



Ejecutado por: **KFW**



FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF THE PROJECT "PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III"

CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDELINES

The Mesoamerican Reef System (MAR) region encompasses the largest barrier reef in the Atlantic and is part of an interconnected network of coastal marine ecosystems that run along the Caribbean Basin. Its coastline stretches for a thousand kilometers from the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to the Bay Islands in Honduras, across Belize and Guatemala. The MAR is a source of valuable coastal and marine resources and ecological services. It harbors more than 500 species of fish, as well as important populations of manatees, sea turtles, and whale sharks, and vast areas of mangrove cover, seagrasses, and corals.

The scenic beauty of the region has made it an important tourist destination and the presence of commercially valuable fish species feed artisanal and industrial fisheries. There is also strong agricultural activity throughout most of the region. Although these activities stimulate the economy, they threaten the integrity of the ecological systems and the services they provide.

An effective way to address the different problems that threaten the MAR is through an interconnected and functional regional network of coastal and marine protected areas (CMPAs). The MAR region currently has more than 70 CMPAs. Approximately 72% of the region's reefs and a little more than half of the mangrove area are found within protected areas; however, it is necessary to strengthen their management. If CMPAs are properly managed, the network will protect biodiversity, critical habitats, ecosystems, spawning aggregation sites, connectivity, and the services they provide. It will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change and will create opportunities for development and growth. In addition, CMPAs provide fresh water, protect natural resources, reduce the impact of natural disasters, and protect traditional ways of life and the cultural and spiritual values of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.

Overexploitation and irresponsible use of coastal marine resources damage the health of ecosystems and the well-being of people. To address these threats, it is necessary to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, with the participation of the local population, always in compliance with national legal frameworks. The sustainable use of natural resources allows their use for social, economic, and cultural benefits, without depleting them, which ensures their replenishment for the enjoyment of future generations. Sustainability actions include the development of plans for the use of natural resources and productive projects with a positive impact on the reef or coastal ecosystems, which also provide alternative income to communities, co-management of fish replenishment zones

involving users, actions for the proper management of solid and liquid waste, good fishing practices and responsible tourism, and strengthening of CMPAs, among others.

The Mesoamerican Reef Fund, Inc. (MAR Fund) is a private regional environmental fund established to support the protection of the MAR. MAR Fund was created by four pre-existing environmental funds, one from each country in the region. The MAR fund's Board of Directors includes the founding funds, a representative of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), conservation experts from each participating country, and international collaborators/donors. The mission of MAR Fund is to drive funding and regional partnerships for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the MAR. MAR Fund raises and awards funding to partners who are active directly on the ground.

In compliance with the mission and within the framework of the *Saving Our Protected Areas* program, from 2012 to 2020, MAR Fund implemented the projects "Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America," Phases I and II, carried out in nine priority CMPAs, with the financial support of the German Cooperation through the KfW. On December 8, 2021, the KfW awarded a new financial contribution to MAR Fund to implement the project "Protection of Maritime Resources in Central America III" (Phase III), which aims to maintain the continuity of the experiences of Phases I and II for a 5-year period.

As part of the actions in Phase III, MAR Fund is pleased to **launch the first call for proposals for funding conservation and sustainable use of natural resources projects in CMPAs in the MAR**. This call is exclusively for the [14 CMPAs](#) that were selected in the second regional prioritization exercise (2016). The call is geared towards the managers/authorities and co-managers of these CMPAs.

This document sets out the guidelines and eligibility criteria required to determine if a project qualifies for funding, as well as important aspects to consider when preparing concept notes and project proposals. Below you will find detailed information on:

- I: Funding lines
- II: Phase III Logical Framework
- III: Eligible proponents
- IV: Implementation period
- V: Funding amounts
- VI: Potentially eligible activities
- VII: Allowed expenses
- VIII: The mechanics of the call for proposals
- IX: Environmental and social risk management requirements
- X: Mandatory requirements for the proponent
- XI: Evaluation criteria
- XII: Expected time frame

For more information, or in case you have any problems with the online Project Management System (PMS), please contact:

Ana Beatriz Rivas
Project Coordinator
arivas@marfund.org

I. Funding lines

This call for proposals has two funding lines:

1. Conservation of natural resources in the MAR

This funding line refers to the protection, management, and/or restoration of ecosystems and natural resources, with the objective of ensuring their permanence and the environmental services they provide. This funding line may include activities such as biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration measures, protection of migratory routes and aggregation sites, creation, expansion, or strengthening of fish replenishment zones, and implementation of best conservation practices, among others.

