



Call for interest

for Marine Protected Areas in the following countries :

Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia

March 2024

With the support of :



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



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 **technical and financial support through grants** to management and co-management organizations of Mediterranean MPAs.

This call for interest is part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project "Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean". This project is conducted in partnership with the Mediterranean MPA managers' network MedPAN.

This call for interest is open only to MPAs from the following 6 eligible countries who have expressed their interest, namely: **Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.**

The MedFund also benefits from the financial support of 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.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this call, applicants :

1. Must be officially designated MPA or under designation process;
2. Must have a management document or management plan;
3. Must have some management structure and management team in place.

An MPA currently benefiting from MedFund funding is not eligible for this call for expression of interest. The list of current beneficiaries of The MedFund is available on our website : <https://themedfund.org/en/actions/>

3. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Launch of the call for interest	March 22, 2024
Deadline for applications	June 30th 2024
Deadline to submit the support letter from the national authority in charge of MPAs	August 30 th 2024
Announcement of selected applications	October 2024
Start of the agreements	January 2025

A Q&A session will be offered to candidates on Thursday, May 16th, at 10am (CEST) in English and at 11 am (CEST) in French. To receive the login information, please register by email at contact@themedfund.org.

4. MODALITIES OF MEDFUND SUPPORT

The MedFund's mission is to support the long-term recurrent costs of managing MPAs.

Eligible activities are listed below:

- Co-management activities,
- Salaries¹ (excluding administrative salaries),
- Equipment and infrastructure maintenance, and small equipment purchases,
- Surveillance and enforcement,
- Active governance and stakeholder participation,
- Awareness raising and communication,
- Scientific monitoring (3 conservation targets²),
- Management activities for the protection of the conservation targets,

- Promotion/support of socio-economic activities,
- Consideration of climate change,
- Gender approach: how to promote gender equality,
- Establishment of income-generating activities for the MPA.

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.

The support granted by The MedFund will be a maximum 55kUSD per year per MPA over 5 years according to the context and the planned activities.

An annual financial audit must be carried out. Audit costs are eligible and should be included in the funding application.

The MedFund encourages managers to implement activities to mitigate and/or adapt to the effects of **climate change**.

The MedFund **promotes a gender-sensitive approach to fostering women's participation and leadership** in conservation and management activities, and in decision-making bodies (such as MPA management committees).

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.

For more information, all interested applicants are invited to contact The MedFund at contact@themedfund.org.

¹ *The coverage of salary costs will have to be justified by an overall organization chart and a job description for each planned role. 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.*

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.*

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS 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 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** planned and budgeted over the next five years.
3. A detailed **funding request** specifying the financing requirements by item of expenditure in USD 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 updated management document or 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
- A copy of 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 authority in charge of MPAs

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.

5. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

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

The MedFund has set up a Grant Award Committee made up of experts in marine conservation that is responsible for evaluating the proposals received and making recommendations to the Fund's Board of Directors which ultimately decides on the allocation of grants.

The Grant Award Committee examines the eligible applications received on the basis of the quality and relevance of the proposals submitted, in particular the relevance of the planned activities to the management plans and the relevance of the budget to the planned activities.

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
- No letter of support from the national authorities
- Incomplete file
- Application file sent after the deadline set in the call for interest

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

- Commitment of the national authority

The application must demonstrate the commitment of the national authority in charge of MPAs to pursue a favorable policy for the creation and management of MPAs, which will be reflected, for example, in a strengthening of their legal status and the human/financial resources made available to them. This commitment is expressed in a letter of commitment or support signed by the national authority in charge of MPAs.

- Co-financing

Applicant MPAs will need to provide evidence of:

- Co-funding provided either at national level (financial or in kind) or at international level;
- financial needs covered by The MedFund are not covered by any other party;
- any funding obtained via The MedFund for conservation purposes is not a substitute for pre-existing public funding;
- that The MedFund is not acting alone, but as a co-funder.

The funding application detailing the breakdown of costs by source of funding should demonstrate these last two points.

- Co-management

The MedFund encourages **co-management** approaches 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 managing organisation.

- Scientific monitoring

Regular scientific monitoring is required to assess the environmental impacts of management, and three conservation targets (habitats or species) must be identified according to the specificities of the site.

- Coherence of management activities

Each activity proposed to receive funding from The MedFund must be included in an updated management plan for the protected area and in the annual work plan and budget of the managing institution(s).

6. CONTACT

The MedFund applies the complaints management mechanism established by the GEF, which allows any person - or group of persons - affected by the environmental and/or social aspects of the activities financed by the Fund, to file a complaint with the Executive Board. All claims or complaints from a bidder should be submitted via The MedFund contact page: <https://themedfund.org/en/contact/>

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