Call for interest for Marine Protected Areas of Turkey, Lebanon, Montenegro, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Albania (MPAs)

June 2020

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CALL FOR INTEREST

The MedFund is an environmental trust fund whose objective is to contribute to the sustainable financing of effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, through the mobilization of public and private stakeholders.

The Fund provides financial support through grants to management and co-management organizations of Mediterranean MPAs (national institutions and civil society organizations).

The MedFund benefits from the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Le Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Agence française de développement (AFD), the Government of Monaco and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

In line with the MedFund 2020-2025 strategy, this restricted call for interest targets pre-identified MPAs* from the following countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Montenegro, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Albania.

* List of pre-identified MPAs
2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Must be an officially created MPA or one that is in the process of being created;
2. Must have a management document or management plan;
3. Must have some management structure and management team in place.

The MedFund encourages co-management involving local NGOs and national agencies/institutions in charge of MPA management. In the case of co-management, the application will be made jointly by the NGO and the National Authority.
The candidates MPAs will have to:

- Have a confirmed commitment from the national authority in charge of MPAs to pursue policies that strengthen MPAs, either in terms of the legal status and their human/financial resources. This commitment will be made either through a tripartite financing agreement or a letter of commitment or support signed by the national organization in charge of MPAs;
- Demonstrate that the financial needs that are being addressed by The MedFund cannot be covered from any other source;
- Demonstrate that any conservation funding obtained through The MedFund is not a substitute for pre-existing public funding.

The funding request detailing the breakdown of costs by source of funding will have to demonstrate these last two points.

The grant agreements will be signed for a period of five years. The grant will be paid in annual instalments subject to validation of the annual and financial reports and compliance with the conditions of the grant agreement.

The funding request must not exceed an average annual amount of €75,000.

The Fund shall contribute to the recurrent management costs of MPAs over a maximum period of 5 years targeting:

- Recurrent administration and operation of MPAs;
- Salaries\(^1\) (excluding administrative salaries);
- Equipment and infrastructure maintenance, and small equipment purchases;
- Surveillance;
- Capacity building (including training);
- Governance of MPAs;
- Day to day monitoring\(^2\) (ecological and socio-economic); and
- Awareness raising and communication.

\(^1\) The assumption of salary costs will have to be justified by an overall organization chart and a job description for each planned post. It is reminded that The MedFund only finances the part of the staff’s working time that is dedicated to the effective management of the MPA and not 100% of the working time of the NGO’s administrative staff.

\(^2\) The applicant MPA should specify 3 priority conservation targets (habitats or species). Scientific monitoring activities and management actions should be proposed with the objective of improving and monitoring the conservation status of these 3 targets during the grant agreement. If the MPA does not have an initial conservation status of the targets, it is recommended to integrate the assessment of the zero status at the beginning of the agreement.

Each activity proposed for funding by The MedFund must be included in a management plan for the Protected Area and in the annual work plan and budget of the managing institution(s).

The MedFund also encourages the definition of activities that allow a better consideration of cross-cutting issues related to climate change and gender. The MedFund aims to promote women’s participation and leadership in conservation and management activities, and in decision-making bodies.
(such as MPA management committees). The collection of "gender" data (for example, on the positions and responsibilities held by men and women) is a first step in the implementation of the Gender Strategy. That is why the funding application contains such questions.

The MedFund applies the environmental and social procedures established by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as the exclusion list of the French development agency. Consequently, all activities deemed not to comply with these two documents will not be eligible for funding from the Fund.

The following activities are **not eligible** for funding from The MedFund:

- Investments and new infrastructure works;
- The purchase of major equipment, except in exceptional cases, if it is essential for the launch or continuation of the project and cannot be financed otherwise. For any request for equipment (vehicles, boats and others) exceeding €10,000, a specific motion of The MedFund's Board of Directors will be required;
- Costs associated with research.
3. COMPOSITION AND SUBMISSION

MPAs meeting the eligibility criteria and wishing to receive financial support should:

1. **Download the documents** mentioned below on the website [www.themedfund.org](http://www.themedfund.org) under the tab "To become a beneficiary";
2. **Complete the funding application**;
3. **Send their complete application via email to** contact@themedfund.org.

The funding application includes three documents to be completed:

1. **An application form** describing the MPA, conservation issues, and managers details;
2. **A description of the activities** programmed and budgeted over the next five years;
3. **A detailed funding request** specifying the financing requirements by item of expenditure and the co-financing mobilised.

The funding application must be accompanied by the following annexes:

- A map and zoning of the MPA
- A photo of the MPA with associated photo credits
- The document/ management plan
- The legal status of the MPA (if any)
- The latest financial report of the beneficiary NGO
- The latest activity report of the beneficiary NGO
- The passport of the Director of the beneficiary NGO
- The list of the members of the Board of Directors of the beneficiary NGO
- The legal registration documents of the beneficiary NGO (statutes, certificates...)
- Letter of commitment or support signed by the national organization in charge of MPAs (if applicable)

At the time of their request, project leaders must disclose any family, organizational or financial ties with a director, member of staff or the Grant-Award Committee of The MedFund.
4. PROVISIONAL TIMELINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Launch of the call for interest</td>
<td>June 29, 2020</td>
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<td>Deadline for applications</td>
<td>September 05, 2020</td>
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<td>Analysis of funding requests</td>
<td>October/November/December 2020</td>
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<td>Conclusion of contract</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inception phase</td>
<td>1st quarter 2021</td>
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5. APPLICATIONS ANALYSIS

Any funding application submitted to The MedFund under this call for interest is part of a competitive selection process and does not necessarily imply the award of the grant.

A MedFund Grant Award Committee is responsible for assessing the eligibility of applicants and funding applications submitted to The MedFund.

The Grant Award Committee analyses the eligible application files received according to standard analysis criteria: relevance of activities in regard to the management plan, relevance of budget in regard to planned activities, quality of steering and involvement of stakeholders, details on methods for monitoring activities, cofinancing, realistic timetable.

Any file deemed non-compliant for one of the following reasons will not be considered in the analysis carried out by the Grant Award Committee:

- Non-eligibility of the applicant organization;
- Incomplete file;
- Application file sent after the deadline set in the call for interest.

The selected applications give rise to a partnership, formalized by a multiannual grant agreement.

6. CONTACT

For any information, please contact us at contact@themedfund.org.