

Small grants for the Purchase of Nature

The IUCN NL programme Small grants for the Purchase of Nature (SPN) 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, SPN has enabled the purchase of over 35.000 hectares. SPN is supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. This project proposal briefing outlines the practical details and requirements for applications.

Please note that despite the name, the SPN program 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 SPN, 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

SPN cannot grant financial assistance to:

- Governmental institutions
- Commercial (for profit) organizations

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].
- NGOs working on the securing, restoring and connecting habitat of primates on the list of the **25 most endangered primates** are specifically invited to submit proposals;
- Acquisition of areas with a high biodiversity value, like AZE sites or IBAs;
- Land acquisition (through purchase or lease) of areas that are important for securing the connectivity in a landscape (corridors, stepping stones);

- Projects in which the acquisition of land is part of a broader approach to secure and restore connectivity in a fragmented landscape and / or to secure ecosystem services;
- Land acquisition (through purchase or lease) involving ecosystems underrepresented in the public protected areas system.

IV. Amount & spending of the grant

The maximum financial assistance provided by SPN is Euro 85,000. There is no minimum. 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 SPN 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.

V. Geographical range

Only projects located in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific are eligible for this programme. We specifically invite NGOs from **Central Asia**, **Central America** and the **Middle East** asked to submit proposals.

VI. Local participation

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

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 will be considered.

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

II. Deadline & submission

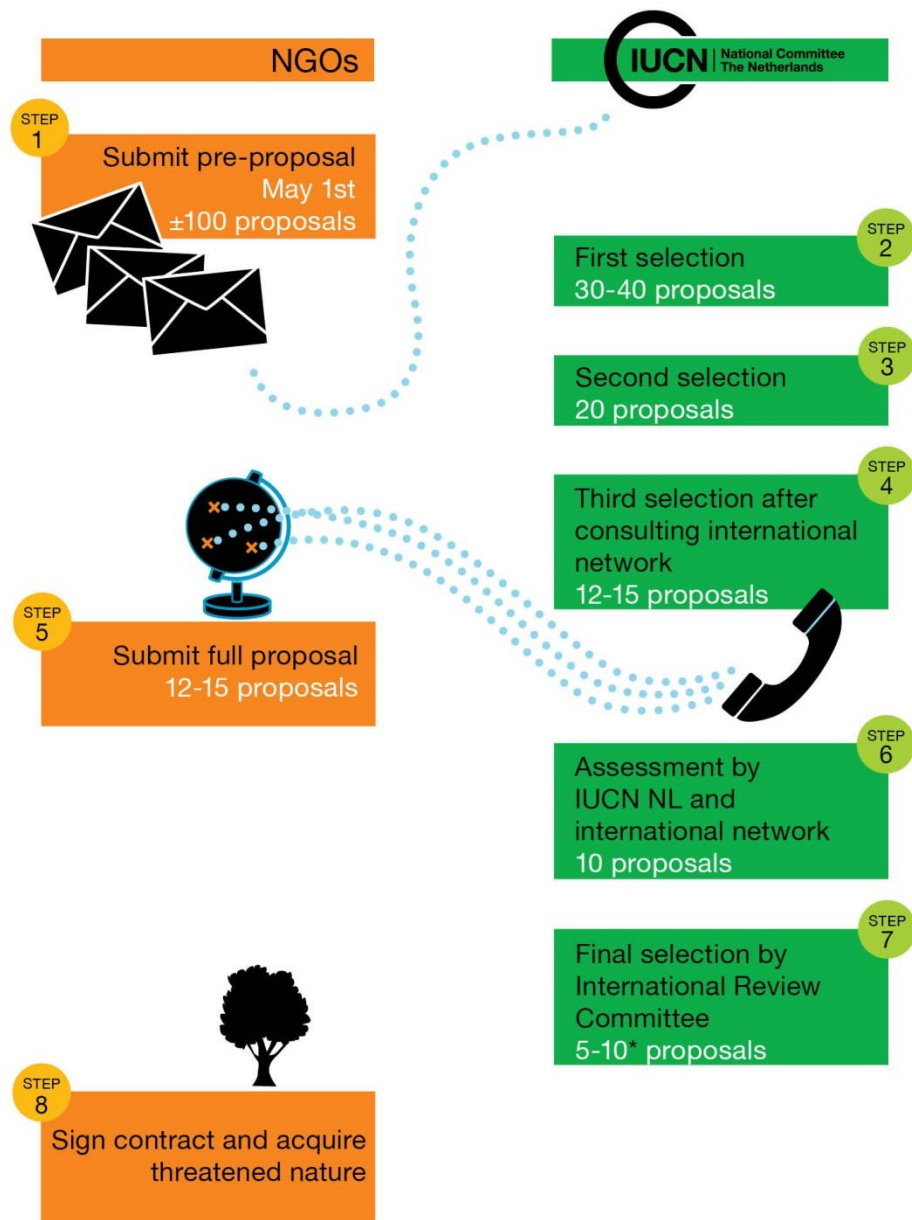
The deadline for submitting the pre-proposal is May 1st 2018. Submissions should be sent to spn@iucn.nl. Questions about the procedure and content of proposals can be sent to the coordinator of the SPN program (marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl)

III. Assessment & selection

All pre-proposals are screened by IUCN NL, supported by an extensive global network of experts. SPN will invite a limited number¹ 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. Therefore, an invitation to develop a full project proposal does in no way constitute a guarantee that the project will be funded.

¹ Please note that in previous years this was less than 10% of the NGO's that submitted a pre-proposal

Flow chart of application process



* Depending on available budget

Format for pre-proposals

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

Organisation

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

Project area (= plot that will be secured)

- 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, protected areas
- Geographic coordinates
- Biodiversity value of project area - For example: endangered (CR/EN/VU) species, endemics, AZE site, Important Bird Area
- Main threats - at site level as well as regional level
- Why is acquisition of the land the best solution to secure the land?
- Size of area to acquire - In hectares
- Current owner(s) - Is there a willingness to sell / lease?
- Estimated land price per hectare (in local currency and euros) - in case of lease, include the lease period
- Will you be implementing restoration activities? – if so, indicate on the map where this will be implemented
- Other conservation initiatives in the wider landscape / region

Project partners

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

Budget

- Amount needed for land purchase / lease
- Other expenses

References (national and international)

- Please note that pre-proposals will be shared with experts in our global network, in order to make a good assessment.