



# Blue Partnership Action Fund

蓝色伙伴行动

## Blue Partnership Action Fund Application Guidance

(Version 2.0)

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## Contents

1	About Blue Partnership Action Fund (BPAF).....	3
1.1	Background.....	3
1.2	Context.....	3
2	Application Requirements.....	4
2.1	Project Topics and Types.....	4
2.2	Project Areas.....	4
2.3	Applicant Eligibility.....	5
2.4	Project Application Circle and Fund Availability.....	5
2.5	Fund Management .....	5
3	Application Method.....	6
3.1	Download Application Package.....	6
3.2	Project Design and Proposal Submission.....	6
4	Project Selection and Evaluation Criteria.....	7
4.1	Project Application and Evaluating Procedures.....	7
4.2	Project Selection Criteria and Procedures.....	8
4.3	Preliminary Screen Criteria.....	8
4.4	Expert Evaluation Criteria .....	9
5	Questions during Application Process .....	9
6	Annex .....	9
6.1	Annex 1. Blue Partnership Action Fund Project Proposal and Budget Template.....	9
6.2	Annex 2. Financial Management Requirements for Funded Projects of SEE Foundation ..	9

# 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 2nd term of BPAF calling for proposals would take place from **November 10, 2022** to **April 10, 2023**, 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 **June 1, 2023**.

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 2.0” 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 2.0” 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](mailto:bpaf@see.org.cn) by 23:59 Beijing Time (GMT+8) on April 10, 2023. An automatic response from this email address can be taken as proof of a successful submission of application.

**\*We encourage applicants to submit their proposals ahead of the deadline for better reviewing from time perspective.**

**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 2022.11.10 – 2023.4.10(6 months);
- Project Evaluation 2023.4.11 – 2023.5.15(6 weeks);
- Project Approval 2023.5.15 – 2023.5.30 (2 weeks);
- Project Implementation 2023.6.1 – (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.

Categories 类别	Criteria 标准	Detail Description 详细描述
Project Design 项目内容	<b>Significance 项目意义</b>	The necessity and urgency of carrying out conservation or research projects 开展保护或研究项目的必要性、迫切性
	<b>Innovation 创新性</b>	The innovation of the project idea, either is at the frontier of international marine conservation, or offers new solutions to marine conservation issues; 项目理念的创新, 无论是处于国际海洋保护前沿, 还是为海洋保护问题提供新的解决方案;
	<b>Science and Feasibility 科学性与可行性</b>	The project is scientific reasonable and feasible to implement 项目科学合理, 实施可行
	<b>Project Rational 项目逻辑</b>	Project objectives, outputs, and activities are clear and related to BPAF goals 项目目标、产出、活动明确, 具有关联性, 并符合BPAF目标
	<b>Budget Rational 预算合理性</b>	Project budget clear and reasonable 项目预算清晰、合理
Applicant Capacity 申请机构能力	<b>Institutional background and development potential 机构背景及发展潜力</b>	The mission of the applicant organization is related to the application project, and has relevant project background and long-term planning 申请机构使命与申请项目相关联、且有相关项目背景和长期规划
	<b>Match Fund 资金配套</b>	Potential matching funds and sources 配套来源及可能性
	<b>Executive Qualifications 执行人资历</b>	The project executor has extensive experience or has development potential 项目执行人具有丰富的经验或具有发展潜力
Project Influence 项目影响力	<b>Coastal Community/Public Outreach 滨海社区/公众参与</b>	Including project-related communities, public participation, and resolving issues between community development and marine ecological protection 包括项目相关社区、公众参与, 解决社区发展和海洋生态保护的之间的问题
	<b>Potential social influence 潜在社会影响力</b>	Whether it solves major social problems, or has public influence, or can be replicated, promoted and demonstrated in the future. 是否解决社会重大问题, 或具有公众影响力, 或后期可以复制推广、示范。

(BPAF Overall Selecting Criteria and Categories)

## 4.3 Preliminary Screen Criteria

- Complete application materials are submitted before deadlines;
- Projects meet the requirements in the “Blue Partnership Action Application Guidance Version 2.0” (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](mailto: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**