



**Request for Proposals for a Regional Training Hub for Ocean  
Acidification in the Pacific Islands**

**February 1, 2021**

## Proposal Request Synopsis

The Ocean Foundation is seeking an institution (or partnership of institutions) in the Pacific Islands to serve as a regional training hub for ocean acidification for the broader Pacific Islands community. This request for proposals to host the hub is part of a larger project that seeks to build capacity in the Pacific Islands to monitor and respond to ocean acidification through the distribution of equipment, training, and ongoing mentorship. The Ocean Foundation hopes to work with the selected regional training hub to identify additional sources of funding and resources to support the hub in perpetuity, but is unable to guarantee more than the funding laid out below.

The regional training hub will be a critical partner in this project and will play a role in sustaining ocean acidification monitoring and research in the region beyond the three-year time frame of this project. Eligibility and instructions to apply are included in this request for proposals. Proposals are due no later than **April 1st, 2021** and should be sent to [ioai@oceanfdn.org](mailto:ioai@oceanfdn.org).

## About The Ocean Foundation

As the only community foundation for the ocean, The Ocean Foundation's 501(c)(3) mission is to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. We focus our collective expertise on emerging threats in order to generate cutting edge solutions and better strategies for implementation.

The Ocean Foundation, through its International Ocean Acidification Initiative, builds the capacity of scientists, policymakers, and communities to monitor, understand, and respond to ocean acidification. In the past four years, The Ocean Foundation has led eight regional science training workshops and trained more than 200 scientists from more than 20 countries. In addition to organizing training workshops, The Ocean Foundation has focused on reducing the cost of ocean acidification monitoring and facilitating technology transfer.

## Project Background & Goals

In 2020 The Ocean Foundation began a new partnership with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Department of State (US DOS) to enhance and sustain ocean acidification monitoring and research capacity in the Pacific Islands. This three-year project will:

1. Establish a regional training hub in the Pacific islands for the ongoing provision of training and technical support on ocean acidification
2. Provide stipends, training, and research awards to enable in-region collaboration, training, and expansion of research capabilities

1320 19th St NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036 USA  
+1 202.887.8996  
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3. Establish a “spare parts” inventory, valued at approximately \$30,000 USD, at the regional training hub, a secondary reference material to ensure in region inter-comparability, and a process by which kit recipients can obtain necessary items
4. Distribute an additional seven [GOA-ON in a Box kits](#) to the region, including two to be housed at the regional training hub
5. Host two regional trainings at the new regional training hub to develop and further support regional expertise in monitoring ocean acidification with the GOA-ON in a Box kits
6. Develop new electronic learning (e-learning) materials to ensure accessibility of training materials and long term access to information in the region

This project builds off of the successful implementation of the Ocean Acidification Monitoring and Mitigation project, where The Ocean Foundation in partnership with US NOAA and the US DOS provided training and monitoring equipment to scientists throughout the Pacific Islands. This project aims to improve the sustainability of ocean acidification monitoring and research efforts by building additional infrastructure in the region to enable long term training opportunities, regional collaboration, access to spare parts and maintenance expertise, and access to financial resources to support research.

### **Role of the Regional Training Hub**

The selected regional training hub will play a critical role in the success of this program. The hub will be at a central, accessible location and institution that will provide resources to the broader community. For the three-year duration of the project, the hub will receive financial and technical resources from The Ocean Foundation to fulfill its role in the program. The regional training hub will get additional support and resources from other institutions and organizations such as the University of Hawaii and GOA-ON. Specifically, the regional training hub will:

1. House and maintain research equipment for the purpose of training researchers on ocean acidification monitoring and research, troubleshooting challenges that regional partners have with equipment, and providing continuing education opportunities for local and visiting scientists.
2. House and handle the distribution of spare parts to service research and monitoring programs in the Pacific Islands. The distribution of the spare parts will be done in coordination with and with additional financial support from The Ocean Foundation and NOAA.
3. Assist The Ocean Foundation and NOAA with the design of two regional training workshops.
4. Manage the receipt and distribution of a regional standard for carbon chemistry measurements, which will be manufactured elsewhere and shipped to the region.

5. Provide ongoing mentorship by assigning three staff members to the hub, who will be compensated for approximately 45 days of each person’s time per year of the project. Collaborative proposals from multiple institutions can be accepted, and must indicate which institution will house each position.
  - a. An ocean acidification chemist to provide hands-on and remote training on ocean acidification monitoring
  - b. A data management specialist to assist with data quality control and upload to the [SDG 14.3 data portal](#)
  - c. An operations manager to assist with management of spare parts and organization of training activities

### Eligibility

Institutions that are centrally located in the Pacific Islands are eligible to apply. To be considered for this award, applying institutions must meet the following requirements:

