



Open Call for Proposals Closes April 14, 2018

The Blue Action Fund is pleased to announce a new open call for grant proposals. Blue Action Fund is a foundation supported the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank (KfW) and the government of Sweden through the Swedish Foreign Ministry to support the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 14.

The present call for proposals is part of a continuing series of such calls by Blue Action Fund providing individual grants to selected NGO marine conservation projects in developing countries. To better support regional ocean governance structures and foster co-operation between NGOs, Blue Action Fund intends for its next calls to focus on one region per call. This call will focus on projects that:

- Are situated in the West Indian Ocean;
- Ask for a contribution by Blue Action Fund of EUR 1-3 million;
- Can be completed within 3-5 years.

The thematic focus of projects should be:

- Enhancing management of existing marine protected areas (MPAs);
- Establishing new MPAs or enlarging existing ones in view of setting up ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas;
- Supporting sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities dependent on MPAs and their buffer zones.

In addition, we expect projects to strengthen and support the implementation of regional policies and structures, such as the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region or the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association.

The current expectation is that Blue Action Fund will award four to six grants from this call with a total volume of up to EUR 12 million.

Eligible applicants are international or regional NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation in the area, 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 encourages applications of consortia of NGOs that include national NGOs or other local implementing partners. Blue Action Fund's procedures require that all projects must receive the endorsement of the appropriate authority/authorized body of the country or region. Applicants must also provide substantial co-funding to the project.

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Grant Procedures Manual](#) which provides detailed information on both general project requirements and the application process. If you are interested in a Blue Action Fund grant, please send your concept note electronically in Word or PDF format [<3MB file size] to grants@blueactionfund.org with the subject line "[your organization] Concept Note" by April 14th, 2018.