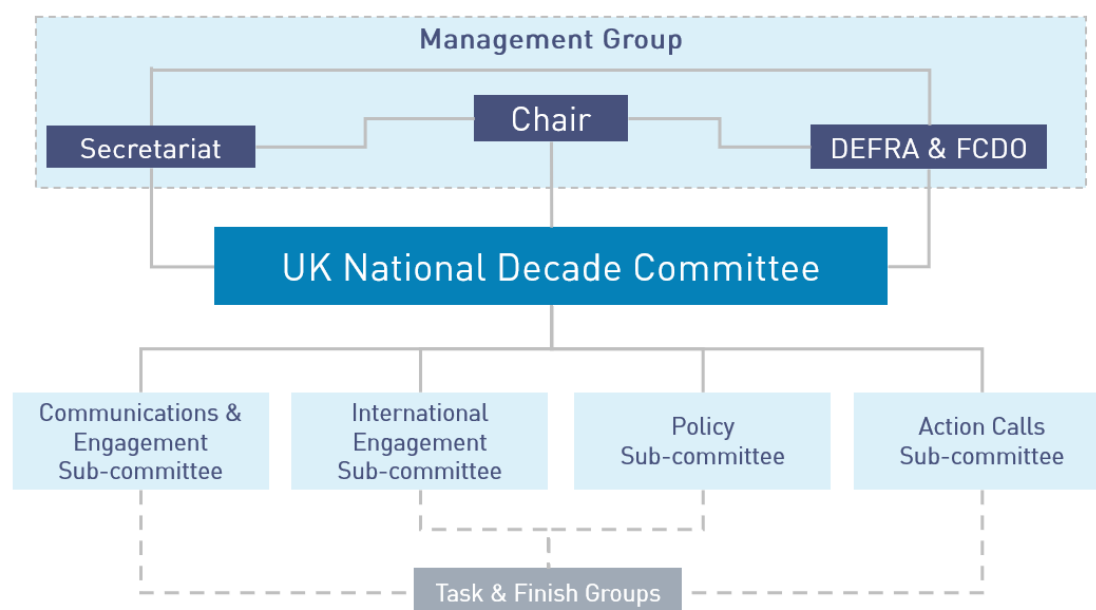


Figure 1. Structure of the UK NDC, highlighting key connections and ways of working.

Members are self-assigned to each of the Sub-Committees based upon relevant skills, under four distinct themes:

- The **Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee** aims to communicate and inspire UK engagement, keeping the UK ocean community up to date and aware of opportunities within the UN Ocean Decade.

- The **Engagement Sub-Committee** aims to promote the UK NDC and facilitate UK engagement with the UN Ocean Decade through national and international events and connections.
- The **Policy Sub-Committee** aims to inform and support UK policy awareness of the UN Ocean Decade and respond to UK policy priorities for the UN Ocean Decade.
- The **Action Calls Sub-Committee** aims to encourage and support the submission of UK led Decade Actions to be endorsed by the IOC-UNESCO Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) as UN Ocean Decade Actions.

3.2 Management Group

The UK NDC Management Group (including the Committee Chair, Secretariat and representatives of Defra and FCDO) provides oversight and sign-off of the Committee work and outputs, ensuring that alignment with the objectives set out in the Terms of Reference is maintained.

The Management Group is also responsible for the annual review of key documents such as the Terms of Reference, which underwent significant changes in 2024 and minor review in 2025.

4 UK NDC Activities (April 2025 – March 2026)

4.1 Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

The UK NDC delivered a full programme of committee governance and stakeholder engagement and held 4 Committee meetings during the reporting period, alternating virtual and in-person meetings. The meetings progress the work of the UK NDC and offer an opportunity to engage with invited guests on their contributions to the UN Ocean Decade. The guests included leaders of Decade Actions, representatives of NDCs from other countries, representatives of stakeholder groups, and members of UN Ocean Decade Advisory structures. Full details of the meetings, including links to meeting reports are in Annex 1. This approach has increased understanding of how the UK NDC can support UK engagement with the Decade and led to reciprocal invitations, widening engagement.

4.2 Conferences, Talks and Webinars

A key role of the UK NDC members is to advocate for the UN Ocean Decade within their networks. Committee members regularly raise awareness of the Decade and the work of the UK NDC at invited talks and sector-specific and regional conferences, examples of which are shown in Annex 2. The Committee has so far reached a range of sectors, including health, heritage, conservation.

