



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), c/o the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand
9th Floor, the Government Complex Building B, 120 Chaengwattana Road, Lak Si, Bangkok 10210, Thailand
<https://ioc-westpac.org> - fax: +66 (0)2 143 9245 - contact phone: +66 (0)2 141 1287-89 - E-mail: iocwestpac@unesco.org

Ref. SC/IOC/WESTPAC 2023/05-12

12 May 2023

**Subject: Call for Nominations for the Group of Experts (GoE) in
Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) is looking for suitable experts in marine spatial planning.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has gained considerable importance all around the world over the past decade. Since it organized the first international workshop on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in 2006, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) has become a leading institution in this field.

In response to the pressing demands of IOC Member States in the region, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) initiated and officially registered an UN Ocean Decade Action UN21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific. The proposed Action will capitalize on the MSPglobal Initiative and its results, and further promote and accelerate MSP in the Western Pacific, with a view to assisting Member States in applying an ecosystem-based approach to the management of marine space and resources therein, developing a blue economy, and ultimately achieving SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

To this end, I am pleased to seek your nominations of qualified MSP expert(s) in your respective countries/institutions/network(s), who have a strong willingness to join the collective effort in promoting, facilitating and accelerating marine spatial planning in the region. The Group of Experts will be formed with due considerations given to member's expertise, working experience related to MSP, geographic representation, generational and gender balance. The detailed Terms of Reference is attached to this letter for your further reference.

Please send your nomination, together with his/her CV, to iocwestpac@unesco.org, with a copy to Zhiwei Zhang at z.zhang@unesco.org, at your convenience, preferable **no later than 10 June 2023**.

Sincerely yours,

Head, IOC Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Enclosure:

Annex 1: Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts

Annex 1

Group of Experts in Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific

Terms of Reference

The Group of Experts (GoE) will provide oversight and advices to the Sub-Commission about its work on marine spatial planning, including the UN Decade Action 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific. Specifically, the Expert Group will:

1. Functions

- Provide policy and technical insights, assistance and support to facilitate the MSP process, its development and implementation in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas;
- Engage in, and contribute to the development of the UN Decade Action 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific, as a contribution to the implementation of the MSPglobal Initiative in the region;
- Promote the involvement of relevant institutions, and the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the MSP process, and provide facilitation and coordination as needed;
- Facilitate cooperation and communication with national and local MSP efforts/processes/initiatives;
- Advise on the development and implementation of the MSP related capacity development activities, outreach and engagement strategy; and
- Provide inputs to the organization of the MSPregional Forum which will be held on a regular basis in the region.

2. Composition and terms

The Expert Group will comprise approximately 6-10 members who have a range of technical knowledge, sufficient skills and extensive experience in marine spatial planning, and are able to undertake the work outlined in the terms of reference. They could come from academia/research communities, maritime sectors, business/private sectors, NGOs, international organizations/programmes, or national authorities responsible for the MSP implementation in their respective countries.

The composition will seek a mix of disciplines and involve experts to ensure the geographic balance and diversity of expertise. In the event that some a member is unable to contribute to the Group's work, his/her replacement will be sought from his/her countries.

Membership for the Expert Group will be for a three-year term, renewable for a second term.

3. Meetings

The Expert Group will meet at regular intervals both physically when possible (at least once per year) and virtually to ensure communication and consultation.