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# Priorities and areas for collaboration

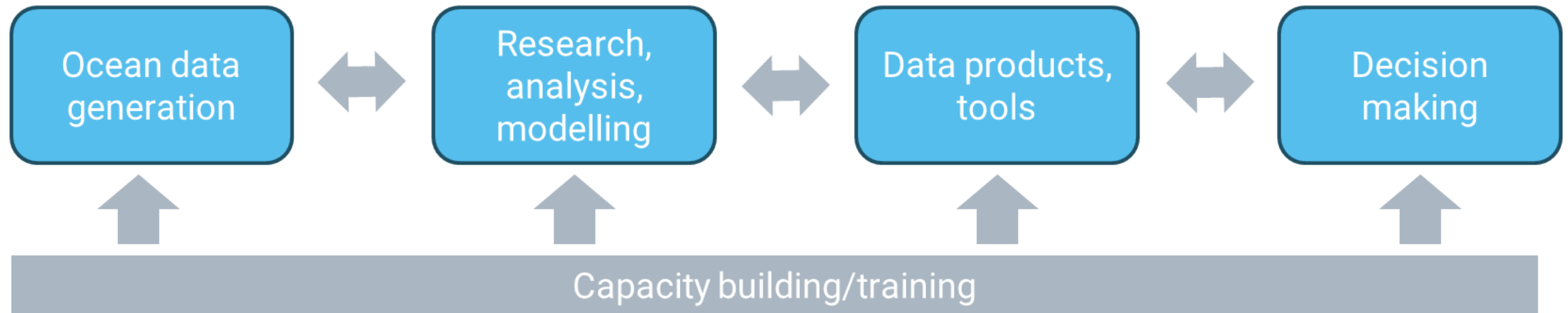
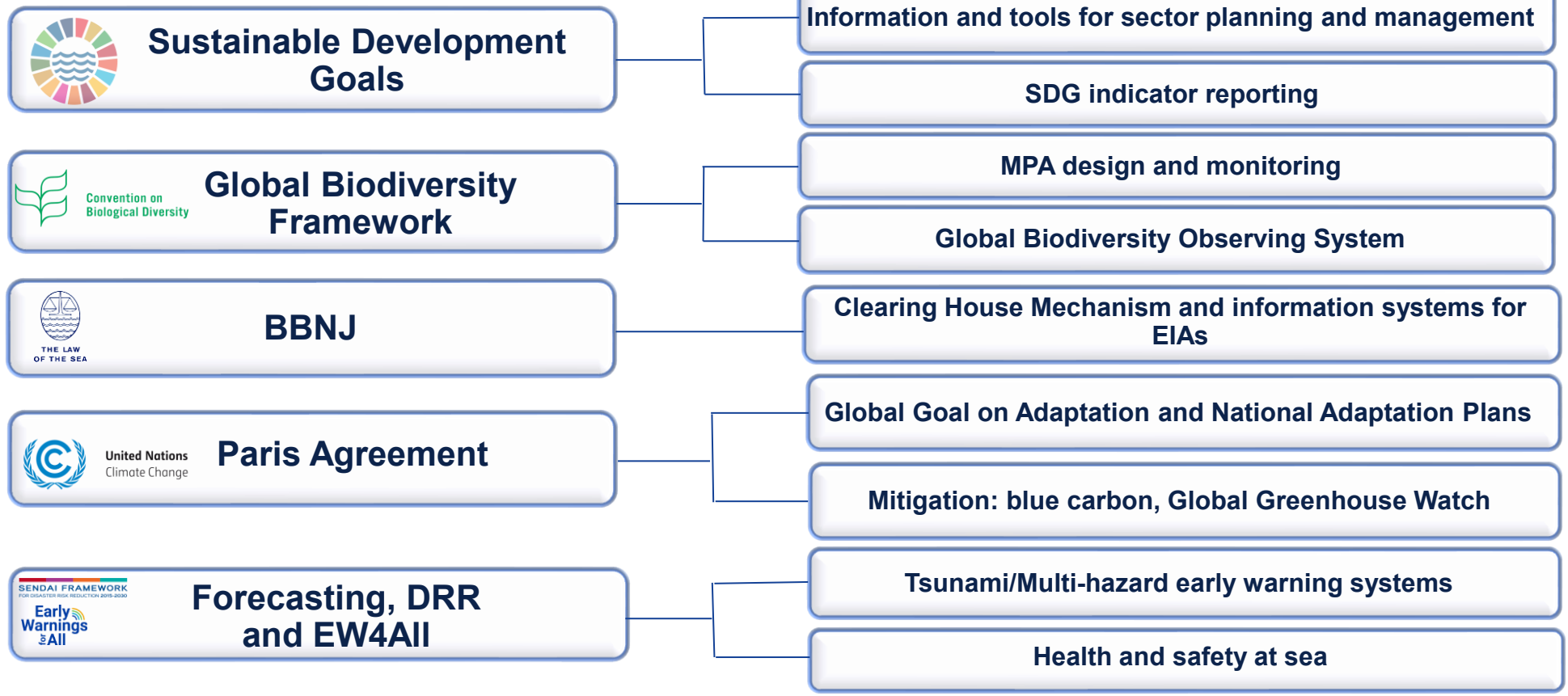
Karen Evans, Head of Ocean Science Section, 31 October 2025

