



Observing Together

by The Global Ocean Observing System

Meeting stakeholder needs and making every observation count

Supporting the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

This programme is endorsed by the **UN Decade of Ocean Science**

Observing Together will transform ocean data access and availability by **connecting ocean observers and the communities they serve** through enhanced support to both new and existing community-scale projects.

By the end of the Ocean Decade, a substantial number of projects will exist that empower stakeholder communities to share more valuable observations and transform these so they are easily available and create real value.

Observing Together will include learning and sharing mechanisms that enable successful local initiatives to be replicated worldwide. It will help give us the ocean we need for the future we want.

— The challenge

Today, many communities around the world are unable to access ocean data in a way that is truly useful and enables them to make informed decisions.

Some may struggle to see the value of investing in ocean observation. At the same time, many other observing efforts remain isolated - a missed opportunity to contribute to an integrated global system and strengthen a wide range of products.

“When community users become aware of the real value of ocean observing to their lives, then support for ocean science will grow.

— The answer

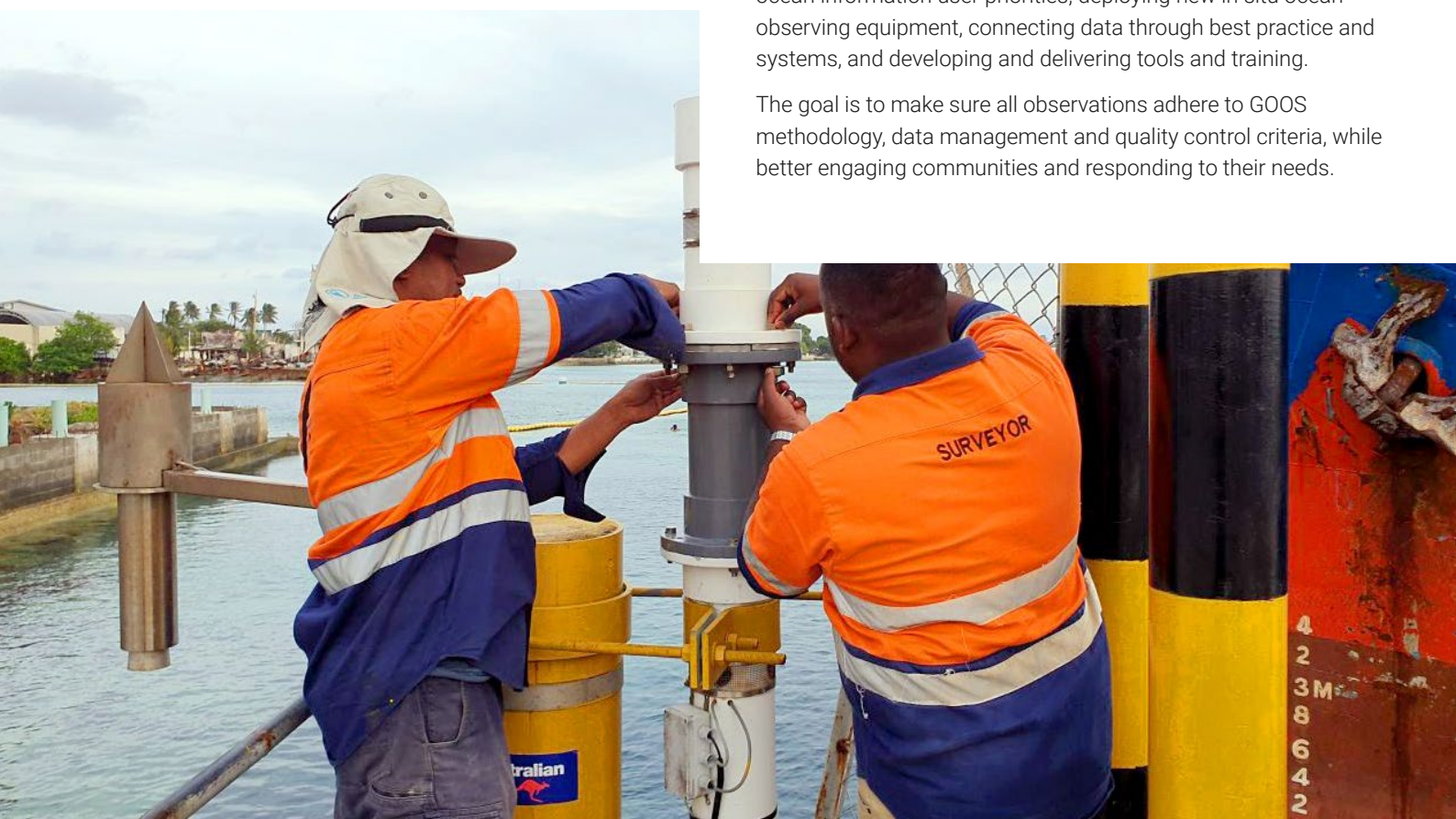
Observing Together will provide a platform for connecting new and existing ocean observing efforts while strengthening partnerships across the value chain - from observing networks, through data and forecasting systems, scientific analysis, to service providers and users.

