



# Open Call for Proposals

## Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change in the Western Indian Ocean

**Closes May 24, 2020**

The Blue Action Fund is pleased to announce a new open call for grant proposals focussing on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to climate change in the Western Indian Ocean. This is a new funding window which provides individual grants to selected NGOs for projects in developing countries that support coastal and marine EbA and sustainable livelihoods.

Coasts and the oceans are recognized as the ecosystems that are most severely exposed to the impacts of climate change. Since the 1970s, more than 90% of the temperature increase due to the greenhouse effect and other human activities has been absorbed by the oceans, increasing acidification, which poses risks for many marine species. Ocean warming already contributes to an increase in extreme weather events, particularly high intensity tropical storms. Combined with sea level rise, this means that people living in coastal regions are among those populations affected the most by climate change globally

Around 40% of the global population lives within 100 km of the coast. The disappearance of natural coastal barriers against floods and storms has severe economic, social and health consequences. Continued loss and degradation of mangrove forests and coral reefs increases the vulnerability to coastal flooding and therefore endangers human safety and shoreline development.

Poorer populations on marine and freshwater coasts in developing countries are especially affected, as poor people are dependent on agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries for sustaining their livelihood. In addition, due to low incomes and lack of insurance, they are often not able to protect themselves against climate risks and are therefore especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

With this call, the Blue Action Fund aims to support projects protecting and restoring adaptation-relevant coastal ecosystems to reduce climate change-related risks for vulnerable coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean, where such ecosystems are still quite abundant but are degrading and diminishing in size.



Blue Action Fund is looking forward to receiving proposals from NGOs for projects which are situated in Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania and have the following objectives:

- Enhanced protection and management of coastal ecosystems like mangroves, sea grass, coral reefs and tidal marshes, which are particularly relevant for climate

change adaptation, focussing on new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), expansion of existing MPAs; or improving management effectiveness of MPAs;

- Rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems, which are particularly relevant for climate change adaptation;
- Enhanced livelihood conditions and food security
- Improved knowledge, expertise and capacity of relevant national agencies to use Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches for a climate-resilient coastal zone management.

Projects are expected to:

- Be in line with national and regional policies, including climate change policies and priorities, in particular national determined contributions, and national adaptation strategies;
- Make a significant and measurable contribution to ecosystem-based climate change adaptation;
- Target > 5,000 direct beneficiaries and > 1,000km<sup>2</sup> of protected area;
- Contribute to ensuring longer term funding for effective management of protected areas;
- Significantly contribute to the EbA-Result Matrix in Annex 1 of this document (substituting Annex 1 of the Grant Procedures Manual for this specific EbA Call);
- Report on all indicators listed in Annex 2 of this document;
- Ask for a contribution by Blue Action Fund of EUR 2-5 million;
- Be funded at least 25% by match funding<sup>1</sup> from the grantees.
- Be completed within 3-5 years.

The current expectation is that Blue Action Fund will award grants with a total volume of around EUR 30 million.

Eligible applicants are NGOs or consortia of NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation and sustainable livelihood development in the area. Partners 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 [Environmental and Social Management System](#) and Blue Action Fund's [Grant Procedures Manual](#), which provide detailed information on project requirements and the application process. Additional requirements specifically applying to this call are listed in Annex 1 & 2 to this document.

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 "EbA [your organization] Concept Note" by May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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. In addition, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) board agreed a contribution to this funding line.

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<sup>1</sup> Including funds from own resources and co-financing which can be sources from other public donors but may not include any resources from Germany, the Green Climate Fund or Blue Action Fund itself. Funding from France and Sweden (other than those contributed to Blue Action Fund) is eligible as match funding for this call.

**Annex I: Result Matrix “EbA in the Western Indian Ocean”**

All projects are expected to significantly contribute to the Result Matrix below. Indicators 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3. are compulsory indicators for all funded projects. In addition, project logframes should integrate a number of the outcome and output indicators below.

	<b>Indicators</b>
<p><b>Goal (Impact / Overall Objective)</b> Networks of globally significant marine protected areas and their sustainable use zones are conserved.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 1.1:</u> At the end of the project, the biomass of one or more relevant umbrella/ indicator species is maintained or increasing in the project areas.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> x tons of relevant umbrella species in the project areas (umbrella/ indicator species will be determined by grantee in collaboration with IUCN or another competent scientific advisor.)</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> The biomass of umbrella species in the project areas is maintained or increased by x%.</p> <p><u>Indicator 1.2:</u> At the end of the project, there are improved livelihood conditions of affected households in project areas.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> Average household income of target groups. <u>Target value (End of project):</u> Average household income of target groups increased by x%.</p> <p><u>Indicator 1.3:</u> At the end of the project, majority of households in project areas have a positive attitude towards conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --- <u>Target value (End of project):</u> On average, majority of households in project areas have a positive attitude towards conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b> Ecosystem services are enhanced, contributing to reducing climate change-related risks for vulnerable coastal communities through the conservation and sustainable use of particularly relevant coastal ecosystems.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 2.1:</u> Creation of new or expansion of existing areas protecting coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, tidal marshes, sea grass).</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposals (km<sup>2</sup> per IUCN Protected Areas category) <u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Indicator 2.2:</u> Management effectiveness of areas protecting coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass).</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> Average METT or similar instrument at beginning of project. <u>Target value (End of project):</u> Average METT or similar instrument + 10%.</p> <p><u>Indicator 2.3:</u> Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, etc.).</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal. <u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 2.4:</u> Number of males and females benefiting from enhanced access to improved ecosystem services as food or water security.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal. <u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	
<p>Output 1: Coastal ecosystems, which are particularly relevant for climate change adaptation, are better protected and managed in a more sustainable way.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 3.1.1:</u> Number and size of new marine and coastal protected areas.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal (number and km<sup>2</sup> per IUCN Protected Areas category) <u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.1.2:</u> Number and size of protected areas with improved protection level and efficient management.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal (number and km<sup>2</sup> per IUCN Protected Areas category). <u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.1.3:</u> Supported management plans will incorporate climate change mitigation and adaption, including documentation of mitigation and adaptation outputs or impacts.</p>

