



# Open Call for Proposals Eastern Tropical Pacific Region

**Closes 15 August 2024**

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

- a) Newly established or better managed MPAs or networks of MPAs, as well as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) which result in conservation of biodiversity;
- b) Enhanced livelihood conditions in coastal communities.

You can find more information about our current Grant Programme [here](#).

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 forests and is home to iconic World Heritage Sites such as the Galapagos Islands and Marine Reserve (Ecuador), Cocos Island (Costa Rica), or the Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia). However, these thriving waters – and the communities that depend on them – face growing threats ranging from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing to pollution due to coastal development. Climate change is further exacerbating these challenges. Having recognised these risks, governments from several countries have stepped up in recent years and are pledging ambitious new marine protections resulting in a significant increase of MPA coverage in the region. However, still more MPAs and more support in their management are required to effectively conserve these waters.

Through this Call, Blue Action aims to make a significant contribution towards achieving the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's target of ensuring that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively and equitably conserved, managed, and governed. The Call therefore also supports the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life below water.

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

- Will be implemented in one of the following countries (or in case of transboundary MPAs in several of these): Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru;

- Ask for a Blue Action contribution of between EUR 2-4 million, in exceptional and well justified cases of up to EUR 5 million; and
- Can be completed within 5 years or less.

The thematic focus of projects should cover both:

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

Blue Action expects to award grants from this Call with a total volume of up to EUR 20 million.

Eligible applicants are NGOs with proven experience in coastal and marine conservation *as well as* sustainable livelihood development in the area. NGOs must provide match funding of at least 25% of the total project costs.

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

Blue Action encourages applications by consortia of NGOs that have local implementing partners and include both environmental *and* social development NGOs. Blue Action's procedures require that all projects must receive the endorsement of the appropriate national authority/authorised body of the country in which the project is to be implemented.

This Call for Proposals 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 Grant Application 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] Grant Application' by 15 August 2024. All other documents relevant to applicants can be found on [Blue Action's website: https://www.blueactionfund.org/documents](https://www.blueactionfund.org/documents).

If you'd like to be informed about future Calls for Proposals, please subscribe to our '[Funders Alerts](#)' or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [BlueSky](#) or [X](#).

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. It also received funding from the Green Climate Fund to support Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Western Indian Ocean.

