



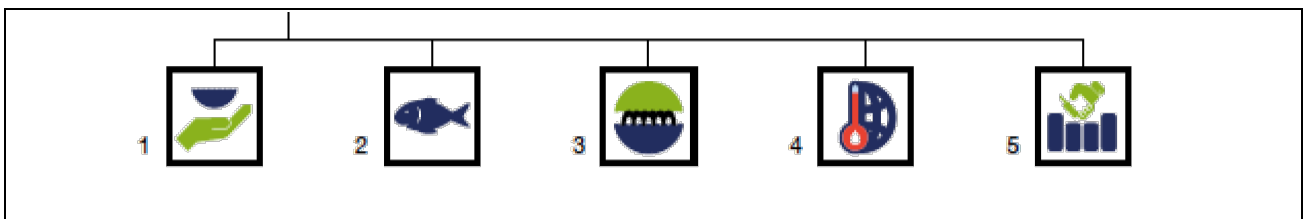
## **SeyCCAT is pleased to announce its third Request for Proposals (RFP) Blue Grants Fund (BGF) Round #3: April / May 2019**

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SeyCCAT announces its third Blue Grants Fund **request for proposals (RFP)** and invites you to be **part of the solution!**

For this RFP, SeyCCAT is seeking projects for **any** of our five strategic objectives.

- **Strategic Objective 1:** Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones.
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options.
- **Strategic Objective 3:** Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts.
- **Strategic Objective 4:** Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- **Strategic Objective 5:** Trial and nurture appropriate business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles' blue economy.



*Note: individual proposals must focus on addressing only one of the above strategic objectives.*

**The current expectation is that SeyCCAT will award over 10 grants from this request for proposals with a total value of up to US\$ 700,000 / SCR 9.5M.**

## **SeyCCAT**

SEYCHELLES' CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION TRUST  
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**Strategic Objective 1:** How can Seychelles deliver on its commitment to expand marine protection and ensure active and successful management? One of SeyCCAT’s mandates is to deliver on this key challenge. For this objective, SeyCCAT will fund projects that support existing or new marine protections that range from Strict Nature Reserve to the MSP Zone 2 category: Medium Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Zones (see Box A).

**BOX A: Seychelles Protected Area Policy (2013):**

*‘To have a Protected Areas System on land and in the sea that protects and conserves high quality, comprehensive and ecologically representative examples of the Seychelles’ natural diversity and cultural heritage and that provides ample opportunities for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the sustainable use of these resources’. Categories: Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN 1a), Ecological Reserve (IV), National Park (II), Protected landscape/seascape (V), Sustainable Use Area (VI).*

**From the Seychelles MSP Initiative: MSP Zoning Framework (2017):**

**High Biodiversity protection zones** conserve and protect the top priority areas for marine and coastal biodiversity in Seychelles. These zones are designated for habitats and species that may be rare, endangered, unique or with narrow distribution ranges. This zone includes breeding or spawning areas, key foraging habitat, fragile or sensitive species and habitats, and internationally significant areas. When combined, these zones provide habitats and species with long-term protection, and are sufficiently large to ensure ecological resilience and climate change adaptation. This zone category is not suitable for extraction or sea-bed alteration.

**Medium biodiversity protection and sustainable use zones** are proposed to conserve areas that are suitable for medium levels of biodiversity protection and are also compatible with some sustainable uses. These zones include habitats and species that have some tolerance to disturbance and human activities. These zones also include regionally and nationally significant areas. This zone category is suitable for some level of extraction and seabed alteration, with appropriate management and direction, depending on the objective of each designated area.

We aim to strategically programme our resources to provide best available ecological, economic, and socio-cultural information and inputs to the on-going Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (SMSP) process, in particular to support decision-making, management plans, and capacity building. Our resources can also be directed to assist the SMSP and other entities with research on management plan design, capacity needs and gaps, and operational activities. We anticipate projects to both be focused on high biodiversity zones or medium biodiversity zones, and recognise some projects might have application to multiple zones (including existing protections) or proposed zones because the SMSP will be finalised in 2020.

