

**Call for Hosts**  
**at the V.ECOP Days 2024**  
online; 09 -11 April 2024

## Background

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has set an ambitious target to enable the science we need for the ocean we want by 2030. While established researchers and leading scientists determine current science priorities, it will be today's Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) that will play the key role in achieving the vision of the UN Ocean Decade. Indeed they will be the one shaping the lasting impact that science will have on the ocean beyond 2030.

"The Virtual Early Career Ocean Professional (V.ECOP) Days" is a unique live broadcasting event showcasing testimonials of change in applying science to ocean sustainability. It is hosted by and for ECOPs from around the world as a contribution to the UN Ocean Decade. Working with the Global ECOP Programme, the V.ECOP Days 2024 will connect global virtual community with the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona from 9-11 April 2024.

The V.ECOP Days are organized by the German Marine Research Consortium in cooperation with the Global ECOP Programme, and supported by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, IOC-UNESCO, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Region of Catalunya (represented by ACCIÓ and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

## The Concept

The V.ECOP Days mission is to enable ECOPs to define and strengthen their role, their community and contributions to the UN Ocean Decade. The V.ECOP Days 2024 will connect ECOPs from around the world under the motto "testimonies of change". We aim to share and make the international contributions of different ECOPs visible as to achieve the UN Ocean Decade Goals.

The V.ECOP Days goals are to:

1. Provide a platform for the global networks of ECOPs
2. Support the sharing and visibility of ECOP contributions to the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade Goals
3. Inform ECOPs about the work of their peers from around the world
4. Strengthen the network and global community of ECOPs, exchange knowledge and capacities amongst ECOPs from different regions and professional disciplines
5. Build bridges between the ECOPs and leading senior individuals and organizations to ensure the continuity and legacy of the UN Ocean Decade
6. Equip the new generation of ocean leaders with skills to engage in complex international and intergovernmental processes regardless of their academic background
7. Promote capacity development and exchange

8. Prepare and enable ECOPs to participate actively and engage professionally (with senior peers, policy makers, etc.)
9. Create a more inclusive marine science community in terms of demography, ethnicity, gender, and profession
10. Test and implement easily accessible online formats that allow active involvement and engagement of ECOPs, especially from rural and underrepresented communities

## V.ECOP Days 2024

V.ECOP Days were conceived during the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of providing an inclusive, accessible and useful platform for networking for ECOPs from all around the world. V.ECOP Day 2021 ran live, non-stop for 24 hours with over 200 international contributions.

In 2024, the V.ECOP Days will be in a hybrid format linking the International UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona with the global ECOP community. The focus is on easy-to-use, interactive and participative virtual components so that everyone can participate for free and from everywhere in the world.

The V.ECOP Days 2024 program will encompass:

- Reports from selected satellite events
- Live broadcasts from the conference centre in Barcelona
- Interviews with ECOPs, senior scientists and decision-makers
- Training sessions to provide insights into networking techniques and soft-skills needed to build a successful career in the marine sciences and innovation sectors
- Insights from stakeholders active in sustainable ocean management

All sessions will be organized for ECOPs, by ECOPs and with ECOPs. These sessions will be live and public, thus accessible to all interested public.

## How to take part in the Call for Hosts

You are available between April 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 to moderate live from a location of your choice. You have a secure and stable internet connection and you are eager to testify about your connection to the oceans. We can offer you up to 500 Euros to help you share your testimony and support your efforts. Hosts will be selected together with the UN Ocean Decade endorsed ECOP Programme. The exact dates and times will be determined in the coming weeks. Hosts will be teamed in pairs. Together with your moderating partner, you will program suggestions in advance and assemble an attractive program on that basis. We strongly support applications from ECOPs from indigenous or rural communities, Small Island Developing States or Least Developed Countries. We will offer one training session (possibly more) to practice being a presenter, appear on video (presentation and moderation), and to prepare you to moderate the V.ECOP Days.

Please submit your application with a short motivation email, an attached CV (max. 2 DIN A pages as PDF file), a profile picture (up to 2 MB, png or jpeg) and your location during the V.ECOP Days 2024 by **14 February 2024, 11:59 AM CET** to:

Max Zimmermann: [zimmermann@deutsche-meeresforschung.de](mailto:zimmermann@deutsche-meeresforschung.de)