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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.40  
19 January 2023

Original: ENGLISH

Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical  
Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol  
Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife  
(SPA)W) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual, 30 January – 1 February 2023

**Progress Report: ACP MEA III Project  
Small Scale Funding Agreement  
with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute**

*This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.*

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# GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

## **Activity 1: Develop a set of criteria in collaboration with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the implementation of the small grants**

### **a) Launch of grants programme**

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) through its MPACoconnect and GPML-Caribe Initiatives supported the development of criteria for a small grants programme in partnership with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. Through this interactive process, Calls for Proposals were developed and advertised by MPACoconnect in support of capacity building at site-specific marine protected areas (MPA) within the Wider Caribbean Region and also by GPML-Caribe in support of marine litter prevention and reduction within the Wider Caribbean Region. MPACoconnect offered grants of up to US\$8,000 in support of capacity building at site-specific marine protected areas whilst GPML-Caribe offered grants of up to US\$15,000 in support of marine litter prevention and reduction. Hybrid grants of up to US\$20,000 were offered to support marine litter prevention and reduction work in marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region.

### **b) Advertise for proposals**

The Calls for Proposals were distributed by GCFI, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and other relevant partners. Email distribution lists (e.g. GCFI-Net and GPML-Caribe) and social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) were also utilized. An in depth PDF containing eligibility criteria, funding priorities, funding information and the proposal format was distributed with visually attractive graphics (See Annex 1.1). This content was first advertised on July 5th, 2022 with a deadline extension to August 10, 2022.

### **c) Selection of Grants**

A total of 26 proposals were submitted with 15 proposals being shortlisted and 9 proposals being selected for funding (See Appendix 1.2). GCFI together with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat reviewed proposals and participated in interviews with shortlisted proposals for ultimate selection of funded proposals.

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Shortlisted</b>	<b>Selected</b>
Marine Protected Areas	6	4	3
Marine Litter	9	6	3
Hybrid	11	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>

## GPML-Caribe Small Grants Fund

GPML-Caribe, a partnership between the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, is pleased to offer small grants in support of marine litter prevention and reduction within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered by GPML-Caribe with funding provided by the United Nations Environment Programme – Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union’s ACP MEA III project. The ACP MEAs program is a joint partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which aims at building capacity in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to tackle the environmental issues they face.

**Eligibility Criteria:** This call is intended to benefit the managing organizations of marine litter issues within the Wider Caribbean Region, either directly or through efforts with their affiliated partners. The call excludes U.S. affiliated sites and in rare instances final consideration for funding may be dependent upon satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control. Proposals from LBS Protocol Contracting Parties will be prioritized, though proposals from other countries within the Wider Caribbean Region will be considered.

**Funding Priorities:** Preference will be given to projects or approaches that are solutions-based. Research projects will be considered if they have a strong focus on solutions including an implementation phase. Potential projects focused on marine litter (including ALDFG) may include: Identification and removal approaches; Communications targeted to all stakeholders; Governance and policy-related solutions; Education-focused projects; Innovative community-based solutions; Innovative approaches for alternatives to single-use plastics and Styrofoam; Market-based approaches; Circular economy approaches; Reduction at source approaches; Development and/or implementation of local, national, or regional litter prevention/reduction plans.

Consideration will be given to projects that focus on youth, indigenous people, vulnerable communities, and gender-based solutions

***If your project addresses marine protected areas, a proposal may be submitted as part of our call for proposals on marine protected areas. Guidelines for that call may be found [here](#).***

**Funding Information:** Budget requests should not exceed US\$15,000. Up to 50:50 counterpart funding should be provided. Matched funding must be from a non-federal U.S. source and can include in-kind contributions.

**Deadline for Applications:** Project proposals, based on the template provided, should be submitted by **August 10, 2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by August 17, 2022 to schedule meetings to discuss the activities outlined in the concept note.

**Proposal Submission:** Proposals should be submitted online through GCFI’s website at. For any questions please email [gpml-caribe@gcfi.org](mailto:gpml-caribe@gcfi.org)

**Project Duration:** The maximum duration of submitted projects is 9 months. Approved projects will be notified by September 1, 2022, with projects commencing approximately in October.





# GPML-Caribe Small Grants Fund

## Proposal Format

Concept Notes should be submitted in the following format:

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Project Title and Location:**

**Name of Implementing Agency:**

**Primary Contact:** The name, title and contact information for the project lead.

**Project Summary** (250 Words): A summary of the project's main objectives, activities and budget should be included.

**Timeline:** Project duration should not exceed 9 months. Provide a timeline of when various activities will be implemented during the course of the project.

