

## **Call to Host the iLEAPS International Project Office (IPO)**

The Integrated Land Ecosystem–Atmosphere Processes Study (iLEAPS, [www.ileaps.org](http://www.ileaps.org)), a Global Research Network of Future Earth, is pleased to announce an opportunity to host the iLEAPS International Project Office (IPO). The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) will step down as host of the IPO in March 2027, and iLEAPS is now seeking a new institutional partner to support the next phase of its international mission.

### **About iLEAPS**

iLEAPS supports cutting-edge scientific research on land–atmosphere interactions, biogeochemical feedbacks, climate and air quality, ecosystem functioning, and broader Earth system processes. Through its Scientific Steering Committee and global network, iLEAPS promotes collaboration, capacity building, international partnerships, and science–policy exchange.

### **Role of the IPO**

The IPO serves as the operational hub of iLEAPS:

- It works with the Co-chairs and members of the Scientific Steering Committee to deliver the [iLEAPS mission](#)
- It is responsible for communication, outreach, and community building
- It facilitates capacity development, regional engagement, and new initiatives
- It provides support for iLEAPS workshops, symposia, and working groups
- It supports strategic planning and funding development
- It manages the annual grant from Future Earth and is responsible for any reporting required by Future Earth
- It supports Future Earth engagement and partnerships

### **Strategic Priorities for the Next Hosting Cycle**

The next phase of iLEAPS offers opportunities to:

- deepen scientific collaboration across disciplines
- enhance participation from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- strengthen science–policy interfaces
- expand on capacity building and education (e.g., working groups, training programmes, regional activities)
- support Future Earth strategic goals on sustainability and global change

### **Why host the iLEAPS IPO?**

Hosting the iLEAPS International Project Office provides a platform to lead and influence cutting-edge Earth system science while contributing to global sustainability efforts. It offers a unique opportunity to:

- Enhance institutional visibility within a leading global research network under Future Earth

- Shape international research agendas on land–atmosphere interactions, climate, and sustainability
- Strengthen global partnerships across disciplines, regions, and sectors
- Access and leverage funding opportunities through collaborative projects and international initiatives
- Support capacity development, including engagement with early-career researchers and Global South communities
- Position your institution at the science–policy interface, contributing to global environmental assessments and solutions

### **Financial Framework**

iLEAPS operates through a combination of core support and in-kind contributions. Future Earth provides a modest annual contribution to support coordination activities, currently €6,400.

The Host Institution is expected to play a central role in sustaining the IPO by providing staff, administrative support, and institutional infrastructure. Additional contributions - financial and/or in-kind (e.g. office space, communications support, travel, or project development) - will be essential to ensure the effective functioning and growth of iLEAPS.

The hosting arrangement also provides opportunities to leverage external funding, build new partnerships, and align iLEAPS activities with institutional and regional priorities.

### **What iLEAPS is seeking**

As host of the iLEAPS IPO, the Host Institution will provide:

- Suitably-qualified staff and administrative capacity to cover the IPO operations
- Institutional infrastructure for international coordination
- Support for collaboration across world regions
- flexibility to engage communities including early-career and Global South researchers
- willingness to contribute to a vibrant and inclusive global network

The IPO is also responsible for:

- hosting the iLEAPS website ([www.ileaps.org](http://www.ileaps.org)) and keeping it up to date
- operating the iLEAPS social media channel
- producing newsletters

Innovative and collaborative hosting models are also encouraged, e.g. co-hosting or regional hub models. In such cases, the application should clearly identify the lead organisation and describe the arrangements and responsibilities.

## Eligibility and Submission

iLEAPS welcomes applications from universities, research institutes, Future Earth hubs, national science organisations, and similar bodies with experience in international collaboration and sustainability sciences.

Applications (6 pages max) should briefly describe:

1. Institutional profile and alignment with iLEAPS
2. Proposed hosting model, staffing, and operational support
3. Vision for strengthening iLEAPS in the coming years
4. Relevant experience hosting international programmes or networks
5. Opportunities for regional and global engagement

## Timeline

- **March 2026:** Call launched
- **31 October 2026:** Deadline for applications
- **November 2026:** Evaluation of applications
- **January 2027:** Transitioning
- **March 2027:** Announcement and formal take over from UKCEH

## Enquiries and Submission

Questions and applications may be directed to: [ipo@ileaps.org](mailto:ipo@ileaps.org).

We look forward to engaging with interested institutions and shaping the next chapter of iLEAPS together.