

The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO

Extending the Mapping of Ocean Frontiers

Proposed Nippon Foundation – GEBCO - Seabed 2030 program aimed to facilitate multibeam mapping on planned expeditions to unmapped parts of the World Ocean

The World Ocean floor in some remote parts is so poorly mapped that a ship can travel through areas the equivalent of medium-sized countries without passing over any previously collected depth soundings. This lack of basic knowledge about the seafloor is a challenge for achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,” for undertaking scientific research, and for acquiring a fundamental understanding of the functioning of our ocean and planet.

The ***Extending the Mapping of Ocean Frontiers*** initiative within the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO – Seabed 2030 project aims raise funding that can be used to:

1. Add dedicated mapping days onto already scheduled and funded scientific expeditions in unmapped areas of the World Ocean
2. Pay the incremental costs of ships working in unmapped areas to ensure that they collect appropriate high-resolution bathymetry.
3. Add experienced multibeam operators from the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO – Seabed 2030 network to expeditions that lack this capacity.

The criteria that must be fulfilled to enter the initiative and request funding from the established source are the following:

1. The area for which funding is sought for additional mapping days must be previously unmapped by modern multibeam methods. (Remote areas not frequently visited by vessels will be prioritized).
2. The research vessel dedicated for the mapping must be equipped with a multibeam system capable of acquiring appropriate high-quality bathymetry at the water depths of the target area.

If funding is provided from this initiative the recipient must commit to:

1. Provide all the bathymetry from the specific target area for which funding is granted to the Seabed 2030 project no later than two months after the expedition has been completed. Nominally, the bathymetric data should be provided as processed grids following the Seabed 2030 specification (Appendix 1) at the maximum resolution.

2. Provide all the bathymetric raw data for which funding is granted to the Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) for public access no later than two months after the expedition has been completed.
3. Provide all the bathymetric data acquired during the entire expedition, for which funding is granted, in international waters no later than one year after the expedition has been completed. Nominally, the bathymetric data should be provided as processed grids following the Seabed 2030 specification and, at minimum, at the Seabed 2030 target resolutions.