



Ocean Decade Laboratories

First International Ocean Decade Conference

July 2021 – May 2022

Concept

Credit: Tom Vierus / Ocean Image Bank

1. Preface: First International Ocean Decade Conference

The ocean is the largest ecosystem on Earth and central to the survival of nature and humankind. But the ocean is also under massive threat. More than ever before, science and research are being called upon to join forces with policymakers, society and economic actors to protect and sustainably manage the ocean. To achieve this vision, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021 to 2030 as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development – the “Ocean Decade”.

The **First International Ocean Decade Conference** organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) will take place as two interconnected segments between June 2021 and July 2022. Over the course of one year, this will offer various opportunities in terms of communications to generate awareness and catalyze action on the seven Decade Outcomes of the Ocean Decade on the path to “**Creating the Ocean We Want**”.

While the first of these segments will be the virtual High-Level Launch of the Ocean Decade on 1 June 2021, 11 am to 3 pm (CEST), the second segment will be the Ocean Decade Laboratories. Each Laboratory will address one of the Ocean Decade Outcomes, therefore, seven Laboratories will take place between July 2021 and May 2022.



2. Short Concept: Laboratories

The UN Ocean Decade Laboratories provide an international platform to gather efforts, to support action for the Ocean Decade and to catalyze innovative and interactive ocean science activities.

The goals of each Laboratory are as follows:



Catalyse action for the Ocean Decade

Assemble diverse actors across generations and geographies to catalyze co-design processes and initiate development of Decade Actions.



Showcase Ocean Decade Actions

Present already endorsed Ocean Decade Actions, including programs, projects and contributions, to inspire new engagement and commitments.



Strengthen dialogue

Create opportunities for exchange, collaboration and the catalysis of partnerships in the context of the Ocean Decade.



Communication and outreach

Raise visibility and awareness of the Ocean Decade and attract new partners and stakeholders to engage the Ocean Decade.

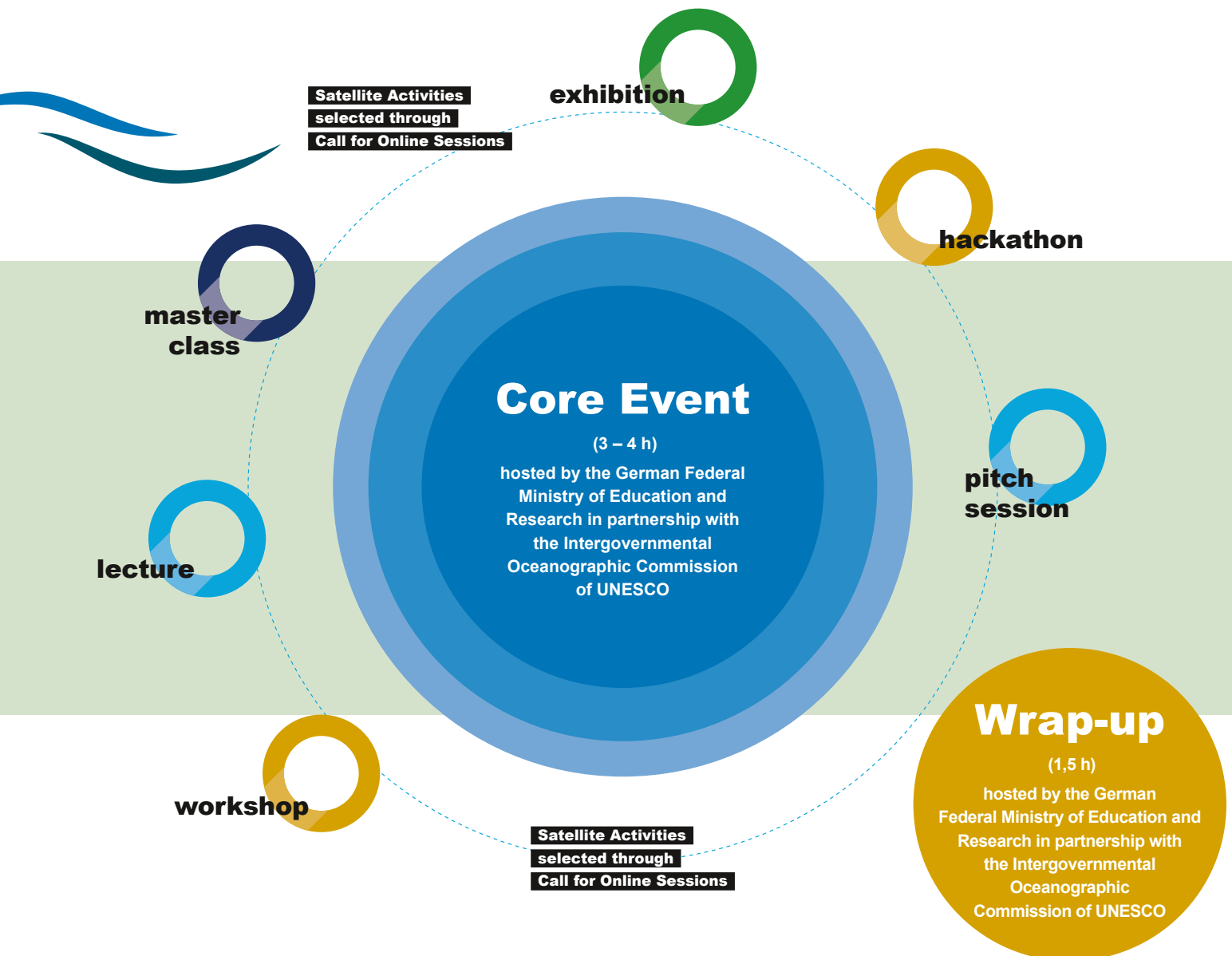
Each Laboratory is a self-standing event and encompasses a Core Event that will be complemented by a diverse range of Satellite Activities during a maximum time slot of 48 hours. The **Core Event** will be hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). **Satellite Activities** can be proposed by any institution interested in engaging in the Ocean Decade via two Calls for Online Sessions (www.oceandecade-conference.com/en/call-for-proposals.php). Both calls will be launched globally to ensure that a diversity of time zones, languages, and regional and local contexts are represented in the Laboratories.

The themes of the Satellite Activities will be orientated around the Ocean Decade Outcomes and should consider the following four cross-cutting issues: inclusivity, regional engagement, end-to-end design and financing/partnerships. Details of the format and type of the virtual activities can be highly diverse and are ultimately up to the organizers to suggest in their proposals. The Satellite Activities will be selected by an evaluation panel comprised of diverse Ocean Decade stakeholders.

Examples of Satellite Activities could include:

- “pitch sessions” for new Ocean Decade programs or projects that are looking for partners
- announcements of Decade Actions or commitments
- Decade Action design workshops or networking forums
- interactive Decade Action “incubation” or “match making” sessions
- skills training via short “Master Classes”
- virtual exhibitions or launch of videos or art initiatives
- competitions or hackathons

In a final virtual Wrap-up taking place at the end of each Laboratory, the outcomes of Satellite Activities and Core Event will be summarized and follow-up actions identified.



3. Schedule of Ocean Decade Laboratories

7–8 July 2021

An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean

15–16 September 2021

A Predicted Ocean

17–18 November 2021

A Clean Ocean

23–24 February 2022

A Productive Ocean

tba, March 2022

A Healthy and Resilient Ocean

tba, April 2022

A Safe Ocean

tba, May 2022

A Transparent and Accessible Ocean

Call for Online Sessions
launched on
20 April 2021

Call for Online Sessions
will be launched in
Autumn 2021

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