

Mangroves for the Future (MFF)

Small Grant Facility (SGF) projects: Call for Concept Notes

1. Introduction

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform to help countries, sectors and agencies in the Asia region tackle the growing challenges to coastal sustainability. India joined MFF as a member country in 2007.

MFF has adopted mangroves as its flagship ecosystem in recognition of the important role that mangrove forests played in reducing the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and the severe effect on coastal livelihoods caused by the loss and degradation of mangroves. However MFF embraces all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, wetlands, beaches and seagrass beds. This inclusive approach reflects the ecosystem-based, or “reef to ridge”, management approach that MFF brings to the rehabilitation and stewardship of coastal resources. Coastal ecosystems, and the well-being of their inhabitants, are influenced not just by activities carried out in the coastal zone, but also by those happening further inland. Using the reef to ridge approach, MFF helps coastal managers and communities to adopt and benefit from more integrated management of coastal resources and the ecosystem processes that support them.

India’s coastline extends almost 7,500 km along the main land and the offshore islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, covering an area of nearly 42,763 km². Coastal ecosystems in India harbour rich and diverse flora and fauna, which provide invaluable services to the thousands of communities. In recognition of the rapid rates of population growth and development, the dependence of local communities on marine and coastal ecosystems, the degradation of these ecosystems, and the wealth of available scientific knowledge and good practices in coastal ecosystem management to feed into policy, MFF India works towards the overall objective of increasing coastal resilience. Led by the National Coordination Body (Chaired by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change - MoEFCC), the focus of projects are on enhancing coastal livelihood security and sustainability, building upon coastal and marine biodiversity research, and developing communication and knowledge of marine and coastal ecosystems.

SGF is the primary mechanism through which MFF disburses funds for small-scale pilot interventions. SGF is an important approach for supporting local action in the form of community-based project activities. Apart from providing environmental and livelihood benefits locally, SGF projects also offer practicable models to inspire policy-making and give voice to local disadvantaged communities. Thus, SGF projects 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 in coastal area planning and investments. SGF also promotes research-based projects to provide a scientific foundation for informed coastal planning, policy and management.

2. Eligibility Criteria for SGF Projects

- 2.1. The maximum value of the project shall be INR 1,200,000
- 2.2. The maximum duration of the project shall be 18 months
- 2.3. The project shall focus on one or more of the following priority thematic areas:
 - Identify services offered by coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs), and assess the dependence of stake holders, especially women and marginalised coastal communities on these services. Concepts can also address issues that may emerge when such services are denied or eliminated by regulatory or developmental activities.
 - Climate change (adaption) and its implications on coastal livelihoods, including but not limited to research on changing habitat ranges of economically important fishes and marine resources.
 - Concept notes should also be linked to to Aichi targets 6, 7, 9, and 10
- 2.4. The project shall be implemented in one or more of the following priority states:
 - Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Goa
 - Kerala
 - Andhra Pradesh
- 2.5. MFF India will not provide financial support for:
 - Purchase of land
 - Travelling expenses 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
 - 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.

Concept Notes will be reviewed by the MFF National Coordination Body (NCB) India. Applicants whose concept notes have been selected for further consideration will be invited to attend a Project Cycle Management workshop, and subsequently, to submit a project proposal.

3. Eligibility of Applicants

- 3.1. MFF India invites Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Government institutions, academic and research institutes, small scale businesses, and other civil society organisations, to submit project concept notes for its Small Grant Facility.
- 3.2. MFF India will not grant financial support to International consultancy firms, and foreign (expatriate) consultants.
- 3.3. All applicants must demonstrate a proven capacity to implement community-based projects (where relevant) in the fields of coastal rehabilitation, conservation and/or sustainable use of natural resources and/or for scientific research.
- 3.4. Applicants must have scientific or professional credibility, as recognised by the peer review process, and demonstrate experience in project management and financial administration.

4. Submissions

Submissions must be addressed to Ms. Nisha D'Souza, MFF India Small Grants Officer, by email and/or by post.

Ms. Nisha D'Souza

Small Grants Officer, Mangroves for the Future, India

IUCN India Country Office

B-88 Neeti Bagh, New Delhi 110 049 India

T: +91 11 2652 7742; 4605 2583 Ext. 202

E: nisha.d'souza@iucn.org (please note the apostrophe in the name)

The deadline for submission is **17:00 on Monday, 27 October 2014**

5. Template for Concept Notes

The Concept Note should be maximum two (2) pages and include the following:

- a) **Project title** (Should reflect the work of the project)
- b) **Name of the Organisation**
- c) **Project idea** (please provide short statements on the following questions)
 - What is the current situation, and the problem(s) to be addressed?
 - What are the main causes for this problem? Which of these causes does the project address and what is the rationale behind this choice?
 - Where did the idea for the project originate from?
 - Are there other organisations working on the same problem in the project area?
 - What would be the project's Objective, Results (or Outputs) and deliverables
 - Who will benefit from the project?
 - What are the main changes expected by implementing the project which will benefit the status of the ecosystems and/or people dependent on the ecosystems?
- d) **Where will the project be implemented?**
- e) **Relevance to the MFF criteria and the priorities indicated in the Call for Application**
 - How would the project relate to the MFF Programmes of Work?
 - How does the project address priority issues identified in the Call for Application (please refer to the Call for Application made by the national MFF Secretariat)?
 - How would the project address the MFF cross-cutting themes of climate change, gender equality & communications?
- f) **Project duration (months)**
- g) **Project Management**
 - Provide a brief statement on how the project will be managed.
 - List the Partners involved in project implementation and their roles and responsibilities.
- h) **Budget (INR)**

Kindly fill in the form in Annex 1 and send it with the Concept Note

Annex 1

Please fill in this form and send it with the Concept Note

Project Title		
Name of the Organization		
Mailing Address		
Visiting Address (if different from above)		
Telephone		Fax
Email		Website
Mission and Goal of the Organization		
About the Organization	Registration date Category Contact person Number of staff	
Bank Account details	Account name Bank name Bank address Account No.: SWIFT or other Signatories names	
References	Name, address and Tel no. (Referee 1) Name, address and Tel no. (Referee 2)	
Projects implemented during the last 5 years relevant to the theme of the current proposal		
Title of the Project	Donor/Amount	Reference
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		