

OCEAN45 Researcher Position Call (ECOP)

Position overview

Position title: Researcher for evaluation of ecological indicative criteria related to Area Based Management for the BBNJ Agreement

Salary: 40,000 USD

Location: Remote working

Percent time: Negotiable (50-100%)

Anticipated start: ASAP

Position duration: Negotiable depending on percent time (up to May 2027)

Position description

We are looking for an Early Career Ocean Professional to support a specific project for the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI). DOSI integrates scientific and humanistic knowledge to inform deep-ocean policy, governance, and stewardship by engaging with policymakers, cultivating capacity and diplomacy, and creating community.

This project is co-led by IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas High Seas Specialist Group (IUCN WCPA HSSG) (Lead: Guillermo Ortuño Crespo) and the Biodiversity Conservation Task Force of DOSI (Lead: Anna Metaxas). It will develop a 'Reading and Interpretation Guide' to support the clear, consistent, and scientifically rigorous operationalization of the 22 indicative criteria for identification of areas in need of protection (e.g. uniqueness, rarity, vulnerability, fragility), as set out in Annex I of the BBNJ Agreement. These criteria underpin the identification and designation of Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs) in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and are essential for ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. To support States, additional guidance is required regarding the definition, interpretation, and methodological application.

The candidate will: (1) help to complete an initial assessment of the feasibility of the criteria; (2) participate in the design and implementation of two expert and stakeholder workshops that will evaluate the feasibility and applicability of the criteria; (3) co-author an IUCN technical report which will be based on the workshop outcomes; (4) co-author publications that stem from the workshop outcomes; and (5) assist in socializing the findings with governments and other stakeholders in the BBNJ through the development of policy briefs and presentations.

The position can be remote with reporting to Anna Metaxas at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, and closely collaborating with Guillermo Ortuño Crespo and the Advisory Board of the project.

The successful candidate should be interested in translating scientific information into knowledge products that can be used by decision makers and practitioners.

Qualifications

Basic qualifications (required at time of application)

An PhD in natural or social science or humanities or equivalent experience

Required experience

At least three years experience working in spatial data analysis, environmental science, marine science, marine policy, or related areas. A background in deep-sea science is also a requirement. Experience with High Seas conservation, or the BBNJ process will be considered an asset.

Preferred experience and skills

- Experience working on spatial planning, conservation planning, marine protected areas or international agreements
- Experience collaborating with stakeholders such as governments, civil society/non-governmental organisations, indigenous communities and academia.
- Demonstrated capacity to publish peer-reviewed articles or non-peer reviewed reports
- Ability and enthusiasm to work with diverse collaborators in a spirit of respect and openness to different knowledge systems
- Excellent organizational skills
- Strong written and verbal communication abilities, including the capacity to generate fully original non-AI-assisted work and good presentation skills.
- Highly proficient in virtual collaboration tools such as G Suite, Microsoft Office, Zoom, etc.
- Willingness to collaborate with external partners in global time zones, occasionally requiring after-hours commitments
- Strong attention to detail, with the capacity to comprehend, manage, and prioritize multiple tasks simultaneously while consistently meeting deadlines
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to engage with news media by developing summary materials, press releases, and interviewing

Application Requirements

To apply, please send your CV, a one-page description of how your interests and expertise align with the description of this position, and the names and contact details of three references by 31 May 2026 to metaxas@dal.ca.

FOOTNOTE: ECOPs are defined as individuals with 10 years or less of professional experience in any field related to the ocean, including volunteer roles.