2. Sustainable use of the MAR natural resources

This funding line refers to responsible practices for the use of natural resources in a way that provides social, cultural, and economic benefits today while maintaining their potential for future generations. This funding line may include market activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources, generation of alternative income, sustainable fishing, and low-impact tourism, among others.

The priority ecosystems and resources for Phase III are mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, and fisheries.

Proponents are invited to develop projects that involve one or both funding lines described above.

II. Phase III Logical Framework

Projects must contribute directly to the fulfillment of the general objective, results, and indicators of Phase III, as detailed below:

General objective:

Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in and between targeted coastal marine protected areas (CMPAs) of the Mesoamerican Reef System (MAR).

Results:

1. The CMPAs have better conditions for the conservation of their natural resources,¹
2. Measures implemented for the sustainable use of the natural resources of CMPAs with the participation of the local population,² and
3. Strengthened cooperation among key stakeholders for biodiversity conservation in the MAR.

Objective indicators:

- O1: Area in hectares with better conservation,
- O2: Area of relevant ecosystems with more sustainable use, and

¹ Expected result for proposals involving funding line 1 (Conservation of natural resources in the MAR).

² Expected result for proposals under funding line 2 (Sustainable use of the MAR natural resources).

O3: Number of initiatives that support the adaptation of populations vulnerable to climate change.

To align your project activities with the Phase III Logical Framework, please refer to the [Phase III Logical Framework](#) at the end of this document.

III. Eligible proponents

This first call for proposals is aimed exclusively at the managers/authorities and co-managers of the 14 CMPAs selected in the second regional prioritization exercise for the MAR, conducted in 2016. The areas are detailed below:

Country	No.	Coastal Marine Protected Area	CMPA Manager/ Authority	CMPA co-manager
Mexico	1 ³	La porción norte y la franja costera oriental, terrestres y marinas de la Isla de Cozumel Flora and Fauna Protection Area	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	
		Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park	CONANP	
		Selva y Humedales de Cozumel State Reserve	Ecological and Environmental Secretariat (SEMA) / Institute of Biodiversity and Natural Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO)	
		Laguna Colombia State Ecological Park	Cozumel Parks and Museums Foundation	
	2	Arrecife de Puerto Morelos National Park	CONANP	
	3	Isla Contoy National Park	CONANP	
	4	Tulum National Park	CONANP	
Belize	5	Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve	Belize Fisheries Department	Southern Environmental Association (SEA)
	6	Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve	Belize Fisheries Department	Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA)
	7	Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve	Belize Fisheries Department	
	8	Caye Caulker Marine Reserve	Belize Fisheries Department	

³ The four protected areas of Cozumel Island must jointly submit the concept note (NC)/project proposal (PP).

Guatemala	9	Bocas del Polochic Wildlife Refuge	National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP)	Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN)
	10	Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve	CONAP/ Local Executive Council of Cerro San Gil	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Honduras	11	Archipiélago Cayos Cochinos Marine Natural Monument	National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF)	Honduras Coral Reef Fund (HCRF)
	12	Barras de Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge	ICF	Fundación Cuero y Salado (FUCSA)
	13	Michael Rock Special Marine Protection Zone	ICF	Bay Island Conservation Association-Guanaja (BICA-Guanaja)
	14	Bahía de Tela Wildlife Marine Refuge	ICF	Amigos del Arrecife de Tela (AMATELA)

In this call for proposals, a proponent is defined as the manager/authority or co-manager of the 14 eligible CMPAs. A maximum of one project per eligible CMPA may be funded; however, proponents may submit more than one concept note per CMPA to be submitted to the evaluation process.