	Indicators
	<p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): To be defined in project proposal. Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.1.4</u>: Number of initiatives to create sustainable employment opportunities and/ or increase value added in supply chains of marine related activities.</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.1.5</u>: Increase in number and proportion of women in leadership positions of fisheries or MPA management and number of woman with increased economic empowerment.</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p>
Output 2: Degraded coastal ecosystems, which are particularly relevant for climate change adaptation, are rehabilitated.	<p><u>Indicator 3.2.1</u>: Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (mangroves) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored. Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.2.2</u>: Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (coral reefs) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored. Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.2.3</u>: Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (sea grass) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored. Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in project proposal.</p>
Output 3: Enhanced knowledge, expertise and capacity of relevant national agencies to use Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches for a climate-resilient coastal zone management	<p><u>Indicator 3.3.1</u>: Lessons learned / best practices are documented and published in renowned regional and international media; number of local, national and international institutions with which lessons learned were disseminated and actively shared.</p> <p>Base value (<u>At project start</u>): 0 reports Target value (<u>End of project</u>): To be defined in inception phase of project.</p>

## Activities (examples):

## Output 1:

- Improved sustainable management of coastal and marine protected areas; support measures for local communities managing protected areas may include
  - o Infrastructure, equipment, offices, visitor centres, IT,
  - o Boats and vessels,
  - o Demarcation of areas through buoys,
  - o Participatory co-management, update of management plans to make sites more resilient to climate change impacts; enforcement of activities outlined in management plans, and
  - o Reduction of post-harvest losses and improved processing of fish.
- Measures to reduce physical damage to coastal and marine ecosystems; eligible activities include:
  - o Mooring buoys for minimizing damage of coral reefs by anchors,
  - o Demarcation and signalling of relevant ecosystems,
  - o Installation of breakwaters to protect parts of reefs from wave action,
  - o Construction of boardwalks for the protection of beach vegetation, and
  - o Participatory land use planning for improved protection of coastal ecosystems from damaging human impacts.
- Measures to reduce pressure and land-based stressors on coastal and marine ecosystems (in and outside protected areas), e.g.:
  - o Promotion of alternative fuel wood sources, where mangroves are used,
  - o Promotion of sustainable fisheries management as well as aquaculture, including co-management approaches with local communities, promotion of Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) and seaweed farming,
  - o Reduction of sedimentation from land-based erosion through reforestation and/or slope stabilization.
- Measures to support sustainable livelihoods and gender

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- Output 2:
- Initiatives for sustainable employment opportunities
  - Gender strengthening

- Mangrove reforestation
- Seagrass rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation of beach vegetation
- Coral reef restoration (if applicable)

Output 3:

- Awareness raising and capacity building of national agencies on the relevance and options of using EbA measures for climate-resilient coastal zone management
- Capacity building of national / regional agencies on climate risk assessment and how to include EbA measures in climate-resilient coastal zone management (instruments, methodologies, incentive schemes, etc.)
- Regional exchange of experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of EbA measures and on how to make EbA an integral part of climate-resilient coastal zone management.

**Annex II: Additional Indicators for Reporting**

Independently from the logframe, all projects are expected to report on the following indicators:

Indicators	
Coverage/scale of ecosystems protected and strengthened in response to climate variability and change (disaggregated by mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass and others).	
Institutional and regulatory systems improve incentives for climate resilience and their effective implementation	
For projects also working on mitigation: Expected tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO <sub>2</sub> eq) to be reduced or avoided (mitigation and cross-cutting only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual</li> <li>- Lifetime</li> </ul>
Expected total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct beneficiaries</li> <li>- Indirect beneficiaries comprise the total coastal population dependent on ecosystem services in the project areas.</li> </ul>
Number of beneficiaries relative to total population (disaggregated by gender)	
Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.)	
Number of males and females reached by [or total geographic coverage of] climate-related early warning systems and other risk reduction measures established/strengthened	
Number of physical assets made more resilient to climate variability and change, considering human benefits	
Number of annual reports, conference etc. to share lessons learned and best practices	
Number of local, national and international institutions with which lessons learned were disseminated and actively shared	