

GCFI / MPAConnect Small Grants Fund



MPAConnect, a partnership between the **Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, is pleased to offer small grants in support of capacity building at site-specific marine protected areas (MPA) within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered through MPAConnect with funding provided by the United Nations Environment Programme – Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union’s ACP MEA III project. The ACP MEAs program is a joint partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which aims at building capacity in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to tackle the environmental issues they face.

Eligibility criteria: This call is intended to benefit the managing organizations of MPAs within the selected countries, either directly or through efforts with their affiliated partners. The call excludes U.S. affiliated sites and in rare instances final consideration for funding may be dependent upon satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control. Projects submitted by eligible government agencies that manage MPA member sites must be implemented by non-government organizations / affiliated partners within the member country.

Proposals from [SPAW Priority MPAs](#) will be prioritized, though proposals from other Caribbean MPAs will be considered.

Funding priorities: Competitive applications should respond to the site’s highest priority MPA management capacity building needs. For example, this may include sustainable financing, enforcement, communications, management effectiveness, response to stony coral tissue loss disease, or other high priority management capacity building needs.

If your project addresses marine pollution a proposal may be submitted as part of our call for proposals on marine litter. Guidelines for that call may be found [here](#).

Funding information: Budget requests should not exceed US\$8,000. Up to 50:50 counterpart funding should be provided. Matched funding must be from a non-federal U.S. source and can include in-kind contributions.

Deadline for applications: Project proposals, based on the template provided, should be submitted by **August 10th, 2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by August 17th, 2022 to schedule meetings to discuss the activities outlined in the concept note.

Proposal submission: Proposals should be submitted online through GCFI’s website at: <https://www.gcfi.org/opportunities/gcfi-small-grants-program/>

For any questions please email Christine O’Sullivan at christine.osullivan@gcfi.org.

Project duration: The maximum duration of submitted projects is 9 months. Approved projects will be notified by September 1, 2022, with projects commencing approximately in October.

Reporting requirements: Successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report every 4.5 months, with a final report due upon project completion.





Proposal format

Concept Notes should be submitted in the following format:

CONCEPT NOTE

Project Title and Location:

Name of Implementing Agency (Must not be a government agency):

Primary Contact: The name, title and contact information for the project lead.

Contact Reference from Supporting Management Authority (If not the implementing agency):

Letter of Support from the Management Authority (If not the implementing agency):
This would have to be uploaded

Project Summary (250 Words):
A summary of the project's main objectives, activities and budget should be included.

Timeline: Project duration should not exceed 9 months. Provide a timeline of when various activities will be implemented during the course of the project.

Budget Amount Being Requested: State the total amount being requested.

Anticipated Outcomes: Identify the anticipated outcomes of the project including how it will increase the site-level capacity to effectively manage the MPA.

BUDGET

Budget: Budget requests should not exceed US\$8,000. Budgets should include counterpart funding, which may include direct funding and in-kind contributions. Counterpart funding must not be from a federal U.S. source.

Budget Template: Please note that not all budget categories need to be completed. Those that are not relevant to your project may be left blank. The budget category can be used more than once e.g. there can be multiple line items associated with equipment.

Budget Category	Amount Requested	Justification	Counterpart Funding	Justification
Travel				
Accommodation				
Equipment				
Salaries				
Miscellaneous				
Overheads				
Total				