4.3 International Engagement

The UK NDC seeks to amplify UK contributions to the UN Ocean Decade internationally. Committee members have had leading roles at the UN Ocean Decade Conference, regional Ocean Decade meetings and other events in the international ocean calendar, showcasing UK efforts, highlighting the role of NDCs, and facilitating knowledge sharing on NDC ways of working. Further details are included in Annex 3. A webinar on EU Horizon Europe Funding for the Ocean Decade hosted by the UK NDC in January 2026 is highlighted in Box 1.

Box 1. Webinar on “Horizon Europe funding opportunity: Empowering the UN Ocean Decade”.

The poster features a scenic background image of a rocky coastline with a historic stone tower on a cliff overlooking the sea. In the top left corner, there are logos for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), OCEAN DECade UK, and the National Decade Committees of Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada) and Portugal (CINCO - Portugal / Comité Nacional - Decade do Oceano). The main title 'Empowering the Decade: Webinar on Horizon Europe Funding' is prominently displayed in white text on a dark teal background. Below the title, it states the webinar is 'Chaired by Professor Matt Frost, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Chair of the UK National Decade Committee'. Logos for the UK NDC and the UN Decade are also present. The date and platform '26 January 2026 – Microsoft Teams' and the contact email 'NDC.Secretariat@cefas.gov.uk' are listed in the bottom right.

Empowering the Decade: Webinar on Horizon Europe Funding

Chaired by Professor Matt Frost,
Plymouth Marine Laboratory,
Chair of the UK National Decade Committee

2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

26 January 2026 – Microsoft Teams
NDC.Secretariat@cefas.gov.uk

UN-Endorsed Decade Activity: Promotion of a Horizon Europe funding opportunity, strengthening the coordination mechanism of the Decade and contributing to Outcomes 1-7 of the Decade.

The UK National Decade Committee hosted a webinar in January 2026 to inform and raise awareness of funding seeking to strengthen coordination mechanisms for the UN Ocean Decade. This opportunity is part of the Horizon Europe 2026/2027 Work Programme and includes a single-stage €9 million funding call for Coordination and Support Action (CSA) projects contributing to Outcomes 1-7 of the Ocean Decade; the call notes that "all international organisations are exceptionally eligible for funding".

The webinar was chaired by Prof. Matt Frost, UK NDC Chair, and supported by the National Decade Committees of Canada and Portugal. Speakers included Nicolas Segebarth (European Commission), Alison Clausen (IOC-UNESCO), and Sofia Cordeiro (Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Portugal). The speakers provided information on the funding call, insights into the types of support most valuable for UN Ocean Decade coordination, and shared their experience in developing and delivering CSA proposals.

The webinar attracted considerable interest, with 175 attendees joining for the lunchtime session. The attendees were from national governments, research institutions, universities, industry and non-governmental organisations. Most participants were based in Europe, with others joining from other countries including India, China, Ghana, and South Africa.

The webinar received positive feedback, with attendees finding it valuable in understanding coordination gaps relevant to the UN Ocean Decade and in receiving practical advice on preparing CSA proposals. The webinar also provided a platform for attendees to connect with others to begin exploring potential partnerships and collaborative bids. The event slides, transcripts and video recording were published on the UK NDC website.

4.4 National Engagement

The Communications Sub-Committee is dedicated to communicating and inspiring UK engagement in the Ocean Decade, while ensuring that the UK ocean community remains informed about opportunities, synergies and developments across the network. The UK NDC's 2025 Communications Strategy identified the wider public as a priority audience, recognising the need to expand engagement beyond the existing ocean community.

Covering the period from September 2024 to September 2026, the strategy sets out a clear and consistent approach to delivering the right messages to the right audiences at the right time. It aligns closely with the wider goals of the UN Ocean Decade, with a strong emphasis on societal engagement and participation. Central to this vision is a future in which the UK public has greater awareness of ocean literacy, access to resources to build that understanding and meaningful opportunities to engage. It supports one of the key recommendations from the March 2025 stakeholder workshop report to advance ocean literacy and public engagement by broadening participation and addressing barriers to accessibility. Specifically, the report called for early engagement with communities to better understand their relationship with the ocean, perceptions of marine environmental quality, and the values they associate with ocean health.

In this context, the *Imagining the Ocean We Want* workshop (Box 2) was designed as a first step towards delivering on these ambitions. It leveraged the partnerships and expertise of the Communications Sub-Committee, including Mindfully Wired (committee member Katrina Ryan), offering a free workshop slot at the Ocean Advocate Summit, a one-day event in Bristol on the 26th of February 2026.