The four eligible CMPAs from Mexico must apply through a civil society organization (CSO), which will be in charge of managing the project funds. CMPAs managed by government institutions in other countries that do not have a co-manager may, if they wish, also apply through a CSO, provided that it is duly registered in their country. A CSO is defined as any duly registered non-profit group of volunteer citizens that is organized based on certain goals at the local or national level and that does not pursue personal benefit but rather benefits for society and its environment. In all cases, the proponents will be the managers/authorities or co-managers of the CMPAs.

Proposals that include other MAR CMPAs (any other CMPA, not necessarily from the list of the 14 mentioned above, whether from the same country as the proponent or from any other) and/or include activities that strengthen cooperation among key stakeholders for biodiversity conservation in the MAR, including exchanges and/or collaborations with other CMPAs, thus contributing to result 3 of Phase III, will be considered as an additional positive factor in the evaluation process.

There must be only one proponent for each proposed project. In the event that proposals involve collaboration among several CMPAs, the proponent must be the manager or co-manager of one of the 14 eligible CMPAs. Please note that the proponent and the CSO, once defined, cannot change during the evaluation process of the proposed project.

Proponents may include, if they so wish, activities to be implemented in the areas of influence of eligible CMPAs. Each proponent must define these areas in the CN.

IV. Implementation period

The minimum implementation term for projects will be 24 months and the maximum will be 36 months, beginning with the signing of the financial allocation agreement between MAR Fund and the proponent. The time frame of the call process can be found in section XII.

V. Funding amounts

Projects may be submitted for amounts between US\$350,000 and US\$750,000.

The project budget must cover all direct costs necessary to implement the project. For this call for proposals, at least 20% of the total project amount must come from other sources as matching funds (in-kind and/or cash).

VI. Potentially eligible activities

Below are some examples of activities potentially eligible for the two Phase III funding lines. This is not an exhaustive list and other activities may be proposed, as long as they are related to one of the two funding lines. In addition, examples of activities that strengthen cooperation between key stakeholders (result 3 of Phase III) are included.

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	Funding Line 1 <i>Conservation of Natural Resources in the MAR</i>	Funding Line 2 <i>Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the MAR</i>
Design, standardization, strengthening, and/or equipping of biodiversity monitoring programs	X	
Biological assessments (e.g., health status of corals, determination of fish stocks)	X	
Non-recurrent control, surveillance, or supervision measures, such as plans, studies, use of monitoring technology, etc.	X	
Measures for restoration or rehabilitation of mangrove, coral reefs, and seagrass ecosystems	X	

Conservation of ecological connectivity (including protection of migration routes and feeding grounds, among others)	X	
Design and/or equipping for monitoring and protection of fish spawning aggregation sites (see Box 1)	X	
Fostering sustainable fishing (e.g., encouraging compliance with closed fishing seasons and no-take zones, use of sustainable fishing gear, creation and management of fish replenishment zones, and valuation technology for fishing efforts, among others).		X
Establishment and maintenance of fish replenishment zones (no-take) (see Box 2)	X	X
Adaptation measures for populations vulnerable to climate change	X	X
Fostering of low-impact tourism in the CMPAs		X
Income generation as an alternative to the unsustainable use of natural resources		X
Market activities based on sustainable use of natural resources		X
Implementation of best conservation practices (e.g., best practices for forestry and fisheries management, and best practices for ecosystem restoration, among others)	X	
Capacity building for people involved in CMPA management	X	
Evaluation of management effectiveness pre- and post-implementation of the project	X	
Studies to identify and design CMPA financial sustainability mechanisms	X	
Development or implementation of natural resource use plans with the local population (e.g., sustainable fishing plans, agroforestry, beekeeping)		X
Community participation to promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the MAR		X

Activities that strengthen cooperation among key stakeholders, such as:		
Workshops for the exchange of good practices, experiences, and/or lessons learned among CMPAs	X	X
Development of standardized monitoring protocols between CMPAs	X	
Training events between CMPAs and key stakeholders	X	X
Workshops for the exchange of experiences of productive projects with community groups		X

BOX 1 Fish Spawning Aggregations

Fish Spawning Aggregations (FSAs) are defined as large temporary concentrations of fish of the same species for breeding purposes. During aggregation periods, fish densities are up to three times higher than in non-reproductive periods, making them highly vulnerable to fishing. The few sites and seasons in which FSAs occur account for most –if not all– of the annual reproductive output of the species that aggregate there.

