SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2023: CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION OF DUGONGS AND SEAGRASS

**Introduction**

The ‘Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range’ of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Dugong MOU) aims to promote internationally coordinated actions to ensure the long-term survival of dugongs and their seagrass habitats throughout their extensive range.

The CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat is opening a call for concept notes aimed at supporting community-led conservation activities for dugongs and seagrass.

The CMS Dugong MOU invites concept notes for projects that aim to improve dugong and seagrass conservation through one or more of the following priority approaches:

* Participatory research activities to collect primary data, including monitoring;
* Conservation actions, management frameworks and policies impacting dugongs and seagrass;
* Development of business models for coastal communities that support dugong and seagrass conservation.

**Funding available**

Applicants can apply for support of up to **USD 40,000 per project**.

A maximum of 3 projects meeting the eligibility and selection criteria will be selected.

All projects must be delivered by 30th November 2023.

**Eligibility** **Criteria**

* Applicants must be a legally registered non-governmental organization (minimum 3 years), a governmental agency in the country of project implementation, or a small sized private sector entity. Individuals are not eligible.
* A certificate of formation/registration and audited financial records for the past 3 years should be available upon request.
* Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are currently operating in the country of project implementation, and that they have existing relationships with local stakeholders, including governments and local communities.
* Only one concept note per applicant may be submitted.
* Projects must be delivered by **30 November 2023**.

**Budget Guidelines:**

*The combined value of Commercial procurement (travel; commercial contractual services; supplies, commodities and materials; equipment, vehicle and furniture)* **must not exceed 15%** of the total amount requested from CMS.

**Selection Criteria**

Submitted concept notes will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

* Applicant organization has the ability to successfully manage and monitor the project, and report on progress;
* Project addresses threats to dugongs and seagrass through one of the three priority approaches outlined above;
* Project site is important for dugongs and seagrass, and an area of value to coastal communities; and
* Project is community-led and involves participatory approaches.

**Concept Note Review**

All submitted concept notes will be evaluated using a merit-based approach and selected based on the selection criteria outlined above.

Selected applicants will work with the Dugong MOU Secretariat, in consultation with key community members and groups, to develop a full project outline, logical framework of outcomes and indicators, a monitoring system, and a detailed budget as the basis for the funding agreement.

The deadline for submitting concept notes is **21 March 2023** (23:00 Gulf Standard Time)via email to:cmsoffice.ae@cms.int

CC to: gabriel.grimsditch@un.org and philippa.loates@un.org

**Tentative Project Timetable**

**Phase 1 – Concept note submission**

1. Call for concept notes: Received by 21 March 2023
2. Review of concept notes: 31 March 2023
3. Notification of successful projects to proponents: 1 April 2023

**Phase 2 – Project Development**

1. Detailed project planning: April 2023
2. Small Scale Funding Agreement negotiated and provision of funds: 1 May 2023

**Phase 3 – Project Implementation**

1. Implementation including monitoring and evaluation of outcomes: 1 May - 30 November 2023

**Phase 4 – Project Review and Report**

1. Final report on outcomes and lessons learnt submitted: No later than 15 December 2023

**Secretariat Support**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat with any questions whilst developing the concept note.

**Contact**

cmsoffice.ae@cms.int