**ISLANDS FUND – CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2023**

Call launch: Call end:

**May 5 2023 July 15 2023**

**Eligible projects: Actions** carried out **on small islands of less than 150 km² that are in SMILO’s certification process *Sustainable Island* or active members of SMILO network (see definition of “member” here below)**

**Type of organisation:** Local organisations, in particular civil society organisations

**Grant amount:**

* Islands certified or in the certification process up to €15,000
* Members of the network up to €7,000

**For:** Actions carried out during the period going from 15 October 2023 to 15 December 2024

**Project maximum duration**: 1 year

**On the following topics:** Energy Transition, Biodiversity conservation and restoration, in particular in view of favouring MPAs/protected areas

**Context**

Small islands are both fragile and unique. As they are at the forefront of global climate changes, they face many issues: sea level raise, limited resources, biological diversity loss, pressures associated to human activities... However, islands can contribute to finding pragmatic and effective solutions to these issues, making small islands pioneers of more sustainable development.

[SMILO (Small Islands Organisation)](https://smilo-program.org/) supports small islands of less than 150km² towards the sustainable management of their territory and resources. It bolsters integrated operations for the preservation of islands’ natural resources, in relation to water and sanitation, waste, energy, biodiversity, landscapes and heritage issues. The Sustainable Island label rewards the positive local dynamics and sustainable practices. Currently, more than 20 islands are involved in the certification process. SMILO provides further support with the Islands Fund, which finances concrete and sustainable operations on the ground. To strengthen cooperation and solidarity between islands, the NGO coordinates an international network, with members from West Africa, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean.

[Blue](https://www.blue.ngo/) is a non-profit endowment fund aiming at building a better future through project grants equity investments and initiative incubation. Blue provides financial grants for Effective, Efficient and Sustainable projects to strengthen resilient marine ecosystems.

SMILO teams up with Blue to launch a new ***Call for proposals of SMILO Islands Fund*** with the cooperation of the [Conservatoire du littoral](http://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr/). This call aims to support the small islands that are actively engaged in the Sustainable Island certification process or for members of the SMILO network (annual official membership) to implement concrete solutions identified by islands stakeholders in a holistic territorial approach. This partnership between SMILO and Blue aims to support grassroot organisations contributing to the local governance and carrying concrete actions that can make a difference for islands sustainable development.

**Who can apply? Which operations are eligible?**

**Who?** Local organisation, in particular locally-based/grassroot civil society organisation

**Where?**

1. Your activities take place on a SMILO Labelled island or on a candidate island of the *Sustainable Island* certification process:

BRAVA (Cape Verde)

BROWNSEA (UK)

BOLAMA (Guinea-Bissau)

CULATRA (Portugal)

CHOLE (Tanzania)

FRIOUL (France)

GORÉE (Senegal)

GOZO (Malta)

ILUR (France)

JIBONDO (Tanzania)

KERKENNAH (Tunisia)

LASTOVO (Croatia)

LAVEZZI (France)

EMERALD SEA (Madagascar)

NOSY HARA (Madagascar)

NOSY SATRANA (Madagascar)

OUVEA (New Caledonia, France)

PAKLENI (Croatia)

PANGATALAN (Philippines)

PORQUEROLLES (France)

PRINCIPE (Sao tomé and Principe)

SANTA LUZIA (Cape Verde)

SAINTE-MARGUERITE (France)

SAINT-HONORAT (France)

SIFNOS (Greece)

TAVOLARA (Italy)

ZLARIN (Croatia)

\* The list will be updated prior to the call for proposal’s launch in May 2023

1. *Or* you are a member of SMILO network and your activities take place on an small island, according to SMILO definition:
   * + - Member = annual membership paid for 2023
       - SMILO definition of a small island:

* island smaller than 150 km2
* in any sea
* no bridges to the mainland or to bigger island (overall surface should always be under 150 km2)
* detached from the mainland at low tide
* inhabited or not
* with or without an official conservation status (Natura 2000, etc.)

