Executive Director of the Ocean KAN International Project Office

The International Project Office of the Ocean KAN (Knowledge Action Network) will be hosted in France under the auspices of the CNRS (National Research Centre for Scientific Research), which is an interdisciplinary public research organization under the administrative authority of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

A consortium of six National Research Agencies and Higher Education Institutions will provide in-kind and operational money to support Ocean KAN IPO activities. The sponsoring members of this consortium led by CNRS include SU (Sorbonne University), UBO (Université de Bretagne Occidentale), IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development), the CNES (Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales), and IFREMER (French Institute for Exploitation of Sea Resources). AllEnvi (the Alliance coordinating French research activities towards the ecological transition) and the RUM (National Marine Universities Network) are associated members of the consortium.

The consortium is offering the position of

Executive Director
Ocean KAN International Project Office

For a period of 3 years, starting as soon as possible.
The call is open only to permanent staff from French Research and Higher Education Institutions.

Ocean KAN description

The Ocean Knowledge-Action Network (KAN) is currently sponsored by Future Earth (www.futureearth.com), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR, www.scor-int.org/) the International Science Council (ISC), the World Climate Research Program (WCRP, https://www.wcrp-climate.org/) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO, http://ioc.unesco.org/). Within Future Earth, it is aiming at promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, communication, networking and knowledge exchange, to leverage and enhance existing ocean initiatives that implement ocean policy and management actions in support of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

In the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development, the Ocean KAN will contribute to the development of tools and approaches to create new partnerships, enhanced
international cooperation towards co-designed science-based solutions, and build capacity for interdisciplinary research and knowledge production to inform effective action on ocean issues.

Specifically, the Ocean KAN will:

1. facilitate connection and collaboration among marine organizations to enhance knowledge exchange;
2. support strategic and inclusive stakeholder engagement informed by social science research;
3. support the development of novel communication and networking tools to inform evidence-based decision making for sustainable development.

For more detail on the Ocean KAN strategy, please see the Ocean Knowledge-Action Network Strategic Plan and Guidelines.

Job description

The primary function of the Ocean KAN IPO is to provide management support to strategy development, planning and implementation of Ocean KAN activities. The office ensures both appropriate international coordination between the network of Ocean KAN members and collaboration with related international projects and programs. The IPO will assist the Ocean KAN Steering Committee (SC) in engaging in the UN Decade, and serve as a channel of communication among ocean professionals from different countries on various aspects of ocean global changes.

The IPO will be physically hosted by Sorbonne University, in Paris Centre, next to the Paris Hub of Future Earth and the EMBRC (European Marine Biological Resources Centre) office. It will be administratively managed by the CNRS: finance, employment contracts and travel will be managed according to CNRS rules. A Science Officer will be hired to assist the Executive Director.

Tasks

- Develop, plan, and facilitate the Ocean KAN implementation strategy, and supervise its international coordination
- Organize the SC meetings and discussions
- Assist the SC in strategy building notably by collating information on national and regional programs of global change marine research
- Support proposal development and secure funding for Ocean KAN activities and events
- Supervise the organization of the Ocean KAN events (Workshops, Conferences, Summer Schools)
- Supervise the network’s communication activities
- Maintain project accounts, prepare financial statements, and manage the project finances
- Represent the Ocean KAN at various fora
- Liaise with and report to the Ocean KAN sponsors, partners and advisors
- Liaise with the UN Decade governance bodies

The following specific tasks will be primarily coordinated by the IPO, in collaboration with the Ocean KAN Development Team/SC (once appointed):

- Establishing the Ocean KAN governance and organization
- Mapping connections with experts and institutions based in developing economies throughout the world, and assessing potential connections that should be cultivated to develop a strategy to support ocean science and action engagement throughout small island developing states, less-developed countries, and lower- and middle-income countries
• Involving the French consortium led by the CNRS in the Ocean KAN strategy making and implementation
• Support the IOC endorsement of the Ocean KAN activities in the framework of the Ocean UN Decade

Qualifications

• Experience in research (PhD)
• Established experience in international project/program coordination. Experience in ocean or environmental sciences will be a plus
• Interest in facilitating multinational and multidisciplinary research activities
• Interest in facilitating networking and communication among different communities
• Understanding of the national and international funding and sponsorship landscape
• Self-motivated and organized with acute attention to detail
• Excellent communication skills in English; other languages a plus
• Outstanding written, verbal, and interpersonal skills within the context of a multinational community
• Willingness and ability to travel internationally, and experience in organizing virtual meetings
• Ability in organizing large-scale events
• Basic knowledge of web design, social media, and online platforms
• Established financial literacy

This is a full-time position. Flexible working-time models and a specific allowance for this function can be discussed.

Please send your application for this position by email (including letter of motivation addressed to Alain Schuhl, Directeur général délégué à la science du CNRS, short CV, and full contact details of three referees) in a single pdf-file no later than **April 14, 2021** to dirigeants@cnrs-dir.fr and alain.schuhl@cnrs-dir.fr, using the keyword "Ocean KAN" in the subject line.

For further information regarding the position please contact anne.corval@cnrs.fr.