

MacArthur Foundation

Grant Guidelines

International Programs Conservation and Sustainable Coastal and Marine Strategy

Introduction

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Conservation and Sustainable Development (CSD) strategy is launching a new 10-year marine conservation grantmaking program under its strategic framework.

The goal of CSD's coastal and marine grantmaking is to restore and protect coastal and marine ecosystem services, and the biodiversity that underpins these services, by significantly expanding the application and uptake of effective local fisheries management approaches.

Grantmaking will target four high-biodiversity regions, including Melanesia, Indonesia, The Western Indian Ocean, and Caribbean.

Grantmaking will begin in Melanesia, The Western Indian Ocean, and Caribbean in 2013. Grantmaking in Indonesia will begin in 2014.

Due to the specificity of supported interventions, the need to coordinate activities with multiple regional donor partners, and the multi-scale objectives of this grantmaking, all coastal and marine proposals will be solicited for consideration by CSD staff.

CSD's past grantmaking in support of local fisheries management approaches has produced some incentives for sustainable fishing practices, and subsequently locally reduced threats to coastal systems. CSD's 2010 evaluation indicates that the scale at which these approaches have been applied has been insufficient for slowing the loss of fisheries services and biodiversity regionally and globally.

The goal of CSD's coastal and marine grantmaking is to significantly expand the application of effective local fisheries management approaches within and beyond the four high biodiversity regions of Melanesia, Indonesia, Western Indian Ocean and Caribbean by funding grantees to achieve three core long-term outcomes:

- (1) Slow the decline of coastal ecosystem services from fisheries;
- (2) Reduce pressure on areas of high biodiversity; and
- (3) Improve coastal social-ecological resilience to climate change impacts.

To achieve these long-term objectives CSD will support the following interventions:

- 1) Build local and regional awareness of threats to coastal fisheries and policies that support local management options;
- 2) Build capacity of communities to implement local fisheries management;
- 3) Build a policy/economic environment supportive of local management.
- 4) Develop national and regional networks (i.e. Locally Managed Marine Areas Network) to facilitate wider and more rapid uptake of effective and replicable local fisheries management approaches;
- 5) Innovate and pilot better practices for implementing local fisheries management;
- 6) Monitor the impacts of our investments to improve local management and ecosystem health.

Barriers to effective local fisheries management exist at differing degrees within each priority region. Regional grantmaking portfolios will identify a suite of interventions to reduce or remove these barriers within specific seascapes.

If our theory of change is valid and our grant portfolio is targeted effectively, we expect to slow the decline of coastal ecosystem services, reduce pressure on high biodiversity seascapes, and improve coastal resilience in the presence of climate change within and beyond our four priority regions.

The four regions were selected based on an assessment of four criteria:

1. Amount of globally significant marine biodiversity;
2. Potential for regional donor partnership;
3. Suitability for applying local fisheries management approaches¹;

¹ This criteria establishes the pre-conditions for local management including tenure to manage coastal resources locally; relative political stability throughout the ecosystem; demonstrated strong local/cultural cohesion; coastal resource management linked to traditional use rights; relatively low population (non-urban areas), or for other reasons and based on experience in the region we believe that local fisheries management approaches are suitable.

4. History of Investment²

We will monitor and regularly assess these criteria in order to identify whether regional conditions have changed to such a degree that the supported interventions are no longer suitable for achieving our long-term outcomes. Such circumstances could lead us to change our budgetary allocation or reassess a priority region.

CSD is in the process of developing a monitoring plan for this area of grantmaking. Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.

CSD is working with several donor partners, including The David and Lucille Packard Foundation, The Margaret A Cargill Foundation, The Walton Family Foundation, and The Helmsley Charitable Trust, amongst others to align investments in support of shared coastal-marine objectives in these regions, and more broadly.

We began new coastal and marine grantmaking under this strategy in 2013. Grants that are region-wide or cross-regional in focus (network building, piloting new approaches, and monitoring) can occur on an annual basis. In 2013 we made targeted site-based investments in Melanesia, Western Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean. We began new grantmaking in Indonesia in 2014. 2015 grantmaking was dedicated to Madagascar. In 2016, we will make targeted grants in Cuba and Melanesia.

² CSD's 2010 evaluation encouraged recognition of, in selecting future priority regions, the significant investment that the foundation made in building local capacity to conserve natural resources within the priority regions of our 2000-2010 strategy.