FSA monitoring contributes to the understanding of the connectivity and health of fisheries and can provide information on the impact of climate change on FSAs to benefit fisheries and the communities that depend on them.

According to the Community and Biodiversity (COBI) report on the status of FSAs in the MAR (2020), only **22 of 36 FSAs** are within fully protected areas for grouper and snapper fisheries (Fig.1).

These results suggest that monitoring and protection of FSA sites should be considered a priority activity within the MAR.

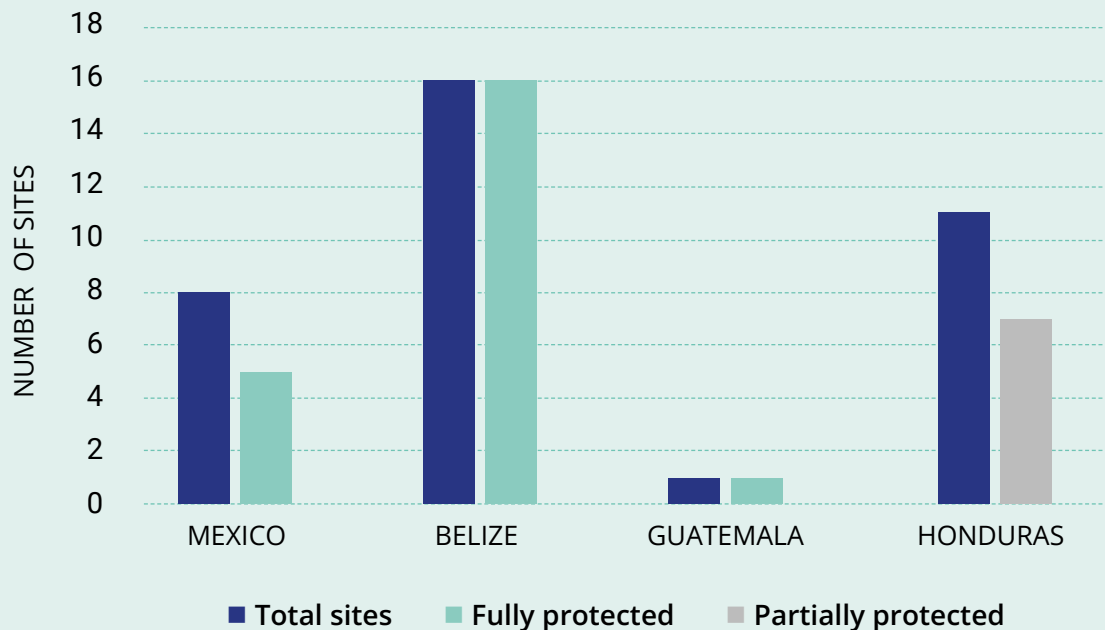


Figure 1. FSA sites protection status in the MAR (modified from COBI, 2020).

BOX 2 Fish Replenishment Zones

Fish Replenishment Zones (FRZs) are areas of the ocean that are protected from all extractive and destructive activities, and can be an effective tool to address local and global threats, improve fishing yields, protect biodiversity, enhance the resilience of marine populations and ecosystems, while supporting adaptation to climate and ocean chemistry changes (Green *et al.*, 2014).

According to the latest health assessment of the MAR prepared by the Healthy Reefs Initiative in 2022, "the biomass of commercial fish (snappers and groupers) in critical condition indicates the extent of overfishing, the destruction of critical

habitats, the loss of biodiversity potential and its dire ecological consequences." In addition, it shows that, unlike areas that are protected but allow regulated fishing (e.g., catch and release, temporary closure, special permits, and minimum harvest), areas that are categorized as no-take/fully protected report a higher fish biomass (HRI, 2022).

These results suggest that the strengthening and creation of FRZs should be considered as a priority activity within the MAR. Therefore, it is considered part of the activities of one of the two funding lines in this call for proposals.