**Budget Amount Being Requested:** State the total amount being requested.

**Anticipated Outcomes:** Identify the anticipated outcomes of the project including how it will increase the site-level capacity to effectively manage the MPA.

### BUDGET

**Budget:** Budget requests should not exceed US\$15,000 for marine litter focused proposals and US\$20,000 for hybrid proposals (i.e. those focused on marine litter prevention and reduction work in marine protected areas). Budgets should include counterpart funding, which may include direct funding and in-kind contributions. Counterpart funding must not be from a federal U.S. source.

**Budget Template:** Please note that not all budget categories need to be completed. Those that are not relevant to your project may be left blank. The budget category can be used more than once e.g. there can be multiple line items associated with equipment.

Budget Category	Amount Requested	Justification	Counterpart Funding	Justification
Travel				
Accommodation				
Equipment				
Salaries				
Miscellaneous				
<b>Total</b>				

# GCFI / MPAConnect Small Grants Fund



**MPAConnect**, a partnership between the **Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, is pleased to offer small grants in support of capacity building at site-specific marine protected areas (MPA) within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered through MPAConnect with funding provided by the United Nations Environment Programme – Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union's ACP MEA III project. The ACP MEAs program is a joint partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which aims at building capacity in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to tackle the environmental issues they face.

**Eligibility criteria:** This call is intended to benefit the managing organizations of MPAs within the selected countries, either directly or through efforts with their affiliated partners. The call excludes U.S. affiliated sites and in rare instances final consideration for funding may be dependent upon satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control. Projects submitted by eligible government agencies that manage MPA member sites must be implemented by non-government organizations / affiliated partners within the member country.

Proposals from [SPAW Priority MPAs](#) will be prioritized, though proposals from other Caribbean MPAs will be considered.

**Funding priorities:** Competitive applications should respond to the site's highest priority MPA management capacity building needs. For example, this may include sustainable financing, enforcement, communications, management effectiveness, response to stony coral tissue loss disease, or other high priority management capacity building needs.

***If your project addresses marine pollution a proposal may be submitted as part of our call for proposals on marine litter. Guidelines for that call may be found [here](#).***

**Funding information:** Budget requests should not exceed US\$8,000. Up to 50:50 counterpart funding should be provided. Matched funding must be from a non-federal U.S. source and can include in-kind contributions.

**Deadline for applications:** Project proposals, based on the template provided, should be submitted by **August 1, 2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by August 15, 2022 to schedule meetings to discuss the activities outlined in the concept note.

**Proposal submission:** Proposals should be submitted online through GCFI's website at: <https://www.gcfi.org/opportunities/gcfi-small-grants-program/>

For any questions please email Christine O'Sullivan at [christine.osullivan@gcfi.org](mailto:christine.osullivan@gcfi.org).

**Project duration:** The maximum duration of submitted projects is 9 months. Approved projects will be notified by September 1, 2022, with projects commencing approximately in October.

**Reporting requirements:** Successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report every 4.5 months, with a final report due upon project completion.





## Proposal format

Concept Notes should be submitted in the following format:

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Project Title and Location:**

**Name of Implementing Agency (Must not be a government agency):**

**Primary Contact:** The name, title and contact information for the project lead.

**Contact Reference from Supporting Management Authority (If not the implementing agency):**

**Letter of Support from the Management Authority (If not the implementing agency):**  
This would have to be uploaded

**Project Summary (250 Words):**

A summary of the project's main objectives, activities and budget should be included.

**Timeline:** Project duration should not exceed 9 months. Provide a timeline of when various activities will be implemented during the course of the project.

**Budget Amount Being Requested:** State the total amount being requested.

**Anticipated Outcomes:** Identify the anticipated outcomes of the project including how it will increase the site-level capacity to effectively manage the MPA.

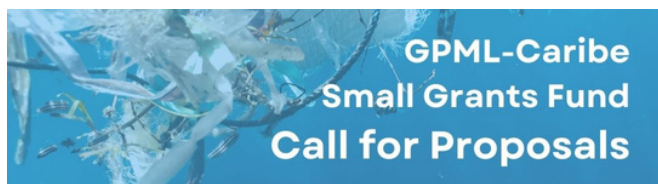
### BUDGET

**Budget:** Budget requests should not exceed US\$8,000. Budgets should include counterpart funding, which may include direct funding and in-kind contributions. Counterpart funding must not be from a federal U.S. source.

**Budget Template:** Please note that not all budget categories need to be completed. Those that are not relevant to your project may be left blank. The budget category can be used more than once e.g. there can be multiple line items associated with equipment.