The workshop was planned as the UK NDC's first dedicated public outreach activity. Its primary aim was to broaden participation by creating a space for communities to share how they perceive, value and relate to the ocean. The workshop also sought to advance ocean literacy, identify barriers to engagement and test a Citizens' Assembly model as a potential framework for future UK-wide public participation. Planned as a structured, one-hour participatory session, the workshop introduced participants to the UN Ocean Decade framework through a presentation and facilitated deliberation through guided discussions, voting exercises, and reflective activities. This approach was intended to support inclusive dialogue, enabling participants to explore ocean challenges, articulate shared values and contribute to shaping future priorities.

The workshop demonstrated the value of participatory engagement. Following the event, Nicola Bridge (Head of Ocean Advocacy and Engagement at the Ocean Conservation Trust and co-author of the UN Ocean Decade Challenge 10 paper), who attended the workshop, provided expert feedback. Drawing on nearly 20 years of experience in ocean literacy, she reflected on the outcomes and discussed opportunities to scale similar approaches to engage the UK public more effectively. A report summarising key outcomes and future recommendations will be available in May 2026.

Box 2. Workshop at the Ocean Advocate Summit, Bristol.



UN-Endorsed Decade Activity: Imagining the Ocean We Want, workshop at the Ocean Advocates Summit

On 26 February 2026, the UK NDC convened a workshop at the Ocean Advocate Summit in Bristol called ‘Imagining the Ocean We Want’, facilitated by committee members Aline da Silva Cerqueira, Michelle Frost and Natalie Fox. The hour-long session explored public perspectives on the future of the ocean through participatory questions, discussions and activities. It brought together a diverse group of 31 participants (who were visiting or presenting at the Summit) to reflect on priorities, challenges and opportunities for engagement within the UN Ocean Decade.

Participants consistently identified a healthy and resilient ocean as a top priority but stressed that this cannot be separated from social dimensions such as inclusivity, accessibility and cultural values. The workshop highlighted that there is no single shared vision of the ‘ocean we want’; perspectives vary depending on people’s backgrounds, livelihoods and relationships with the ocean. Importantly, while participants expressed strong emotional connections to the ocean, many reported barriers to active involvement, including lack of knowledge, clear pathways and opportunities to contribute.

Key Points as Outcomes:

- Ocean health is interconnected with social inclusion, access and engagement
- There is no single vision of the ‘ocean we want’
- A gap exists between people’s connection to the ocean and their ability to act

The workshop demonstrated the value of participatory approaches in generating meaningful insights and fostering dialogue. The format showed strong potential for scaling up to support broader citizen engagement with a National or Regional focus, utilising existing partners and stakeholders as collaborators.

4.5 UK Policy Engagement

Policy stakeholders are considered a key audience for the UK NDC, with relationships strengthened through the science-policy dialogue event held in London in March 2025. Through the latter half of the Decade, the UK NDC is committed to the continued facilitation of links between the UK science community and policy makers to ensure that the legacy of the Decade will support future UK marine policy. The Policy Sub-Committee have developed their first Policy Brief to be published in April 2026, which outlines the key objectives and outcomes of the Decade and their relevance to UK policy. This will be the first of a series of briefs focusing on national implementation and solutions-based approaches, to guide future policy towards actionable outcomes.

5 Communications

All members contribute to UK NDC communications using guidance in the Strategic Communications Plan developed by the Communications and Engagement Sub-Committee.

The UK NDC website and dedicated LinkedIn page are hosted via the Secretariat. Best practice manuals ensure that created content adheres to impartiality, quality and security guidelines in line with the Committee terms of reference. Committee members are encouraged to share posts on social media and among their own networks and to promote the UK NDC at conferences alongside presentations they may deliver.

5.1 UK NDC Reach and Impact Metrics

Website and social media analytics are monitored by the Secretariat to measure the impact of the NDC's communications. Understanding the reach and interests of the audience enables continual improvements to be made to NDC communications, as described in the strategic plan. Key metrics and analytics data are delivered to the Committee at each quarterly meeting, as summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Visitor analytics data (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026) for UK NDC Website and Ocean Decade UK LinkedIn page, showing the percentage change from the previous Annual Report.

Platform	Visitors ⁽¹⁾	Engagement ⁽²⁾	Impressions ⁽³⁾	Followers
Website	1300 (↑30%)	72% (↑20%)	NA	NA
LinkedIn	500 (↓38%)	20% (↑33%)	17,000 (↓35%)	991 (↑51%)

⁽¹⁾ Total number of *unique visitors*, excluding re-visits; ⁽²⁾ Rate of *interactions* (click-throughs, likes, comments, follows etc); ⁽³⁾ Number of times content is viewed on *news feeds*.

