



ISA
Partnership
Fund

FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2023



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Overview

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) Partnership Fund is a multi-donor trust fund established on 3 August 2022 by the ISA Assembly during its 27th session.¹ The Partnership Fund aims to promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind and to contribute to dedicated capacity development programmes and activities aligned with the priority needs identified by developing States Members of ISA. The Partnership Fund supersedes the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and is administered by the Assembly under the **terms of reference** adopted upon recommendation of the Finance Committee.



Objectives

The ISA Partnership Fund aims to

- promote marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind
- provide qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries with opportunities to participate in international marine scientific research programmes
- finance the design, development and implementation of development programmes and activities aligned with the priority needs identified by developing States Members of ISA
- contribute to the implementation of the **Action Plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**²
- enhance ISA's contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1 ISA. 2022. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to financial and budgetary matters (ISBA/27/A/10). Available at: https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA_27_A_10-2212174E.pdf.

2 ISA. 2020. Decision of the Assembly relating to the action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (ISBA/26/A/17). Available at: https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ISBA_26_A_17-2017623E.pdf.



Activities eligible for funding

Activities that can be financed under the ISA Partnership Fund include:

- the development and implementation of marine scientific research programmes in the Area in line with the strategic research priorities identified in the **ISA Action Plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**, which will benefit qualified scientists and technical personnel, as well as relevant national and regional institutions from developing countries and regions
- the development and implementation of training programmes in line with the decision of the Assembly relating to the **implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development**, particularly those addressing the priority needs for capacity development identified by developing States Members of ISA
- the development and implementation of technical assistance programmes and activities that will enhance the implementation of the ISA Strategic Plan for 2019-2025³, the High-Level Action Plan⁴, the **Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research** and the and the ISA **Capacity Development Strategy**⁵
- the engagement of multilevel partnerships on the conduct of marine scientific research programmes in the Area and dissemination and sharing of their results with interested Member States, contractors, relevant ocean industry sectors, the United Nations and its funds and programmes, relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, scientific communities and relevant civil society organizations

The Partnership Fund may finance eligible expenditures for ISA-executed activities, such as staff costs, contractual services, equipment and office premises lease costs, media, workshops, conferences and meetings, and travel expenses. All recipient-executed activities funded by ISA must follow the applicable policies and procedures of ISA.

3 ISA. 2018. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 (ISBA/24/A/10). Available at: https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/isba24_a10-en.pdf.

4 ISA. 2019. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of the strategic plan for the Authority for the period 2019–2023 (ISBA/25/A/15). Available at: <https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/25a-15-e.pdf>.

5 ISA. 2022. Capacity development strategy of the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/27/A/5). Available at: https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA_27_A_5-2209799E.pdf.

Partnership Fund Board

Under the terms of reference of the Partnership Fund, a Partnership Board is established to provide strategic guidance and direction on implementing the Partnership Fund activities and endorsing strategic priorities. It consists of two representatives of the ISA Secretariat, the Chairs of the Finance Committee and

the Legal and Technical Commission and eight representatives of Member States, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries or small island developing States. Donors contributing to other ISA-administered trust funds may also be invited to participate in the discussions.



Mr. José Dallo
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Dr. Marie Bourrel-McKinnon
Chief of Staff and
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**Mr. Erasmo Lara
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**Ms. Jorun Sigrid
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**Rear Admiral Md.
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Chair, ISA Finance
Committee



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Dr. Wan-hyun Choi
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Republic of Korea



**Mr. Bharat Raj
Paudyal**
Foreign Secretary,
Nepal



H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze
Permanent
Representative of
Namibia to ISA



H.E. Mr. Dwight CR Gardiner
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary, Antigua
and Barbuda

Contributions to the Partnership Fund

Contributions to the Fund can be made by any State, contractor, international organization, academic and scientific institution, private corporation, philanthropic entity or private individual.

Contributions to the Fund since 2022



France
USD172,124



Greece
USD52,520



China
USD20,000



Mexico
USD10,000

In June 2023, the Partnership Fund Board held its first meeting. The Board endorsed the allocation of a total of USD 382,000 to four projects and initiatives:

- The development of a training course on environmental impact assessment for exploration activities carried out in the Area – **Funding allocated: USD100,000.**
- Building and developing capacities of least developed countries (LDCs) in deep-sea related sciences, technology and innovation in support of the sustainable development of blue emerging economies. **Funding allocated: USD55,000** through the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries to support:
 - (i) the three-month secondment of two experts from LDCs to work on marine science and technology research project in the ISA Secretariat and
 - (ii) a six-month fellowship for doctoral/post-doctoral visit of a scientist from an LDC at a partner institution in the field of ocean science and technology.
- The development of a feasibility study on the potential of early warning signals to assess deep-sea ecosystem resilience – **Funding allocated: USD55,000.**
- Enhancing capacity and knowledge-sharing in meiofauna research through the establishment of a “MeioScool” in partnership with Ifremer – **Funding allocated: USD172,000.**

Administration of the Partnership Fund

The ISA Secretariat is responsible for providing indicative budget information, accounting and financial reporting, grants to recipients and supervision of activities financed under any grant agreement on the Partnership Fund website. ISA will enter into grant agreements with recipients and maintain separate records and ledger accounts for funds deposited in the Partnership Fund and disbursements made. The ISA Secretariat is responsible for supervising activities financed under any grant agreement.

For further information, please contact

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