**Eligible activities?**

Projects proposals must include the following four dimensions:

i) Implementation of concrete field operations with proven, measurable and sustainable impacts that crosscheck SMILO strategic principles (available [here](https://smilo-program.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SMILO-Strategic-Principles-2022-ENG.pdf)), and for the islands in the label that contribute to the achievement of the strategic plan’s objectives;

ii) Support to improve the local governance of natural resources and of the island’s sustainable development and land-use planning;

iii) The project proposal can fall under the following sustainable development areas:

* Biodiversity conservation and restoration, in particular in view of favouring MPAs/protected areas
* Energy Transition: including increasing energy efficiency, energy consumption reduction and transition to renewable energy sources

iv) Innovative operations, which have a significant social and environmental impact, and could inspire other island territories (reproducibility of the operation).

**Non-eligible activities?** Under no circumstance is the Islands Fund intended to provide working capital or operating costs for an institution. It shall finance operational actions on the islands, equipment acquisition, or provide the necessary facilities to meet the priority objectives of the island, as set out in the strategic plan for the islands in the certification process, or shared local plan. The Islands Fund shall not fund activities that do not – directly or indirectly – relate to the sustainable development goals defined of the island (set in the strategic plan for the islands in the certification process). These include capacity-building projects or research projects that are not related with territorial development; repetitive activities and recurrent functioning costs; national campaigns or local lobbying and/or awareness-raising campaigns unrelated to concrete environmental protection actions; touristic projects; agricultural or fish farms development that do not have a positive impact on the island’s local biodiversity.

The following non-exhaustive list of ineligible activities includes:

- Constructions unrelated to the preservation and management of natural areas or that aren’t exemplary sustainable practices;

- Communication tools and events that fall outside SMILO’s scope of action;

- Traditional craft or agricultural production chains unrelated to conservation challenges;

- Any activity that only serves private interests;

- **General functioning costs**, except if these contribute to the project’s successful implementation. SMILO may finance these expenses **up to 10%** of the total requested budget.

- In addition, **are eligible** costs related to communication, transport/travel, purchase or renewal of equipment if they do not exceed a reasonable amount of the total project budget.

**There is no obligation to have co-funding, although it is highly encouraged**, and valued in the project’s selection**.**

**Project duration?** The maximum project duration is **1 year**. The project implementation phase starts on **15 October 2023, and ends on 15 December 2024 at the latest.**

**Grant amount**

The amount of this grant is:

* Islands in the certification process up to €15,000
* Members of the network up to €7,000

The grant will be paid at 1 or 2 separate payments (one in the beginning and one when submitting the final report) on due dates. The decision is subject to the appreciation of SMILO Secretariat, depending on the estimated budget submitted by the organisation (attached in the application form) and on the duration of the funded activity.

**Project selection process**

The application deadline is **July 15 2023, 5 pm (CET)**. SMILO and Blue will analyse the applications and announce which ones are selected by the end of September 2023. SMILO will contact the selected organisations to proceed with the signature of the grant agreement, which will set out the arrangements.

The key selection prerequisites are the following:

**Projects Assessment**

The project assessment will depend on the duration of the operations. Therefore:

* If the grant is required for activities that will be conducted over less than 3 months, the beneficiaries will have to submit a final report to SMILO.
* If the grant is required for activities that will be conducted over more than 3 months, a mid-term interview will take place. The beneficiaries will also have to submit a final report to SMILO.

In both cases, the final report will include:

* A technical report, using the template that will be provided
* A financial report, using the excel spreadsheet template that will be provided
* Proofs of the project expenses
* Pictures of the project implementation
* A maximum 2-minute on-site video presenting the project results (no professional result expected, simple video made by the grant beneficiary)
* Publications & communications links or content (if applicable)
* At least one communication on social media and/or your communications tools during the project implementation

**Communication**

SMILO and Blue are active on numerous social media. We intend to create posts and a web page on our websites to promote the selected projects. Applying organisations are therefore invited to present in a few words on how they consider communicating about the project, and/or how they already communicate about their current projects.

**How to apply?**

Download and fill in the application form available here, and send it with the mandatory documents to [secretariat@smilo-program.org](mailto:secretariat@smilo-program.org) and [m.ferretti@smilo-program.org](mailto:m.ferretti@smilo-program.org) before **July 15 2023, 5 pm (CET).**

Mandatory documents for the application to be received and analysed by SMILO:

* The organisation’ statutes signed by its legal representative
* A copy of both sides of the ID card of the legal representative and the project/activity focal point person
* Bank account details