**Project Submission Form**

**Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund**

**Call for Proposals**

**BCAF Readiness support**

**Note:** This form is only provided to you as a tool to help prepare your application before final submission. You MUST submit your final application through the [online Project submission form](https://bluenaturalcapital.org/bcaf/cfp/apply/). Word documents will not be accepted.

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# Eligibility criteria

## Eligible entity:

The project proponent is:

 Non-governmental organizations (NGO)

 Universities and other research-focused institutions

 Private sector entities

National or sub-national government entities (national or other jurisdiction government authorities) will not be eligible to receive grant funds. However, BCAF Readiness Support favours project proposals that can demonstrate linkages and engagements with, or sponsorship from, local authorities or other government entities (refer to eligibility criteria of the Funding Guidelines).

Please see Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

## Eligible blue carbon ecosystem

The project is located within at least one coastal blue carbon ecosystem:

 seagrass

 mangroves

 tidal marshes (saltmarsh)

 sparsely vegetated saltmarshes (salt flats)

 supratidal swamp forests

 Other (please specify):

## Eligible location

The project is situated in:

 Cook Islands

 Fiji

 Kiribati

 Marshall Islands

 Micronesia

 Nauru

 Niue

 Palau

 Papua New Guinea

 Samoa

 Solomon Islands

 Tokelau

 Tonga

 Tuvalu

 Vanuatu

 Wallis and Futuna Islands

 Cambodia

 Indonesia

 Malaysia

 Myanmar

 Philippines

 Thailand

 Timor-Leste

 Viet Nam

 Bangladesh

 India

 Maldives

 Sri Lanka

These countries are defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible or have recently graduated and are within Australia’s immediate neighbouring regions Projects located in the Pacific region are encouraged.

## Eligible activities and expenditures

 I confirm that I have consulted the funding guidelines for eligible activities and expenditures

# Selection criteria

## Details on project applicant

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicants’ /organisation’s name** |  |
| **Legal status** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Country** |  |
| **Website** |  |
| **Key contact person** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |

## Experience and track record of the project team

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Experience of the applicant/appropriate in-house team composition** | *Character count with spaces 600.* |
| **Project partners directly involved in the project and key experience***Applicant can apply as one entity only, yet proposal should outline partners/partnerships (see also section 10)* | *Character count with spaces 500.* |
| **Short description of experience with carbon offset projects and/or carbon monetization***Carbon generation and monetisation experience. If no expertise is available, has the project initiator or operator identified external consultants or partners to complement him/her. Please provide names.* | *Character count with spaces 700.* |
| **Demonstrated experience working in the project location, including relationships with relevant government authorities and communities on-the-ground** | *Character count with spaces 500.* |

## Details on project location

*Please check the eligible project locations in the funding guidelines.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country in which project implementation is located in** |  |
| **Details on project location(s)** | *Character count with spaces 300.* |
| **Affected area (ha) (anticipated) to generate carbon offset** |  |
| **Anticipated management action: Conservation and/or afforestation, restoration** |  |

*We encourage the inclusion of maps and GIS to describe the location of your project. Please include as annex.*

## Project overview

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| **Summary of your project’s overall goals on carbon, and other Nature-based Solutions[[1]](#footnote-1).** *Character COUNT with space 500.* |
| **Detailed description of your project’s activities for which you seek BCAF support***Please consult the funding guidelines for eligible activities.**Character COUNT with space 2000.* |
| **Status of implementation** *Steps taken so far in developing the project.* *Expected next steps to be taken and expected timeline of project development. If you prefer an excel sheet, please submit as Annex.**Character COUNT with space 700.* |
| **Anticipated BCAF-related deliverables of your project, and indicative timeline for their delivery***Specify the expected BCAF-related deliverables (linked to your activities outlined in section 4) of your project and indicative timeline. If you prefer an excel sheet, please submit as Annex.**Character COUNT with space 2000* |

DELETED:

Alignment of the Project with international and/or national and/or or local government policies
Is there a background to your project of aligning with, or intent to to align with, international/national/local government or policy-making bodies?Maximum 500 characters (including spaces)

## Expected positive environment and social impacts of the project, within the timeline of BCAF support, as well as in 5 and/or 10 years.

|  |
| --- |
| **Contribution of the project to strengthening resilience and climate change adaptation in the coastal and marine region***Specify how the project’s activities clearly tackle negative climate impacts that are currently not being addressed. Kindly chose clear, and where possible, quantifiable, key performance indicators.**Character COUNT with space 700.* |
| **Contribution of the project to strengthening other ecosystem services provided beyond carbon, and climate adaptation***What is the project’s positive impact on freshwater consumption, improvement of water quality, fish stocks, other sustainably sourced food from wetlands, endangered species.**Kindly indicate whether your project is conducted in a protected area.**Kindly chose key performance indicators.**Character COUNT with space 700*. |
| **Local communities and livelihoods***Please describe how does the project contribute to strengthening local communities and livelihoods (jobs, training etc), and if possible and relevant, distinguish by gender? Kindly chose key performance indicators.**Character COUNT with space 700.* |
| **Other social impacts** *Please describe any other, additional, clear, ideally quantitative social impacts that the project aims to achieve. Kindly chose key performance indicators.**Character COUNT with space 700* |

## Scientifically robust approaches

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| --- |
| **Carbon measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) approach envisaged***Please describe the approach you intend on using as part of your project. Please outlined whether you already considered using a specific carbon standard.**Character COUNT with space 1500.* |
| **Any scientific evidence to ensure avoidance of potential perverse outcomes from project activities***Character COUNT with space 1000.* |

## Robust business plan, including blue carbon, and clear path to financial viability

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| **Available information and data from your project area in terms of current and expected carbon stock (above ground biomass, soil carbon), carbon stock fluxes, and habitat threats***What carbon science and / or other feasibility studies (e.g. hydrological studies) have already been conducted for the proposed project area and what are key results* *Have initial CO2e reduction estimates already been performed? Why are the expected CO2e reductions from the project additional to what would have otherwise occurred?**What is the current state of deterioration of the ecosystems in the project area? Were mangroves or seagrasses historically present in the targeted project location?**What are the main ongoing / planned habitat threats and how do you want to respond to those (e.g. land use and development)?**Character COUNT with space 2000.* |
| **Monetization of the carbon credits***Please describe how you intend on monetizing the carbon credits, bearing in mind the following consideration:** *Is the blue carbon income stream outlined in the proposed financial structure?*
* *Is there a clear and articulated financing structure with path to financial sustainability and profitability?*

*Character COUNT with space 1000.* |
| **List of complementary sources of revenues in addition to the sale of blue carbon credits***Specify whether other income streams are being implemented or envisaged from activities such as** *Sustainable fisheries or aquaculture;*
* *Sustainable resource extraction (e.g. for pharmaceutical use);*
* *Tourism;*
* *Adaptation Services;*
* *Other (please describe)*

*Character COUNT with space 2000.* |
| **Financial model***a) If available, please insert a clear financial business plan/model that outlines the potential for financial sustainability and profitability. Attach your business model in spreadsheet form if available.* *b) If not available, please indicate whether you seek BCAF funds to develop the business plan and/or financial model.**Character COUNT with space 2000.* |
| **Identification of a committed private sector investment partner (not mandatory).** *Please detail any investment commitment from private sector (including blended finance mechanism, public-private partnership). You may upload relevant resources (e.g. letters of interest) as annex.* *Character COUNT with space 500.* |

1. **Risk Management**

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| **Major environmental, social (incl. gender) and governance risks (ESG)***Please describe the major environmental, social (incl. gender) and governance risks the project may have and describe potential risk mitigation solutions.** *Employment conditions, respect of land tenure, acquisition of land, corruption*
* *Negative impact on biodiversity*
* *Hazardous waste production, pollution of soils*