For this call for proposals, **we will only support projects that:**

- ⊕ Contribute research for the design of marine protected area management plans.
- ⊕ Provide inputs to management plans for areas with a priority for protection (see Box A).
- ⊕ Contribute to implementation of existing or proposed management plans, e.g., GOS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project.
- ⊕ Contribute to development of indicators (biological, ecological, and socioeconomic) for management plans and for evaluating effectiveness of marine protection areas.
- ⊕ Contribute to improving the decision-making process for management and harvest strategies for data-poor fisheries.
- ⊕ Contribute to improving capacity to protected area agencies and increasing management effectiveness.

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**Strategic Objective 2:** How can Seychelles continue to fish into the future, ensure national food security, and use marine spatial planning (MSP) to conserve its unique marine biodiversity as well as maintain local fisher livelihoods? SeyCCAT's investments are committed to deliver on this key challenge. For this objective, we intend to support projects that relate to the artisanal, semi-industrial, aquaculture, or sports and recreational fisheries sub-sectors, including their relationship to the Demersal Fisheries Management Plan for the Mahé Plateau, the national Marine Spatial Plan process and the Mariculture Master Plan.

**BOX B: The implementation of the Mahé Plateau fisheries management plan (2015), and the transition from open-access to better-controlled fisheries:** Fish are of fundamental importance to the social and economic wellbeing of the inhabitants of the Seychelles. There is growing concern over the drop in total catch and catch rates in some of the primary fishery areas, a drop in the average size of fish caught, and a need to venture further to new fishing areas, placing economic strain on commercial fishing ventures. Fishers, processors, research scientists and fisheries managers have voiced their concern over the state of the resource and have urged intervention to ensure the long term sustainability of the resource.

**Co-management** is a partnership arrangement between government and the local community of resource users and other resource stakeholders to share the responsibility and authority for management of a resource. Management of the resource is therefore a shared responsibility among the stakeholders that can be negotiated and delegated.

**Mariculture** is the farming of aquatic organisms, under controlled conditions, and entails the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of plants and animals in the ocean. In Seychelles, the Mariculture planning process describes the strategic development of an aquaculture industry across four different zones, namely: Land-Based Zone; Inshore Zone; Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZs); and Offshore Zone.

For this call for proposals, **we will only support projects that:**

- ⊕ Support fishers' associations and associations seeking to promote and engage in rights-based fisheries co-management, including participatory monitoring (Box B).
- ⊕ Develop "best in class" sustainable tourism practices linked to fisheries campaigns and activities such as minimum size limits, daily bag limits, fish procurement policies (seasonality) & sustainably caught seafood on local menus including recommendations for whole fish vs. fillet.
- ⊕ Design, deploy & test new tools and technology for participatory monitoring, information sharing and accessing markets (e.g. Apps to document catch and traceability).
- ⊕ Foster consumer awareness of sustainable fisheries practices via traditional and social-media channels.
- ⊕ Support improvements in the design - and advance the uptake - of Seychelles sustainable seafood label.

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**Strategic Objective 3:** How can Seychelles ensure that degraded marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems are rehabilitated? While closely related to Strategic Objective 4 (risks and susceptibilities in relation to climate change), this objective is more focused on ensuring that important ecological functions are recognised, stabilised and restored. We are cognizant of the importance of marine and coastal habitats, species, and ecosystems for socio-cultural and economic activities, as well as their inherent ability to provide vital services to safeguard Seychelles' islands and people from the effects of local and global change.

We recognise the rehabilitation possibilities for marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems, such as coral reefs and flats, mudflats and mangroves, seagrass beds, wetlands, and beaches/dunes, as well as the Mahé plateau and pelagic environments. We understand that some projects necessitate targeted local action and that some need to strive for scalability (e.g. reef regeneration). We identify keystone species and functional diversity as important principles to consider integrating into rehabilitation projects. We believe the National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) and the technology action plan (TAP) for the coastal zone sector provide some basis to inform the distribution of our assets, and we welcome partnerships with the tourism sector to leverage our assets.

