



ISA  
Partnership  
Fund



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

**Call 2024.1**

**Call for project proposals  
The International Seabed Authority at 30**

**I. Context**

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the subsequent 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS (1994 Agreement). It came into existence on 16 November 1994 and became fully operational in June 1996, when it took over the premises and facilities in Kingston, Jamaica. It currently comprises 168 States parties and the European Union.

2. ISA is the organization through which parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-related activities in the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area) in accordance with Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement, with a view to promoting the orderly, safe and responsible management and development of the resources of the Area, for the benefit of humankind as a whole. The mandate of ISA includes, amongst other things, the obligation to take necessary measures to ensure effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects, foster marine scientific research in the Area, ensure the equitable sharing of benefits from activities in the Area and promote technology transfer to developing countries.

3. At its second meeting, the Board of the ISA Partnership Fund (the Fund) – a multi-donor trust fund established by the ISA Assembly during its 27<sup>th</sup> session<sup>1</sup> 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 – decided to open a special call for projects to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISA.

4. The Board is inviting interested stakeholders to submit proposals for projects in accordance with the terms of this Call.

**II. Strategic objective and expected outcomes**

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<sup>1</sup>ISBA/27/A/10

5. ISA has come a long way in the past 30 years. At the core of the global legal regime set out by UNCLOS for managing all interests in the ocean lies a collective vision of a shared future for humanity based on a comprehensive and flexible regime to achieve the sustainable use of the ocean and its marine mineral resources. Beyond national jurisdictions and national interests, this vision is realised by the establishment of ISA, the custodian and the steward of 54% of the world's ocean floor. ISA is indeed the only example of an international organization established to manage exclusively a global commons for the benefit of humanity, on the basis of equity in allocation of access to resources. To deliver against such ambitious mandate, ISA has been equipped with a series of unique and complementary responsibilities and competences including to serve as a global platform for trade-off for the organization and management of mineral-related activities in the Area. This system of global governance of the Area is premised on the sustainable use of mineral resources on the basis of equality between States and in such a way as to provide benefit for all humanity.

6. Over the last 30 years the regime of the Area has been strengthened through tenacious diplomacy, commitment to the effective implementation of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement and creative thinking. Indeed, the past 30 years have provided a solid foundation on which to build for the future and are a demonstration of the strength of multilateralism in ocean affairs.

### 2.1 Relevant topics for submission of project proposals

7. This call for proposals aims at showcasing the unique contribution provided by ISA to ocean governance, knowledge and protection. In line with the four pillars of ISA mandate, the Fund will accept project proposals pertaining to the following topics:

- a) Regulation and management of mineral-related activities in the Area;
- b) Marine scientific research in the Area;
- c) Protection of the marine environment in the Area;
- d) Equitable sharing of benefits deriving from activities in the Area.

In the light of the peculiar importance ISA attaches to the promotion of increased participation of women in ocean affairs, the Fund also accepts project proposals on the topic of the

- e) Contribution of ISA to the empowerment of women, especially from Least developed countries (LDC), Land-locked developing countries (LLDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) countries, in ocean affairs including ocean governance and deep-sea research

### 2.2 Objectives to be met by the project proposals

8. As per the [terms of reference](#) of the Fund, projects proposals shall:

- a) Contribute to the implementation of the [Action plan of the Authority](#) in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; and/or
- b) Contribute to the design, development and implementation of dedicated capacity development programmes and activities aligned with the priority needs identified by developing States members of the Authority.<sup>2</sup>

### 2.3 Potential funding scope for project proposals

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<sup>2</sup> [ISBA/27/A/5](#)

9. The Fund accepts proposals under the following three categories:
- a) Category 1: project proposals for a total budget not exceeding 20,000 USD
  - b) Category 2: project proposals for a total budget not exceeding 50,000 USD
  - c) Category 3: project proposals for a total budget not exceeding 100,000 USD

10. In accordance with the decision of the Board, 5% of the requested and accepted funding for each project will be allocated to support the production of communications products by the ISA Secretariat.

