

Positions Posted: August 10, 2022
Title: Marine Socio-Economics Researchers (2 positions)
Full Time contract for 12 months with opportunity to renew
Location: Flexible (though US east coast time-zone ideal)



Organization Description

[Dynamic Planet](#) helps advance markets that restore nature. We are part of a growing effort to help protect 30% of the planet by 2030 ([30x30](#)) with effective management and sustainable financing. Our team advises high-impact partners seeking to build regenerative seascapes, landscapes and island nation economies through a combination of new business models, blended finance, public-private partnerships, and leadership engagement to maximize environmental, social and economic returns. Our portfolio includes protected areas & conservation markets, public & private sector coalitions, natural capital investment funds, and nature-based climate solutions.

Position Description

Marine protected areas (MPAs) that ban fishing and other damaging activities have been proven to preserve marine life, enhance fisheries and food security around them, provide new economic opportunities via ecotourism, and help mitigate global warming. MPAs are engines of ocean regeneration that yield multiple benefits to humanity. But lack of awareness about their benefits has impeded the scaling of MPAs globally. Where we can quantify the economic benefits of protection, then local communities and governments would replicate the success of MPAs. Therefore, we need to properly calculate the value of the benefits that the ocean provides now, and the increased benefits after the protection of key areas.

Dynamic Planet works alongside [National Geographic Pristine Seas](#) and other organizations that are focused on creating and implementing fully or highly protected marine areas. We are seeking two passionate, entrepreneurial and self-motivated Marine Socio-Economics Researchers to:

- **Conduct baseline economic valuations of the ocean economy** for coastal nations and sites identified by the Pristine Seas and Dynamic Planet teams. The primary objective of these analyses is to define the value of a region's ocean and coastal economy; identify current threats to its ocean and coastal economy; and investigate how new MPAs may impact those identified values and threats. Economic valuation approaches will be used to reveal (a) the existing value of the marine environment given the ecosystem services it provides, and (b) the potential added benefits that could be captured with additional marine protection. The process will include:
 - Engaging with regional governments and communities to identify local priorities and stated interests that will be basis of the economic valuation analyses.
 - Summarizing relevant marine ecosystem services (i.e., the value and relative importance of salient market and non-market services) and threats in a region of interest based on a review of publicly available literature, local unpublished data, and local knowledge obtained through informal interviews.
 - Using valuation methods to estimate the economic value of market (e.g., fisheries, tourism, and carbon credits) and non-market services (e.g., existence, cultural, and bequest values). Valuation methods may include contingent valuation surveys, choice modelling, benefit transfer analyses, and Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST).
 - Highlighting the interaction between the value of a given service(s) and the implementation of new MPAs to help identify the market opportunities that might be bolstered with the presence of additional marine conservation.
- **Map the most relevant business players** by sector influencing the key trends of the region.

Key Responsibilities

Position I will assess “market” ecosystem services, with an environmental economics focus. Position II will assess “non-market” ecosystem services, with greater focus on social and cultural services. Both Researchers will work together on the same geographic areas of focus, but focusing on different aspects of ecosystem services valuation and cost-benefit analysis.

The Marine Socio-Economics Researchers will assemble a list of environmental values relevant to a particular site, use economic valuation approaches to monetarily quantify these values as appropriate, and determine if and how each value will change when marine protected areas are established. For the latter, the Researchers will leverage a recently developed ocean conservation prioritization framework (Sala et al. 2021, published in *Nature*) and other existing methodologies and tools (e.g., INVEST). Key responsibilities include:

- Summarizing relevant information on a region’s ecosystem service and anthropogenic threats
- Conducting an economic valuation analysis of the ocean economy and interactions with proposed MPAs as described above
- Coordinating with relevant team members of Pristine Seas and Dynamic Planet to build out this new team proficiency
- Collating results into a final report for policy, community, and funding stakeholders
- Draft information into concise documents and presentation materials for team review
- Support CEO and team with additional work related to conservation economy development

Skills & Experience

- 5-10 years in economic data and analytical research
- Ability to understand the big picture and overall goal yet deliver on details
- Excellent organizational, research, and writing skills
- Passion and intellectual rigor around cutting-edge ocean and coastal solutions for regenerative economies
- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Demonstrated experience in working with GIS and R workflows (at least for Position I)

Benefits

- Opportunity to significantly contribute to pioneering outcomes as we shift traditional markets from extraction to regeneration as a solution to the combined climate, biodiversity, and equity crises
- Opportunity to join a creative, entrepreneurial, world-class, yet humble team, working with a global network of innovators and changemakers including government and community leaders
- Competitive pay and benefits

How to apply

Please send a concise cover letter addressing the above (maximum 1 page) and CV (maximum 2 pages) to info@dynamicpla.net with *Marine Socio-Economics Researcher in the subject line*.

Dynamic Planet is an equal opportunity employer committed to providing a working environment that embraces and values diversity and inclusion. We encourage people of all backgrounds to apply. If you have any support or access requirements, we encourage you to advise us at the time of application. We will then work with you to identify the best way to assist you through the recruitment process.