



# Open Call for Proposals Wider Caribbean Sea

**Closes 20 November 2022**

Blue Action Fund (hereafter 'Blue Action') is pleased to announce a new open Call for Proposals focussing on the 'Wider Caribbean Sea'. This Call for Proposals is part of a continuing series of such Calls by Blue Action providing individual grants to NGOs for conservation projects in developing countries that have the following dual focus:

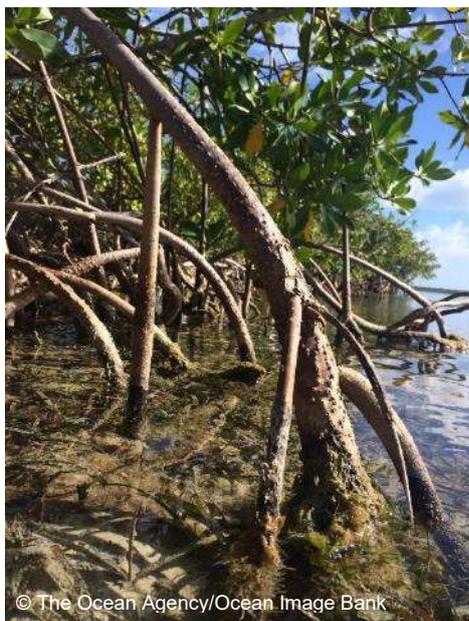
- a) Newly established, expanded or better managed marine protected areas (MPAs) or networks of MPAs that result in conservation of biodiversity, and
- b) Enhanced livelihood conditions and food security.

The 'Wider Caribbean Sea' is a marine biodiversity hotspot with the highest concentration of species in the Atlantic Ocean. Caribbean ecosystems include some of the most diverse coral reefs in the western Atlantic and provide crucial habitats for threatened species such as manatees and whale sharks as well as a wide range of cetaceans, sea turtles, sharks, and reef fish.

Accordingly, the region entails Large Marine Ecosystems, Caribbean Island Biodiversity Hotspots, Ecological or Biological Significant Areas, UNESCO, and Ramsar sites.



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Despite this recognition of biodiversity and valuable ecosystem services, the region's marine and coastal ecosystems are under increasing threat from both human activity and natural disasters. Overexploitation of resources is ubiquitous throughout the Caribbean, further compounded by other threats including the degradation of coral reef habitats, predation by invasive species and the continued loss of important nearshore habitats such as mangrove forests and seagrass meadows. There is a clear need for the establishment of conservation measures that are effective, sustainable and are supported by long-term financial mechanisms.

Through this Call it is Blue Action's ambition to make a significant contribution towards achieving the SDG 14.5's 10% target for coastal and marine protected areas and Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

- Are situated in one of the following countries (or in case of transboundary MPAs in several of the countries): Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba<sup>1</sup>, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Suriname;
- Ask for a contribution by Blue Action of EUR 2-4 million, in justified cases up to EUR 5 million; and
- Can be completed within up to 5 years.

The thematic focus of projects should be:

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

The current expectation is that Blue Action will award grants from this Call with a total volume of around EUR 20 million.

Eligible applicants are NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation and sustainable livelihood development in the area. NGOs must provide match funding of at least 25% of the total project costs (in exceptional cases at least 10%<sup>2</sup>).

NGOs must have experience in implementing projects of similar size, environmental and social management system capacity, and their reporting and financial management systems must be compliant with internationally recognised standards.

Blue Action encourages applications by consortia of NGOs that include local implementing partners, such as environmental or social development NGOs. Blue Action's procedures require that all projects must receive the endorsement of the appropriate authority/authorised body of the country in which the project is located.

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

If you would like to apply for a Blue Action grant, please fill out the Concept Note template and send it electronically in Word or PDF format [<5MB file size] to [grants@blueactionfund.org](mailto:grants@blueactionfund.org) with the subject line '[your organisation] Concept Note' by 20 November 2022 (Central European Time). All relevant documents can be found on Blue Action's [website](#).

Blue Action is a foundation that supports the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and furthers the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 14. Blue Action is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Agence Française de Développement, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and Irish Aid.



<sup>1</sup> Any direct or indirect support to representatives of the Cuban state or Cuban authorities is not eligible.

<sup>2</sup> This applies to projects situated in Cuba & Honduras.