

REPORTING FORM 2025

Insert Name of Science Team: IMECaN

Operating Period as an IMBeR Member:

- *Start Year: 2016*
- *End Year:*

List of Authors: Juliano Palacios Abrantes, Shenghui Li, Gabriella Akpah Yeboah, Bia Dias, Sara Garcia-Morales Hurtado, Ignacio Gianelli, Priyatma Singh, Mia Strand

1. Ongoing activities, in line with the IMBeR Grand and Innovation Challenges

(Among other uses, information will be used to update the [IMBeR Annual Report to SCOR](#))

1.a. Grand Challenge I

Understanding and quantifying the state and variability of marine ecosystems - with focus on Research Objectives 1 to 3:

Research Objective 1. *Evaluate and predict the cumulative effect of multiple stressors*

Research Objective 2. *Integration of climate change and climate variability*

Research Objective 3. *Impacts on society – preparation for a changed future*

Add text...

1.b. Grand Challenge II

Improving scenarios, predictions and projections of future ocean-human systems at multiple scales - with focus on Research Objectives 4 to 6:

Research Objective 4. *Development of integrated data systems and approaches for predictions and projections*

Research Objective 5. *Development of predictive models and projections for use at regional scales*

Research Objective 6. *Development of alternative scenarios to bridge the gap between physical climate sciences and humanities*

Add text...

1.c. Grand Challenge III

Improving and achieving sustainable ocean governance - with focus on Research Objectives 7 to 9:

Research Objective 7. *Develop knowledge on best practices for multilevel governance approaches to ocean climate adaptation and mitigation*

Research Objective 8. *Develop understanding on key ingredients for transformation towards more sustainable, equitable and inclusive governance approaches to fisheries and aquaculture*

Research Objective 9. *Support implementation of post-2020 biodiversity targets for marine spatial planning and marine protected areas*

Add text...

1.d. Innovation Challenge 3

To advance understanding of ecological feedbacks in the Earth System

Add text...

1.e. Innovation Challenge 4

To advance and improve the use of social science data for ocean management, decision making and policy development

Add text...

1.f. Innovation Challenge 5

Interventions to change the course of climate impacts

Add text...

1.g. Innovation Challenge 6

Sustainable management of Blue Carbon ecosystems

Add text...

2. Selected highlights

2.a. Selected scientific highlights since last report (1-5)

Last report was submitted to SCOR, August 2024

Add text...

2.b. Publications since last report

Please add all publications since last report to the table below (see notes for details on “Class” and “Activity” fields).

Publication with DOI	Class 1, 2, 3	Activity*
Palacios-Abrantes, J., B. S. Dias, I. Gianelli, M. Strand, S. Li,	2	IMECaN and ECOP-

and G. A. Yeboah. 2025. <i>The Role of the Interdisciplinary Marine Early Career Network (IMECaN) in Supporting Capacity Building, Ocean Literacy, and Collaborative Leadership of Early Career Researchers</i> . <i>Limnol. Oceanogr. Bull.</i> DOI: 10.1002/lob.10704		China joint session in XMAS Xiamen 2025
Elsler, L. G., Hörstmann, C., Polejack, A., Puskic, P., Rimmer, T., Ojwala, R. A., ... & Kaikkonen, L. (2025). <i>Leave no one behind in the UN Ocean Decade</i> . <i>One Earth</i> .	2	IMECaN past chair as the co-author and IMECaN helped to share the call via network emails
[Add more rows if needed]		

****Notes on publications****

Publications since 2016 | Publications prior to 2016

Class 1 publications are specifically generated through/by/from/during **IMBeR activities** - for example, arising from IMBIZOs and IMBeR conferences such as the IMBeR open science meeting and the IMBeR West Pacific symposia and from the activities of the working groups, regional programmes and the SPIS scoping teams.

Class 3 publications are on topics relevant to the IMBeR Science Plan but for which there is no direct link to or benefit from an IMBeR activity. These might include publications by SSC members, working group, regional programme or endorsed project members or members of the IMBeR international community that were written as part of the normal scientific activity of the authors and would have occurred irrespective of IMBeR's existence. You can report Class 3 publications, but they will no longer be logged in the IMBeR database.

Why list ‘Class’ and ‘Activity’? This helps us to declare authentically which publications IMBeR has helped to generate, and it makes it easier for us to demonstrate the value of the Regional

Programmes, the Working Groups, and IMBeR in general, and it helps us to justify support for IMBeR activities when we can list tangible outputs.

2.c. Events, Meetings, and Workshops

List all international and national events, meetings and workshops. Describe the level of participation: e.g. chairing session/workshop, organising meeting. Include Endorsed Projects committee meetings and workshops.

Format: Title of event. Date. Location. Description of participation. Any other pertinent details.

