

Land Acquisition Fund

The IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) provides funds for local NGOs to acquire (through purchase or lease) threatened nature, create safe reserves and connect wildlife habitats for endangered species. Since its foundation in 2001, LAF has enabled the purchase of over 50.000 hectares. The LAF is supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery and a growing number of private donors. This project proposal briefing outlines the practical details and requirements for applications.

Please note that, the LAF also supports projects in which conservation NGOs acquire the long term management rights of an area without actual transfer of ownership title(s). By this we mean long term leases or - conservation agreements.

Criteria for application

I. Project objective

The general objective of a proposed project must contribute to the main objective of the LAF, which is to enable strong **local conservation NGOs** to secure, connect and efficiently protect habitat of Red List species.

II. Implementing organization

Proposals can be submitted by **local NGOs** with:

- Experience and capacity concerning the effective management of a conservation area
- Experience and capacity in the field of project management, financial management and - control

LAF cannot grant financial assistance to:

- Projects /organizations with a focus on sustainable agricultural systems
- Governmental institutions
- Commercial (for profit) organizations
- Private individuals
- Land purchase projects with the sole objective to establish education-, rescue- or rehabilitation centers

III. Project area

High priority will be given to:

- Land acquisition (through purchase or lease) to secure areas hosting species listed as threatened (CR, EN or VU) on the IUCN Red List [www.iucnredlist.org];
- Acquisition of areas with a high biodiversity value, like Key Biodiversity Areas;
- Land acquisition (through purchase or lease) of areas that are important in a broad approach for securing the connectivity in a high biodiversity value landscape (corridors, stepping stones) or to secure ecosystem services;
- Land acquisition (through purchase or lease) involving ecosystems underrepresented in the public protected areas system;

- Special attention will be given to proposals targeting important populations of threatened tree species as well. Such proposals should preferably target protection of range-restricted tree species, an Alliance for Zero Extinction site or a unique part of the range of a species.

IV. Geographical range

Local conservation NGOs working in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific are eligible for this program and are invited to submit their proposals.

V. Local participation

The project should seek to harmonise with the needs, views, expertise and experience of local stakeholders (men/ women). The project should take into account local participation in conservation and management of the area to be acquired.

VI. Amount & spending of the grant

The maximum financial assistance provided by LAF is Euro 85,000. Co-funding of projects is only possible when the IUCN NL grant is clearly visible and constitutes a substantial part of the overall budget, or when the IUCN NL grant can trigger other donors to contribute. Besides the acquisition of land, the LAF grants can also be used for initial investments to secure the sustainability and conservation impact of the purchase (fencing, signboards, guard's salary and accommodation, etc). Please note that costs for these investments can only take up a small part of the budget.

Application process

A schematic flow chart of the application process can be found in Appendix 1.

I. Pre-proposal

All NGOs must submit a pre-proposal first. A format for pre-proposals can be found in Appendix 2 of this document. Only pre-proposals prepared according to this format, **and not exceeding 4 pages**, will be considered. The working language of the program is English.

NGOs are advised to read though our publication 'Sustainable Nature Reserves: Guidelines for privately protected areas' before submitting a pre - proposal.

Important: The availability of good maps is a very important selection criterion. Pre-proposals lacking good maps will be rejected immediately!!