We will invest in projects that work towards recovering degraded marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems, to support initiatives that seek to identify and proliferate climate resilient species, and will support new research into understanding the functional roles of diversity and species in healthy and degraded habitats and ecosystems.

For this call for proposals, **we will only support projects that:**

- ⊕ Rehabilitate nationally important marine and coastal species and ecosystems (e.g., as found in the NBSAP (2014)).
- ⊕ Develop knowledge to understand the roles that certain key species play in shaping their environment – keystone species (e.g. herbivore and predation).
- ⊕ Implement nature-based solutions to enable ecosystems to maintain or improve their provision of goods and services.
- ⊕ Support removal of invasive alien marine and coastal species that threaten native species.

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**Strategic Objective 4:** How can Seychelles support communities, the public at large and business to build awareness - and appropriate responses - to the challenges posed by a changing climate. Our assets will be programmed to support projects that work towards identifying, understanding and responding to climate risk, vulnerability, and susceptibilities. We are cognizant of Seychelles' limited climate preparedness and that climate action is yet to be fully mainstreamed.

We acknowledge the National Climate Change Strategy (2009), Seychelles First Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC, 2015), and the Technology Action Plan for the coastal zone sector. Seychelles has a number of inherent vulnerabilities related to its insularity, lack of diversity of natural resources, susceptibility to natural disasters, excessive dependence upon imports and limited economic base, high costs of transportation and communication, and inaccessibility to economies of scale and technology. We understand these vulnerabilities manifest in various ways, and that those most pertinent to SeyCCAT relate to potential impacts on ecosystem services provided by coastal and marine resources, critical infrastructure, tourism in proximity to the coast or in areas vulnerable to flooding and landslide, and food security.

We will invest in a variety of projects that seek to improve knowledge and capacity for the resilience and the adaptive capacity of Seychelles. We will safeguard our investments by encouraging climate change knowledge and actions to be developed, shared and utilised with those working on our four other strategic priorities: MPA's, sustainable fisheries, ecosystem rehabilitation, and pipeline blue economy projects.

For this call for proposals, **we will only support projects that:**

- ⊕ Support small businesses, particularly locally owned tourism establishments, to engage with multi-sector initiatives (such as connecting local food production with sustainable consumption).
- ⊕ Explore and back science and technology innovations to increase resilience and support adaptation to climate change (to minimise climate impacts on local livelihoods and businesses) including 1) increase understanding; 2) implement appropriate adaptation measures; 3) establish long-term monitoring.
- ⊕ Advance Seychelles' ability to secure access to global climate financing.
- ⊕ Study the potential impacts of climate change on critical ecosystems, goods and services (e.g. fisheries productivity), and make recommendations on how negative impacts could be addressed to safeguard sustainability.

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**Strategic Objective 5:** How can Seychelles achieve its Blue Economy goal, “to diversify the economy, create high value jobs, ensure food security, and sustainably manage and protect the marine environment”? We believe the growth of a sustainable blue economy is limited until a pipeline of responsible investment projects is developed.

**Box C: Seychelles Blue Economy** Strategic Framework and Roadmap (2018)<sup>1</sup> is an integrated approach to ocean based sustainable development which brings together economy, environment and society. The Blue Economy vision is “to develop a blue economy as a means of realizing the nation’s development potential through innovation, knowledge-led approach, being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of the Seychelles marine environment and heritage for present and future generations”.

It is implemented around 4 key pillars: 1. Economic diversification & resilience; 2. Shared prosperity – Creation of high value jobs and local investment opportunities; 3. Food security and well-being; and, 4. Integrity of habitats and ecosystem services, sustainable use, and climate resilience.

Our goal for this strategic objective is to help design, incubate, support and pilot enterprises that can sustainably create and/or capture value from Seychelles’ ocean and islands in: tourism/leisure; food/nutrition/health; habitats/ecosystem services; renewable energy; and, environmental monitoring/surveillance.