Budget Category	Amount Requested	Justification	Counterpart Funding	Justification
Travel				
Accommodation				
Equipment				
Salaries				
Miscellaneous				
Overheads				
Total				

# Social Media Graphics



GPML-Caribe is pleased to announce new small grants of up to **US\$15,000** in support of marine litter prevention and reduction within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered through GPML-Caribe with funding provided by the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union's ACP MEA III project. This project is a joint EU-UNEP-Cartagena Convention project which, with financial assistance from the European Union, is designed to assist African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in tackling environmental issues.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.gcfi.org/opportunities/gcfi-small-grants-program/>  
gpmc-caribe@gcfi.org | fadilah.ali@gcfi.org



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 10, 2022**



MPACONNECT is pleased to announce new small grants of up to **US\$8,000** in support of capacity building at site-specific marine protected areas within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered through MPACONNECT with funding provided by the United Nations Environment Programme - Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union's ACP MEA III project. This project is a joint-EU-UNEP-Cartagena Convention project which, with financial assistance from the European Union, is designed to assist African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in tackling environmental issues.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.gcfi.org/opportunities/gcfi-small-grants-program/>  
christine.osullivan@gcfi.org | emma.doyle@gcfi.org



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 10th, 2022**

## Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute Small Grants Fund Call for Proposals Hybrid Grants: MPAs & Marine Litter

GCFI is pleased to announce new small grants of up to **US\$20,000** in support of **marine litter prevention and reduction work in marine protected areas** within the Wider Caribbean Region. The grants will be administered through MPACONNECT and GPML-Caribe with funding provided by the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat through the European Union's ACP MEA III project. This project is a joint EU-UNEP-Cartagena Convention project which, with financial assistance from the European Union, is designed to assist African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in tackling environmental issues

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.gcfi.org/opportunities/gcfi-small-grants-program/>  
christine.osullivan@gcfi.org | fadilah.ali@gcfi.org



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 1, 2022**

## Annex 1.2: Submitted Proposals

	Project Title	Project Location	Name of Implementing Agency	Status
MPAs	Financial sustainability through an Eco Friendly Store promoting behavior change in single use plastics	Roatan, Bay Islands Honduras	Bay Islands Conservation Association, Roatan Chapter	Selected
	Evaluating sites to confirm SCTL D presence and for treatment and monitoring prioritization activities within the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Natural Marine Monument	Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Bay Islands, Honduras	Honduras Coral Reef Fund - Fundación Cayos Cochinos	Selected
	Incremento de las capacidades de manejo del Parque Nacional Cayos de San Felipe con énfasis en especies amenazadas y en peligro crítico	Provincia de Pinar del Río. Cuba	Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)	Selected
	Strengthening management capacity in marine protected areas for improved biodiversity conservation outcomes	Belize	Wildtracks	Shortlisted but not selected
	Fortalecimiento de la Reserva Ecológica Canasí - Puerto Escondido, en la costa Norte de la Provincia Mayabeque, Cuba.	Provincia Mayabeque. Cuba	ONG Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)	Not Selected
	Evaluating stakeholder capacity in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS): Drivers impacting stakeholder views and concerns on marine zoning	Florida Keys, southeast Florida	Marine & Coastal Research, Corp.	Not Selected
Marine Litter	Citizen science as a management strategy for marine litter in the biosphere reserve of Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, Colombian Caribbean	Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, Colombian Caribbean	Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR)	Selected
	Plastics Solutions Academy	Belize City, Belize	Sea of Life Caribbean Inc	Selected
	Reduit Beach Marine Litter Prevention Research Project (RBM/LPR Project)	Gros Islet, Saint Lucia	Greening the Caribbean Inc.	Proposals combined and selected
	Vigie Beach Litter Prevention Initiative (VBLP Initiative)	Vigie Beach - Castries, Saint Lucia	Greening the Caribbean Inc.	
	Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	The University of the West Indies	Shortlisted but not selected
	Trashy Arts	Guyana	University of Guyana	Shortlisted but not selected
	For my Community; I Separate my Waste	Guanaja, Bay Islands	Bay Islands Conservation Association, Guanaja Chapter	Shortlisted but not selected
	Krin wi sesyoro (Clean our coast)	Braamspunt & Galibi Nature Reserve	Green & Clean Crew Suriname	Not Selected
	Radio program project as part of an information campaign on the prevention and reduction of marine litter in Haiti	Haiti	ACLEDD	Not Selected