*Character COUNT with space 1000.* |
| **Outline what you know about the potential risks from climate change itself, e.g. sea-level rise, on the project area.***Character COUNT with space 500.* |
| **Specify any potentially, negatively affected stakeholders by the measures planned***Have you identified the stakeholders and how far are they involved through consultations in the design of the project?** *Negative impacts on human rights*
* *Potential of project for creating or worsening conflicts*

*Character COUNT with space 1000.* |
| **Legal status of the project area in respect to land tenure, and, if known, carbon rights***Please describe land ownership, land management rights, concession situation. Will the owner of the land or the owner of the land management titles be the operator of the blue carbon project?**Character COUNT with space 1000.* |
| **Financial risks***Please describe the financial risks the project may have and outline potential risk mitigation solutions?**Character COUNT with space 1000.* |

## Value for money

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| ***Budget*** *Kindly use the available budget template (spreadsheet) to outline your funding request, as well as sources of co-finance, specifying eligible expenditures.*  |
| **Complementary sources of funding / co-finance***Please list whether other sources of funding and/or in-kind support to develop the project beyond BCAF have been identified. Please also do so in the available budget template.**Character COUNT with space 300.* |

## Market level impact / scalability

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| **Clear potential for replicability and scalability***Please elaborate how the project can be considered as replicable and scalable.**Character COUNT with space 300.* |
| **Partnerships for increased scale and reach** *Please outline partnerships and efforts initiated to increase scale and reach**Character COUNT with space 300.* |
| **Knowledge and information sharing***Describe whether the Project agrees to develop and review project based Blue Prints and Impact Report cards.* |

##

## Collaboration with government authorities and other stakeholders

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| --- |
| **Engagement with local and/or national authorities***Please describe how the project intends on collaborating with the respective local and/or national authorities. If available, please provide evidence of engagement and/or support from relevant authorities Please include such documentation as annex.**Character COUNT with space 500.* |
| **Engagement with other stakeholders***Please describe how the project intends on collaborating with other stakeholders (local community, local enterprises etc.)**Character COUNT with space 500.* |
| **Engagement with potential investors and/or carbon credit buyers***Please describe whether you have had any discussion with potential investors and/or credit buyers. Please submit any letter of interest. If this falls under specific NDAs, we kindly invite you to indicate so and we will follow-up separately.* *Character COUNT with space 500.* |

##

## Willingness to collaborate and share experiences with others

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| --- |
| **Capacity-building***Please describe your willingness, interest and capacity to engage in workshops and knowledge exchange sessions, especially those lead by IUCN or managed by the* [*International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC)*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbluecarbonpartnership.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CKatherine.Mitchell1%40environment.gov.au%7C979c23a7675143ddb1bf08da1791e403%7C78f05d85d6b34eeba5c3948d2dcdae8a%7C0%7C0%7C637848212883919803%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=h8UTZZx%2BKffgp6jmpk6Dnq2Gq7Fn%2BiQ0tZB2OFyeXd8%3D&reserved=0)*Character COUNT with space 1000.* |
| **Link with International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC)***Describe any links the Project has with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC), such as through being located in a country that has a government agency as IPBC member or working with NGOs or other organizations that are IPBC partners.**Character COUNT with space 1000.* |

## Any other

|  |
| --- |
| **Please add any other pertinent project information here***Provide any additional information and please submit relevant documentation as a PDF. We encourage the submission of letters of interest/support, background documentation as well as technical material e.g. feasibility studies…**ATTACHMENT**Character COUNT with space 600.* |

## Consent to limited sharing of data

 I confirm that IUCN and the BCAF are allowed to promote applications beyond those receiving direct monetary support from BCAF by sharing limited data beyond IUCN. I understand that:

* the data will not be made available on a public domain, rather be shared with prospective other investors directly; and
* Information to be disclosed will include the applying entity’s name, project location, project type and a description of the project.

 I do not want my data to be shared further.

1. [IUCN Global Standard for NbS | IUCN](https://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions/resources/iucn-global-standard-nbs) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)