



Blue Partnership Action Fund

蓝色伙伴行动

Blue Partnership Action Fund Application Guidance

(Version 1.0)

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蚂蚁公益基金会
ANT FOUNDATION

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1 About Blue Partnership Action Fund (BPAF)

1.1 Background

The blue ocean, covering 71% of the earth's surface area, is the largest ecosystem on this planet and provides a variety of ecosystem services to human beings, including food supply, livelihood and employment, natural resources, tourism and recreation, biodiversity, clean water, carbon sink and climate change adaptation. The coastal habitats particularly, can provide the surrounding local communities with ecological safety barrier functions such as climate disaster prevention and mitigation. According to the Nobel Prize winning economist Dr. Elinor Ostrom and her research team, the ecosystem services provide by the Earth's nature worth a total of \$33 trillion USD, of which the oceans provide more than \$23 trillion in value. However, nowadays with the rapid socio-economic development, the oceans are facing an unprecedented crisis under the combined pressure of the impacts of human activities and the climate change effects.

The sustainable development and prosperity of mankind cannot be realized without a healthy ocean. In 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit approved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 Agenda, in which Goal 14, "Life Below Water", explicitly addresses the protection and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources for sustainable development. President Xi of PRC has suggested that "We need to care for the ocean as we treasure our lives." The Ministry of Natural Resources of PRC has proposed **16 Principles for Blue Partnership** in 2020 (Conserve the Marine Ecosystems, Tackle Climate Change, Reduce Marine Pollution, Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Thrive Blue Economy, Strengthen Guidance of Technological Innovation, Implement Integrated Management, Contribute Solutions, Reinforce Capacity Building, Adhere to Openness and Inclusiveness, Welcome Multi-party Participation, Encourage Voluntary Commitments, Take Collective Actions, Promote Legislative Governance, Share Development Outcomes, and Safeguard Intergenerational Equity) to promote the harmonious development of people and the sea and advance the construction of ecological civilization.

1.2 Context

In order to promote Blue Partnership Principles as well as responding to these Principles from the perspective of civil participation, SEE Foundation, together with Ant Foundation and other social welfare forces, launched the Blue Partnership Action Fund (BPAF) to support and encourage more social forces to engage in marine conservation actions. By enhancing the cooperation among stakeholders, including governments, private enterprises, research institutes, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations, the BPAF aims to achieve the implementation and promotion of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), promote the sustainable use and protection of marine ecosystems, and contribute to the achievement of Goal 14 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SEE Foundation was established by the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Conservation, which is dedicated to funding and supporting the growth of private environmental public welfare organizations in China, creating a socialized conservation

platform for entrepreneurs, environmental public welfare organizations and the public to jointly promote ecological conservation and sustainable development. By 2020, SEE Foundation has directly or indirectly supported the work of over 800 Chinese private environmental charity organizations or individuals, with public welfare spending of over 1.1 billion yuan, and has influenced and motivated 600 million people to become supporters and participants of environmental protection.

Ant Foundation is a non-public foundation initiated by Ant Technology Group Co., Ltd. and was officially registered in April 2019 at the Civil Affairs Department of Zhejiang Province. It was rated as a 5A social organization in the evaluation of social organizations in Zhejiang Province in 2021. The mission of Ant Foundation is to promote technological innovation to solve social problems and bring more universal benefits and development opportunities to the world. The Foundation's key focus areas include digital inclusion and inclusiveness, green sustainable development, rural revitalization, exploration and innovation, and emergency response and disaster relief.

2 Application Requirements

2.1 Project Topics and Types

The project types supported by BPAF include but are not limited to: conservation and restoration projects, scientific researches, public outreach activities, public environment education, etc.

Project outcomes should directly or indirectly contribute to the following topics that are consistent with the 16 Blue Partnership Principles:

- a) Protection and restoration of coastal wetland ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, etc.);
- b) Regional blue carbon trading mechanism;
- c) Marine biodiversity conservation and monitoring;
- d) Marine protected areas planning and monitoring;
- e) Marine ecological corridor survey and conservation;
- f) Marine microplastics and marine litter monitoring;
- g) Activities related to above topics, such as marine environmental education and public outreach.

2.2 Project Areas

The project areas must locate within the ASEAN countries listed below: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

2.3 Applicant Eligibility

The project applicants must be organizations committed to marine conservation, and legally registered in the countries/areas where the project would be implemented.