	Project Title	Project Location	Name of Implementing Agency	Status
Hybrid	Community Based Conservation at Cuba's Guanahacabibes National Park	Guanahacabibes National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Western Cuba	The Ocean Foundation	Selected
	Bluefields Bay MPA Marine Litter Research, Education and Multi-Site Cleanup Event	Bluefields Bay Special Fishery Marine Protected Area and Surrounds, Bluefields, Westmoreland, Jamaica, W.I.	Bluefields Bay Fishermens Friendly Society (BBFFS)	Selected
	Waste, People and Reef Health	Bay Islands, Honduras	Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA)	Selected
	Marine litter mitigation at the Amazon coast: from research to capacity building	Brazilian Amazon coast	CEPNOR - ICMBio, Brazil	Shortlisted but not selected
	Waste to Profit: Using communications and marketing to reduce marine litter	Roatan	Roatan Marine Park International Inc.	Shortlisted but not selected
	Manejo Ambiental de la Ensenada de Bacuranao	Ensenada de Bacuranao	Proyecto de desarrollo local "Manejo Ambiental de la Ensenada de Bacuranao"	Not Selected
	Fortalecer las capacidades para la protección y conservación de áreas marino costeras protegidas incluyendo la prevención y reducción de la basura marina en el Caribe Nicaragüense.	Costa Caribe de Nicaragua, específicamente en la Reserva Biológica y sitio Ramsar Cayos Miskitos, Paisaje Terrestre y Marino Protegidos Corn Island y el Humedal de Importancia Internacional Sitio Ramsar Bahía de Bluefields.	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)	Not Selected
	Mangrove Conservation through Solid Waste Reduction at Gunboat Beach, Kingston Harbour	Gunboat Beach, Kingston Harbour, Jamaica	Mona Geoinformatics Institute	Not Selected
	Reducción de residuos sólidos generados en el área de uso público de la Isla Saona, Parque Nacional Cotubanamá	República Dominicana	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	Not Selected
	Implementing solutions for marine litter prevention through mitigation, education awareness and recovery. (ALDFG)	Gouyave, Grenada	Gouyave Fishermen Co-operative Society Ltd	Not Selected
Determining the population size and enhance environmental conservation measures of the West Indian manatee on the east coast of Trinidad.	Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Forestry Division, Wildlife Section	Not Selected	



# GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

## **Activity 2: Facilitate community-based Marine Litter and Marine Protected Areas Projects under the ACP MEA III Work plan**

- a) Implement all aspects of a small grants program in support of marine litter prevention and reduction (consisting of at least 3 small grants) Output 2.3.6 ACP MEAs III.

Through this small grant programme, 3 marine litter and 3 hybrid community based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling were awarded with funding in September 2022. All work is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed as scheduled.

- b) Implement all aspects of a small grants program in support of effective marine protected area management (consisting of at least 5 small grants for example on MPA management effectiveness, capacity assessments and other management priorities) Output 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 ACP MEAs III.

Currently three small grants supporting management capacity building for the implementation of effective MPAs, and hybrid grants in support of marine litter management are in implementation. Additional MPA management small grant proposals are in development with technical support from the MPACoconnect team.

- c) Develop MPA management capacity building material in collaboration with the MPACoconnect network and SPAW RAC MPAs working group, share materials and promote peer-to-peer networking among MPA managers. Compile financial and technical reports from different small grants ● Prepare interim progress report for presentation at the 6th LBS STAC and 10th SPAW STAC

Management capacity building materials will feature lessons learned by SPAW priority MPAs participating in the MPACoconnect network. The following MPA case study sites have been identified:

- Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Belize
- Moliniere/Beausejour Marine Protected Area, Grenada
- Sint Eustatius Marine National Park, Dutch Caribbean
- Saba Bank National Park, Dutch Caribbean
- Saba Marine National Park, Dutch Caribbean
- Tobago Cays Marine Park, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Lessons on MPA management capacity from these sites will come from updated MPACoconnect management capacity assessments compared with past findings from capacity assessments in 2011 and 2017. MPACoconnect's coordination team recruited an assessment team that includes four members with experience from past assessments and three mentor MPA managers. The MPACoconnect Coordinator (E. Doyle) with Coordination Team Member D. Wusinich-Mendez (NOAA) hosted a remote training session for the assessment team. During this session, the team was briefed in the use of the assessment tool. Following several work planning sessions, a schedule has been developed for team members to conduct management capacity assessment interviews with MPA management staff at the target sites beginning in early 2023.

To date, this work has been co-funded through support from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and USAID. Staff costs as per the original budget are programmed for expenditure in early 2023.