

BLUE GRANTS FUND 7



The BLUE GRANTS FUND 7

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
3rd April 2022 to 15th May 2023

Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) is pleased to launch the seventh funding cycle of the Blue Grants Fund (BGF7). We invite all Seychelles-based organizations, businesses, government agencies, and citizens to submit their grant applications between April 3 and May 15, 2023. The BGF7 offers small (up to 100,000 SCR), medium (up to SCR 1 million), and large (up to SCR 2 million) grants for a total of SCR 31 million made available for this funding cycle.

The BGF7 seeks to fund projects under **any** of the 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 know-how 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.

In addition to the Strategic Objectives, the projects must support at least one of the cross-cutting themes: research and development, management and implementation, policy and advocacy, education, training and outreach.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MAY 15, 2023

IMPORTANT: All applications must be submitted through the [Application Portal on SeyCCAT.org](https://www.seyccat.org)

Visit our website [www.SeyCCAT.org](https://www.seyccat.org) to find application guidelines, concept and full proposal templates, and other supporting materials.

For more information, reach us at info@seyccat.org or +248 432 5806/251 6875

ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER THE BGF7:

Strategic Objective 1: Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones.

- Contribute to improving the capacity of protected areas agencies/protected area managers and increasing ocean management effectiveness.
- Strengthening co-management structures/bodies and partnerships for the management of marine areas.
- Pilot projects/demonstration projects for strengthening co-management of marine areas, including marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation areas (e.g. fisheries closures, etc.)
- 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.
- Provide research on Water Quality monitoring using underwater visual censuses, temperature, oxygen and nutrients, sediments, etc. and predictive modeling in marine parks or sustainable use areas.
- Provide input/research and/or contribute to the design, development and/or implementation of existing or proposed management plans for protection areas
- Develop/contribute to baseline studies and monitoring tools/programs/protocols for management areas (e.g., inventory and 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 – ecosystem engineers and keystone species (e.g., herbivores and predation).
- Provide research and monitoring frameworks for understanding the resilience of critical habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves and sea grasses to climate and exploitation.
- Provide research on sea surface temperature (SST), oceanic currents, and changes in the distribution of critical habitats.
- Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification within marine protected areas –ref SDG 14.3.1
- Revision of existing or development of new legislation or policies related to MPAs.

Strategic Objective 2: Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and know-how to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options.

- 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 the fisheries management plans and policies.
- Contribute to the conservation and co-management of endangered and threatened species, through fisheries management.
- Undertake risk, indicator or stock assessments for commercially important target species.
- Undertake risk, indicator or stock assessments of by catch by following MSC pre assessment or similar methodology.

- 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 and stock assessment through the provision of higher resolution fisheries data including size and age composition data and information on the spatio-temporal distribution and habitat utilisation of small-scale fishing fleets
- 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), critical habitats and behaviour (e.g. catchability in main gears).
- R&D to improve the sustainability of fishing practices and gears (e.g. improving trap designs, introduction of biodegradable materials), mitigating bycatch, etc.
- Develop best practice or code of conduct for sustainable fishing (e.g. handling and release of bycatch, post-release mortality, release of undersize fish and venting).
- Undertake social, economic or cultural research on fisheries that aim to incorporate fisher knowledge, targeting and other behaviour in fisheries management planning.
- 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 climate change impacts on fisheries
- Impacts studies of FADs on overfishing/ impacts on no target species/ FAD beaching in coastal habitats and develop innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of FADs.
- Strengthening co-management structures/bodies, including the strengthening of fishers' associations.
- Innovative projects to reduce post-harvest losses and improve small-scale fishers access to markets
- Develop and implement education and awareness activities to improve compliance with fisheries management plans and regulations
- Produce fishery species identification guides to support fisheries management and conservation

Strategic Objective 3: Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts.

- Rehabilitate nationally important marine and coastal habitats/ecosystems using native or key species.
- Develop knowledge and tools to better understand the roles that certain key species play in shaping their environment – ecosystem engineers and keystone species (e.g. herbivore and predation).
- Implement nature-based solutions to enable ecosystems to improve their provision of goods and services.
- Support the removal of invasive alien marine and coastal species that threaten native species.
- Undertake projects that valorize biodiversity and associated ecosystem services.
- Community-based rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats.
- Develop best practices for sustainable tourism in marine coastal ecosystems.
- Develop and implement education and awareness activities to promote best practices of ecotourism
- Develop partnerships with the private sector for the sustainability of rehabilitation programs.
- Research projects that will influence investment policies on marine and coastal rehabilitation programs

Strategic Objective 4: Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change.

- Explore and back science and technology innovations to increase resilience and support adaptation to climate change to minimize climate impacts on local livelihoods and businesses.
- increase understanding of climate change impact through implementation of education and awareness activities
- Implement appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce the risks of climate impact and build resilience in coastal areas.
- Establish long-term monitoring to inform risk reduction and social resilience eg beach profiling, wetland, research on sea surface temperature (SST), oceanic currents, and changes in the distribution of critical habitats.
- Advance Seychelles' ability to secure access to global climate financing.
- Study the potential impacts of climate change on critical ecosystems, goods, and services and make recommendations on how negative impacts could be addressed to safeguard sustainability. Revision of existing or development of new legislation or policies related to climate change.
- Projects that support the implementation of the National Determined Contribution.
- Research and development of innovative emerging climate change solutions
- Develop and implement integrated coastal zone management solutions to support sustainable ecotourism.

Strategic Objective 5: Trial and nurture appropriate business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles' blue economy.

- Feasibility studies (economic, environmental) on sustainable aquaculture including Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture Systems (IMTA).
- Pilot projects for sustainable aquaculture.
- Prepare business plans, market development opportunities and feasibility studies, product development to address aquaculture, post-harvest fisheries sector, and environmental services.
- Undertake research and development on underutilised fish species in the commercial catch to add value and diversify market opportunities.
- Innovative projects to reduce post-harvest losses and improve small-scale fishers access to markets.
- Develop and pilot business models that will facilitate and maintain access to market. (e.g, refrigeration of fishes etc.)
- Explore the role and development of the capacity of the private sector and financing for SMEs 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 the 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 for creating, strengthening, and innovating sustainable business models in the blue economy.
- Develop and implement education and awareness activities to promote clarity and understanding of the blue economy including opportunities for investment in blue economy value chains.

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

Blue Business Grant

In addition to the BGF, SeyCCAT offers a Blue Business Grant (BBG) in partnership with Trois Freres Distillery - an established Seychellois business. The BBG grants SCR 150,000 to a business idea that contributes to the development of the sustainable Blue Economy in Seychelles.

The BBG can be used as a start-up capital and personal contribution on a loan for a new blue business (but not to pay an existing debt). The BBG application requires a concept note accompanied by a commercial pack of Investment, Profit & Loss and Cash Flow sheets, and a full project proposal at the second stage of the application process.

About: Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) is a conservation and climate adaptation trust fund, with a mandate to provide a sustainable flow of funds to support the long-term management and expansion of the Seychelles system of marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, and other activities that contribute to sustainable development. SeyCCAT grants are competitively awarded to public, private, and non-profit applicants based in Seychelles.

The Blue Grants Fund offers grants to impactful Seychellois-led projects that advance marine conservations, sustainable fisheries, development of new and existing MPAs, and select other blue sectors. Alongside the Blue Investment Fund managed by the Development Bank of Seychelles, the BGF is a part of the national Blue Finance approach and is financed from the proceeds of the world's first Sovereign Blue Bond and the Debt-for-Nature Swap by the Government of Seychelles.