CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY (CRAB)

Call for Proposals – Pro Nature Grants

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Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB) Project

Call for proposals "Pro-Nature Grant

Guidelines

1. Context

The Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB) is a project implemented by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) to improve the financial and institutional sustainability of NCTFs by developing sustainable and sufficient resources for ecosystem conservation in the Caribbean. This will support the maintenance and restoration of the region's biodiversity and natural resources. To address the challenges facing NCTFs, CRAB is focusing on diversifying funding sources, strengthening governance and improving the effectiveness of grants.

In this context, the NCTF , through Component 3 of the Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB) Project implemented by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) with funding from the "Agence Française de Développement" (AFD), is launching the "Pro-Nature Grant" call for proposals to support local projects aimed at fostering nature-based economic development and resilient activities integrating the themes of conservation, restoration, adaptation to climate change and sustainable exploitation of the economic potential of protected areas, areas of high environmental sensitivity or areas of high ecological significance.

2. Eligibility of candidates

The Pro-Nature Grant call for proposals is open to applicant organisations established or operating in the beneficiary country territory and whose corporate purpose must be to support collective interests linked to the environment and the preservation and/or structuring and dissemination of knowledge.

Several types of organisation are eligible to apply:
- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Civil Society Organisation (CSO)
- Community Based Organisation (CBO)
- Public sector agencies
- University, training centre
- Research institute
- Local private corporations
- Other appropriate local entities of St.Lucia working toward the vision, mission, and goals of the SLUNCF.

3. Requirements for candidates

Applicant organisations must demonstrate the following :
- Have already managed a budget of at least 80% of the project budget over the last 3 years
- Legally registered and in existence for no less than two (2) years and with an established track record in the fields contributing to the goal of the Pro Nature Grant.
- Bank verification letter confirming active bank account and the number of signatories on the account.
- a statement of financial procedure detailing the procedures in processing and tracking payments under this grant.
- Audited financial statements for the two most recent financial years (latest available). In the absence of Audited Financial Statements, a certified copy of your latest financial statement (income statement, balance sheet, etc)

Consortia and partnerships are eligible as long as one of the organisations (Project Leader) is identified as the main sponsor of the project and meets the eligibility criteria. It will assume legal responsibility for the contractual implementation of the project.

4. Types of projects funded and eligible activities

Projects submitted by applicant organisations must be implemented in the beneficiary country and must be located in ecologically significant areas and their buffer zones, i.e.: "list of specifically eligible areas in the country defined by NCTF".

General objective: The projects must aim to promote nature-based economic development and resilient activities involving local communities.

The priorities/thematic areas of the projects must include at least one of the following 5 areas that meet the general objective of the Pro Nature Grant:

1. **Climate change adaptation**
2. **Biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas**
3. **Habitat restoration**
4. **Community development and sustainable livelihoods, in particular sustainable agriculture and fisheries**
5. **Awareness-raising, education, training, research and monitoring**

The project activity areas must meet the general objective and may focus on themes linking the preservation of ecosystems to the sustainable economic development of communities, while ensuring gender equality integration and meaningful engagement of local communities and stakeholders in protecting, restoring, and enhancing ecosystems that support their livelihood.

Eligible Activities meeting these themes include:

✓ Projects implemented within or in the buffer zones of Protected Areas or in areas deemed to be a priority for ecosystem restoration and resilience.

✓ Projects that have a food security aspect and reduce the dependence of communities on food imports.

✓ Projects that generate income streams that can replace the loss of economic benefits associated with tourism.

✓ Projects that promote sustainable production practices that can be maintained by communities once NCTF support has ended.

✓ Integration of gender considerations emphasizes the importance of gender responsive approaches, as well as gender inclusive participation and access;

Here are just a few examples of pro nature grant activities:

● **Mangrove Restoration and Sustainable Fisheries Project**: Implemented in the buffer zones of coastal protected areas, this project focuses on restoring mangrove ecosystems, enhancing food security through sustainable fisheries, generating income for local communities, promoting sustainable fishing practices, and integrating gender-responsive approaches.

● **Community-Based Agroforestry/Fisheries Initiative:** Located in priority areas for ecosystem resilience, this project enhances food security by promoting agroforestry practices, generates income through the sale of forest products, encourages sustainable agricultural practices, and ensures gender-inclusive participation.

