

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES: COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION OF DUGONGS AND SEAGRASS

Introduction

The Secretariat of 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 Secretariat) aims to promote internationally coordinated actions to ensure the long-term survival of dugongs and their seagrass habitats throughout their extensive range and recently launched the [Dugong & Seagrass Hub](#) on World Seagrass Day, 1 March 2021. The Dugong & Seagrass Hub is an online platform for practitioners, researchers and coastal communities to share tools, experiences and lessons learned from dugong and seagrass conservation efforts. In celebration of this launch, the CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat is opening a call for concept notes aimed at supporting community-led activities that address key threats to dugongs and seagrass and encourage collaboration between stakeholders.

The CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat 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; or
- Communication tools to raise awareness of dugong and seagrass conservation.

Funding available

Applicants can apply for support of up to **USD 25,000 per project**. In total, up to four projects that meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be chosen for funding.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be either a legally registered non-governmental organization or a governmental agency in the country of project implementation and have access to a bank account. Individuals are not eligible.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are already operating in the country of project implementation and have existing relationships with local stakeholders, including governments and local communities.
- One concept note per applicant can be submitted for review.
- Projects must start before 31 December 2021 and be implemented for a maximum of 24 months.



Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range

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Please note that when preparing your budget, commercial procurement (i.e. travel, commercial contractual services, supplies, commodities and materials, equipment, vehicle and furniture) must not exceed 15% of the total requested amount.

Selection Criteria

Project 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 four 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.

Applications that plan to use their projects to leverage additional funds will be favoured.

Concept Note Submission and Review

All requests received will be evaluated using a merit-based approach, and project concepts will be selected based on how the concept note meets the selection criteria as outlined above. After a concept is approved for support, applicants will work with the Dugong MoU Secretariat, in consultation with key community members and groups, to develop a project outline, logical framework of outcomes and indicators, a monitoring system, and a detailed budget as the basis for funding. Each applicant should demonstrate their commitment to work either independently or with the Secretariat to raise or leverage additional funding to contribute to the project, sustain activities and/or work with additional project partners for implementation.

The concept note template is available at: <https://www.dugongseagrass.org/news/call-for-concept-notes-launched-by-the-cms-dugong-mou-secretariat/>

The deadline for submitting concept notes is **Monday 17 May, 2021 (23:00 Gulf Standard Time)** via email to: seagrass-ecosystems@cms.int

Project Timetable

Phase 1 – Concept note submission

1. Call for concept notes – 29 April - 17 May 2021
2. Review of concept notes – June 2021
3. Notification of successful projects to proponents – July 2021

Phase 2 – Project Development

4. Detailed project planning – July 2021
5. Small Scale Funding Agreement negotiated and provision of funds – August/September 2021

Phase 3 – Project Implementation

6. Community consultation and engagement – September 2021 onwards

7. Implementation including monitoring and evaluation of outcomes – September 2021 onwards

Phase 4 – Project Review and Report

8. Provision of report on outcomes and lessons learnt – TBD

Secretariat Support

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the CMS Dugong MOU Secretariat for any questions during the concept note's development.

Contact:

seagrass-ecosystems@cms.int