- (1) *Advancing Ocean Sustainability: The Role of Early Career Ocean Professionals in Capacity Building, Ocean Literacy and Collaborative Leadership, January 14-17, 2025, Xiamen, China, IMECaN co-chair (Shenghui Li) and ECOP-China coordinators (Yuntao Wang and Chunhua Jiang) co-convened this ECOP Engagement Workshop in 2025 Xiamen Symposium on Marine Environmental Sciences, IMECaN co-chair Julian Palacios Abrantes and IMBeR IPO Executive Officer Fang Zuo were invited to give presentation. The event focused on empowering early-career professionals, enhancing capacity building, and promoting collaborative leadership in ocean sustainability.*
- (2) *Future Oceans 3 IMECaN event, 14th May 2025, Shanghai, China & online, Reflecting on IMECaN's Journey: Achievements, Insights, and Future Directions. IMECaN organized and led this hybrid event, which provided a platform to reflect on past achievements, share insights, and discuss strategic directions for the network's future. The event fostered engagement among early-career researchers worldwide and highlighted IMECaN's evolving role in the global ocean science community.*
- (3) *UNOC3 side event entitled "The Future of Early-career Networks in Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Ocean Science", 7th June 2025, Nice, France. The session included a scenario-planning activity, engaging participants in envisioning the future of early-career networks in ocean science. The event promoted collaboration and knowledge exchange among early-career professionals, policy-makers, and established scientists.*
- (4) *UNOC3 side event entitled "Right Right Right! Widening ocean literacy to best support ocean sustainability transition", 12th June 2025, Nice France. **IMBeR IMECaN** co-chair joins the panel. The event promoted collaboration and knowledge exchange among ECRs, policy-makers, and established scientists.*

3. International collaboration and links

On June 7, 2025, during a side event at the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) and the Interdisciplinary Marine Early Career Network (IMECaN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long-term collaboration. The signing of the MoU marks a formal commitment to foster international scientific collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange between early-career ocean professionals and the broader scientific and policy community. This partnership aims to bridge the gap between cutting-edge ocean science and policy, ensuring that the perspectives and innovations of early-career researchers are integrated into global ocean governance and sustainability efforts.

4. Input to management, policy and SOCIETY* over the last year

Add anything that is not covered under “1.c. Grand Challenge III”

**As previous reporting forms requested ‘input to management and policy’ only, please add any ‘input to society’ not captured in previous reports*

Add text...

5. Education, outreach and Capacity Development

IMECaN publishes a quarterly newsletter for its members, featuring IMECaN community highlights, recommended readings, career opportunities, and upcoming events. The network also maintains a growing online presence to facilitate engagement and knowledge sharing among marine early career researchers (ECRs) and partner initiatives. Switching from its previous use of X; formerly Twitter, IMECaN has expanded its outreach through its official LinkedIn profile (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/imecan/>) and Bluesky account (@imecan.bsky.social), where it continues to promote events, publications, and relevant opportunities.

6. Planned activities

6.a. Activities and Outreach and how they link to the Challenges (including, but not limited to convening sessions, meetings, summer schools, workshops, etc)

6.b. Upcoming papers (Community-Position-Review-etc)

Add text...

- (1) Guidelines for ensuring meaningful engagement of early career researchers in scientific collaborations (under review)
- (2) The Future of Early-career Networks in Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Ocean Science (ongoing paper)

7. Funding

7.a. Funding from external sources

Add text...

7.b. Funding proposals in progress or planned

Add text...

Do you want this to be released in the online version of this report? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Changes to Organisational Structure

Add text...

IMECaN has introduced several key updates to its structure, governance, and operations as reflected in the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) last updated in May 2025. The Organising Committee remains the central governing body, now explicitly capped at a maximum of 12 Early Career Researcher (ECR) members. Organising Committee members will serve for a three-year term from the date of appointment. Serving time can be extended for another three years (two terms maximum), pending approval of committee members.

9. Images / Figures

*****It is always good to have some recent photos / figures / infographics to create more exposure for the Regional Programmes, Working Groups, etc. These can range from those suitable for a very scientific audience, to those that would engage the general public. IMBeR would use these, on the website (e.g. <http://www.imber.info/> and <http://www.imber.info/en/news>), in tweets (@imber_ipo), in presentations, etc. In addition, Future Earth (one of our sponsors) regularly asks us to provide high quality images for their glossy reports. These can highlight the activities of IMBeR and their other Global Research Projects (see pdfs of past Future Earth reports here <https://futureearth.org/publications/annual-reports/>)*

*So, please provide any images that you might think are useful. These can be pasted in this document or emailed as an attachment to imber@ecnu.edu.cn.*****

On 14th May 2025, we organised an IMECaN Event during Future Oceans 3. This hybrid event reflected on the network's achievements over eight years and gathered perspectives to shape its future as IMBeR enters a new phase. It successfully celebrated past achievements and generated actionable ideas to shape the network's future, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the next generation of marine scientists and advocates.



On 7th June 2025, we organised a side event during UNOC3. The side event featured scenario-planning activities designed to foster dialogue on future challenges and opportunities for early-career networks, with a focus on capacity building, collaborative leadership, and knowledge exchange.



10. Notable achievements over the IMBeR decade (2016-2025)

10.1...

10.2...

10.3...

10.4...

10.5...

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10.x...

11. A list of Synthesis Products

Add text...

11. Reflections

Add text...

12. Recommendation for future work

Add text...

In the near future, we need to secure sustainable funding and resources. We need to find diversify funding sources to support long-term programs, travel grants, and capacity-building activities, recognizing that financial resources are critical for network connectivity and impact.

13. Anything not covered above

Add text...

14. Appendices

Add appropriate meeting / workshop reports and include URLs (this helps to track where online content is missing)

Add text...