



# Open Call for Proposals

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

**Closes 10 December 2021**

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 the second of two Calls under a specific funding window providing grants to NGOs for projects that support coastal and marine EbA and sustainable livelihoods.

The global ocean and its coasts are recognised as some of the ecosystems 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 global ocean, 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, seagrass beds and coral reefs increases the vulnerability to coastal flooding and therefore endangers human safety and shoreline development.

Impoverished populations on marine and freshwater coasts in developing countries are especially affected, as they are dependent on agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries for sustaining their livelihoods. 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, Blue Action Fund aims to support projects protecting and restoring adaptation-relevant coastal marine and freshwater ecosystems to reduce climate change-related risks for vulnerable coastal communities in Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and South Africa, 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 these countries and have the following objectives:

- Enhanced protection and management of coastal ecosystems like mangroves, sea grass beds, 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 nationally determined contributions and national adaptation strategies;
- Make a significant and measurable contribution to Ecosystem-based climate change Adaptation;
- Target > 5,000 direct beneficiaries and > 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas;
- 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);
- 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 for projects in Mozambique and South Africa and at least 10% match funding for projects in Tanzania and Madagascar.
- Be completed within 3-4 years.

The current expectation is that Blue Action Fund will award grants with a total volume of around EUR 20 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 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.

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 of 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 organisation] Concept Note' by 10 December 2021.

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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 G.1-G.4 as well O.1 and O.2 are compulsory indicators for all funded projects. In addition, project logframes should integrate a number of the output indicators below.

Indicators
<b>PROJECT GOAL (Impact / Overall Objective)</b>
<b>GOAL: Networks of globally significant coastal and marine protected areas and their sustainable use zones are conserved, enhancing ecosystem services that contribute to reducing climate change risks for vulnerable communities</b>
<p><b>Indicator G.1:</b> 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 advisors).</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> The biomass of umbrella species in the project areas is maintained or increased</p>
<p><b>Indicator G.2:</b> At the end of the project, substantially more households in the project areas benefit from improved ecosystem services supporting adaptation to climate change (to be defined in proposal)</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> ---</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in proposal.</p>
<p><b>Indicator G.3:</b> At the end of the project, livelihood conditions of affected households in project areas are improved.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> Average household income in affected project villages</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> Average household income in affected project villages increased</p>
<p><b>Indicator G.4:</b> At the end of the project, substantially more households affected in project areas have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> ---</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> On average, &gt;75% of households affected in project areas have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity.</p>
<b>PROJECT OUTCOMES</b>
<b>OUTCOME 1: Improved resilience of climate-relevant ecosystems through increased protection and management</b>
<p><b>Indicator O.1:</b> Coverage/scale of ecosystems protected, rehabilitated and better managed in response to climate variability and change</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> 0 km<sup>2</sup> (for newly protected ecosystems) and/or X km<sup>2</sup> with average METT X (or similar instrument) at the beginning of project (for ecosystems with improved management/protection) according to IUCN MPA categories.</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> km<sup>2</sup> of newly protected climate-relevant coastal and marine ecosystems or protected under more effective management (increased METT or similar instrument)</p>
<b>OUTCOME 2: Improved resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities</b>
<p><b>Indicator O.2:</b> Adoption of diversified climate-resilient livelihoods opportunities and improved value chains by project target groups</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> Number of direct beneficiaries</p>
<b>PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>
<b>OUTPUT 1: Improved resources, instruments and capacities for MPA management and sustainable use</b>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> New or revised MPA management plans that incorporate climate change mitigation and adaption</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Maximum of three years after project inception, at least 50% of measures planned in management or operational plans have started implementation.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p>

Indicators
<p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> At least 50% of measures have started implementation</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Demarcation of protected areas is documented in relevant legal form.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> Documentation of designation is finalised.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.4:</b> Cost-effective monitoring, control and enforcement techniques to prevent illegal fishing / use of unsustainable practices are successfully adopted.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.5:</b> Realistic strategies for sustainable financing of MPAs are developed and first mechanisms to their end have started implementation.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 2: Increased resilience of infrastructure and the built environment to climate change</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Number of physical assets made more resilient to climate variability and change</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 3: Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of males and females reached by X climate related early warning systems and other risk reduction measures established/strengthened</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 4: Degraded coastal ecosystems, which are particularly relevant for climate change adaptation, rehabilitated</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.1:</b> Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (mangroves) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2:</b> Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (coral reefs) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.3:</b> Size of marine and coastal ecosystems (sea grass) rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.4:</b> Size of areas with beach vegetation rehabilitated</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> 0 km<sup>2</sup> rehabilitated/restored</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 5: Sequestered carbon or reduced emissions (for projects with a climate change mitigation component)</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 5.1:</b> Expected tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub> eq.) to be reduced or avoided</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> ---</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 6: Climate resilient and sustainable livelihoods promoted</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.1:</b> Number of initiatives to create sustainable employment opportunities.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in inception phase of project.</p>

Indicators
<p><b>Indicator 6.2:</b> Number of initiatives to increase value added in supply chains of marine related activities (e.g. certification).</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in inception phase of project.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3:</b> Increase in number and proportion of women in leadership positions of fisheries or MPA management and number of women with increased economic empowerment.</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in inception phase.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4:</b> Number of males and females benefitting from access to healthcare, food or water and overall wellbeing</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 7: Enhanced knowledge, expertise and capacity of relevant national agencies to use EbA approaches for climate-resilient coastal zone management</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 7.1:</b> Number of local, national and international institutions with which lessons learned were disseminated and actively shared (through workshops, capacity building trainings, etc.)</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2:</b> Lessons learned / best practices are documented and published in renowned regional and international media</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 8: Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 8.1:</b> Revised national strategies resulting in higher importance of EbA approaches for climate resilient management</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</p>
<p><b>Indicator 8.2:</b> Institutional and regulatory systems that improve incentives for climate resilience and their effective implementation</p> <p><u>Base value (At project start):</u> --</p> <p><u>Target value (End of project):</u> To be defined in project proposal</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.:

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- Promotion of alternative fuel wood sources, where mangroves are used,
  - 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,
  - Reduction of sedimentation from land-based erosion through reforestation and/or slope stabilization.
  - Measures to support sustainable livelihoods and gender
    - Initiatives for sustainable employment opportunities
    - Gender strengthening
- Output 2:
- 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.