<p><b>Location</b></p>	<p>The location of the regional training hub must be ideal for benefiting the Pacific Islands region. The hub should be easily accessible* from the countries listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Federated States of Micronesia</li> <li>● Fiji</li> <li>● Kiribati</li> <li>● Maldives</li> <li>● Marshall Islands</li> <li>● Nauru</li> <li>● Palau</li> <li>● Philippines</li> <li>● Samoa</li> <li>● Solomon Islands</li> <li>● Tonga</li> <li>● Tuvalu</li> <li>● Vanuatu</li> <li>● Vietnam</li> </ul> <p>* Flights exist between these countries and visas are not required</p>
<p><b>Laboratory and Field Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>A laboratory that can be used to demonstrate methodologies is a requirement. The laboratory should accommodate 20 people (or two laboratories that can each hold 10) and be equipped with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stable electricity</li> <li>● Access to seawater</li> <li>● A hazardous waste disposal system suitable for handling mercuric chloride</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Glassware for preparation and storage of reagents</li> </ul> <p>Field infrastructure suitable for teaching methods of sample collection and in-situ monitoring, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to a boat for practice of boat-based sample collection**</li> <li>● A pier or other access point for practice of shore-based sample collection</li> <li>● Access to materials for mooring deployed instruments***</li> </ul> <p>** The hub is not required to own a boat, nor is responsible for paying the fees for a rental boat or fuel, it is covered in the funding budget.  *** The hub is not required to own mooring materials or pay for such materials, it is covered in the funding budget.</p>
<b>Classrooms &amp; Meeting Rooms</b>	<p>The regional hub will host small regional trainings through this program (pending safety considerations due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Classrooms or meeting rooms should be able to accommodate up to 20 people and should be equipped with a platform for giving PowerPoint presentations.</p>
<b>Storage</b>	<p>The regional training hub must have the ability to safely store and manage a “spare parts” inventory, which may include glassware, electronics, sensor components, and other items necessary to conduct ocean acidification monitoring. This may include chemicals such as hydrochloric acid. Management of the spare parts, including management of application processes to receive spare parts and inventory tracking, will be done jointly by the regional hub and The Ocean Foundation.</p>
<b>Personnel and Technical Expertise</b>	<p>The regional training hub must have personnel trained on ocean acidification monitoring and data management. The institution must commit to assign three personnel to the regional hub and each person will be compensated for approximately 45 days of time per year of the project. The institution must also commit to assisting The Ocean Foundation and NOAA with the planning and execution of two training workshops between 2021-2023. One or more of these trainings might be held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The institution must also commit to assisting The Ocean Foundation and NOAA with the selection of institutions to receive new monitoring equipment.</p>

### Financial and Technical Resources

The institution selected to serve as the regional training hub will receive the following financial and technical resources from The Ocean Foundation over the three-year project duration:

1320 19th St NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036 USA  
+1 202.887.8996  
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- \$37,000 USD to fund three part-time positions to staff the regional training hub: a chemistry trainer, a data management trainer, and an operations manager. This funding will support the role of these three part-time staff in operating the regional training hub, including managing spare parts, assisting with training, and providing technical support to the region. The \$37,000 is calculated to support each position for 360 hours, with an assumed hourly rate of \$37.50 USD per hour for the chemistry trainer and data management trainer, and \$27.80 USD per hour for the logistics/operations manager. The selected regional hub may choose to re-allocate this \$37,000 based on the specific hourly pay of the assigned staff, so long as the requirements of the regional hub are met. Collaborative proposals from multiple institutions can be accepted, and must indicate which institution will house each position.
- Approximately \$40,000 USD in monitoring equipment to be used as systems for training scientists throughout the region, including at regional workshops and for individuals who visit the training hub for ad-hoc training. The Hub will also be able to use these systems for their own research so long as the systems can be available for training.

The hub will also house approximately \$30,000 USD worth of spare parts and additional monitoring equipment. This equipment will be distributed by the regional hub in collaboration with The Ocean Foundation to partners throughout the Pacific to ensure continuity of research. The regional hub will be eligible to receive this equipment.

### Project Timeline

This project is currently set to run from October 2020 - September 2023. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the timeline of this project may be extended. The regional training hub will be selected in mid-2021 and will be involved in the planning and delivery of all other program activities as listed in the project description.

### Proposal Requirements

All proposals **should be a maximum of 4 pages** (excluding CVs and letters of support) and must include:

- Institution Name(s)
- Point of contact for application including an email address
- A brief description of the history of your institution (or partnership of institutions) and its role in science training in the Pacific Islands
- A detailed summary of how your institution (or partnership of institutions) meets the requirements to serve as the regional training hub, which should include:
  - a. An explanation of your institution's expertise with regards to ocean acidification monitoring and research

- b. An explanation of your institution's experience hosting scientific training programs
  - c. A justification for how your institution is accessible to the target countries of this project (eg direct flights)
  - d. A statement on how hosting this regional training hub will help your institution, including descriptions of how this hub may work with or leverage other training or technical infrastructure at your institution
  - e. If there are multiple institutions included in the application please indicate which institution will house the equipment and training kits
- CVs for the personnel who would staff the regional training hub
  - A letter of support from an administrator at your institution which explicitly states that
    - a. The host institution commits to working with The Ocean Foundation to raise funds to maintain the regional training hub beyond the three-year timeline of this project
    - b. The host institution commits to assign two staff members to the regional training hub
    - c. The regional training hub and the equipment housed there will be available to students and scientists from other institutions and countries that are preselected, approved, and funded by this project to visit the hub for training purposes
- A letter of support must be submitted by each institution listed on the proposal**
- Three references who have worked with your institution on similar initiatives that The Ocean Foundation can contact

### Contact Information

Please direct all responses and/or questions about this RFP to The Ocean Foundation's International Ocean Acidification Initiative, at [ioai@oceanfdn.org](mailto:ioai@oceanfdn.org).