



ISA  
Partnership  
Fund

# FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2024



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

# Overview

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) Partnership Fund is a multi-donor trust fund established on 3 August 2022 by the ISA Assembly during its 27th session.<sup>1</sup> The Partnership Fund aims 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. The Partnership Fund supersedes the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and is administered by the Assembly under the **terms of reference**<sup>2</sup> adopted upon recommendation of the Finance Committee.



## Objectives

The ISA Partnership Fund aims to

- promote marine scientific research in the Area for the benefit of humankind
- provide qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries with opportunities to participate in international marine scientific research programmes
- finance the design, development and implementation of development programmes and activities aligned with the priority needs identified by developing States Members of ISA
- contribute to the implementation of the **Action Plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**<sup>3</sup>
- enhance ISA's contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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1 ISA. 2022. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to financial and budgetary matters (ISBA/27/A/10). Available at: [https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA\\_27\\_A\\_10-2212174E.pdf](https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA_27_A_10-2212174E.pdf).

2 <https://www.isa.org.jm/isa-partnership-fund/>

3 ISA. 2020. Decision of the Assembly relating to the action plan of the International Seabed Authority in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (ISBA/26/A/17). Available at: [https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ISBA\\_26\\_A\\_17-2017623E.pdf](https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ISBA_26_A_17-2017623E.pdf).





## Activities eligible for funding

Activities that can be financed under the ISA Partnership Fund include:

- the development and implementation of marine scientific research programmes in the Area in line with the strategic research priorities identified in the **ISA Action Plan in support of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**, which will benefit qualified scientists and technical personnel, as well as relevant national and regional institutions from developing countries and regions
- the development and implementation of training programmes in line with the decision of the Assembly relating to the **implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development**, particularly those addressing the priority needs for capacity development identified by developing States Members of ISA
- the development and implementation of technical assistance programmes and activities that will enhance the implementation of the ISA Strategic Plan for 2019-2025<sup>4</sup>, the High-Level Action Plan<sup>5</sup>, the **Action Plan for Marine Scientific Research** and the **ISA Capacity Development Strategy**<sup>6</sup>
- the engagement of multilevel partnerships on the conduct of marine scientific research programmes in the Area and dissemination and sharing of their results with interested Member States, contractors, relevant ocean industry sectors, the United Nations and its funds and programmes, relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, scientific communities and relevant civil society organizations

The Partnership Fund may finance eligible expenditures for ISA-executed activities, such as staff costs, contractual services, equipment and office premises lease costs, media, workshops, conferences and meetings, and travel expenses. All recipient-executed activities funded by ISA must follow the applicable policies and procedures of ISA.

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4 ISA. 2018. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the strategic plan of the Authority for the period 2019–2023 (ISBA/24/A/10). Available at: [https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/isba24\\_a10-en.pdf](https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/isba24_a10-en.pdf).

5 ISA. 2019. Decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority relating to the implementation of the strategic plan for the Authority for the period 2019-2023 (ISBA/25/A/15). Available at: <https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/25a-15-e.pdf>.

6 ISA. 2022. Capacity development strategy of the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/27/A/5). Available at: [https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA\\_27\\_A\\_5-2209799E.pdf](https://www.isa.org.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ISBA_27_A_5-2209799E.pdf).

# Partnership Fund Board

Under the terms of reference of the Partnership Fund, a Partnership Board is established to provide strategic guidance and direction on implementing the Partnership Fund activities and endorsing strategic priorities. It consists of two representatives of the ISA Secretariat, the Chairs of the Finance Committee and

the Legal and Technical Commission and eight representatives of Member States, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries or small island developing States. Donors contributing to other ISA-administered trust funds may also be invited to participate in the discussions.



**Mr. José Dallo**  
Director, OEMMR,  
ISA Secretariat



**Dr. Marie Bourrel-McKinnon**  
Chief of Staff and  
Head of Strategic  
Planning Unit, ISA  
Secretariat



**Mr. Erasmo Lara  
Cabrera**  
Chair, ISA Legal and  
Technical Commission



**Rear Admiral Md.  
Kurshed Alam**  
Chair, ISA Finance  
Committee



**H.E. Mr. Duncan Laki**  
Permanent Representative  
of Uganda to the United  
Nations



**H.E. Mr. Dwight CR Gardiner**  
Permanent Representative of  
Antigua and Barbuda to ISA



**Ms. Jorun Sigrid  
Nossun**  
Leader, Department  
for Climate and  
Environment, section  
Oceans, NORAD, Norway



**Dr. Wan-hyun Choi**  
President, MABIK,  
Republic of Korea



**H.E. Mario Balbi Calvo**  
Permanent  
Representative of  
Argentina to ISA



**Dr. Mario Sprovieri**  
Director of the Institute  
for Marine Science, Italian  
National Research Council



**Prof. Fang Yinxia**  
Director General of  
Second Institute of  
Oceanography, Ministry  
of Natural Resources  
(SIO, MNR)

# Contributions to the Partnership Fund

Contributions to the Fund can be made by any State, contractor, international organization, academic and scientific institution, private corporation, philanthropic entity or private individual.

