

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) of Experts to Enhance Capacities to Respond to Key Global ABNJ Biodiversity-Related Processes

IUCN Technical Assistance Facility - EU Global Ocean Programme Component 1

Version 2 – September 2025

Version	Date published	Amendments
V1	13 August 2025	N/A
V2	29 September 2025	Terms and Conditions

1. Background

a. The EU Global Ocean Programme

The global ocean is crucial for life and economic prosperity, supporting over 3 billion people, particularly in developing nations. The ocean economy contributes EUR 1.3 trillion to global value and could double by 2030. To harness this potential sustainably, international cooperation is needed to align policies and finances with environmental and social priorities. The ocean covers 90% of the Earth's biosphere, with Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) making up 64% of the ocean's surface. These regions are vital for biodiversity, climate stability, and food security but face threats from overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. Recent agreements, such as the BBNJ Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, establish a legal foundation for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in ABNJ.

On 26 July 2024, the European Commission adopted its implementing decision C(2024)5553 on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme 'Global Challenges' (Planet) for 2024-2027 of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). This decision includes the financing of a Global Ocean Programme, which aims at enhancing DG INTPA partner countries capacities to implement and benefit from the newly adopted High Seas Biodiversity Treaty (BBNJ Agreement) and other agreements and processes - legal, institutional, and scientific - related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

IUCN is implementing Component 1 of GOP (GOP C1), which focuses on enhancing capacities at national and regional levels for engagement with BBNJ and other biodiversity-related processes in ABNJ.

In this context, IUCN is operating a Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) to deliver targeted and needs-assessed technical assistance to national institutions.

b. The Technical Assistance Facility

The Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) is the primary delivery mechanism for GOP C1. It is designed to provide rapid-response, high-quality technical support to eligible partner countries and regional entities. The TAF is operated by IUCN and structured as follows:

- **TA Facility Team** (IUCN staff): Manages intake, assessment, coordination and delivery of assistance
- **Technical Assistance Approval Committee (TAAC)**: Independent technical panel that validates the relevance, feasibility and added value of each TA request and proposed expert assignments
- **Pool of Experts**: Roster of thematic experts in legal, scientific, and institutional areas related to ABNJ and BBNJ implementation, selected through IUCN procurement processes

The Technical Assistance Facility responds to requests in both streams of assistance:

- a. Stream 1: Capacities to implement key agreements and commitments on biodiversity of ABNJ (in particular the BBNJ) are enhanced at national level
- b. Stream 2: Capacities to implement key agreements and commitments on biodiversity of ABNJ (in particular the BBNJ) are enhanced at regional and global level

Additionally, TA requests submitted to the TAF must be aligned with the below categories of Technical Assistance:

- Category 1 - Conduct legal, policy and scientific gap assessments related to ABNJ biodiversity-related processes
- Category 2 - Support for national adoption of the BBNJ Agreement (awareness raising, domestication, ratification...)
- Category 3 - Strengthen capacity, science and technology related to the implementation of ABNJ biodiversity-related processes
- Category 4 - Facilitate the capacity to participate in the institutional mechanisms related to biodiversity in ABNJ
- Category 5 - Align ABNJ biodiversity-related processes, agreements and commitments at national or regional levels
- Category 6 - Other type of support

Find more information on the Technical Assistance Facility [here](#).

c. The Pool of experts

The Pool of experts is a collective of individual specialists established and managed by IUCN, to support the swift delivery of technical assistance under the GOP Technical Assistance Facility (TAF). Experts

are selected for their recognized expertise in disciplines relevant to the BBNJ Agreement and the TAF's scope of work. It covers a variety of thematic areas, including:

- Expertise in capacity needs assessments in ABNJ conservation
- Legal expertise, including domestication and ratification expertise of international instruments
- Expertise on marine scientific research in ABNJ
- Expertise on new technologies and innovations
- Expertise on conservation measures
- Expertise on sustainable use, including resource management
- Expertise on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Expertise on Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs)
- Expertise on capacity building
- Expertise on transfer of marine technology
- Expertise on traditional knowledge
- Expertise on sustainable finance, including on access and benefit sharing mechanisms
- Expertise on data management & infrastructure in Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) context, including on clearing house mechanisms
- Expertise on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, including enforcement measures
- Expertise on awareness raising and political campaigning
- Expertise on participatory processes, engagement including the free, prior and informed consent principle
- Expertise on coordinating, convening, facilitating and engaging diverse stakeholders
- Expertise on Human rights and equity
- Expertise on gender-inclusive approaches

The Pool of experts serves as the primary source of expertise for matching TA requests received by the TAF with expertise required. Matching is managed by the TAF team, during the request review process and approved by the TAAC, which does not include members of the Pool of experts to ensure impartiality.

