

Terms of Reference for RfP Reference: IUCN-22-10-P04013-1

The mission of IUCN is to “influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.”

IUCN’s Ocean Programme focuses on “effectively addressing key global challenges in the marine and polar environment. The Ocean Team cooperates with other IUCN thematic and regional programmes and with the IUCN Commissions to ensure that marine and polar ecosystems are maintained and restored in their biodiversity and productivity, and that any use of the resources is sustainable and equitable.”

As part of an annual funding agreement with the Swedish Ministry of Environment, IUCN is implementing a programme of work on advancing protection of biodiversity in the high seas. It will focus on a) supporting the UN BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Negotiations during 2022 and building capacity for future implementation of the new BBNJ Agreement¹ including sustainable finance mechanisms, b) exploring how highly migratory species tracking data could help address marine connectivity aspects of future high seas MPAs, c) promoting sustainability, precaution and equitability in the international seabed Area and raising awareness about potential irreversible impacts of deep seabed mining on high seas biodiversity.

The focus of this body of work is on building capacity for future implementation of the new BBNJ Agreement¹ including sustainable finance mechanisms.

Specific deliverables

1. Development of a Climate-focused policy brief on innovative finance mechanisms for the high seas by 4 November 2022.
2. Attend and promote the brief at the upcoming Climate COP event 9th of November. IUCN cannot secure participation for the Conference at this late stage so attendance is presumed as part of an alternative delegation.
3. A proposal of IUCN’s role on sustainable finance mechanism for establishing ABMTs in the high seas following the adoption of a BBNJ treaty implementing agreement by Dec 2022.