

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF)

**4th CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**FOR**

**Empowering the Blue Economy: Innovating for Sustainable Marine and Coastal Futures**

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF) is seeking applications from eligible registered government agencies, local universities or colleges, registered local or regional (Caribbean) non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private businesses, local community associations, and other appropriate local entities of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under its Grant-Making Framework.

**Types of projects to be supported:**

This Call for Proposals aim to foster innovative solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of the blue economy in St. Vincent and the Grenadines while protecting marine and coastal ecosystems.

For the SVGCF 4th Call for Proposals focusing on the blue economy, potential applicants can consider the following areas of focus to help conceptualize their concept notes:

* **Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture:** Projects that promote sustainable fishing, enhance aquaculture efficiency, reduce bycatch, and conserve marine biodiversity while supporting local livelihoods.
* **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Coastal Conservation:** Initiatives to establish, manage, or expand MPAs and protect coastal ecosystems like coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, which are crucial for marine life.
* **Marine Pollution Prevention and Waste Management:** Projects focused on reducing marine pollution, including plastics and chemicals, through waste management, community education, and initiatives to prevent ocean debris.
* **Sustainable Tourism:** Proposals that encourage eco-friendly tourism, such as responsible diving and snorkelling, to protect marine and coastal environments while supporting local economies.
* **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:** Initiatives to boost the resilience of coastal communities and marine ecosystems against climate change impacts like sea level rise, ocean acidification, and extreme weather, through habitat restoration, infrastructure improvements, and community-based adaptation strategies.

The grant-making process will conform to the grant-making policies and procedures in the Operations Manual of the SVGCF and the Grant-Making Framework. This Call for Proposals is financed with resources from The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) under the management of SVGCF.

Projects to be supported will contribute to the realization of advancement the broader goals of the SVGCF’s grant-making strategy under the SVGCF Grant-Making Goals of the SVGCF, which are:

**Grant-Making** **Goal 1 – Protect and enhance ecosystems:** Protect and enhance critical ecosystems in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines against threats inclusive of pollution, unsustainable development, climate change.

**Grant-Making** **Goal 2 – Strengthen the governance and management effectiveness of protected areas:** Strengthen the effectiveness of St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ MPAs to protect critical environments.

**Grant-Making** **Goal 3 – Educate and create responsible communities:** Educate, raise awareness and empower citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to support conservation efforts, with a focus on youth and gender mainstreaming.

**Grant-Making** **Goal 4 – Create sustainable livelihoods:** Provide funding and training to persons supporting conservation efforts.

**Projects size:**

Approximately XCD$253,650.00 is allocated under this Call for Proposals. Grant size may range from XCD$13,500 - $81,000 (USD $5,000 - $30,000)

**Project duration:**

Funded projects may be implemented within a maximum of 24 months.

**How to apply:**

A two-step application process will be followed: (i) the submission of Concept Notes, and (ii)

applicants with selected Concept Notes will be invited to submit full proposals.

Applicant organizations must complete the Concept Note template downloadable at the SVGCF

Website [here](https://svgcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/SVGCF-Grant-Application_Concept-Note-2.docx). It is recommended that the Concept Note template is followed and completed fully. The

Concept Note template has instructions on what is expected from the projects and indicate

important references, such as the Log Frame.

Concept Notes will be accepted only in English. Full proposals after the concept

selection phase will only be accepted in English.

The applicants must submit Concept Notes and other required attachments to the SVGCF,

through the following email: to onlineapplication@svgcf.org

**Applicant requirements:**

Applications for funding from the SVGCF may be received from the following entities:

* Public sector agencies of the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines responsible for natural resource, protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Public sector agencies must provide a 1:1 match of funds through in-kind or cash contributions for all proposals; in-kind contributions may be no more than 50% of the match.
* Local universities or colleges conducting activities relevant to the vision, mission, goals, and strategies of the SVGCF.
* Local or regional (Caribbean) NGOs established, legally-registered and existing in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for no less than 5 years and with an established track record and complementary source of funds.
* Private corporations or other companies from relevant industries involved in marine/terrestrial ecosystem and biodiversity clean-up, protection, conservation, and/or monitoring. Private corporations must provide a 2:1 match of cash funds for all proposals, and they must not generate a profit through project activities.
* Local community associations/community bodies with direct impact on marine and/or terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem resources (e.g., fisherfolk associations, youth groups, church groups).
* Other appropriate local entities of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines working toward the vision, mission, and goals of the SVGCF.

**Selection process:**

A two-step application process will be followed. Concept notes will be evaluated and selected

according to the aspects required in the Concept Notes template. Applicants with selected Concept Notes will be invited to submit a full proposal. The scoring of concepts will be guided by the Evaluation Scoring Sheet for Concept Note.

Full Proposal templates will be provided to applicants of selected Concept Notes. Selected Full Proposals will be awarded an SVGCF project grant and applicants will sign a grant agreement with the SVGCF.

**Timelines:**

The timeline for the complete selection process is estimated to follow the following timelines:

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| **Selection process phases**  | **Timeline** |
| Submission of Concept Notes  | October 15, 2024 |
| Short Listing of Concept Notes  | October 29, 2024 |
| Submission of Full Proposals | November 19, 2024 |
| Selection of Full Proposals to be awarded | December 3, 2024 |
| Grant agreement signature | December 10, 2024 |

**Questions & Answers:**

Applicants may submit questions to the SVGCF up to October 8, 2024 for this Call for

Proposals. Question must be submitted through the following emails: onlineapplication@svgcf.org

Find out more about SVGCF at: <https://svgcf.org/> , to access the full document for the call for proposals including the guidelines to apply, go to: <https://svgcf.org/calls/> , or visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SVGConservationFund>

Application forms and other relevant documents can be found at <https://svgcf.org/index.php/grants/the-application-process/>