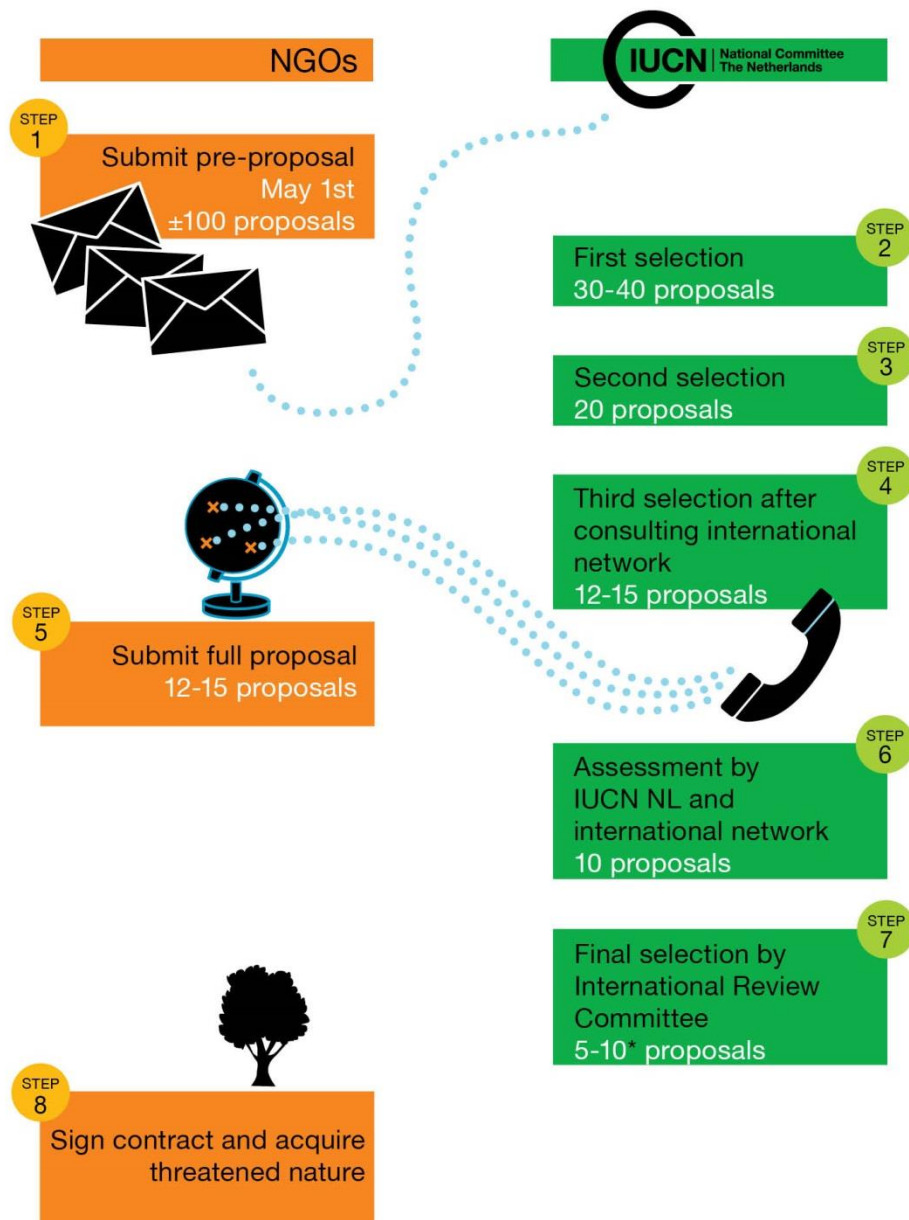
II. Deadline & submission

The deadline for submitting the pre-proposal is **May 1st 2023**. Submissions should be sent to landacquisitionfund@iucn.nl Questions about the procedure and content of proposals can be sent to the coordinator of the LAF (marc.hoogslag@iucn.nl)

III. Assessment & selection

All pre-proposals are screened by IUCN NL, supported by an extensive global network of experts. We will invite a limited number of NGOs to submit a full proposal after a positive assessment of their pre-proposal. The full proposals will be assessed by IUCN NL with assistance of an International Review Committee. A selection of these proposals will be awarded a grant. Final decisions will be made in **October 2023**. Please note that an invitation to develop a full project proposal does in no way constitute a guarantee that the project will be funded.

Flow chart of application process



* Depending on available budget

Format for pre-proposals

KEY INFO

Project title	
NGO	
Country	
Purchase or lease? (if lease, for how many years)	
Number of hectares	
Price per ha	
Ecosystem	
Focal species (incl Red List status)	
Total budget requested (€)	

Organisation

- Full name NGO
- Country
- Legal status NGO
- Address
- Email
- Website
- Contact person
- Qualifications - Explain why your organization is best qualified to implement this land acquisition project

The following information should be provided in **maximum 4 pages**. Species lists and maps can be provided in annexes.

Project area

- **Map(s) of the project area** - map(s) should also show the location of the project area in the wider landscape, and show any other areas that enjoy protection through another legal status like indigenous territories, community lands, sustainable certified forestry concessions
- **Description of the project area and wider landscape**- Describing land use, vegetation type and - cover, nearby protected areas, show the role of this plot in the wider landscape (why should this be secured?)
- **Geographic coordinates**
- **Biodiversity value of project area** - For example: presence of endangered (CR/EN/VU) species, endemics, AZE site, KBA
- **Main threats and urgency**
- **Why is acquisition of the land the best solution to secure the land compared to other options?**
- **Size of area to acquire** - In hectares
- **Current owner(s)** - Is there a willingness to sell / lease? / is the land title clear and undisputed?
- **Will you be implementing restoration activities?** - if so, indicate on the map where this will be implemented
- **Long term / future management** - who will own and manage the land and how will management be funded in the long term?
- **Other relevant conservation initiatives in the wider landscape / region**

Project partners

- Local stakeholders
- Other partners to be involved with this proposed project.

Budget

- Amount needed for land purchase / lease - in local currency and euros
- Other expenses
- (potential) co funding?

References (national and international)

- Provide the contacts of persons we can contact about your work. Please note that pre-proposals will be shared with experts in our global network, in order to make a good assessment.