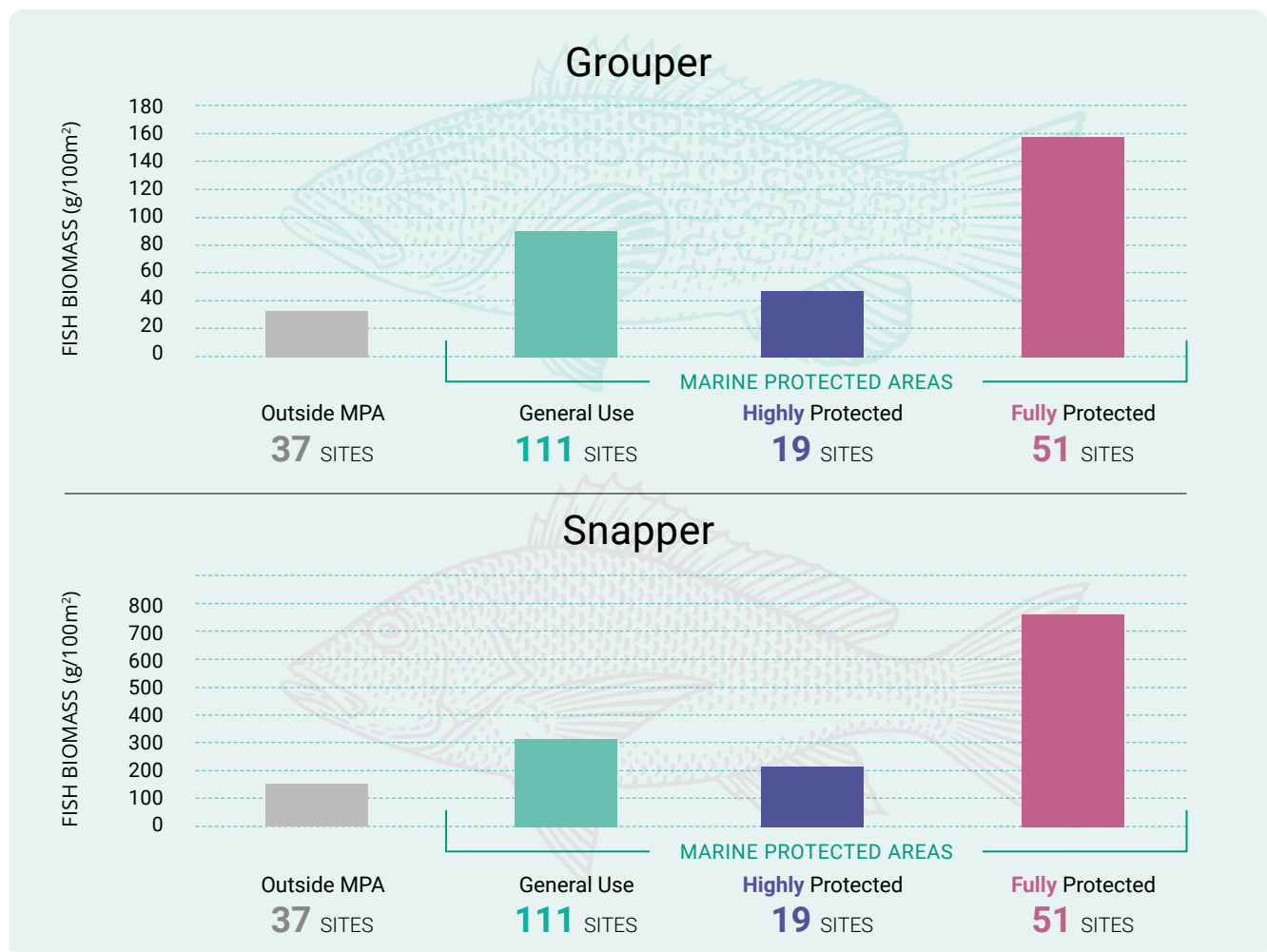


Figure 2. Fish biomass of the FRZs in the MAR (modified from COBI, 2020).

