

International Platform for Ocean Sustainability Call for Thematic Expert –1st Working Cycle (Rapid Response)

The International Platform on Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) is seeking experienced **thematic experts** to support the coordination and framing of its first *Rapid Response* (RR #1 – Preparing for the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement: a legal framework and normative gap analysis in Costa Rica). The selected expert will work closely with the IPOS Secretariat to prepare the analytical framework, support the drafting and refining process of the knowledge synthesis process.

Deadline for the call: Jan 9th, 2026

Topic: BBNJ Implementation in the legal and normative framework of Costa Rica

Context:

IPOS aims to bring together transdisciplinary knowledge — including natural, social and human sciences, as well as insights from the private sector, civil society, and local and Indigenous knowledge systems — to support decision-makers through concrete policy options. It seeks to strengthen dialogue and collaboration among diverse knowledge holders, notably through an international Coalition of Scientific Institutions bringing together more than 60 universities, research centers, and academies.

This first Rapid Response focuses on supporting Costa Rica in preparing for the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. IPOS was asked to provide support and information to adapt the Costa Rican national policy frameworks and identify necessary legal and institutional adjustments to ensure that these obligations are fully integrated at the national level. This request will also give the opportunity to serve as a reference for other States seeking to strengthen their preparedness for implementing the BBNJ Agreement, thus supporting collective efforts to achieve its objectives. This work will foster greater coherence in global ocean governance and contribute to the effective conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Role of Thematic Expert:

The selected thematic expert will collaborate with the IPOS Rapid Response Coordinator to:

- **Contribute to the initial framing of the request**, including discussions with the requesting State, IPOS Secretariat and the Acting Knowledge Committee, defining the scope, objectives, and main questions of the Rapid Response.
- **Participate in the structure development of the Rapid Response**, clarifying the primary question and the way in which the Rapid Response answers the question and its sub-components. The process will include preparing the sub-prompts for the IPOSgpt tool as well as shaping the automated evidence mapping.
- **Contribute to the first draft of the deliverable**, particularly to ensure scientific robustness, clarity, and policy relevance as well as refining the initial outputs produced with the support of the IPOSgpt tool.
- **Incorporate independent reviewer comments** and help finalise the Rapid Response report.

Expected workload and timeline:

The workload is estimated at 6-7 working days in total over a period of 8 weeks from January 19th to March 20th, 2026.

Compensation:

This is a compensated contribution. Based on comparable international practices, the suggested honorarium for thematic experts is **USD 500 per day**. Experts will be acknowledged in the final report (unless they prefer to remain anonymous).

Profile of reviewers:

We welcome applications from individuals with proven expertise in fields directly related to the topic of the Rapid Response (preferably including regional or contextual knowledge). Furthermore, the thematic expert will need to demonstrate:

- Experience in science-policy interface, transdisciplinary research, or knowledge synthesis.
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills, with the ability to translate complex topics into structured research or policy questions.
- Experience in domestic policy in Costa Rica and/or experience in the negotiations or early implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.
- Familiarity with AI-assisted knowledge tools (willingness to engage with such processes).
- Excellent command of Spanish is an asset.
- Commitment to ethical, inclusive, and transparent collaboration.

Both academic and non-academic experts (e.g. from government, NGOs, private sector, Indigenous or local knowledge systems) are encouraged to apply.

How to apply

Please send your short CV (max. 2 pages) to the IPOS Rapid Response Project Manager (guillermo.ortunocrespo@ipos.earth) and Secretary-General (pierre.karleskind@ipos.earth): Deadline for applications: January 9th, 2026.

Selection criteria

Experts will be selected based on their thematic expertise, experience in science-policy processes, and their ability to contribute to a balanced and inclusive framing of the topic. For more information about IPOS and its knowledge processes, please visit ipos.earth.

We thank all applicants for their interest in supporting IPOS's mission to advance ethical, inclusive, and evidence-based ocean sustainability.