



Call for Proposals: Small Grants for Supporting Local Fisheries Co-managed Areas, LMMAs, and MPAs

Overview

WIOMSA, with funding from the Blue Nature Alliance, is strengthening projects focused on improving the management effectiveness of MPAs and community-managed marine areas. Our goal is to enhance local livelihoods and promote community fisheries by emphasizing biodiversity protection.

We are pleased to announce a call for proposals aimed at providing small grants to support local fisheries co-managed areas, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in [promoting sustainable fisheries practices](#). This initiative seeks to integrate efforts to reduce illegal fishing practices, promote regulatory compliance, and enhance reporting mechanisms within these areas.

Objective

The objective of this call for proposals is to strengthen the capacity of local fisheries co-managed areas, LMMAs, and MPAs to effectively manage and conserve marine resources while promoting sustainable fisheries practices. Projects funded under this initiative should contribute to the reduction of illegal fishing activities, the enforcement of regulations, and the improvement of reporting mechanisms within these areas.

Focus Areas: Proposals should focus on, but are not limited to, the following areas:

1. Implementing community-based enforcement measures to combat illegal fishing practices.
2. Enhancing regulatory frameworks and compliance mechanisms within local fisheries management areas.
3. Developing and implementing effective monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems to promote sustainable fisheries management.
4. Strengthening community engagement and participation in fisheries management decision-making processes.
5. Building capacity for data collection, analysis, and reporting to support evidence-based fisheries management practices.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Organizations, community groups, NGOs collaborating with communities and other eligible entities with demonstrated experience in fisheries management, conservation, or community development are invited to submit proposals.
- Proposed projects must be located within local fisheries co-managed areas, LMMAs, Joint co-managed areas or MPAs in coastal regions in the Western Indian Ocean region¹.
- Collaborative proposals involving partnerships between multiple stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, NGOs, local communities) are encouraged.

Grant Amount and Duration:

- Grants will be up to \$30,000
- The project duration should not exceed 1 year.

Application Process

Interested applicants should submit a detailed project proposal outlining the objectives, activities, budget, timeline, and expected outcomes of the proposed project. Proposals must be submitted electronically to secretary@wiomsa.org and copy to deidre@wiomsa.org no later than **May 30th, 2024**.

Proposal guidelines

- Format: The proposal should not exceed 5 pages in length (single space, Ariel, font size 11), excluding proposal cover, team, and references.
- Critical content: Include at least one, but no more than two pilot sites for targeted interventions. These sites can be allocated within or outside of Marine Protected Areas, Locally Managed Marine Areas etc.
- For each site, a feasible fisheries management intervention targeting the reduction of IUU in small-scale fisheries must be proposed. It would be advantageous if the interventions incorporate the use of suitable technology in the proposal.
- For NGOs, allocated project funds must be exclusively directed towards community activities and cannot be used to cover administrative expenses or salaries
- Project funds can be allocated for activities such as capacity building, technology adoption, enforcement measures, improving reporting, enforcing regulations, and stakeholder engagement aimed at enhancing fisheries compliance.
- For each site it is essential that the applicant consider the following:
 - The fisheries management structure and main small-scale fisheries within the area.

¹ Western Indian Ocean region countries include Comoros, France (Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania

- All other important role-players/stakeholders, including government, fishery associations, community-led groups etc.
- Clearly define the state of fisheries and the problem being addressed, making a clear distinction on what constitutes Illegal (I), Unregulated (U), and Unreported (U) activities in the fishery and the specific site being described

Evaluation Criteria:

Projects will undergo evaluation based on several criteria, including the viability of proposed actions, sustainability of interventions, innovativeness beyond business-as-usual approaches, inclusivity in engaging diverse stakeholders, and potential scalability to achieve broader impacts beyond the initial scope.

Important Dates:

- Proposal Submission Deadline: **30th May 2024**
- Notification of Grant Awards: **30th June 2024**

Contact Information: For inquiries and further information, please contact Deidre de Vos (deidre@wiomsa.org).

We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that will contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries and the conservation of marine resources in our coastal communities