

## **Mangrove for the Future (MFF) – IUCN India Programme**

### **Guidelines for concept notes/proposals**

India is recognized as one of the mega diverse countries of the world. Dense and diverse mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, the world's largest congregations of nesting turtles in Orissa, beautiful sea grass beds in Palk Bay, enigmatic sea mermaids in the Gulf of Mannar, majestic whale sharks in the Gulf of Kachchh and some of the world's most beautiful and striking coral reefs are just some of the many examples of the rare treasures of India's coastal and marine biodiversity. Besides being repositories of biological diversity, the Indian coast supports a large population dependant on its resources for sustenance. Mangroves for the Future (MFF) recognizes coastal ecosystems as rich assets for human society that must be restored, protected and invested in. MFF in India is structured around three broad based pillars - livelihood security and sustainability; coastal and marine biodiversity research; and information and knowledge dissemination.

Small Grants are one of the key instruments through which MFF realizes its aims and objectives in partnership with a range of NGOs, CBOs, research and academia and civil society organizations. The Small Grants (SG) aim to support local community action for the restoration and management of coastal ecosystems and their use on a sustainable basis. SG promotes research based projects to provide a scientific foundation for informed coastal planning, policy and management. Apart from providing environmental and livelihood benefits locally, SG projects also offer practicable 'models' to inspire policy-making and give voice to local disadvantaged players, especially women. Thus, SG projects also contribute concrete measures to ensure participation, gender equity and secure livelihoods for marginalized groups, at least at a demonstration scale. In this way, SG projects help in linking the household and community level to the dynamics of policy and decision-making about coastal area planning and investments. The SG projects address atleast one of the 15 Programmes of Work (PoWs) defined under the MFF Programme goals and objectives (please refer to: <http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/Programmes/Index.html>)

### **Eligibility**

The SG will support small-scale coastal restoration and management efforts, prioritised, designed and where possible implemented, by local communities, small scale business or research organisations. Projects can address either a pressing issue pertaining to community requirements or coastal/biodiversity management/research aspects in India. Funding will primarily be provided for projects in the priority coastal areas for MFF (India) (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal) according to geographical selection defined in the MFF (India) National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP). However, funding for projects in states other than those mentioned above can be considered if sufficient justification is provided.



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Mangroves for the Future  
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Proposals can be submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBO), research & teaching agencies, private enterprises, universities, government led research agencies and other civil society organizations. All applicants must demonstrate a proven or potential capacity to implement community-based projects in the fields<sup>1</sup> of coastal rehabilitation, conservation and/or sustainable use of natural resources<sup>2</sup> and/or for scientific research. Applicants must have scientific or professional credibility, as recognised by the peer review process and demonstrate experience in project management and financial administration<sup>3</sup>.

SG will support projects which: i) promote innovative community based coastal rehabilitation projects; ii) build local capacity to implement sustainable development strategies, creating 'local ownership'; iii) create public awareness on environmental issues as an integral part of the project; iv) address livelihood, income, equality and gender concerns; v) Demonstrate potential for replication or scaling-up, and co-financing; and vi) create an impact on policy at National/State/District level, for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

SG will not grant financial support to: i) international consultancy firms; ii) purchase of land; iii) travelling expenses for NGOs to participate in National/International conferences and courses, unless it can be justified as a vital and integral contribution to the activities of the project; iv) foreign (expatriate) consultants (priority must be given to local consultants); exceptions should be referred to MFF (India) for a decision; and v) purchase of equipment such as vehicles, motor bikes, boats, office furniture, unless they can be justified as a vital and crucial tools for implementation of the project activities.

The SG will be administered based on decisions made by the National Coordination Body (NCB) of MFF-India. IUCN India and NCB (India) sub-committee will have oversight over the selection process and supervision of SG projects. Budgets for Small Grant projects will range from USD 10,000 to 20,000, for a duration of 8 to 18 months.

### **Application Procedures**

Interested applicants are invited to submit concept notes not exceeding five pages and including the following: i) title of project; ii) names of principal investigators and organizations; iii) background and importance of proposed project; iv) objectives and aims; v) methods; vi) envisaged outcomes; vii) project duration; and viii) summary budget for entire project (Please refer to *Annex 1*). Applicants are required to provide information about their organization, along with their concept note, using the

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<sup>1</sup> This does not necessarily apply for projects on policy related issues, education and awareness raising and capacity building.

<sup>2</sup> Organizations working on coastal rehabilitation are especially encouraged to submit project proposal. Organizations not yet working in coastal areas should ensure presence of project staff in the coastal area for a substantial part of the project duration and indicate this clearly and in concrete terms in their proposal.

<sup>3</sup> The project proposal should clearly indicate the applicant's track record in project management and financial administration.



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form provided in *Annex 3*. Complete concept notes should be sent to [nm.ishwar@iucn.org](mailto:nm.ishwar@iucn.org) by **5:30pm (India Standard Time) on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011**.

The applications will be subsequently screened and reviewed by NCB (India) and its sub-committee as may be appropriate. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a detailed proposal by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011, invitation for which is expected to be sent out by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The format for full proposal submission is in *Annex 2*.

Request for submission of a full proposal, however, will NOT guarantee that the proposal will be funded. The SG project proposal should show that the project (a) will not adversely affect the positions of the various stakeholders, (b) seeks to harmonise with the needs, views, expertise and experience of local stakeholders and associate them with the management and (c) is based, whenever possible, on a participatory approach.

### **Grant Disbursement**

Subject to approval of the final proposal, grantees will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with IUCN India Office. An advance of 30% will be paid on signing the MOA, 50% following acceptance of the 1<sup>st</sup> progress report, and the remaining 20% following acceptance of the final progress report.

**For reference to previous MFF projects please visit:**

<http://www.iucn.org/india>

<http://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/>

### **Annex 1**

#### **Template for a Small Grants Project Concept Note**

1. Title of project
2. Names of principle investigators and organizations
3. Co-financing details (if any)
4. Background and importance of proposed project
5. Objectives and aims
6. Methods
7. Envisaged outcomes
8. Project duration
9. Summary budget for entire project

### **Annex 2**

#### **Template for a Small Grants Project Proposal**

1. Project title: should reflect the nature of the project
2. Implementation organisation and partner organisations



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3. Project sites
4. Background and context
5. Objectives and aims
6. Importance and uniqueness of proposed project
7. Methodology: should include sustainability and replicability of project
8. Desired outcomes: should include beneficiaries if any
9. Project Risks and Assumptions
10. Project duration and proposed timetable: should include a start and end date
11. Budget for entire project

### **Annex 3**

#### **Information about organization**

1. Organisation's legal name
2. Project contact person (name, position and contact details, including mailing address, email address, telephone number and fax)
3. Organisation type
4. Mission statement and history
5. Describe the relevant expertise in your organisation (and partner organisations) for the proposed project