- Civil Society Organizations (including NGOs, non-profit social enterprises, etc.);
- Universities, research institutes, think tanks and other scientific research institutions;
- Volunteer groups, etc.;

Applicants should have appropriate experience with independent project management, technical report and financial report writing. All the documents including proposals, reports, and any other related materials need to be submitted in Chinese or English.

Emerging environmental protection forces are encouraged to cooperate with relevant mature conservation organizations and scientific research institutions to apply through the "1+1+1" model.

Project applicants can also apply to join the Sustainable Blue Partnership Collaboration Network.

2.4 Project Application Circle and Fund Availability

The maximum duration of a single project is 24 months.

The first round of BPAF calling for proposals would take place from **June 29 to August 5, 2022**, followed with the project selecting evaluation process being completed within 10 weeks. In light of the funding procedures, remittances, etc., it is recommended that projects are planned to start no earlier than November 1, 2022.

BPAF grants range in size. The maximum amount for a single project proposal would not exceed 300,000 Chinese Yuan (exchange rate on a daily bases). Under the same circumstances, applications with matching funds would be given priority.

2.5 Fund Management

The grantee shall manage and use the project funds in accordance with the Financial Management Requirements of SEE Foundation, please refer to Annex 3 for more details;

Previous BPAF funded organizations or organizations which are currently implementing BPAF projects may submit new BPAF proposal.

3 Application Method

3.1 Download Application Package

Please download the “Blue Partnership Action Fund Application Guidance Version 1.0” and related application materials from the official BPAF website : : <http://foundation.en.see.org.cn/BPAF/>.

Carefully read the project application requirements in the “Blue Partnership Action Fund Application Guidance Version 1.0” and financial management requirements in Annex 3 to confirm that your organization is eligible to apply for this funding.

3.2 Project Design and Proposal Submission

Finish the project design, fill out **Annex 1 Project Application Proposal and Budget** with appropriate supporting documents prepared.

Please send all application materials to: bpaf@see.org.cn by 23:59 Beijing Time (GMT+8) on August 4, 2022. An automatic response from this email address can be taken as proof of a successful submission of application.

Email Subject: project name + applicant organization;

Attachments must include:

- Project Proposal and Budget (Word version);
- Registration proof of the organization in the country where it is located;
- Annual auditing report of the organization with translation in Chinese or English (PDF scanned version);
- Relevant introduction of the applicant organization and proof of having the appropriate funding and experience for the project content to be implemented (including but not limited to: annual report of the organization, team introduction, project introduction, relevant news, etc.).

