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FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Proposals 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the deadline for submitting proposals to the 2025 Small Grants Program Request for Proposals (Traditional Window and Reef Rescue Initiative Window)?

- The deadline for submission is **September 9th, 2025**, at 11:59 p. m. in each country.
- Other important dates are:

Launch of the RfP (MAR Fund)	July 15 th , 2025
Deadline for requesting guidance from MAR Fund / Resolution of questions	August 12 th , 2025
Deadline for requesting support for proposal preparation	August 12 th , 2025
Notification of support for proposal preparation (MAR Fund)	August 19 th , 2025
Deadline for requesting a brief call to record the video	August 26 th , 2025
Deadline for submission of proposals	September 9 th , 2025
Evaluation process	September 2025 – February 2026
Notification of results (MAR Fund)	March 2026
Start of approved projects	May 2026

2. Who is eligible to apply to the Small Grants Request for Proposals?

Eligible applicants must be registered in one of the four Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) countries, and includes:

- Community-based organizations, including women's and indigenous people's organizations
- Governmental institutions
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Academia or individuals with administrative support from an NGO

3. Are there specific requirements for organizations applying for the Small Grants Program?

- Yes, organizations must be legally recognized, in good standing, have a sound financial management system, and have their headquarters in one of the four MAR countries.

4. What types of projects are eligible for funding under the Traditional Small Grants window?

Eligible projects include:

- A. Sustainable ventures with a demonstrable positive impact on the natural resources of the MAR
- B. Resilience-building for protected areas, coastal communities, and NGOs
- C. Wastewater and solid waste management
- D. Conservation and protection of fish spawning aggregation sites

5. What are the eligible geographic areas for the Traditional Small Grants window?

- 18 prioritized coastal and marine protected areas in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras apply for objectives A, B, and C, while objective D (conservation and protection of fish spawning aggregation sites) is not restricted to specific protected areas.

6. What is the Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI), and what types of projects does it support?

- The Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI) supports the restoration, repopulation, and rehabilitation of coral reefs in the MAR region. It focuses on coral bleaching response, addressing coral diseases, including the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), promoting new techniques for coral reef restoration and supporting coral restoration projects that incorporate sustainable ventures/businesses.
- For RRI projects, there is no restriction to protected areas; all coral reefs within the MAR region are eligible.

7. What are the grant amounts available for the Traditional Small Grants window?

- Grants are available for projects up to 17 months with a maximum of US\$30,000 and for projects between 18 to 24 months with a maximum of US\$50,000.

8. What is the maximum grant amount for the Reef Rescue Initiative?

- The maximum grant amount for the Reef Rescue Initiative is US\$30,000, with a project duration of up to 24 months.

9. What are the criteria for proposal selection?

- Proposals should demonstrate measurable results, coordinate across stakeholders, strengthen local management capacities, contribute to community resilience, align with regional or global strategies, and assess environmental and social risks, among other criteria.

10. Can proposals be submitted in languages other than English?

- Yes, proposals can also be submitted in Spanish.

11. Is there financial support available for preparing proposals?

- Yes, financial support of up to US\$1,000 is available for preparing proposals. Interested applicants must request this support by **August 12th, 2025, and complete the Request for Support for Proposal Preparation format.**

12. Can an organization apply with more than one project?

- Yes, an organization can apply with multiple projects to the same window or to both windows.

13. If my project is an additional phase of one previously supported by the Small Grants Program, can I apply for continuation funding?

- Yes, proposals for the continuation of a project that ended within the past three months or is about to end in the next six months can be submitted by selecting the "CONTINUATION" option in the proposal format.
- If the proposal does not meet these time requirements, it may still be submitted, but without selecting the 'CONTINUATION' option.

14. How should I incorporate Environmental and Social Safeguards in my proposal?

- Applicants must complete the Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire (Screening Tool) based on the activities for which they are requesting partial or full funding to MAR Fund (referenced in the project budget), in order to assess the associated environmental and social risks, in accordance with MAR Fund's Environmental and Social Management System. Based on the results of the Environmental and Social Questionnaire, applicants may incorporate the estimated costs of implementing mitigation measures to the identified risks in the proposal budget. During the proposal submission phase, no additional risk management related documents are required to be prepared and submitted.

15. What are the specific requirements regarding budget and matching funds?

- At least 25% of the total budget must come from other sources as a match to the requested funds. The match may be both cash and in-kind, from other donors or from the organization applying.
- It is recommended that at least 50% of the resources be allocated to field implementation. Specific cases such as training, research or protection projects could be exceptions.

16. What documents are required for proposal submission?

Complete proposals and due diligence documentation, including the completed and signed Appendix B, must be submitted through the Small Grants Program (SGP) Project Management System (on-line platform).

This includes:

- On-line proposal format
- Project Development Table
- Project Budget
- Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire (Screening Tool)
- Appendix B (filled and signed)
- Documentation of the project and organization applying as indicated in Appendix B

17. How will the proposals be evaluated?

- The Small Grants Program team will review the proposals received and provide recommendations for the applicant to consider to the extent possible and submit a new

version. Reviewed proposals will be evaluated by the Grants and Evaluation Committee, which will make recommendations to the MAR Fund Board of Directors. The final decision rests with the Board, and applicants will be notified of the results in May.

- Proposals that are incomplete or do not respond to the call for proposals will not be accepted.

18. If my project is selected, when will it start?

- Selected projects are expected to start around June/July of the following year. Applicants should consider potential cost increases due to inflation, exchange rate fluctuation and other factors in their budget planning. Additionally, applicants should consider establishment field timings, such as plant seeding/production schedules and seasonal conditions, to maximize project success.

Read the guidelines here: <https://marfund.org/en/request-for-proposals-2025/>