

Thursday 24th February 2026

AFRICA WEBINAR

IPOS Policy Support Options Available to States:
Responding with Relevant and Actionable Solutions
to Accelerate National & Regional Priorities
for Ocean Sustainability



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development





1. What is the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability

The ocean, essential to life on Earth, is in crisis. Despite ambitious global targets like Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Global Biodiversity Framework, its health is deteriorating, and **significant gaps remain in the implementation of these commitments**. There is a critical need to overcome the fragmentation of ocean knowledge and to provide operational policy options to ensure a healthy ocean.

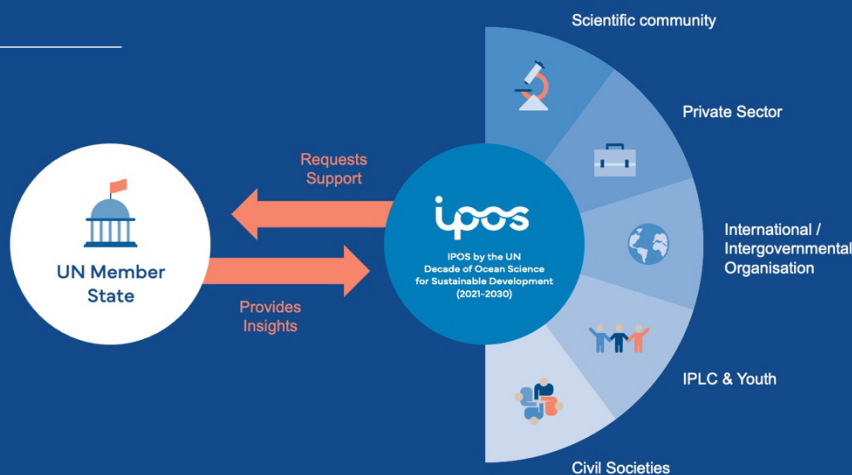
Ocean-related commitments under SDG14

Source: UNDESA



The International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) seeks to address this fragmentation by translating actionable knowledge into policy options. An innovative, demand-driven global platform linking diverse expertise and experience, it aims to support States in accelerating the implementation of their international ocean commitments. The platform delivers inclusive, tailored and actionable support in response to expressed needs, to inform policy decisions, guide sustainable ocean action and accelerate meeting our goals for ocean impact. Aligning with decision-makers timelines, **the platform integrates and strengthens the best available knowledge and expertise** from a wide range of reliable sources, including global environmental assessment reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the World Ocean Assessments (WOA I & II), among others. It also mobilizes Indigenous Local Knowledge (ILK), peer-reviewed scientific literature, and expertise from the private sector and civil society to develop concrete policy options adapted to local contexts.

The IPOS approach



IPOS aims to deliver rapid, robust, and inclusive services, including:

- **Action Requests**, which synthesize diverse knowledge to co-develop policy options within one year in response to requests from States or groups of States, through dynamic exchanges between requesters and relevant experts;
- **Rapid Responses**, which will provide knowledge outputs within a few weeks, supported by a dedicated artificial intelligence tool - IPOS-GPT - based on a carefully curated scientific literature, with results subject to peer review and compliant with an ethical code of best practices for artificial intelligence;
- and finally the **Ocean Catalyst** service, which will facilitate exchanges among diverse non-state actors on ocean policy solutions, obstacles to their implementation, and will focus on emerging priorities.

IPOS is designed to operate under a collaborative and decentralized governance model, ensuring a balance between global and regional coordination. This model involves a wide range of actors, including United Nations agencies, governments, scientific communities, civil society organizations, Indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as private-sector representatives. In particular, a global multi-stakeholder knowledge network enables IPOS to connect experts and stakeholders.

IPOS was officially launched at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) and now adopts a phased approach aimed at testing and adapting its services, methodologies, and proposed governance structures. This 24-month pilot phase will allow services to be refined in several pilot regions (Central America and Africa in the first year) and to ensure their adaptability based on the results obtained, before expansion to other regions. In addition to being cited in the

UNOC3 Political Declaration and in the European Ocean Pact as an innovative initiative capable of strengthening the science-policy interface for ocean governance, IPOS was endorsed as a Contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It is supported by 10 States, including Panama, Costa Rica and Fiji, as well as 63 scientific institutions from around the world.



2. How to get in touch with IPOS

States interested in engaging with IPOS are invited to reach out to the IPOS Secretariat (info@ipos.earth) to request a bilateral meeting, explore potential collaboration or seek further guidance on available support options. We encourage Member States to formally submit a request for policy support through the IPOS request submission process and to express their interest by signing a Letter of Support.



3. General objective of the Webinar

The objective of this webinar is to present the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) to African Union Member States and to highlight the opportunities available to them to request tailored support through IPOS services.

The session aims to introduce IPOS as a demand-driven mechanism supporting States in advancing their ocean-related priorities, both nationally and regionally. A key objective for IPOS is to ensure regional coherence and relevance. Accordingly, the Acting Director General and the Head of Department of Blue Economy Seychelles will share their respective experiences and thoughts on a pilot study completed in collaboration with IPOS.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the procedure for submitting an official request for support, including a step-by-step explanation of the process, which is also accessible via the following link:

[Submit a request](#)



4. Agenda of the Webinar & Bios



Welcome and opening words (5')

Mr Chrissant Barbe,
Acting Principal
Secretary for the Blue
Economy Department,
Seychelles

Working with the Dept. of Blue Economy since 2018, Mr Barbe has been actively involved in key projects of the Blue Economy agenda of Seychelles such as the development of the Blue Economy Strategic Plan, is Monitoring and Evaluation framework and the development of the Joint Management Area (JMA) between Seychelles and Mauritius. He also recently coordinated the ratification of the BBNJ Treaty.



Focus on Member State's experiences with IPOS (5')

Mr Terrence Crea

As the Director of the Dept. of Blue Economy, Mr Crea supports strategic leadership in advancing the country's Blue Economy agenda, with a focus on sustainable ocean-development and cross-sector collaboration. He plays a key role in integrating blue economy principles by supporting innovation, investments and responsible use of marine and coastal resources. Through this work, Mr Crea contributes to strengthening Seychelles' position as a global leader in sustainable Blue Economy development.



Introducing IPOS (10')

Tanya Brodie
Rudolph, IPOS Co-
Lead

Tanya Brodie Rudolph is an international ocean and environmental lawyer specialising in ocean governance. She co-leads IPOS and is a Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University.



Presentation of IPOS policy support services (10')

Pierre Karleskind,
IPOS Secretary
General

Pierre Karleskind is the Secretary General of the IPOS, where he provides strategic leadership to advance science-based and inclusive ocean governance. He previously served as a Member of the European Parliament and chaired the Committee on Fisheries, contributing to the development of EU policies on sustainable fisheries and maritime affairs.



Presentation of the submission process (5')

Pablo Villaamil, IPOS
Project Manager

Pablo Villaamil is a Project Manager for IPOS, where he works on policy-oriented initiatives at the science-policy interface. He is responsible for coordinating IPOS's Action Request in Panama, focusing on strengthening national ocean policy to ensure the sustainable, inclusive, and science-based management of ocean resources.



Closing remarks (10')

Jared Bosire, Nairobi
Convention

Jared Bosire is the Head of the Nairobi Convention. He has more than 20 years of experience in research and management in coastal and marine ecosystems; wildlife management; climate change; and policy development, implementation and organizational development. He has intensive experience in programme implementation across governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Q & A (15')



Thank you

Accelerating action
for a sustainable ocean



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