● **Eco-Tourism and Organic Farming Project:** Implemented in the buffer zones, this project combines eco-tourism with organic farming to reduce dependence on food imports, generate alternative income streams, promote sustainable farming practices, and engage local communities and women in conservation efforts.

● **Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecology Project:** Implemented in the buffer zones of biodiversity hotspots, this project enhances food security through agroecology, generates income from agricultural products, promotes sustainable farming practices, and engages local communities and women in conservation efforts.

● **Marine Protected Area and Sustainable Livelihoods Project:** Implemented in the buffer zones of marine protected areas, this project enhances food security through sustainable aquaculture, generates income from marine products, promotes sustainable fishing practices, and ensures gender-inclusive participation.

● **Coral Reef Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Project:** Implemented in the buffer zones of coral reef protected areas, this project enhances food security through sustainable fisheries, generates income from marine products, promotes sustainable fishing practices, and ensures gender-inclusive participation.

5. Ineligible projects and or project activities

The following are deemed ineligible activities for the call for proposals:

▪ One-time and recurring operation/administrative costs of ministries, agencies, departments

- Salaries for executive officers or core organisation staff
- Activities relating to extraction
- Purchase of land
- Projects not consistent with the general objective of the Pro-Nature grant
- Projects related to political campaigns and/or political propaganda
- Projects that violate provisions of the Environmental and Social Management System Policies on the AFD and CBF, in particular *"Section 2.1 Exclusion List"* of the CBF-ESMS-INTEGRATED-2022-05-13.pdf
- Projects that could be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest

6. Project size, Budget and Co-financing requirements

The amount of a grant awarded under this call for proposals is between USD 30,000 and USD 50,000. The grant will contribute up to 80% of the total project budget.

Based on their financial capacities, grantees are expected to provide in-kind and/or cash, the 20% contributions as follows:

Balance of 20% in kind
Local NGOs, Local Community Associations & Community Groups, Local universities/colleges, and public sector agencies are expected to provide 20% in kind.

Balance of 20% in cash
Private corporations or other companies are expected to provide 20% in cash

Other appropriate local entities will be considered on a case-by-case basis but in general they should identify the 20% in cash.

All expenditure directly funded from the CRAB Grant linked to the implementation of the project is eligible, including:

- The human resources allocated to implementing the project (limited to 10%)
- Study costs (limited to 10%)
- Investment in infrastructure (maximum 50%)

Indirect costs may not exceed 7% of the project budget

N.B: Indirect costs cover essential overheads such as rent, utilities, administrative support, and basic institutional services that support project implementation but are not directly tied to specific activities.

7. Project duration

Projects may be implemented over a period ranging from **6 to 12 months maximum**.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Each beneficiary must identify key indicators of results and impact of the activities of their project and enter them in an Excel table (see Schedule 5 to Application Form) provided for this purpose.

Each beneficiary must also consider the key indicators of the Pro-Nature Grant / CRAB Project as outlined in the table below. **Please note that the grantee is not limited to only these indicators, however, at a minimum must include where relevant, indicators from the table below.**

Each beneficiary must update the Excel table every 3 months and send it to the SLUNCF.

Indicator	Objective
Territorial Indicators	
Terrestrial areas (hectares) benefiting from biodiversity conservation/restoration actions	Track the scope of conservation interventions on land
Marine areas (hectares) benefiting from biodiversity conservation/restoration actions	Track the scope of conservation interventions in marine areas
Surface area of restored mangroves (hectares)	Monitor ecosystem-specific restoration work
Population Indicators	
Number of people benefitting from CRAB Pro-Nature activities (men and women)	Collect disaggregated data, from training sessions, people receiving economic support through project activities, persons who experience direct/indirect positive impacts as a result of the project activities aimed at conserving or restoring ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods etc
Financial or Institutional Indicators	
% of indicators tracked with baseline and target values	Evaluate strength of monitoring framework
% of activities completed on time and within budget	Track project efficiency and implementation performance

9. How proposals are selected

A one-stage project application process has been established.

The application must be drawn up in the format of the Project Application Template provided in the appendix to these guidelines, together with the required administrative documents.

Candidates must ensure that their project presentation does not exceed ten (10) pages (excluding log frame, budget, monitoring table and work plan).

If further guidance is required, contact the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund via phone: (758) 285-044, or email: po@sluncf.org.