5.2 Social Media Campaigns

The UK NDC has led a series of social media campaigns on the LinkedIn platform, to elevate the profile of the Committee, raise awareness of the Ocean Decade, promote Decade activities and engage with interested parties. A summary of campaign activity is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. UK NDC Social Media campaigns from 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026.

Campaign	Date	Description
Vision 2030 White Papers	In progress	This campaign aims to provide simple text summaries of the Vision 2030 white papers, to be rolled out via weekly/monthly posts through 2026.
Ocean Advocate Summit 2026	Jan 26	This campaign provided information and registration links to the UK NDC led workshop at the Ocean Advocate Summit.

Campaign	Date	Description
Horizon EU Webinar	Dec 25 – Jan 26	This campaign provided information and registration links to the Horizon funding for the Decade webinar, led by the UK NDC.
Ocean & Human Health	Oct 25 – Dec 25	This campaign provided information and registration links to the Ocean & Human Health conference in Lisbon, co-chaired by the UK & Portuguese NDCs.
Call for Decade Action no.10	Oct 25 – Jan 26	This campaign included fortnightly posts to showcase endorsed UK actions, with partners providing tips on how to put together a successful application.
UN Oceans Conference	Jun 25	This campaign included daily updates and live takeovers from UK NDC members attending the UN Oceans Conference in Nice, providing updates relevant to the UN Ocean Decade.
Stakeholder Event, London	Jun 25	This campaign provided insights and outcomes of the UK NDC Science-Policy Stakeholder Event held in March.
Call for Decade Action no.9	Apr 25 – Aug 25	This campaign included fortnightly posts to showcase endorsed UK actions, with partners providing tips on how to put together a successful application.

6 UK Decade Actions

The UK has contributed to a significant number of UN endorsed Ocean Decade Actions (Figure 1). As of 31st March 2026, there are 10 UK-led programmes, 36 UK-led projects and 18 UK-led contributions. All ten Ocean Decade challenges are represented across the endorsed actions. UK Decade actors also contribute to 21 programmes, 38 projects and 3 contributions led by international partner institutions (Figure 2).

The Committee has engaged directly with many UK stakeholders leading Decade Actions through invitations to present at in-person meetings, coordination of social media campaigns, responding to queries around endorsement and at events such as the 2025 UN Oceans Conference, the 2026 Ocean Advocate Summit and the 2026 Ocean Sciences Meeting.

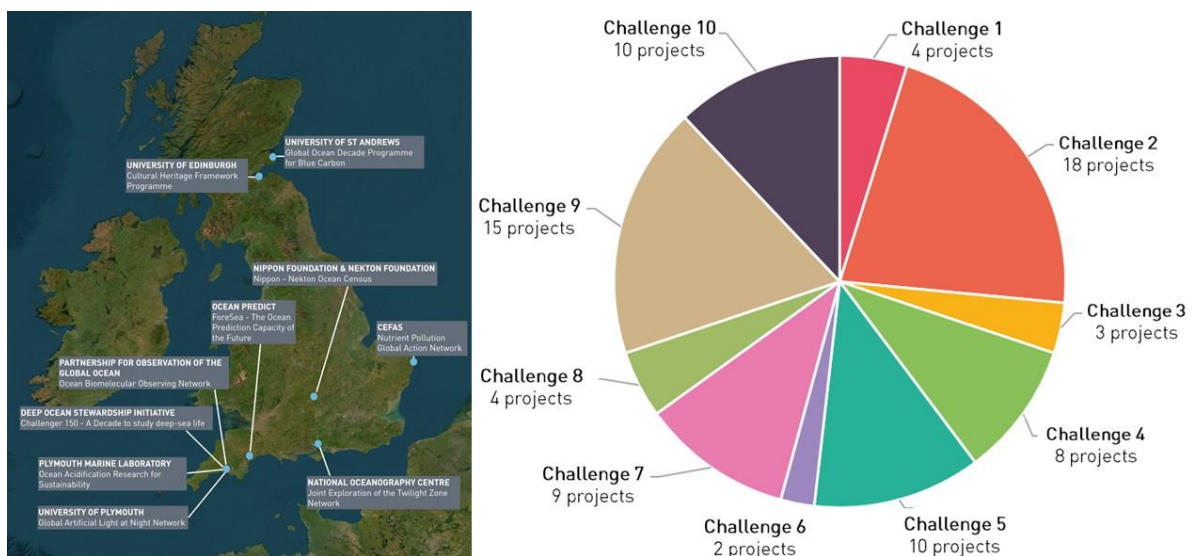


Figure 2. (a) Lead institutions of the UK's 10 endorsed Ocean Decade Programmes, (b) the distribution of UK endorsed Decade Projects across the 10 Decade Challenges.

