

BRAZIL BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY DEVELOPING THE OCEAN LITERACY CURRICULUM FOR ALL NATIONAL SCHOOLS

April 2025

On its website, UNESCO informs that in April 2025, Brazil assumed an international leadership role by signing a Letter of Intent that formally incorporates Ocean Literacy into the national school curriculum. With this initiative, Brazil becomes the first country recognized by UNESCO to officially commit to integrating Ocean Literacy into its national curriculum. Known as the “Blue Curriculum”, it will be implemented in schools nationwide with adaptations to regional and local contexts.



In Brazil, this unprecedented step is the result of a strategic collaboration between the Ministry of Education (MEC), the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), UNESCO, federal universities, local governments, and school networks, establishing a global benchmark in environmental, scientific, and civic education.

In a global context marked by the growing impacts of climate change, extreme rainfall, heatwaves, coastal erosion, and socio-economic and public health challenges, this measure reinforces the crucial role of education in building planetary citizenship grounded in science and social engagement. It also demonstrates Brazil's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

Ocean Literacy must be implemented across all level of government, beginning with cities and Brazil has led the way with the adoption of the first municipal law on Ocean Literacy in Santos in 2021, an initiative that has inspired many other cities. Today, this milestone is being adopted by several Brazilian states, and they are now witnessing the beginning of a process to implement it at the federal level.

The Letter of Intent was signed during the International Forum on the Blue Curriculum: International Experiences in Education and Ocean Literacy for Climate Resilience, one of the flagship events of the Ocean Literacy Week. In addition to the launch of the Blue Curriculum, the Forum was marked by the announcement of important national and international ocean literacy initiatives. It included for example the official launch of the 2025 National



Science and Technology Week, with Ocean Literacy as its central theme. This event will foster broad dialogues among schools, universities, and civil society on innovation, sustainability, and ocean conservation. Calls for proposals were also announced for the 2nd International Ocean Olympiad and the 5th Brazilian Ocean Olympiad, both aimed at increasing national and international student engagement in awareness and educational activities on ocean, climate, and socio-environmental issues. The 2024 edition of the Brazilian Ocean Olympiad had a record participation of more than 62,000 students nationwide.

Highlighting the country's commitment to gender equity in science, the creation of 10 Ocean Literacy Clubs exclusively for girls was also announced. This innovative initiative aims to strengthen female participation in ocean sciences and foster youth leadership in tangible sustainability and conservation actions. All these initiatives reinforce Brazil's commitment to the inclusive and cross-cutting implementation of ocean literacy in education, consolidating the country's pioneering role in the global context of education for sustainability.

Brazil's Ocean Literacy milestones to date include:

- Establishing a legal framework to include Ocean Literacy in school curricula in 21 municipalities and four states;
- Hosting Regional Blue Curriculum Forums, with broad national participation;
- Engagement in the Blue School Program of more than 100,000 students in 22 states and the Federal District;
- Active participation in science clubs and youth-led projects of 350 scholarship students and 30 teachers;
- International leadership through the Brazilian Ocean Olympiad (with over 62,000 students nationwide), engaging over 15 countries.

As the lead agency of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), UNESCO is committed to advancing ocean science and sustainable ocean management through global projects and initiatives. In this context, Brazil's initiative stands as a model and an inspiration to other countries, demonstrating that it is possible to turn scientific knowledge into concrete public policy with the active participation of educators, students, and communities.

The news about the international leadership role assumed by Brazil by incorporating Ocean Literacy into the national school curriculum was widely reported by the Brazilian press and other international actors.

To know more

[News in UNESCO website](#)

[News in Ocean Decade website](#)

[United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021–2030\).](#)

[Article in ONU News: Brasil é pioneiro na criação de currículo escolar sobre cultura oceânica](#)

[Article in agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br](#)



[Brasil faz historia in Instagram.com](#)

[A new blue curriculum: a tool kit for policy makers 2022](#)

[Article in exame.com](#)

[Article in sciencedirect.com](#)

[Ocean Literacy overview](#)

[Ocean Literacy Portal](#)

[Ocean Literacy Portal events](#)

[2025 United Nations Ocean Decade Conference](#)



The United Nations
Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development
(2021-2030)