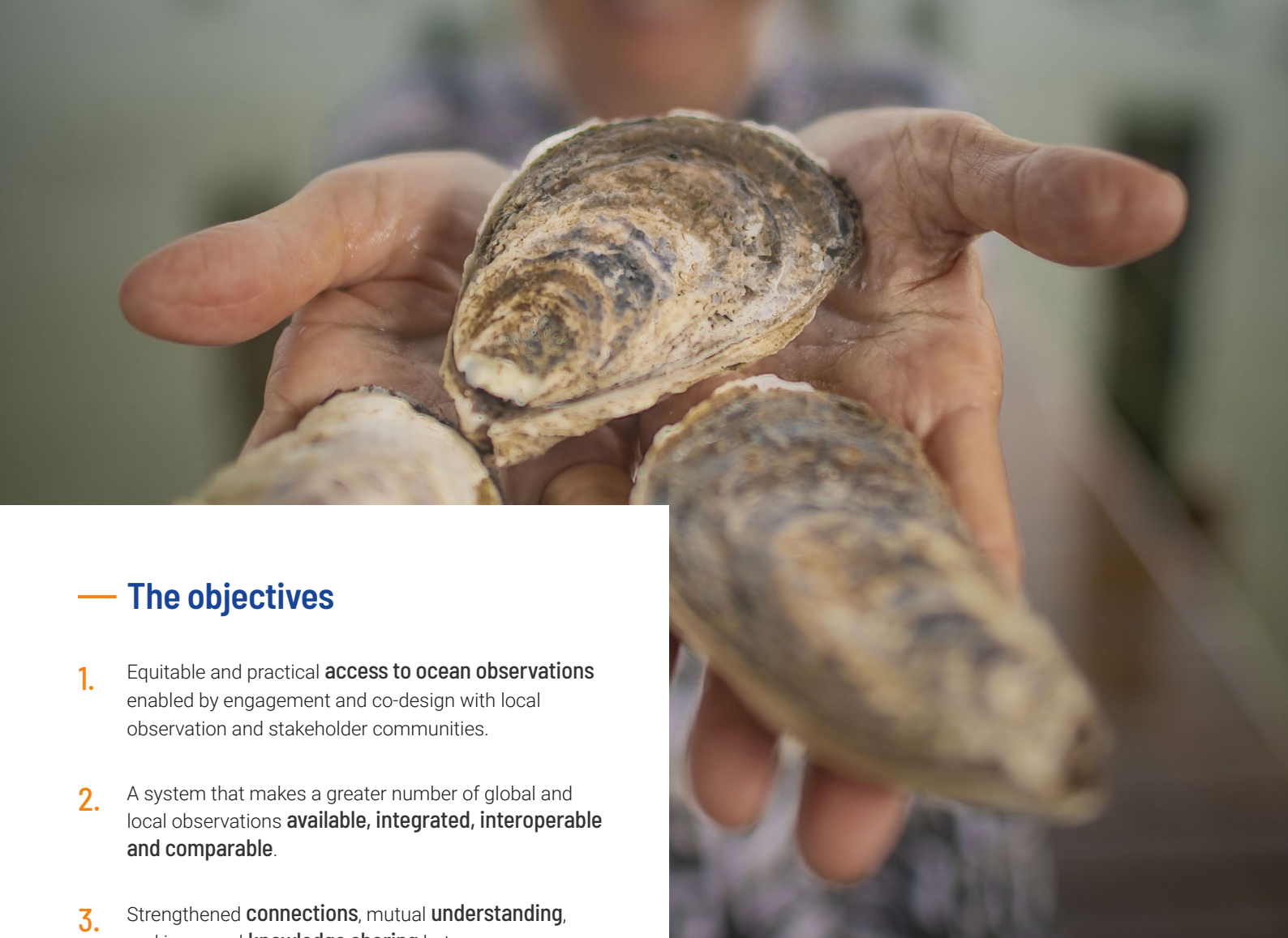
We will leverage the Global Ocean Observing System's (GOOS) network of expertise to bring needed observations and forecasts to community users and into global data streams, making every observation count.

For example, across Pacific Island countries and territories, 90% of Pacific Islanders live within 10km of the coast. Most economic activities rely upon the ocean - from commercial and sustenance fishing to surfing and dive tourism. Accurate ocean information and forecasts are critical for planning, safety at sea, and disaster mitigation along the coast but in situ observations and oceanographic expertise in the region are limited.

Here, our work, carried out in partnership, will include identifying ocean information user priorities, deploying new in situ ocean observing equipment, connecting data through best practice and systems, and developing and delivering tools and training.

The goal is to make sure all observations adhere to GOOS methodology, data management and quality control criteria, while better engaging communities and responding to their needs.





— The objectives

1. Equitable and practical **access to ocean observations** enabled by engagement and co-design with local observation and stakeholder communities.
2. A system that makes a greater number of global and local observations **available, integrated, interoperable and comparable**.
3. Strengthened **connections**, mutual **understanding**, and improved **knowledge sharing** between ocean observers and the stakeholder communities they serve, globally and locally.
4. Increased evidence that ocean observations are applied to **solve problems and inform decision-making** for any community – national, regional, or global.
5. Efficient design and use of ocean observations to **maximise return on investment**.

When community users become aware of the real value of ocean observing to their lives, support for ocean science will grow.

— The benefits

We will be able to:

- Strengthen connections between ocean observers and community users.
- Share ocean observations more widely.
- Integrate local knowledge and global information.
- Go further to make every observation count.
- Develop new equipment and training programmes.
- Learn from successes.
- Empower stakeholder communities.

— Get involved

If you would like to support Observing Together, please get in touch to start the conversation about how you can help us and what your contribution will enable us to achieve together.

Potential investors, talk to us about how this vitally important programme can help you make a difference to specific communities, delivering the information, the services and the capacity needed to empower sustainable living in balance with the ocean.

goosocean.org →



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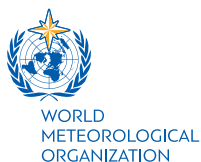


GOOS | At the heart of the Ocean Decade

Our work is at the heart of every activity carried out by the Ocean Decade. We observe the ocean to increase our knowledge, help keep humanity and our planet safe, while playing our part in enabling environmental regeneration and economic growth for the future.



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GOOS is sponsored by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO**, the **World Meteorological Organization**, the **UN Environment Programme**, and the **International Science Council**.