

# MPAConnect Small Grants Fund



**MPAConnect**, a partnership between the **GCFI** and **NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program** is pleased to offer small grants in support of site-specific marine protected area (MPA) capacity building for its member sites. Since 2010 MPAConnect has helped strengthen MPA management capacity among a network of 32 MPAs from 11 Caribbean countries and territories. As part of its regional capacity building initiatives MPAConnect has hosted a series of regional peer-to-peer learning exchanges that have focused on high priority management needs within the region. Discussions held during these regional workshops have helped identify site-specific needs and targeted approaches to address those needs through the development of site-specific projects.

This new small grants fund seeks to support the implementation of follow-up activities at the site level that build on experiences shared during MPA Connect peer-to-peer learning exchanges.

**Funding Priorities:** Competitive applications should respond to capacity building needs or priority follow up activities identified for member sites as a result of any of the following MPAConnect Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchanges:

- Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (Peer-to-Peer VIII in Key West, Florida, 2019);
- Sustainable Financing (Peer-to-Peer VII in Providenciales, the Turks and Caicos Islands, 2019); or
- Outreach and Education (Peer-to-Peer IV in Cancun, Mexico, 2016).

Site specific projects that address needs identified in the 2011 or 2017 MPA management capacity assessments or at other MPAConnect peer-to-peer learning exchanges will also be considered. We welcome proposals that will enable mentorship and guidance by other managers, and further sharing within the network, especially where this can be achieved through remote links between MPA managers.

**Deadline for applications:** March 22, 2021

**Funding information:** Budget requests should be between US\$5,000 – US\$15,000 and 50:50 matched funding is preferred. Matched funding must be from a non-federal US source and can include in-kind contributions.

**Eligibility criteria:** This call is intended to benefit the managing organizations of MPAs within the MPAConnect network, either directly or through efforts with their affiliated partners. The call excludes U.S. affiliated sites, U.S. Federal or State agencies and private individuals.

**Proposal submission:** Proposals should be submitted to [sgf@gcfi.org](mailto:sgf@gcfi.org). For any questions please email Christine O'Sullivan at [christine.osullivan@gcfi.org](mailto:christine.osullivan@gcfi.org) or Alejandro Acosta at [alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org](mailto:alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org).

**Project duration:** The maximum duration of submitted projects is 1 year (12 months).

**Reporting requirements:** Successful applicants will be required to submit progress reports and a final report due upon project completion. Funding will be disseminated according to an agreed schedule.



## Proposal format

Project proposals should be submitted in the following simple format:

### Project Title and Location

### Name of Applicant Organization

### Primary Contact

### Project Summary (250 Words):

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

### Project Description (Maximum 2 pages):

Please provide information on the management needs that will be addressed from the 2017 MPA Management Capacity Assessment, referring to the site-level [StoryMap at MPAConnect - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute \(gcfi.org\)](#). Please also identify which MPAConnect-hosted Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange the project follows up on. Describe the project's objectives and proposed activities.

### Timeline:

Project duration should not exceed 12 months. Provide a timeline of when activities will be implemented during the course of the project.

### Anticipated Outcomes:

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

### Budget:

Between US\$5,000 – US\$15,000 and 50:50 matched funding is preferred. Matched funding must be from a non-federal US source and can include in-kind contributions.

### Affiliated Partners of MPAs:

If you are submitting a proposal related to an MPAConnect site, please provide evidence of support for the proposal from the managing organization of the MPA.