

Building inclusive, sustainable and resilient oceans and marine socio-ecosystems

Strengthening EU research partnerships with the global South

19 November 2024

9h-13h45

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Context

The ocean plays a key role in climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, food security and livelihoods, but also in transport, trade, as well as energy and resources. Globally, the oceans are an integral part of the functioning of the Earth system and provide essential benefits to human societies, making their conservation and sustainable management crucial for present and future generations.

The European Union (EU) has made several political commitments translated into strategies and policies (Green Deal, Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Common Fisheries Policy, etc.) aimed at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of oceans and marine resources, both within European waters and at the global level. International cooperation and partnerships are key to address global challenges related to oceans, including IUU fishing, marine pollution, climate change, and marine biodiversity conservation. Collaborative research and innovation programmes carried out with partners in the global South are essential to meet these challenges and build inclusive, sustainable and resilient oceans and marine socio-ecosystems.

Objectives and structure

In preparation of the 2025 UNOC in Nice and building on the Barcelona 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and the Ifremer Brussels event on *In situ observation of the oceans in a context of global change*, IRD in collaboration with CNRS co-organise a session aimed at engaging a dialogue between research institutions and EU policy makers on the role of Science in shaping policies in favour of more sustainable marine socio-ecosystems with a particular focus on the global South.

Starting with an overview of the key challenges in the global South, the event then will present a series of case studies highlighting the critical role played by collaborative research on oceans and marine socio-ecosystems. One of the case studies will be on augmented digital twins with socio-ecological components and how they can help to develop concrete science-driven solutions in response to the uncertainties of global changes.

Following the presentation of the case studies, the session will invite representatives from DG RTD, DG INTPA and DG MARE to engage in a dialogue on how to effectively continue supporting equitable research partnerships with the global South to respond to global challenges.

Agenda

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| 09:00 – 09:30 | Welcome coffee |
| 09:30 – 09:35 | Introduction Vincent Fautrel, IRD Representative to the EU |
| 09:35 – 10:05 | Keynote speeches - Key issues for the North-South collaborative research partnerships on oceans and marine socio-ecosystems <u>Chair:</u> Jean-Stéphane Dhersin, CNRS Representative to the EU <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elisabetta Balzi, Head of Unit Oceans, Seas and Waters, DG RTD ▪ Sophie Lanco, Deputy Director, Ocean Research Department, IRD |
| 10:05 – 11:30 | Session 1 – How research contributes to building inclusive, sustainable and resilient oceans and marine socio-ecosystems <u>Chair:</u> Sophie Lanco, Deputy Director, Ocean Research Department, IRD This session will present major multi-disciplinary research initiatives combining innovative approaches that aim to provide concrete solutions to support decision-making and governance. Examples of research projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DiDEM project (IRD) on innovative scientific mediation tools and methods in the Western Indian Ocean in support to regional initiatives on ocean governance ▪ The PADDLE project (IRD, CNRS) on Marine Spatial Planning in the tropics (Brazil, Cabo Verde and Senegal) ▪ The NAWRAS project (IRD, Université Cadi Ayyad) involving research teams in France and Morocco on the use of AI to assess the capacity of the law to protect the marine environment ▪ The PEPR BRIDGES project (IRD, CNRS, IFREMER) on the interactions between fishing activities and social-ecological systems in the South Western Indian Ocean <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marie Bonnin, IRD ▪ Pierre Brasseur, CNRS ▪ Adrien Comte, IRD ▪ Stéphanie d'Agata, IRD ▪ Rodolphe Devillers, IRD ▪ Stéphanie Duvail, IRD ▪ Jihad Zahir, FSS, Univ Cadi Ayyad Q&A |

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| 11:35 – 12:35 | <p>Session 2 – Strengthening research partnerships with the global South to inform our future global strategies and policies</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Vincent Fautrel, IRD Representative to the EU</p> <p>This session will discuss how the EU can through various approaches and instruments including Horizon Europe and Global Europe continue strengthening collaborative research with partner countries from the global South.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pierre Brasseur, CNRS ▪ Philippe Charvis, Research Director, IRD ▪ Nicolas Segebarth, Policy Officer, DG RTD ▪ DG INTPA (tbc) ▪ Eudy Mabuza, Senior Science and Innovation Representative, Embassy of South Africa (tbc) <p>Q&A</p> |
| 12:35 – 12:40 | <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Jean-Stéphane Dhersin, CNRS Representative to the EU</p> |
| 12:40 – 13:45 | <p><i>Networking lunch</i></p> |

For further information: representation.ue@ird.fr