

WWF CALL FOR GRANTS

RULES AND CRITERIA



1. WWF CALL FOR GRANTS OVERVIEW

The WWF CALL FOR GRANTS is a financial mechanism that seeks to accelerate the use of funding available from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)¹ to advance Mediterranean small-scale fisheries towards sustainability.

The WWF CALL FOR GRANTS wishes to increase the number of requests for funds submitted to the EMFF by providing small scale fishers with:

- upfront capital under the form of a grant (from €5,000 up to €20,000), which has to be used as co-financing to EMFF requests for funds managed by EMFF national authorities,

AND

- technical assistance in support of the preparation of the EMFF requests for funds.

Eligible small-scale fishers from Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, and Greece, who are interested in receiving upfront capital and technical assistance to develop EMFF request for funds, are invited to submit project proposals according to the Rules and the Criteria of this Call for Grants.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WWF CALL FOR GRANTS

The WWF CALL FOR GRANTS pursues the following objectives:

- To provide Mediterranean small-scale fishers with the necessary co-financing and technical assistance to apply to EMFF for implementing actions towards a more sustainable fishing;
- To improve small-scale fishers' capacity to apply to the EMFF;
- To increase small scale fishers' interest in the EMFF and to accelerate the use of available funds to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable fishing;
- To accelerate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Small-Scale Fisheries (RPOA-SSF) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

3. HOW IT WORKS

¹ EMFF Union Priority 1 "Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries."

To apply to the WWF CALL FOR GRANTS, small-scale fishers have to submit project proposals to WWF according to and in compliance with the eligibility criteria.

Project proposals must include:

- a description of actions to be implemented towards sustainable fishing;
- the type of measure of EMFF request for funds they would like to apply for (EMFF Specific Objective, EMFF measures);
- the amount of upfront capital they would require as co-financing to develop the EMFF request for funds.

WWF will select the best received proposals and provide to selected small-scale fishers (beneficiaries) with:

- upfront capital under the form of a grant (from €5,000 up to €20,000) that has to be used as co-financing in the EMFF request for funds,

AND

- technical assistance that will support the preparation of the EMFF request for funds. Technical assistant will check beneficiary's eligibility to EMFF, will support the drafting of the EMFF request for funds, will assist with the EMFF procedures and will guide the submission of the EMFF request for funds to the competent national authority.

WWF will provide technical assistance to beneficiaries once they are selected. Beneficiaries, supported by technical assistants, will develop and submit EMFF requests for funds to EMFF national authorities. WWF will disburse grants (to be used as co-financing), once the EMFF national authorities have approved the submitted EMFF request for funds.

WWF reserves the right to potentially fund actions through this CALL FOR GRANTS even if submitted proposals to the EMFF are rejected, with some conditions regarding the reasons for rejection. Such actions will be a set of activities aligned with the EMFF request of funds and will be developed with the support of technical assistants and approved by WWF.

In all cases, the decision to award the grant is the sole responsibility of WWF and is indisputable.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 Eligible countries

Eligible applicants to the WWF CALL FOR GRANTS are small-scale fishers from Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, and Greece. Project proposals coming from any of these countries will be considered, with no preference or projects' quota for a specific country.

4.2 Eligible bodies

Applicant must be **small-scale fishers** (individual fishers, cooperatives, ...) fishing with vessels of an overall length of less than 12 m and not using towed fishing gear. Applicants must be active fishers and have a recognised legal status that allows them to receive a grant.

4.3 NON-Eligible bodies

NON-Eligible bodies to WWF CALL FOR GRANTS are large scale fishers (e. g. trawlers), and among small-scale fishers the ones that are considered NON-eligible bodies according to EMFF:

a) Fishers that committed a serious infringement under Article 42 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 or Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;

b) Fishers that has been involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list as set out in Article 40(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008, or of vessels flagged to countries identified as non-cooperating third countries as set out in Article 33 of that Regulation;

c) Fishers that have committed a serious infringement of the CFP rules identified as such in other legislation adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council;

d) Fishers that have committed any of the offences set out in Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, where the application is made for support under Chapter II of Title V of this Regulation.

e) Fishers that have committed a fraud, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, in the context of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) or the EMFF.