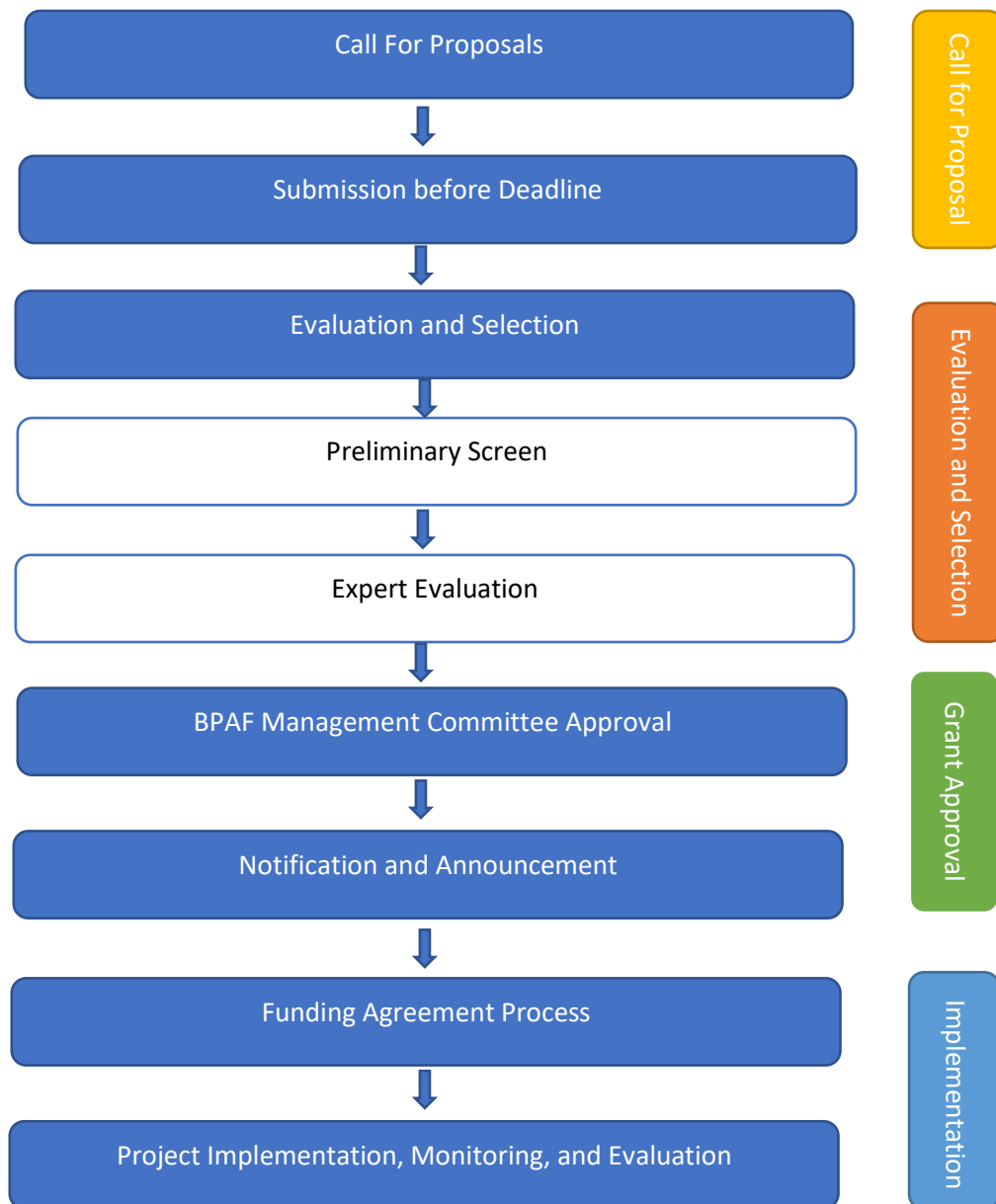
***All application materials need to be submitted in Chinese or English. Applications failed to include all application materials listed above would enter the next selection phase.**

4 Project Selection and Evaluation Criteria

4.1 Project Application and Evaluating Procedures

- Call for proposals 2022.6.29 – 2022.8.4 (4 weeks);

- Project Evaluation 2022.8.5 – 2022.9.13 (6 weeks);
- Project Approval 2022.9.14 – 2022.9.30 (2 weeks);
- Project Implementation 2022.11.1 – (no longer than 24 months);



4.2 Project Selection Criteria and Procedures

Applications received will go through preliminary screening, background investigation and expert evaluation. The project list will be announced to the public after being finally approved by the BPAF Management Committee.

4.3 Preliminary Screen Criteria

- Complete application materials are submitted before deadlines;
- Projects meet the requirements in the “Blue Partnership Action Application Guidance Version 1.0” (including the conformity with Blue Partnership Principles, project areas, project topics, the funding requirements, etc.);
- The background, qualifications, and execution capabilities of the applicant organizations.

Projects that pass the preliminary screening will be submitted for expert review. The Management Committee is responsible for organizing the evaluation panel to conduct independent evaluation.

4.4 Expert Evaluation Criteria

- Significance of the project objectives, i.e., whether they are consistent with the focusing issues of BPAF;
- Scientific nature of the project, i.e., whether it meets the relevant scientific requirements for marine ecological conservation;
- Significance and necessity of the project demonstration;
- Availability of matching funds for the project and the ratio of invested funds to the ecological, scientific, and social benefits generated;
- Capability of the project execution team or organization.

After passing the preliminary screening and expert evaluation, the final list of projects to be funded will be discussed and determined by the BPAF Management Committee.

After approval, the successful project list will be public announced for 2 weeks. After the public announcement, the project would enter the granting stage, followed by the corresponding project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

5 Questions during Application Process

Any questions regarding Blue Partnership Action Fund, please visit the official BPAF website: <http://foundation.en.see.org.cn/BPAF/>, or contact us at: bpaf@see.org.cn.

6 Annex

6.1 Annex 1. Blue Partnership Action Fund Project Proposal and Budget Template

6.2 Annex 2. Financial Management Requirements for Funded Projects of SEE Foundation