**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

***Keeping nature at the heart of post-COVID recovery***

## Context of this call

In the pre-COVID-19 era, the world was already confronted with multiple, complex, and interconnected environmental crises. Our planet keeps on transforming more rapidly than ever. The WWF [Living Planet report](https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-us/) published in September 2020 shows an average 68% decrease in population sizes of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016. Intergovernmental bodies IPCC and IPBES are urging governments and key stakeholders to reverse the trends that jeopardize the future of the world as we know it. Evidence shows that we are reaching dangerous tipping points.

The main drivers of environmental degradation and losses are well-known and exacerbated by climate change. Efforts so far by States, civil society organizations, youth activists and some multinationals voicing for a more environmentally friendly future have been insufficient to reverse this trend.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed our vulnerabilities even further and brought to light our broken relationship with nature. There are more voices in all spheres asking to “*build back better”,* to *‘reset’* the economyandto redirect our economic and financial systems to take better account of our natural capital, whose erosion is compromising the survival of many species, including human beings.

As the world’s economies are being hit hard by the global pandemic, states, central banks, and international financial institutions are launching proactive relief policies aimed at stabilizing the situation before it deteriorates even further. The list of stimulus plans is already long, and it is essential and urgent to check, and eventually proof them, for possible rebound effects on the environment and biodiversity. So far governments have focused on providing unemployment and cash benefits to workers and households, and securing liquidity for businesses across the economy, while earmarking only a marginal amount of announced stimulus packages for sectors with high positive impacts on the environment and, more specifically, nature conservation[[1]](#footnote-2). It is hoped that this proportion will increase as stimulus efforts deepen for long-term recovery. It is critical that this funding is channelled to reorient business and finance toward sustainable development, better and resilient livelihoods, and reconsidering our relationship with nature.

We are at a pivotal point of economic disruption where decisions are and will be taken that will decide whether we continue with our current nature-depleting economic system or if we use this moment to create a new relationship with nature with an economy that protects and restores natural assets rather than destroys them.

Systemic changes are required, and this moment presents a unique opportunity to push forward ground-breaking ideas. We can’t afford not to act, and we have a finite window of time to make it happen.

## Purpose

This call for proposals seeks to support activities that strengthen nature conservation in the immediate recovery phase and the mid-term (re)construction phase of the COVID crisis.

Even though MAVA is closing in 2022, we believe there is an exceptional opportunity for impact over the next 18 months. We are seeking innovative ideas to better promote nature in the (post)-COVID-19 world that is currently being shaped. As economic and financial systems are rebooted, we are aiming for ideas for actions in a broad range of areas and sectors that can translate into tangible impacts for nature and biodiversity conservation.

With this call for proposals, MAVA Foundation will provide funding to successful applicants, for:

* Supporting / influencing the formulation of recovery plans or other initiatives to:
  + Increase recovery spending for nature conservation (immediate recovery);
  + Ensure that nature and environmental sustainability are solidly embedded in the economic rebuild and associated future spending (beyond immediate recovery);
  + Use current stimulus spending for structural reform in economic or financial systems for more nature;
  + Ensure that the conditions attached to receiving funding from recovery plans are met and include nature.
* Promoting / negotiating debt-for-nature swaps in MAVA regions.
* Other ideas for greening the post-COVID recovery dynamics in line with [MAVA’s mission and vision](https://mava-foundation.org/about-us/mission/).

## Eligibility

The geographical scope of the propositions can either be global or target more specifically one or more of MAVA regions, namely: the Mediterranean, Coastal West Africa[[2]](#footnote-3), Switzerland, and the EU countries.

The proposals should have an emphasis on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. Proposals targeting only climate change mitigation are excluded.

## Selection criteria

The main criteria for selecting proposals are as follows:

* Extent of expected positive impact for nature, measurable by July 2022
* Proven track record
* Capacity for quick start up (appropriate staff in place for a starting date no later than January 2021)
* Strong organization, including a sufficient capacity to upscale activities
* Team profile and network

## Grant budget available

The overall budget available for this call is CHF 2 000 000. The maximum grant duration has been fixed to 18 months (maximum end date is 31 July 2022).

We expect the typical grant size to be between CHF 400’000 and CHF 500’000. However, budgets between CHF 100,000 and CHF 700,000 will be considered.

The budget for each grant may include a maximum of 12.5 % management fees of the total budget (total of activities).

## Application for a Grant

To apply for a “Nature Recovery Grant”, please complete the application form below **in either English or French**.

If you are interested, please submit your proposals no later than **October 23rd, 2020** to [laurianne.demierre@fondationmava.org](mailto:laurianne.demierre@fondationmava.org), with copy to [info@fondationmava.org](mailto:info@fondationmava.org). We will inform you of the status of your request by the end of October 2020.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact [benjamin.landreau@fondationmava.org](mailto:benjamin.landreau@fondationmava.org).

**APPLICATION FORM – Pre-selection process**

Short-listed candidates will be invited to submit more detail via a full application form.

1. **General information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of applicant** |  |
| **Budget requested** |  |
| **Co-funding (if any)**  *Amount & source* |  |
| **Summarize in 2 lines what you will do with this grant** |  |
| **Duration of the support**  **(Max 18 months)** |  |
| **Proposed starting date**  **(Latest January 2021)** |  |
| **Proposed ending date**  **(Latest July 2022)** |  |
| **Contact details of lead person for this grant** | * Name: * Position: * Email: * Telephone: |

1. **What do you want to achieve?**

***Please summarise the problem you what to solve (context), your objective(s) and expected impact. (1/2 page)***

1. **How will you do this?**

***Please describe your approach / main activities. (1/2 page)***

1. **Organisation presentation**

***Track record of the organization (1/2 page maximum):***

* + *on similar subjects*
  + *in managing projects of similar or greater size*

1. **Please attach your most recent annual report and audited accounts**

1. According to [Vivid Economics](https://www.vivideconomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/200501-Stimulus-Green-Index-summary-report.pdf), a consultancy, roughly 11% out of the total amount of announced stimulus packages will flow into sectors with high impacts on the environment –whether on climate change, biodiversity, or local pollution. According to another estimate made by Oxford university, G20’s COVID-19 rescue packages were only 4% green, 4% brown and 92% preserving status quo. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. C*omprising Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)