

Position Posted: October 10, 2023  
Special Project: Marine Protected Area (MPA) Handbook Researcher  
Independent contractor  
Location: Flexible (team is based in Washington, DC)



### **Organization Description**

[Dynamic Planet](#) helps advance markets that restore nature through conservation economy development. We are part of a growing effort to help effectively protect 30% of the planet by 2030 ([30x30](#)) with strong local socio-economic benefits and fit-for-purpose sustainable financing. Our team helps guide high-impact partners in key geographies across government, business, and civil society who are building regenerative seascapes, landscapes, and island nation economies through a combination of new business models, blended finance, public-private partnerships, and compelling science-based narratives to maximize environmental, social, and economic returns. We have worked from the tropics to the Arctic to help create or improve protected areas and related conservation markets for regenerative rather than extractive economies. We are also involved with public & private sector coalitions and campaigns, natural capital investment funds, and nature-based climate solutions.

### **Position Description**

To achieve 30x30, the world needs to quadruple current ocean protection in the next 7 years. To help meet this ambitious goal, Dynamic Planet works at the invitation of governments, businesses and NGO partners, such as [National Geographic Pristine Seas](#) and other organizations that are focused on creating and implementing fully or highly protected marine areas with and for local communities. Fully or highly protected MPAs have been proven to restore marine life and provide new economic opportunities via ecotourism, enhance fisheries and food security around them, and help mitigate global warming. MPAs are engines of ocean regeneration that yield multiple benefits to humanity. But when you add up the best of current efforts, it is easy to see that we will fall short of 30x30. We are embarking on a special project to communicate and support the benefits of MPAs so that more coastal communities will be inspired and equipped to create and manage them on their own. This requires an understanding of patterns of success across MPAs as well as initial and ongoing guidance for those who are interested in joining this movement. If managed and reinvested well, MPAs are regenerating 'fish factories' that can pay for themselves and provide economic benefits to locals in tourism and fishing in perpetuity. We aim to develop a 'franchise model' for MPA creation and management including a 'how to' handbook to be housed on a platform for entrepreneurs and practitioners.

We are seeking a talented individual to:

1. Conduct a literature review of 3 selected MPAs in each of 10 priority countries to identify elements of their origin story, ingredients of success, roadblocks, and needs – for patterns that can lead to a 'franchise model' for MPAs. This work is an in-depth extension of an interview process (currently conducted by Dynamic Planet) with the MPA managers at these sites. Analyze above information (literature review plus results of interviews with MPA managers) and produce a synthesis of lessons learned and 'recipe for success' (globally and per country with political-economy details in each country synthesis).
2. Conduct a literature review on existing manuals, handbooks, toolkits to guide interested parties in creating, managing, and monitoring MPAs; work with Dynamic Planet and National Geographic Pristine Seas to select best in class resources to showcase on new digital platform for entrepreneurs and practitioners.
3. Use all the above resources to draft a comprehensive, user-friendly handbook for any interested party to (a) create a new MPA in their local waters from ideation to implementation, (b) develop and implement a simple yet consistent monitoring program, and (c) ensure the effective management of the MPA.

**Final Product:** a handbook to guide local communities to create, monitor and manage their own local MPAs (accompanied by supporting resources and inspiration from ~30 current, effective MPA sites). This is intended to be a handbook for local entrepreneurs and

practitioners; thus, it must be written in plain English, be easily accessible to non-experts, and conceived with a practical (not academic) purpose in mind.

### **Timeline**

- Regular coordination with Dynamic Planet with #1 completed within 3 months; #2 completed within 3 months; and #3 / first draft handbook to be delivered by June 2024 with one month review by Dynamic Planet, Pristine Seas, and key stakeholders.
- Final handbook to be delivered by August 2024.

### **Qualifications & Experience Required**

- At least MSc in marine biology, environmental science, or related field. PhD preferred.
- 5+ years experience in MPA science and/or practice.
- Deep understanding of the taxonomy of MPAs and the benefits of highly/fully protected MPAs.
- Demonstrated ability to produce a technical publication written in plain English, available to non-experts.
- Excellent organizational, research, and English writing skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work with a remote team and independently productive with little supervision.
- Ability to understand the big picture and overall goal yet deliver on details.
- Passion and intellectual rigor around cutting-edge ocean and coastal solutions for regenerative economies.

### **Compensation**

- 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.

### **How to apply**

Please send a concise cover letter addressing the above (maximum 1 page) and CV (maximum 2 pages) to [info@dynamicpla.net](mailto:info@dynamicpla.net) with *MPA Handbook 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. Thank you!