# UN Ocean entities and their mandates



Only two UN entities have an ocean-focused mandate with no sectoral limitations:

1. *The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)*
  - mandate is focused on (and limited to) the implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and associated agreements and delivering knowledge on implementing these legal instruments
  
2. *The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO*
  - mandate to work closely with its (currently) 152 Member States and their ocean knowledge and management communities to promote cooperation and coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building in order to generate knowledge, and to apply that knowledge for better ocean management, sustainable development, protection and decision-making
  
  - also to collaborate with UN and other international organisations in the field of ocean research, services and capacity-building





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## Commitments

14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



Custodian of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators:

14.3.1 (ocean acidification)

14.a.1 (funding for ocean science)

(co-lead with UNEP on 14.1.1 eutrophication)

Assessments:

- State of the Ocean Report
- Global Ocean Science Report (SDG indicator 14.a.1)

International Panels:


- International Panel for Harmful Algal Blooms (FAO)

Coordination of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development


Partnerships are key!

 Observations and data systems




IOC/co-sponsored programmes/projects

GOOS OBIS C-GRASS IPHAB ODIS  
GlobalHAB GO2NE OceanOPS

 Monitoring and infrastructure




BCI IOC-R GOOS OBIS eDNA  
WCRP GOA-ON OASIS OASIS IOCCP

 Standards, practices and capacity




WCRP GOOS GlobalHAB IPHAB IOCCP IPBC  
GOA-ON BioEcoOcean SCOR WGs OBIS BCI

 Early warning systems




Tsunami IPHAB MHWS PACMan

 Status and trends



GlobalHAB IPHAB C-BLUES GESAMP WGs  
TrendsPO StOR GOSR

 Management support systems



ICES- IOC-IMO Ballast WG IPBC  
SOPM MSP C-BLUES BCI



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# Thematic areas for coordination of research

## 1. Climate change

- Observation systems
- Standards, practices
- Modelling and forecasting
- Guidance on/tools for reporting
  - Climate system
  - Carbon and blue carbon
  - Ocean change and associated stressors
  - Impacts on marine systems incl biodiversity
  - Ocean interventions for mitigation



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## Thematic areas for coordination of research

### 2. Pollution/stressors

- Observation systems
- Standards, practices
  - Nutrients/eutrophication
  - Pollutants/pollutant management

### 3. Early warning systems – multi-hazard

- Observation systems
- Standards, practices
- Planning and response processes
  - Tsunami
  - Harmful algal blooms
  - Marine heatwaves
  - Extreme storms



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## Thematic areas for coordination of research

### 4. Capacity development

- Online and direct training
- In-person targeted training
- Internships (note: have engaged with SCOR on fellowships in the past)
- Ocean literacy

### 5. Sustainable ocean planning and management

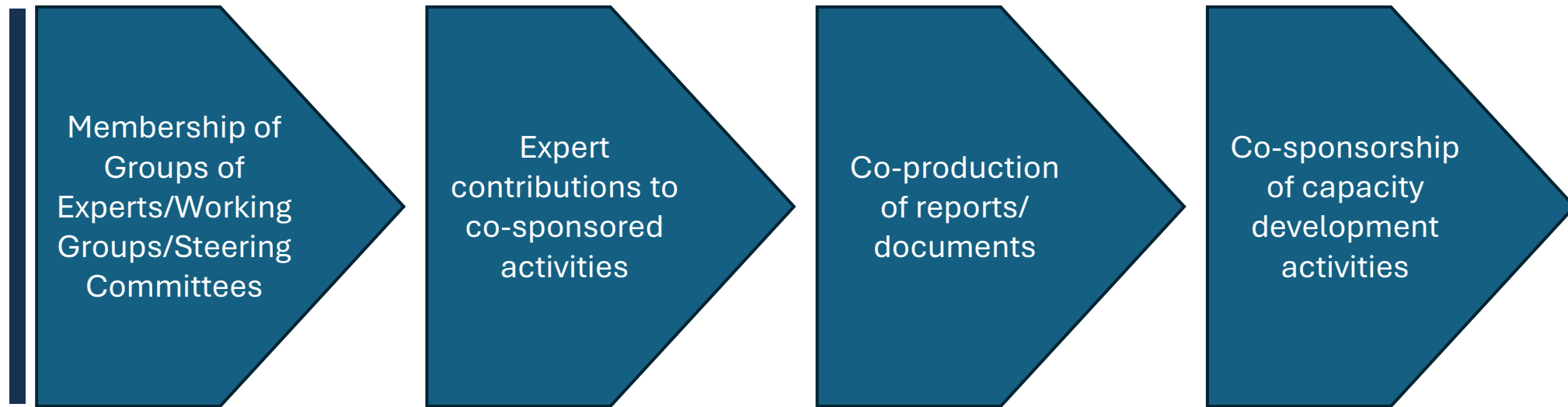
- Use of science-based information
- Development and use of tools
- Guidance on implementation



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## Mechanisms for collaboration





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## Notes and thoughts

- We are currently in financially challenging times
  - Both at SCOR and IOC
- As a UN agency collaborations need to deliver into the priority needs of Member States
  - Particularly into regions
- How do we best leverage opportunities to maximise outcomes?
- Where can the greatest gains be found via collaboration?
- What might be legacies beyond the Ocean Decade?



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# THANK YOU

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