



**First Open Call for Proposals**  
**May 29, 2017**  
**(Closes August 3, 2017)**

Blue Action Fund (also referred to here as the “Fund”) is pleased to announce its first open call for grant proposals. Newly established as a conservation trust fund, Blue Action Fund was created by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and KfW Development Bank (KfW) to support the implementation of BMZ’s 10 Point Plan of Action for Marine Protection and Sustainable Fisheries and further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Blue Action Fund plans to finance individual grants to selected marine/coastal conservation projects of NGOs in marine protected areas (MPAs) and their buffer zones, focusing on the most sensitive coastal waters of Africa, Latin America and Asia/Pacific. Its goal is to contribute to reducing the dramatic loss of marine biodiversity and to advancing local development, e.g. through stabilizing incomes in coastal communities or enhancing coastal protection.

This First Open Call for Proposals sets the strategic and geographic priorities that the Fund seeks to promote in its first open funding round. This document should be read in conjunction with the Grant Procedures Manual which provides more detailed information on both general project requirements and the application process. Please find the Grant Procedures Manual on our website:

➤ [www.blueactionfund.org](http://www.blueactionfund.org).

## **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

In general, the Blue Action Fund seeks projects which:

- Contribute to fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 14 and Aichi Target 11
- Are located in the marine waters<sup>1</sup> of overseas development aid (ODA) countries and support areas with significant marine biodiversity
- Take an integrated, multi-pronged approach (i.e., contribute to marine protection as well as poverty reduction, sustainable & equitable use, community-based protection, etc.)
- Are scalable and if successful could be not only sustainable but transformative; yet at the same time have the potential to show early impacts and results
- Look beyond protecting a single MPA and consider MPA systems and/or promote regional approaches

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<sup>1</sup> Territorial waters and/or exclusive economic zones.

Eligible applicants are international or regional NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation, who have shown the capacity to implement larger projects. Reporting and financial management systems of applicant NGOs must be compliant with internationally recognized standards. The Fund welcomes the applications of consortia of NGOs led by international and/or regional NGOs that include national NGOs or other local implementing partners. Consortia applications should demonstrate clearly the task sharing and the synergies between the applicants.

Blue Action Fund's procedures require that all projects must receive the endorsement of the appropriate authority/authorized body of the country or region.<sup>2</sup> Applicants must also make a prescribed minimum financial contribution to the project as explained in the Grant Procedures Manual.<sup>3</sup>

A geographic and thematic scope and focus may be set for, and may vary with, each call for proposals. *For this first call for proposals:*

- *Small Island Developing States (SIDS) shall be the focus*
- *The Fund's contribution to the project can be budgeted at Euro 1-3 million*
- *The current expectation is that Blue Action Fund will award four to six grants from this call with a total volume of EUR 8-12 million*

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

In summary, Blue Action Fund's grants process is as follows (for details see the Grant Procedures Manual):

- The applicants can submit concept notes using a concept note template until the specified deadline
- Applicants will be informed if their concept note has been short-listed within 6-8 weeks after the application deadline
- Short-listed applicants will be asked to elaborate a full proposal using a prescribed template. At this stage, NGOs will have to answer questions regarding their procedures and procurement guidelines
- The timeframe for elaborating the full proposal is six (6) weeks
- The full proposal will be evaluated by the Fund's Management Board supported by an independent advisor; the final grant decision will be taken by the Supervisory Board

If you are interested in a Blue Action Fund grant, please send your concept note electronically in Word or PDF format to [info@blueactionfund.org](mailto:info@blueactionfund.org), with the subject line "[your organization] Project Concept Note" by August 3, 2017.

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Management Board  
Blue Action Fund

<sup>2</sup> A signed letter of consent with the project indicating such endorsement authority/authorized body and the agreed cooperation and co-funding modalities must be presented latest at full proposal stage.

<sup>3</sup> Normally 25%, subject to certain exceptions. The level of the NGO arranged contribution above the minimum may be a factor considered in evaluating the proposal.