### III. Instructions for submission of project proposals

#### 3.1 Eligible proponents

11. Proposals can be submitted by an individual expert or a team of experts on behalf of:
- i. Member States of ISA;
  - ii. Competent regional and international organizations;
  - iii. Academic and scientific institutions;
  - iv. Non-governmental organizations, whose purposes or activities are related to the work of ISA, with expertise and capacity to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Fund;
  - v. Private foundations.

#### 3.2 Eligibility criteria for proponents

12. Proponent experts shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

<b>Category 1</b> <i>≤20,000 USD</i>	<b>Category 2</b> <i>≤50,000 USD</i>	<b>Category 3</b> <i>≤100,000 USD</i>
(i) A minimum of <b>2 years</b> of proven previous professional experience in the field related to the proposed activity;	(i) A minimum of <b>4 years</b> of proven previous professional experience in the field related to the proposed activity;	(i) A minimum of <b>6 years</b> of proven previous professional experience in the field related to the proposed activity;
(ii) The proposal shall focus on the development of tailored products to support deep-sea literacy or the advancement of marine scientific research in the Area;	(ii) The proposal shall include the organization of seminars, workshops, and other activities in the areas identified under paragraph 7;	(ii) The proposal shall focus on the implementation of multi-annual projects or activities that can be replicated by the Secretariat over time, through the development of <i>ad hoc</i> materials, including training courses in specific areas under the ISA mandate;
(iii) Proven record of previous successful	(iii) Proven record of previous successful	(iii) Proven record of previous successful

experience in design and organisation of projects in the field of capacity development and marine scientific research as well as in the management of international <b>projects with equivalent budget</b>	experience in design and organisation of projects in the field of capacity development and marine scientific research as well as in the management of international projects <b>with equivalent or above budget</b>	experience in design and organisation of projects in the field of capacity development and marine scientific research as well as in the management of international projects <b>with equivalent or above budget</b>
(iv) Excellent written and oral communications skills;	(iv) Excellent written and oral communications skills;	(iv) Excellent written and oral communications skills;
(v) <b>Basic</b> level of familiarization with the work of ISA	(v) <b>Good</b> level of familiarization with the work of ISA	(v) <b>Excellent</b> level of familiarization with the work of ISA
(vi) Ability to deliver outputs against tight deadlines.	(vi) Ability to deliver outputs against tight deadlines	(vi) Ability to deliver outputs against tight deadlines
	(vii) Ability to contribute (in kind or financially in addition to the grant request) for the implementation of the proposed activity and/or ability to leverage additional fundings to implement it.	(vii) Ability to contribute (in kind or financially to the same amount) for the implementation of the proposed activity and/or ability to leverage additional fundings to implement it.

13. ISA requests that every proponent prevents and avoids conflicts of interest by clearly disclosing any involvement or possible conflict of interest.

14. The Board reserves the right to consider any other additional eligibility criteria for the selection of the projects.

### 3.3 Submission of project proposals

15. All applications must be submitted in English using the forms attached in **Annex A** and **B** to the present Call. In case a project is proposed by a team of experts from different institutions, each expert is required to fill in **Annex B**.

16. Proposal must be submitted **no later than 12 May 2024** at [isapf@isa.org.jm](mailto:isapf@isa.org.jm). The subject of the email shall contain the name of the proposed activity and its category (1, 2 or 3)

17. Only complete proposals presented through the provided formats will be taken into account.

18. Proponents can submit different project proposals as long as only one project proposal per category of project is submitted.

19. The ISA Secretariat reserves the right to ask one or more applicants to merge their proposals for the delivery of the project.

