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Baa Atoll Conservation Fund - Call for Pre-Proposals

Baa Atoll Conservation Fund was established on 18 April 2012 as a Trust Fund under the Public Finance Act (Act No: 3/2006) of the Republic of Maldives and the fund is governed by the Fund Board of Directors and the Fund Managing Director in accordance with the Fund Memorandum and Articles of Association and other applicable laws and regulations.

The purpose of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) is to co-finance activities that ensure that Baa Atoll is a world class model of atoll ecosystem conservation in accordance with its designation as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The objectives of the Biosphere Reserve are:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Baa Atoll
- Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of Baa Atoll by local communities and visitors
- Supporting the sustainable development of Baa Atoll, including fishing, tourism and the economic and social interests of those who live and work in the area.

Focal Areas:

The BACF aims to deliver benefits in the areas of:

1. Program for the protection, conservation and management of biological and natural resources, biodiversity and nature protection in Baa Atoll,
2. Livelihood improvement program for Baa Atoll residents, focusing on projects that are in line with sustainability and atoll ecosystem conservation policies,
3. Research, awareness raising and education program, focused on protection, conservation and management of biological and natural resources, biodiversity and nature protection in Baa Atoll.

BACF Priority Areas of work for 2013/2014

The following areas are identified as beneficiaries for grants for 2013/2014 under Conservation and Management of biological and natural resources, biodiversity and nature protection in Baa Atoll:

- Project proposals on sustainable aquaculture programs focusing on Ornamental Fishery.
- Project proposals on Community engagement programs related to biodiversity and environmental protection.

The following areas are identified as beneficiaries for grants for 2013/2014 under Livelihood

- Agriculture: Project proposals on Composting and use of environment friendly fertilizers.
- Handicraft Works: Project proposals on extensions of existing lacquer works activities undertaken in the atoll or new initiatives to be undertaken.
- Other areas: Project proposals on adding value to the existing livelihood improvement work undertaken by the community.

The following areas are identified as beneficiaries for grants for 2013/2014 under Awareness raising, Education and Research program:

- Project proposals on awareness and research programs on Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The BACF will support small scale projects relating to the above 3 thematic areas and priority areas of work for 2013/2014, for activities that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, taking into consideration gender, vulnerability and equality concerns.

Who can apply?

Grants will be made directly to civil society organizations (CSOs) with priority for national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), scientific community, women's committees, schools, councils and resorts. Proposals from individuals are not entertained rather these proposals should come through in affiliation with any of the mentioned above.

How much?

The maximum grant amount obtainable per project is US\$ 15,000 (Two Hundred and Thirty One Thousand Three Hundred Maldivian Rufiya) for a duration of up to 24 months.

Deadline: 12 December 2013, Thursday, 1400hrs

To obtain more details on BACF, guidelines for application and proposal templates please visit <http://www.bacf.gov.mv> or contact:

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