VII. Allowed expenses

Expenditures that can be financed with grant funds include, for example, the following: land vehicles, boats and engines, small infrastructure (e.g., docks, huts, thatched shacks), field equipment, supplies/materials, consultancies, and specific studies (e.g., topographic and geotechnical surveys, soil surveys, aerial surveys, and remote sensing, aerial photography, satellite imagery, mapping, and biological assessments), evaluation of management effectiveness, travel expenses (international and domestic), capacity building, workshops and meetings, fuel for non-recurring activities, communications, evaluations, or plans required to comply with the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) commitments, ESMS monitoring, research/restoration records and/or permits/licenses, and direct CMPA administrative expenses (office furniture, desks, office equipment, and supplies, a consultant to coordinate the project, bank transfer costs), among others.

Registration costs and/or research/restoration permits/licenses required by national or local government institutions may be included in your project budget beginning in year 2 of the implementation. Please note that the registrations and/or permits required for the implementation of your project in the first year must be submitted prior to the signing of the financial grant agreement.

Expenditures that may **NOT** be funded with Phase III funds include:

- Development or updating of CMPA management plans,
- Recurrent expenses of the CMPA manager/authority or co-manager (such as office rent, fuel for recurrent activities, staff salaries, recurrent biological monitoring activities),
- Major infrastructure (e.g., administrative headquarters, field stations, control towers),
- Import tariffs, and
- Activities indicated in the [Exclusion List](#) of MAR Fund's Social and Environmental Policy.

CMPAs whose project is managed by a CSO may include in the budget the project's administrative cost, which should not exceed 10% of the grant awarded by MAR Fund. All administrative expenses incurred by the CSO should be accounted for in this percentage, including, for example, bank transfer fees, travel expenses for administrative follow-up, among others. No direct project costs are applied for CSOs. The percentage of administration cost is applied to the amount implemented by the CMPA manager or co-manager.

VIII. The mechanics of the call for proposals

The call for proposals consists of two stages: 1) development of a concept note (NC) and 2) development of a project proposal (PP).

NCs and PPs may be submitted in Spanish or English.

The proponent must sign up in MAR Fund's online [Project Management System \(PMS\)](#). After signing up, the proponent will receive a notification e-mail with system access credentials to submit the CN.

- **Stage 1 (Concept Note):**

To prepare the CN, proponents should download the [Concept Note Template](#) and Annex 1. [Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire](#) to be completed following the instructions. The CN should include information of the proponent, information of the CSO that will be administering the proposed project funds (where applicable), information of the CMPA(s), a description of the proposal, potential environmental and social risks, and an estimated budget. More detailed information on how to complete the CN can be found in the instructions of the template.

The complete CN, Annex 1, the required documentation, and additional documents deemed necessary must be uploaded to the online PMS.

Proponents whose CNs have been approved to proceed to stage 2 will be notified via e-mail sent from the online PMS, in which they will also be invited to submit the PP.

- **Support for the development of project proposals (PP)**

MAR Fund will provide financial support of up to US\$10,000 for the development of project proposals. Interested parties may apply for this support by completing the [Application template for support to develop PP](#) and submitting it to the Project Coordinator (arivas@marfund.org) no later than two weeks after being notified of the approved CN.

The staff of the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) may provide additional support on an *ad hoc* basis to clarify questions on how to prepare the proposals, for which Skype/Zoom/Google Meet calls will be scheduled with the proponents. Support of the project proposal development process does not in any way imply a commitment to fund the resulting proposal.

- **Stage 2 (Project Proposal)**

Proponents who receive notification of their approved CN should use the [Project Proposal Template](#) as a reference to prepare their PP, **filling out the corresponding fields in the online PMS**. The PPs should include, in more detail, among others, the general project information, project description, environmental and social risk analysis, budget, and socialization of results.

Additionally, proponents must download and complete [Annex 1. Project Development Table](#), [Annex 2. Project Budget](#), [Annex 3. Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire](#), and [Annex 4. Environmental and Social Action Plan](#), and then upload them to the online PMS. They must also upload the required documentation to the online PMS.

The PPs will be reviewed by the PIU staff to confirm that all requested documentation is complete and have met the specified minimum criteria. They will then be evaluated by an independent evaluation committee using the PP evaluation matrix.