The Pool of experts will be maintained as an open and dynamic roster, updated on a periodic basis through open call for Expression of Interest and targeted outreach to ensure adequate coverage and diversity.

2. Scope of Work & Expected Outputs

Once selected to be a part of the Pool of experts, individuals will be matched to contribute to the TA requests, based on the request needs, the expert's matching expertise, and the individual expert's availability to deliver the request. On this basis, the TAF team will put forward a proposed "expert-request" match for approval to the TAAC, which will issue the final decision. In the case that multiple experts are found to be relevant to respond to a request, and available to do so, the final decision on the "expert-request" match will be done by the TAAC.

Total number of days required to complete a request will be estimated by the TAF team as part of the selection and matching process for each TA request. Additionally, a timeline for the delivery of work will be agreed upon between the TAF team and the selected individual expert. Experts will be remunerated based on a standard rate, applicable to all members the Pool (see Section. 4).

Expected outputs will be identified for each TA request and agreed upon between the expert and the TAF team. Examples¹ include, but are not limited to:

- Organizing knowledge sharing and awareness raising activities (e.g., regional workshops, webinars, and high-level events)
- Assisting government with national codification processes (e.g., via model laws and legal checklists) in support of or following ratification of the BBNJ Agreement
- Developing supporting documents for Countries' engagement in biodiversity-related processes in ABNJ (e.g. CMS, CITES)
- Writing of concrete proposal(s) for scientific partnerships that would help implement the BBNJ Agreement.
- Supporting the advancement of the first tranche of MPA proposals by e.g., compiling information, facilitating data-exchange, and building support
- Establishing international scientific partnerships to enhance capacity and access to technology for marine scientific research including for MGRs

IUCN will individually contract expert(s) for each TA request, based on the conditions outlined in Section 4.

3. Criteria for selection:

Expressions of interest will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

	Description	Information to provide	Evaluation appreciation
1	Extensive understanding of - and demonstrated experience in the defined field(s) of expertise, as listed in Section 1.c.	Intake form & CV	✗ Expectations not met ✓ Pass ✓ Above expectations
2	Demonstrated connections and working relationships with key government actors and ABNJ stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, IGOs, sectorial organisations)	Intake form, CV and references	✗ Expectations not met ✓ Pass ✓ Above expectations
EVALUATION (to be selected into the Pool of experts, both criteria must be met (minimum appreciation "pass"))			

4. Terms & Conditions

In order to be contracted by IUCN to respond to TA requests under the European Commission Global Ocean Programme Component 1, individual experts selected based on the criteria described in Section 3, have to adhere to the following conditions:

- Agree to fill out and return the [IUCN Declaration of Undertaking for self-employed contractors](#), or the [IUCN Declaration of Undertaking for Companies](#) (depending on which one applies);
- Adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in [this template consultancy \(self-employment\) agreement](#) or [this template consultancy agreement \(for companies\)](#) (depending on which one applies); and
- Agree that remuneration under this scope of work will follow the rate of 450 EUR / full day of work and 225 EUR / half day of work and is not subject to negotiation.

¹ [Getting beyond yes: fast-tracking implementation of the United Nations agreement for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction | npj Ocean Sustainability](#)

Please note that individual experts that are affiliated with an organisation (i.e. not registered as self-employed) are eligible to apply only if their employers have agreed to the terms listed above. Request assignments will be made to individual experts, registered in the Pool of Expert, and not to organizations.

IUCN retains the right to remove an individual expert from the Pool of Expert at its sole discretion, including but not limited to, cases of breach of consultancy terms, no delivery of work, non-declared conflict of interest, changes in programme needs. Experts will be notified in such cases.

Individual experts may request to withdraw from the Pool of Expert at any time, by providing a written notice to IUCN, contacting taf.ocean@iucn.org. Upon receipt of this notice, IUCN will acknowledge it and update the Pool of Expert accordingly. Noting that ongoing assignments (if any) must be completed in accordance with the terms of the corresponding contract.

5. Process for applying

To express your interest in joining this Pool of experts, **please fill out this [intake form](#)** including providing the following documentation and information.

- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (in PDF format); and
- The name and contact details of three professional references

N.B. The selection will be based on information collected in sections 2, 3, and 4 of the intake form.

Expression of interests will be reviewed on a rolling basis, starting September 1st, 2025. If your profile is approved, we will contact you to discuss the terms and conditions of contract described above (See Section 4.). Once these conditions are accepted, you will officially join the Pool of experts and will be considered for incoming technical assistance requests.

For any questions regarding this process, please contact taf.ocean@iucn.org.