Our strategy is to seek applications from entrepreneurs, organisations and businesses that have pre-development and growth stage initiatives in mind – we also welcome applications from not-for-profits that support this objective. Our Blue Grants Funds can, for example, be used to develop new “blue” business models, conduct market analyses, test the feasibility of a proposition, or to support education and awareness projects that improve entry and access to the blue economy. Our Blue Grants Funds also provide opportunity to prepare for loan-based “Blue Investment Fund” (DBS) and other debt or equity finance.

We seek to support business model innovations and enterprises that can demonstrate “triple bottom line” characteristics, i.e., those that can demonstrate social, environmental and economic returns. Our imperative here is to switch the narrative from *business as usual* to value propositions that demonstrate *responsible business practices* and, where possible, circular design principles

For this call for proposals, **we will only support projects that:**

- ⊕ Demonstrate innovation in the Blue Economy – for example in sustainable businesses in post-harvest fisheries sector, sustainable tourism, renewable energy, environmental services, ocean waste management (see Box C).
- ⊕ Improve fisheries post-harvest / value chain performance and market development opportunities.
- ⊕ Enhance capacities (training, research and development) for preparing, articulating and executing sustainability-focused business enterprise models (e.g. for submission to the DBS blue investment fund).
- ⊕ Support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and small-scale local investors to develop and access opportunities associated with the aquaculture master plan (land-based and inshore business development).

<sup>1</sup> <https://goo.gl/Ct8jjN>

## Apply for SeyCCAT Blue Grants Funding now:

We fund projects that make things happen. Our investments are available as one-year small (SCR 100,000) grants, two-year medium (SCR 100,000 up to SCR 1M), and two-year large grants (SCR 1M up to SCR 2M).

We will accept Blue Grants Fund applications from individual (and collaborations of) locally registered NGOs or CSOs (including business organizations), parastatal organisations, and government agencies. We will also accept applications from individual citizens of Seychelles. We require lead project proposers to have legally existed and operated in Seychelles for a minimum of one year.

We believe that solutions to complex challenges cannot be delivered by organisations acting alone. We recognise that Seychelles faces a broad spectrum of challenges that go beyond individual, public, NGO/CSO or private organisational capabilities. We aim for our investments to be directed at project partnerships that blend their skills, knowledge and expertise. If you and your partners are active in marine and coastal conservation, marine protected areas research and management, fisheries science, development or management, climate adaptation, community engagement, human health, technology, business planning, entrepreneurship, socio-economics, advocacy, policy, education, training, or outreach, we want to hear from you...

Proposals will be evaluated by SeyCCAT based on criteria such as:

- Is the problem or issue that the project will address clearly identified?
- Is the project realistic and likely to have the expected outcomes/impacts?
- Is there potential for replication or scaling up?
- Is the project within the context of a partnership?
- Is the project designed to safeguard against social and environmental impacts?
- Is the project cohesive with the Mahé Plateau Fisheries Management Plan, Mariculture Master Plan, Blue Economy Roadmap or MSP initiative?

*Note, when submitting a project it must focus on addressing only one of our five strategic objectives. For this RFP you may apply for more than one project, but only one project per lead applicant will be funded. You are entitled to be a partner on another project, but cannot be a lead applicant on more than one funded project.*

### Timeline:

- Stage I (small, medium and large) deadline: submit projects through to **15<sup>th</sup> May 2019** – no later than 5PM Seychelles time.
- Successful medium and large grant stage I applicants will be invited to submit stage II applications through to **16 August 2019** – no later than 5PM Seychelles time.

Download the Blue Grants Fund application guidance notes, concept and full proposal templates, and related materials from our website ([www.seyccat.org](http://www.seyccat.org)) – or submit a message to [info@seyccat.org](mailto:info@seyccat.org) to request the application information, or call us on: 432 5806.

We look forward to receiving your proposal!

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