IX. Environmental and social risk management requirements

Proponents participating in this call for proposals must prove that they are able to identify, mitigate, and monitor the environmental and social risks and impacts of their projects. To this end, they must complete the Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire in order to identify the potential environmental and social risks associated with their projects and ensure that they avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

Subsequently, through an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), they must implement measures to mitigate the identified risks. The ESAP outlines all the environmental and social measures and requirements necessary for the project to comply with [MAR Fund's Environmental and Social Policy](#) and [Safeguards](#). It is prepared as a result of environmental and social due diligence. Mitigation measures that entail an expense associated with their implementation (e.g., assessments, plans, monitoring) should be included in the budget.

When performing these environmental and social management analyses, activities financed with matching funds should **not** be taken into account, only those implemented through MAR Fund's financial contribution. However, proponents are encouraged to adopt these best practices for the implementation of all activities to be undertaken in their projects.

For the CN, the proponent must complete the Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire and provide a summary of the identified risks. For the PP, the proponent must review, update (if necessary), and complete the questionnaire, and develop jointly with the PIU an advanced draft of the ESAP to propose mitigation measures for the risks associated with the proposed project. Consider that, if your PP is accepted, the financial allocation agreement will include the ESAP, which will detail the environmental and social commitments to be complied with throughout the project based on the identified risks. The ESAP will specify the deadlines by which these commitments must be met.

The proponents and CSOs (if applicable) must also have a grievance mechanism in place and describe in the PP the methodology by which this mechanism will be monitored, as well as the steps that will be taken to resolve the complaints received. If they do not have a grievance mechanism, they must implement one. MAR Fund may support proponents by providing an example of its own grievance mechanism.

If your PP is approved, please note that during the implementation of your project, ESAP monitoring should be performed on a quarterly basis, and the monitoring of the grievance mechanism, on a monthly basis.

X. Mandatory requirements of the proponent

Eligible proponents are the managers/authorities or co-managers of the 14 eligible CMPAs. There should be **only one proponent** for each proposed project.

The table below lists the mandatory requirements to be met by proponents. In the event that the proponent foresees collaboration with a CSO (which will be responsible for managing project funds), the requirements of the CSO must also be considered.

Mandatory requirements	CMPA manager/ authority	CMPA co-manager	CSO (project funds manager)
It is legally registered in the country where the project is implemented and in compliance		X	X
Has a co-administration/co-management agreement in place		X	
Has a legal representative and/or responsible officer	X	X	X
Has an operational Board of Directors with bylaws, member turnover, meetings, and minutes, which oversees the executive management		X	X
Has the last two external audit reports and as-to-date financial statements		X	X
Has previous experience in the administration and management of similar projects and with the amount of funding requested	X	X	X

XI. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the CNs will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained in the [Concept Note Evaluation Matrix](#), and the evaluation of the PPs will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines contained in the [Project Proposal Evaluation Matrix](#).

Mandatory requirements for CN and PP:

- a. The project will be implemented in at least one of the 14 prioritized CMPAs,
- b. The CMPA has a current Master Plan/Management Program/Management Plan,
- c. The proposed project includes within its activities an evaluation of management effectiveness (one at the beginning, if the CMPA does not have one, and another at the end of its implementation),
- d. The CMPA has a minimum staff trained to implement the project, head office/station, and a minimum budget,
- e. The proponent provides a matching contribution of at least 20% of the total budget of the proposed project (in cash and/or in-kind),
- f. An amount within the established funding limits is requested,
- g. The project contributes to one or both funding lines of the call,

- h. Projects under funding line 1 ("Conservation") should contribute in a mandatory way to the following Phase III objective indicator: "O1: Area in hectares with better conservation,"
- i. Projects under funding line 2 ("Sustainable use") should contribute in a mandatory way to the following Phase III objective indicator: "O2: Area of relevant ecosystems with more sustainable use,"
- j. *In addition, the project must contribute to at least two more indicators of the Phase III Logical Framework, which the proponent may select,*
- k. The project has an environmental and social risk rating of C, B, or B+,
- l. The implementation time frame is within the allowed period,
- m. It is endorsed by the national authority, and
- n. It has the agreement of the indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples (if applicable).