With this purpose, WWF will ask the applicants to fill in a **declaration** stating that they respect the eligibility criteria for application to EMFF fund. The technical assistants assigned to beneficiaries, as the first step, will check the authenticity of the declaration to evaluate in detail the eligibility to EMFF. No grants will be disbursed to beneficiaries in case eligibility criteria will not be confirmed by the technical assistant.

4.4 EMFF eligible Specific Objectives

Applicants to the WWF CALL FOR GRANTS are invited to submit project proposals that preferably fall into the following EMFF Specific Objectives:

- Specific Objective 1 - Reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches².
- Specific Objective 2 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems³.
- Specific Objective 3 - Ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities, except any activity aimed at increasing the fishing effort⁴.
- Specific Objective 5 - Provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer, except any activity aimed at increasing the fishing effort⁵.

The above EMFF Specific Objectives are aligned with the [Regional Programme of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea \(RPOA-SSF\)](#).

² EMFF Articles 37, 38, 39, 40.1 a (IT, SP), 43.2

³ EMFF Articles 40.1 b-g.

⁴ EMFF Articles 34, 36 (CR, IT, SP)

⁵ EMFF Articles 26, 28, 41.1 a, b, c, 41.2.

Although eligible, project proposal related to the remaining EMFF Specific Objectives 4 and 6, will not be considered priorities:

- Specific Objective 4 - Enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including small-scale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety or working conditions⁶.
- Specific Objective 6 - Development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning⁷.

4.5 Financial eligibility

The WWF CALL FOR GRANTS can contribute from a minimum of € 5000 (VAT included) to a maximum of € 20000 (VAT included).

4.6 Duration of Technical Assistance

WWF will provide beneficiaries with technical assistance to develop and submit EMMF requests of funds to competent national authorities. It is expected that all EMFF requests should be submitted to the competent national authorities no later than 31st of December 2021.

5 SELECTION PROCEDURE

Project proposals will be assessed against the criteria listed in chapter 4: eligible countries, eligible bodies, NON-eligible bodies according to EU criteria used by EMFF national authorities, eligible financing.

WWF will notify each applicant about the outcome of the selection, whether it is positive or negative. In all cases, the decision to award the grant is the sole responsibility of WWF and is indisputable.

Successful applicants (beneficiaries) will be put in contact straight away with a technical assistant (also contracted by WWF) who will help them to understand the terms of the contract to be signed with WWF and support them - as mentioned above - in developing the EMFF request of funds until its submission to the competent national authorities.

6 HOW TO APPLY?

Small scale fishers must submit their project proposals and the declarations (see paragraph 4.3) to WWF **by email** : applications@wwfmedpo.org .

To submit your project proposal you can find the [Application form here](#) and you can find the [Declaration form here](#).

Once the project proposal and declaration are submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Only the duly completed project proposals and declarations will be considered.

⁶ EMFF Articles 27 (CR, GR, IT, SP), 30 (CR, FR, GR, IT, SP), 31 (FR, GR, IT, SP), 32, 33, 35 (FR, GR, IT, SP), 40 1(h) (IT), 42 ("Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches", except any activity aimed at increasing the fishing effort), 43.1+3 (CR, FR, GR, SL, SP).

⁷ EMFF Articles 29.1 + 29.2 (FR, GR, IT, SP); 29.3 (GR, IT, SP)

7 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please ensure:

- to adopt the following format to name your project proposal: COUNTRY_NAME;
- to adopt the following format to name your declaration: DECLARATION_NAME;
- to use only one email address to communicate/submit documents to WWF.

Be aware that during the selection process, additional information may be requested by WWF.

Project proposals can be submitted in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Croatian, and Greek while the contracts between WWF and the beneficiaries will be in English only.

Dates to remember:

- Launch of the call: 31 **March 2021**.
- Deadline for receiving the proposals: **15th of May 2021 at 12.00 AM (midnight)**. Documents received after 12.00 AM (midnight) of 15th of May will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified of an acknowledgment of receipt.

If you have any questions about the procedure and the call or any complaints, please write to applications@wwfmedpo.org or call +39 345 889 21 26.