Contributions to the Fund since 2022



France  
USD 250,807



Greece  
USD 52,520



China  
USD 40,000



Ireland  
USD 21,440



Mexico  
USD 10,000



Russia  
USD 90,024



Monaco  
USD 74,047



Spain  
USD 4,756

## Potential donors can contribute to the Partnership Fund by

1. Formally notifying the ISA of their intended contribution by emails to [secretary-general@isa.org.jm](mailto:secretary-general@isa.org.jm), indicating the amounts to be contributed and stating if the funds are earmarked for specific projects or unearmarked.

Contributions to the Fund can be deposited to the following bank account:

Name of Account Holder:	International Seabed Authority
Bank Name:	JPMorgan Chase Bank
Account Number:	000-000-899-308-032
Bank Address:	277 Park Avenue, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10172-0003, U.S.A.
Swift Code:	CHASUS33
ABA:	021000021

2. Kindly advising the ISA when the contribution has been transferred. An official receipt will be issued once transfer has been received.

# Meetings of the ISA Partnership Fund Board

## First Meeting: June 2023

The Board endorsed the allocation of a total of **USD 382,000** to four projects and initiatives:

- **The development of a training course on environmental impact assessment for exploration activities carried out in the Area** - Funding allocated: USD 100,000.
- **Building and developing capacities of least developed countries (LDCs) in deep-sea related sciences, technology and innovation in support of the sustainable development of blue emerging economies.** - Funding allocated: USD 55,000 through the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries to support:
  - (i) the three-month secondment of two experts from LDCs to work on marine science and technology research project in the ISA Secretariat and
  - (ii) a six-month fellowship for doctoral/post-doctoral visit of a scientist from an LDC at a partner institution in the field of ocean science and technology.
- **Enhancing capacity and knowledge-sharing in meiofauna research through the establishment of a "MeioScool" in partnership with Ifremer** - Funding allocated: USD 172,000.

## Second Meeting: January 2024

The Board endorsed the allocation of a total of **USD 547,500** to 5 ground-breaking projects:

- **Development of a data visualization platform for the Area** - Funding allocated USD 125,000.
- **Diplomatic Deep-sea Academy for Africa** - Funding allocated USD 170,000.
- **Enhancing and leveraging the knowledge of African experts in deep-sea research through the establishment of the ISA-Egypt Joint Training and Research Centre** - Funding allocated: USD 100,000.
- **Promoting deep-sea research in the Indian Ocean** - Funding allocated: USD 52,500.
- **Advancing the Caribbean blue economy through the Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy** - Funding allocated: USD 100,000.

## Third Meeting: July 2024

The Board endorsed the allocation of a total of **USD 318,000** to 4 capacity development and marine scientific research initiatives in celebration of ISA's 30th anniversary:

- **From Surface to Depth: Fostering Deep-Sea Literacy in Mozambique's Early Career Ocean Professionals, in partnership with Early Career Ocean Professional in Mozambique & Centro de Pesquisa e Tecnologias Marinhas de Moçambique** - Funding allocated: USD 20,000.
- **Women in Blue: training opportunities in ocean science, in partnership with Italian National Research Council** - Funding allocated USD 98,000.
- **Women in Science Expedition, in partnership with the Cook Islands Seabed Mineral Authority** - Funding allocated USD 100,000.
- **A methodology for adaptive management of deep-sea mining sediment plumes, in partnership with at depth LLC**- Funding allocated: USD 100,000.

## Administration of the Partnership Fund

The ISA Secretariat is responsible for providing indicative budget information, accounting and financial reporting, grants to recipients and supervision of activities financed under any grant agreement on the Partnership Fund website. ISA will enter into grant agreements with recipients and maintain separate records and ledger accounts for funds deposited in the Partnership Fund and disbursements made. The ISA Secretariat is responsible for supervising activities financed under any grant agreement.

### **For further information, please contact**

Dr. Giovanni Ardito, Associate Policy Officer, ISA at [isapf@isa.org.jm](mailto:isapf@isa.org.jm)



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