Submissions should be made via email to po@sluncf.org and copied to admin@sluncf.org with subject line " **PRO NATURE FP" by Saturday 31st January,2026.**

10. Evaluation of applications

Apart from the evaluation of Full Proposals, the SLUNCF's assessment process will also include site visits, where applicable, to verify project feasibility.

The selection criteria are as follows:

Compliance All the answers must be yes for the project to be evaluated. Verification is carried out by the NCTF secretariat				
Is the application form complete?	Yes		No	
Are the required administrative documents attached and complete?	Yes		No	
Is the applicant eligible to apply in line with paragraph 2 and 3 of these guidelines?	Yes		No	
Is the geographical area eligible?	Yes		No	
Is the project related to the Pro-nature Grant objectives?	Yes		No	
Is the budget requested in line with the eligible amounts?	Yes		No	
Are co-financing criteria met?	Yes		No	

Assessment of the applicant's abilities and organisation: Rating applicable by the NCTF: 1 - no or very weak, 2 - unsatisfactory, 3 - partially, 4 - satisfactory, 5 - very satisfactory or fully		
Evaluation aspects	**Score**	**Comments (if any)**

Assessment of the applicant's abilities and organisation: *Rating applicable by the NCTF: 1 - no or very weak, 2 - unsatisfactory, 3 - partially, 4 - satisfactory, 5 - very satisfactory or fully*		
Does the applicant organisation have experience in implementing projects in the proposed thematic area?		
Does the applicant organisation have experience with the intervention proposed?		
Does the applicant organisation have a track record in managing projects with budgets similar to the amount requested?		
Is the applicant an organisation registered in the beneficiary country and with a track record in the beneficiary country *for this answer consider 1- NO and 5- YES*		
TOTAL SCORE (maximum score of 20) ==**Applicants must meet a minimum score of 15 to proceed**==		

Project Approach: *Rating applicable by the NCTF: 1 - no or very weak, 2 - unsatisfactory, 3 - partially, 4 - satisfactory, 5 - very satisfactory or fully*		
1. Relevance	15	
1.1 Does the proposal align with the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals, including the relevant themes or sectors and national strategies?		
1.2 Does the Proposal demonstrate that the proposed project addresses an important problem?		
1.3 Is the overall purpose of the Project clearly defined and is it reflective of the applicant organisation's goals?		
2. Design	25	
2.1 Is the description of the problem clearly defined? (Does it describe the causes of the problem; and explain the long-term effects of the problem without the intervention(s) proposed by the project?		

2.2 Does the proposal thoroughly identify all the activities, and only the activities, necessary to achieve the objectives of the proposed project?		
2.3 Is the logical framework complete and clearly identifies how success will be measured (OVIs)?		
2.4 Does the proposal describe innovative methods or approaches for addressing the identified problem, and clearly explain what makes them innovative in the given context (e.g., new to the community, more effective or inclusive than existing practices, or a creative adaptation of known methods)?		
2.5 Does the proposal clearly outline Environmental and Social Management risks and mitigation actions?		
3. Implementation Approach	15	
3.1 Does the proposal include oversight and project management mechanisms?		
3.2 Are appropriate stakeholders or partners included for effective implementation?		
3.3 Does the Proposal describe activities for monitoring the project and for documenting lessons learned and best practices?		
4. Sustainability	15	
4.1 Does the project describe how capacity will be transferred or maintained? Does the project create new capacities and contribute to long-term sustainability?		
4.2 Does the proposal provide information on how the project will continue (sustaining or scaling up) beyond the grant cycle?		
4.3 Does the project show how best practices and lessons learned will enhance understanding and knowledge within the thematic area?		
5. Budget	10	
5.1 Does the proposal describe matching funds (cash or in-kind)?		
5.2 Are the identified activities sufficient, costed realistically and within budget?		
TOTAL SCORE Maximum of 80		

TOTAL CONSOLIDATE SCORE (maximum score of 100)	

MODEL DOCUMENTS
FOR APPLICANT ORGANISATIONS APPLICATION FORM WITH SCHEDULES

1. **Annex 1: List of administrative documents to be provided**

   SCHEDULE 1:   LOG FRAME
   SCHEDULE 2:   WORKPLAN
   SCHEDULE 3:   RISK ASSESSMENT
   SCHEDULE 4:   BUDGET
   SCHEDULE 5:   MONITORING MATRIX