

All members of the IODP<sup>3</sup> science community must conform to the highest accepted levels of environmental sensitivity. These principles enhance the environmental awareness of all members of this community, and constitute the basis of IODP<sup>3</sup>'s expectations of participants in its expeditions and drilling operations.

## IODP<sup>3</sup> Environmental Principles



**INTERNATIONAL  
OCEAN DRILLING  
PROGRAMME**

# IODP<sup>3</sup> Environmental Principles

## 1. General Principles

As a community conducting research of the ocean floor, all persons and programmatic entities in the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP<sup>3</sup>) carry a responsibility to ensure that its activities have no significant environmental impact. The IODP<sup>3</sup> is determined to conform to the highest accepted levels of environmental sensitivity. All members of the IODP<sup>3</sup> ocean science community therefore will familiarize themselves with the principles outlined below and will ensure that they are adhered to by programme personnel and Expedition Science Teams at sea.

These principles will enhance the overall awareness of environmental issues in members of the community and, as such, will constitute a basis for IODP<sup>3</sup>'s expectations of programme personnel and scientific staff, particularly those participating in drilling operations. These principles define the standards that the IODP<sup>3</sup> Science Operators (ESO and MarE3) and contractors are committed to fully adhere to.

The IODP<sup>3</sup> Science Operators and all their operational (sub)contractors are fully responsible and accountable for drilling and related activities to their funding organizations (ECORD, MEXT), as well as to the international general public.

## 2. Protection of Marine Life and the Environment

To protect marine life and the environment, the following principles are followed:

- i. IODP<sup>3</sup> will minimize the release of substances into the marine environment.
- ii. During operations, IODP<sup>3</sup> will minimize impact on marine and subseafloor life.
- iii. The IODP<sup>3</sup> Science Operators will obtain all necessary permits.
- iv. A review of hazards to marine life and the environment will be conducted by IODP<sup>3</sup>'s Safety and Environment Advisory Group (SEA Group) and/or the Safety Panel for the relevant Science Operator to determine the associated risk level.
- v. IODP<sup>3</sup> will act to minimize any and all identified environmental risks through appropriate control measures.

## 3. Disposal of Waste Materials and Restitution of the Environment

- i. When operating within national jurisdictions, as defined under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, IODP<sup>3</sup> will follow the host country requirements for the handling of drilling by-products.
- ii. All other waste materials generated during drilling operations will be disposed of by IODP<sup>3</sup> in accordance with all applicable environmental legislation, standards, guidelines, and codes.

## 4. Storage and Curation of Potentially Harmful Substances and/or Organisms

- i. Samples will be transported and stored by IODP<sup>3</sup> in such a way as to prevent contamination of the environment.

## 5. Keeping the General Public Informed of IODP<sup>3</sup>'s Activities

- i. IODP will inform the public of its operational plans.