#### **IV. Selection process**

20. The Board is responsible for the selection of proposals in accordance with the criteria available on ISA website. Before submission to the Board, proposals are screened against the following eligibility criteria:

- i. Be submitted by an eligible individual or team of individuals on behalf on an eligible entity;
- ii. Be submitted on or before the deadline set for submission;
- iii. Adhere to the present guidelines for submission;
- iv. Contribution to the objectives of the ISAPF;
- v. Benefit for Member States that are developing States or the advancement of knowledge of the ocean and its resources.

21. Only proponents of projects endorsed by the Board will be notified by the ISA Secretariat.

#### **V. Grant agreement and monitoring**

22. ISA will enter into grant agreements with recipients consistent with the purposes of the ISAPF and on the terms and conditions set forth in the grant agreements. Such agreements may be entered into up to the maximum amount of the contributions that all donors have agreed to make available under the administration agreements between the Secretariat and the donors. The Secretariat will be responsible for the supervision of the activities financed under any grant agreement.

*For further information please visit ISA website or contact [isapf@isa.org.jm](mailto:isapf@isa.org.jm).*

Annex A

**SUBMISSION FORM FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS BY EXTERNAL  
STAKEHOLDERS**

**Call for project proposals 2024.1**

**Section A: Proposal Cover Sheet**

<b>Activity</b>
<b>Activity title:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Activity duration:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Type of project:</b> Small project ( $\leq 20,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/> Medium project ( $\leq 50,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/> Large project ( $\leq 100,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Requested budget:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Applicant</b>
<b>Name of proponent:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Type of organization:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Contact (<i>name and position</i>):</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>E-mail address:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>Telephone:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.

**SECTION B: Proposal description and contents**

<p><b>Relevant ISA Strategic Direction</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	<p><b>Relevant High-Level Action</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research</b> (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	<p><b>Capacity Development Strategy</b> (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>Contribution to the objectives of the Fund</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Strategic objectives of the activity</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Partners</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Beneficiaries</b> (Explain how the activity would benefit Member States that are developing countries or the advancement of knowledge of the ocean and its resources) Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> (500 words max) Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Expected outcomes</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>Proposed budget and timeline</b> Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	

## **SECTION C: Declaration**

### **DECLARATION**

By submitting this form, I confirm that I am able to commit to the terms and conditions set out in the Call for proposals.

I acknowledge that the personal information supplied to ISA is done voluntarily to facilitate the processing of this application. I furthermore acknowledge that the information provided by me, is to the best of my knowledge both true and correct, and any incorrect or inaccurate information or documentation submitted may adversely affect the processes my application.

**Date and Signature:**



*Annex B*

**PROPONENT INFORMATION FORM**

**Call for project proposals 2024.1**

Date: (day, month, year)

Click or tap here to enter text.

<b>Title of the proposed activity:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>Type of project</b> Small project ( $\leq 20,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/> Medium project ( $\leq 50,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/> Large project ( $\leq 100,000$ USD) <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Requested budget:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>1. Full name of the contact person for the proposal:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>2. Position:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>3. Legal address:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>4. E-mail address:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>5. Provide detail on proven previous professional experience in the field related to the proposed activity:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>6. Provide detail on proven record of previous successful experience in design and organisation of projects in the field of capacity development and marine scientific research as well as in the management of international projects with equivalent budget:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>7. Provide detail on the ability to contribute (in kind or financially) for the implementation of the proposed activity and/or ability to leverage additional funding to implement it (only for Category 2 and 3 project proposals):</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>7. Provide any additional information considered key in meeting/exceeding the requirements:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>8. Are there any indicting circumstances of which the ISA should be aware?</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	

**Please provide details:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**9. Attach a copy of your national ID or passport OR a track record of the institution, as appropriate**

**DECLARATION**

By submitting this form, I confirm that I am able to commit to the terms and conditions set out in the Call for proposals.

I acknowledge that the personal information supplied to ISA is done voluntarily to facilitate the processing of this application. I furthermore acknowledge that the information provided by me, is to the best of my knowledge both true and correct, and any incorrect or inaccurate information or documentation submitted may adversely affect the processes my application.

**Date and Signature:**