7 Future Plans

As the UK NDC moves into the second half of the Decade, workplans will begin to shift focus from raising awareness to considering the legacy of the Ocean Decade across the UK marine science and policy interface. Anticipated key milestones and activities for the year ahead include:

- Developing a series of policy briefs, building on the outcomes of the science-policy dialogue, to raise awareness of the tools and opportunities of the UN Ocean Decade with UK policy makers.
- Revisiting key stakeholder maps and contact lists to facilitate connections between these policy makers and the science community.
- Hosting a UK stakeholder event in the lead up to the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference in Rio, bringing together key UK Decade partners who may not be able to attend the conference in person.
- Championing the UN Ocean Decade and continuing an active programme of outreach and engagement opportunities at key UK and international events, such as Ocean and Coastal Futures, World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, World Congress of Marine Stations and Our Oceans Conference.
- Continue to deliver LinkedIn campaigns in support of the Calls for Action, to communicate the benefits of Ocean Decade endorsement and encourage further participation.
- Continuing to engage with Decade programmes, projects and other Decade Committees through Committee meetings.

8 Memberships

8.1 Appointed Committee Members

Committee Chair:

Professor Matt Frost - Plymouth Marine Laboratory (Jan 2022-present)

Current Members:

Aline da Silva Cerqueira - Sussex Bay (Jan 2022 - present)

Amy Bray - Another Way (Jan 2022 - present)

Antony Firth - Historic England (Jan 2022- present)

Conor Savage - Sustainable Finance (Jan 2025 - present)

David Tudor - Ocean and Coastal Futures; Pelagos (Jan 2025 - present)

Elvira Poloczanska - Plymouth Marine Laboratory (Jan 2025 - present)

Emma McKinley - Cardiff University (Jan 2022 - present)

Gareth Cunningham - Marine Conservation Society (Jan 2025 - present)

Gina Reinhardt - University of Essex (Jan 2022 - present)

Hayley Roberts - Bangor University (Jan 2022 - present)

Katrina Ryan - Mindfully Wired (Jan 2025 - present)

Michelle Frost - Edinburgh Napier University (Jan 2022 - present)

Lydia Bach - University of Glasgow (Jan 2022 - present)

Natalie Fox - Early Career Ocean Professionals Programme (Jan 2022 - present)

Sien van der Plank - University of Exeter (Jan 2022 - present)

Victoria Chinery – UKHO/Civil Service (Jan 2022 - present)

8.2 Ex-Officio Members

UK Representatives to the IOC-UNESCO:

Alan Evans - National Oceanography Centre, NOC (Jan 2022- present)

John Siddorn - National Oceanography Centre, NOC (2024- present)

Ed Hill - National Oceanography Centre, NOC (Jan 2022 - 2024)

Current Ex-Officio Members:

Colin Armstrong - DAERA (Jan 2022 - present)

Edward Atcherley-Symes - FCDO (Jan 2023 - present)

Barbara Berx - Scottish Government (Jan 2022 - present)

Dave Carlin - Defra (Jan 2023 - present)

Bekah Cioffi - Welsh Government (Jan 2022 - present)

Caroline Culshaw - Defra (Jun 2023 - present)

Amanda Hennedy-Goble – FCDO (Dec 2025 – present)

Paula Daina (Apr 2026 -Present)

Secretariat:

Anamul Islam - Cefas (Dec 2023 – Jun 2025)

David Hughes - Cefas (Sep 2022 - present)

Suzanne Painting - Cefas (Jan 2022 – Mar 2026)

9 Acronyms

Cefas: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

DCC: Decade Coordination Centre

DCU: Decade Coordination Unit

Defra: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

ECOP: Early Career Ocean Professional

EDI: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

G7: Group of Seven (G7; Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA)

GSF: Global Stakeholder Forum

IOC: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

MBA: Marine Biological Association

NDC: National Decade Committee

NOC: National Oceanography Centre

OCCPIE: Ocean and Climate Change Policy & International Evidence (Defra)

PML: Plymouth Marine Laboratory

ToR: Terms of Reference

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

10 Annex 1 – Committee Meetings

Table A1. Summary of UK NDC meetings, April 2025-March 2026.

