



# Open Call for Proposals Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean

Closes January 24, 2020

The Blue Action Fund is pleased to announce a new open call for grant proposals focussing on the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. The present call for proposals is part of a continuing series of such calls by Blue Action Fund, providing individual grants to selected NGOs for marine conservation projects in developing countries.

Due to the concurrence of three major ocean currents, the seascape of the Eastern Tropical Pacific is one of the most productive tropical oceans in the world. Fish stocks are abundant and marine megafauna, such as sharks, rays, sea turtles and cetaceans, find rich feeding grounds. The region boasts vast mangrove areas and is home to iconic World Heritage Sites. Yet, the marine ecosystem and coastal communities face a number of challenges, ranging from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to pollution, coastal development, and population growth. Climate change exacerbates these challenges.



Blue Action Fund is looking forward to receiving proposals for projects that:

- Are situated in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru (in case of transboundary projects, project components can also be carried out in Panama);
- Ask for a contribution by Blue Action Fund of EUR 1-3 million, in well justified cases up to EUR 4 million;
- Can be completed within 3-5 years.

The thematic focus of projects should be:

- Supporting ecologically representative and well-connected systems of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through enhancing management of existing MPAs, enlarging existing ones or establishing new MPAs;
- Supporting sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities dependent on MPAs and their buffer zones.

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

Eligible applicants are NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation and sustainable livelihood development in the area. NGOs must have demonstrated the capacity to implement larger projects, and their reporting and financial management systems must be compliant with internationally recognised standards. The Fund encourages applications of

consortia of NGOs that include local implementing partners. Blue Action Fund's procedures require that all projects must receive the endorsement of the appropriate authority/authorised body of the country/ies in which the project is located. Applicants must also provide substantial co-funding for the project.

This document should be read in conjunction with Blue Action Fund's [Grant Procedures Manual](#), which provides detailed information on both general project requirements and the application process, as well as Blue Action Fund's [Environmental and Social Management System](#).

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](mailto:grants@blueactionfund.org) with the subject line "[your organization] Concept Note" by January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Blue Action Fund is a foundation to support the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 14. The Blue Action Fund is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Agence Française de Développement.