Only proposals that meet all the requirements, exceed a minimum percentage of 70%, and have the approval of at least 50% of the members of the evaluation committee may be selected for funding.

XII. Expected time frame

It is estimated that the schedule for the complete call for proposals process will be as follows:

Stages of the selection process	Date
Deadline for clarifying questions about the call for proposals	August 10 th , 2023
Deadline for receiving concept notes	August 11 th , 2023
Notification of concept note selection and invitation to submit project proposals	October 2 nd , 2023
Deadline to request support for project proposal development	October 13 th , 2023
Deadline for submitting project proposals	December 1 st , 2023
Notification of approval of project proposals	March 1 st , 2024
Signing of the Financial Grant Agreement	March 4 to 18 th , 2024

Logical Framework for the project "Conservation of Maritime Resources in Central America III" (Phase III)

Please review the [Phase III Logical Framework fact sheet](#) to have a clear understanding of the indicators below.

Objectives	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Module objective: Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in and between targeted coastal marine protected areas (CMPAs) of the Mesoamerican Reef System (MAR).	Indicator 0.1: Area in hectares with better conservation. ⁴ Base value: 0 ha Target value: 100,000 ha	Progress reports of supported projects, MAR Fund reports, Monitoring missions	In the future, climate change does not cause irreparable damage to MAR ecosystems. The MAR countries continue joint coordination to preserve the MAR ecological functions. The conservation of the environment and natural resources has the necessary political support.
	Indicator 0.2: Area of relevant ecosystems with more sustainable use. ⁵ Baseline value: 0 ha Target value: 20,000 ha		
	Indicator 0.3: Number of initiatives that support the adaptation of populations vulnerable to climate change. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 15		

⁴ The criterion for a more effective conservation is the application of measures to improve biodiversity monitoring, control, and surveillance measures, or ecosystem restoration measures.

⁵ Relevant ecosystems in the MAR include coral reefs, mangrove forests, and seagrasses.

Results	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<p>R 1: The CMPAs have better conditions for the conservation of their natural resources.⁶</p>	<p>Indicator R 1.1: Number of CMPAs implementing best conservation practices. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 18</p> <p>Indicator R 1.2: Number of people involved in the management of CMPAs with enhanced capabilities. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 400</p> <p>Indicator R 1.3: Number of selected CMPAs with at least 75% of management effectiveness. Baseline value: 3⁷ Target value: 13</p>	<p>Progress reports of supported projects, MAR Fund reports, Monitoring missions</p>	<p>The functionality of the supported protected areas is maintained thanks to sufficient allocations from the national budget and the efforts to raise funds from the co-managed areas.</p> <p>The capabilities of proponents and the (co-) administrations of the protected areas are sufficient for the sustainable operation and maintenance of the investments made.</p>

⁶ Any proposal under funding line 1, "Conservation of natural resources in the MAR," should contribute to the achievement of this result and report on the indicators.

⁷ Of the 14 prioritized CMPAs, 3 CMPAs currently meet the indicator.

<p>R2: Measures implemented for the sustainable use of the natural resources of CMPAs with the participation of the local population.⁸</p>	<p>Indicator R 2.1: Number of natural resource use plans developed with the local population under implementation. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 10</p> <p>Indicator R 2.2: Number of people directly supported by the project who benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 3,000</p>	<p>Progress reports of supported projects, MAR Fund reports, Monitoring missions</p>	
<p>R3: Strengthened cooperation among key stakeholders for biodiversity conservation in the MAR.</p>	<p>Indicator R 3.1: Number of exchange events organized by MAR Fund of which the results were published. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 5</p> <p>Indicator R 3.2: Number of joint initiatives between CMPAs implemented within the framework of the project. Baseline value: 0 Target value: 10</p>	<p>Progress reports of supported projects, MAR Fund reports, MAR Fund website</p>	

⁸ Any proposal under funding line 2, "Sustainable use of natural resources in the MAR", should contribute to the achievement of this result and report on the indicators.