MEETINGS: Formal meetings of the UK National Decade Committee			
Attendees	Activity Details	Outputs	Outcomes
16 th Meeting of the UK National Decade Committee: 24-25 March 2026, Penryn			- Further optimised Ocean Decade coordination for collective impact and ownership. - Raised profile and awareness of the UN Ocean Decade nationally and internationally. - Facilitated linkages between UK Ocean Decade activities through mapping national engagement with the UN Ocean Decade. - Raised awareness of projects and programmes on communication platforms. - Provided a platform with strong early career professional representation that broadens the traditional marine scientific focus to include ocean literacy, healthcare and cultural heritage.
Committee 5 invited speakers	Featured presentations and Q&A with: Professor Brendan Godley (University of Exeter), Professor Camille Bonneaud (University of Exeter), Dr Lucy Buxton (NDC Australia), Nicola Bridge (Ocean Conservation Trust).	Meeting 16 Report	
15 th Meeting of the UK National Decade Committee: 8 December 2025, Online			
Committee	Featured presentations and Q&A with: Adam Leadbetter (UNESCO) and Margarita Lopez (UNESCO).	Meeting 15 Report	
14 th Meeting of the UK National Decade Committee: 15-16 September 2025, Cardiff			
Committee 3 invited speakers	Featured presentations and Q&A with: Ashley Hall (Royal College of Art), Jiawei Liu (Common Seas), Benjamin Jones (Project Seagrass)	Meeting 14 Report	
13 th Meeting of the UK National Decade Committee: 18 June 2025, Online			
Committee	Online meeting to focus workplans and priorities.	Meeting 13 Report	

11 Annex 2 – Conferences and Talks

Table A2. Summary of UK NDC presentations, April 2025-March 2026.

PRESENTATIONS: Conferences and talks attended by members where the UN Ocean Decade/NDC was promoted				
Date	Location	Attendees	Activity Details & Outputs	Outcomes
EuroMarine General Assembly 2026				
10-12 March 2026	Cadiz, Spain	Emma McKinley (NDC); 150+ attendees	Workshop (in professional capacity) on marine social sciences, highlighted in context of the UN Ocean Decade and NDCs.	- Raising international awareness of the UN Ocean Decade. - Further optimizing Ocean Decade coordination for collective impact and ownership. - Raising awareness of UK engagement with the Ocean Decade.
University of Bristol: Ocean Decade Seminar				
Jan 2026	Bristol, UK	Gareth Cunningham (NDC); 15+ students	Presentation on the Decade and UK NDC to provide context to MSc student projects in Digital Innovations, focused on developing solutions to real-world challenges (such as the 10 Ocean Decade challenges).	- Inspiring future generations and engaging with higher education. - Mobilising the UK marine science community. - Raising awareness of UK engagement with the Ocean Decade.
Exeter Marine: Ocean Decade Seminar				
Dec 2025	Penryn, UK	Amy Bray (NDC); 40 attendees	Presentation on the Ocean Decade and work of the UK NDC to staff and students of the Exeter Marine Steering Group network.	- Inspiring future generations and engaging with higher education. - Mobilising the UK marine science community. - Raising awareness of UK engagement with the Ocean Decade.

PRESENTATIONS: Conferences and talks attended by members where the UN Ocean Decade/NDC was promoted				
Date	Location	Attendees	Activity Details & Outputs	Outcomes
European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) Annual Conference				
17-19 September 2025	Ostend, Belgium	Emma McKinley (NDC); 100+ attendees	Panel discussions (in professional capacity) on ocean literacy strategy and Ocean Decade calls with reference to NDCs.	- Raising international awareness of the UN Ocean Decade. - Further optimizing Ocean Decade coordination for collective impact and ownership.
CEFAS Future Ocean 2025				
1-2 July 2025	London, UK	Emma McKinley (NDC); 200+ attendees	Presentation (in professional capacity) on inclusivity and equity aligned with ocean literacy, framed around the Ocean Decade with mentioned to the NDC as an entry point.	- Raising national awareness of the UN Ocean Decade. - Further optimizing Ocean Decade coordination for collective impact and ownership. - Building close science-policy connections.
Global NDC Focal Points Meetings (Monthly)				
April 2025 - Present	Online	Matt Frost (Chair), Secretariat; 40+ NDCs	Participation and presentations to international NDCs and the DCU.	Further optimizing Ocean Decade coordination for collective impact and ownership.