

# BLUE GRANTS FUND 5



May 3 – June 11

## Request for Proposals

Seychelles recently designated 30% of its EEZ as marine protection areas. To ensure adaptive management, the country needs to close the significant knowledge gaps by conducting more research and building capacity of stakeholders in marine management and blue enterprises.

**SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund** is inviting all Seychelles-based organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, and citizens to apply for the Blue Grants Fund 5. This year, SeyCCAT is looking to offer small (up to 100,000 SCR), medium (up to SCR 1 million), and large (up to SCR 2 million, conditions apply) grants to the following types of projects that support one of the 4 strategic objectives of SeyCCAT:

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

- Provide inputs/research and/or contribute to the zoning design and development of management plans for protection areas.
- Provide inputs/research and/or contribute to the design and/or implementation of existing or proposed management plans for protection areas.
- Develop/contribute to baseline studies and monitoring tools/programmes for management areas (e.g., assessment of coral reefs) and indicators (biological, ecological and socioeconomic) for management plans.
- Develop knowledge to understand the roles that certain key species play in shaping their environment – keystone species (e.g., herbivores and predation).
- Provide research for understanding resilience of coral reef and associated habitats to climate and exploitation.
- Provide research in sea surface temperature (SST), oceanic currents and changes in distribution of critical habitats.
- Provide research on Water Quality monitoring using underwater visual censuses, temperature, oxygen and nutrients, sediments, predictive modelling in marine parks or sustainable use areas.
- Contribute to improving capacity to protected areas agencies and increasing ocean management effectiveness.
- Strengthening co-management structures/bodies and partnerships for management of marine areas
- Contribute input/ research or pilot tools for monitoring, control and surveillance in protection areas.

- Development of investment frameworks and financing strategies to increase the financing flows to MPAs/ operational business plan development/management scheme, impact investment strategies

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

- Contribute to improving the decision-making process of fisheries management through the development of candidate harvest control rules or management strategy evaluation for data - limited fisheries.
- Provide inputs/research and contribute to the design and/or implementation of implementation of the fisheries management plans and policies.<sup>1</sup> (e.g. investigate the potential of fisheries (or other user) access rights for areas and the piloting of the management measures to advance sustainable fisheries).
- Contribute to the conservation and co-management of endangered and threatened species, through fisheries management (e.g. shark species).
- Undertake risk, indicator or stock assessments for commercially important target species.
- Undertake risk, indicator or stock assessments of bycatch of fish species and threatened and endangered species (MSC FIP standards).
- Undertake research on small-scale commercial or recreational fisheries not currently monitored or assessed, e.g. hand gleaning fisheries for intertidal invertebrates.
- Complement national fisheries catch assessment through provision of higher resolution fisheries data either with new data or updating existing data sets (e.g. catches, fishing effort).
- Biological studies in support of fisheries management, such as life history (e.g. estimating growth parameters, size at maturity), reproductive behaviour (e.g. spawning aggregations), behaviour (e.g. catchability in main gears).
- R&D to improve sustainability of fishing practices and gears (e.g. improving trap designs), mitigating bycatch, etc.
- Develop best practice or code of conduct for sustainable fishing (e.g. handling and release of bycatch, release of undersize fish).
- Undertake social, economic or cultural research on fisheries.
- Impacts of algal bloom on fisheries generally including mariculture (assessment of harmful algal blooms to fisheries (globally very relevant & health implications for consumers)).
- Spatial distribution and extent and economic costs of pollution and impacts on fisheries
- Impacts studies of FADs on overfishing/ impacts on no target species/ FAD beaching in coastal habitats
- Strengthening co-management structures/bodies, including the strengthening of fishers' associations.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

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<sup>1</sup> List of the management plans – Comprehensive Fisheries Management Plans, Mahe Plateau Demersal Plan,

- Study the potential impacts of climate change on critical ecosystem, goods and services (e.g. fisheries productivity) and make recommendations on how negative impacts could be addressed to safeguard sustainability.

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 5:**

- Feasibility studies (economic/environment/social) of aquaculture potential and species to be farmed (focused on the research and development phase) and test.
- Feasibility studies (economic, environmental) of Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture Systems (IMTA) (e.g. native fish combined with lower trophic species which process waste and generate income as well).
- Prepare business plans, market development opportunities and feasibility studies, product development to address post-harvest fisheries sector, and environmental services.
- Explore the role and development of the capacity of private sector and financing for SME to support the value-added chain of aquaculture in Seychelles.
- Assess the economic impacts of marine pollution: shifting from plastics and Styrofoam packaging, price signal for biodegradable packaging
- Develop capacity and expertise for development of aquaculture with regards to R&D, aquatic health monitoring (incl. diagnostic testing), breeding and husbandry, operations and processing, and marketing.
- Develop tools and capacity on creating, strengthening, innovating for sustainable business models in the blue economy.
- Development and/or pilot sustainable business model to increase the financing flows to MPAs (e.g. operational business plan development/management scheme) that is resilient to the impacts of COVID-19.

**NEW: Blue Business Grant** – This year, SeyCCAT is offering a grant of SCR 150, 000 to an enterprise/entrepreneur that will contribute to the Seychelles’ blue economy in any sector linked to the Blue Economy. It will be evaluated based on the This grant can go towards research and development, start-up capital and personal contribution on a loan for a blue business (but not to pay an existing debt).

To submit your application, follow the steps on the [SeyCCAT website](#), follow SeyCCAT on social media Facebook and Instagram, or get in touch at [info@seyccat.org](mailto:info@seyccat.org)