
**CALL FOR PROJECTS GUIDELINES –
FOCUSING ON INNOVATIVE LOCAL
INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE
RESILIENCE OF THE WEST AFRICAN COAST,
FOR THE BENEFIT OF NATIONAL CIVIL
SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS)**

PRCM / WACA ResIP

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

West Africa's coastline, one of the most biodiverse in the world, is both an invaluable ecological heritage and a pillar of livelihood for millions of people. Mangroves, estuaries, reefs, dunes, beaches, and wetlands coexist and support essential economic activities, including artisanal fishing, coastal agriculture, local processing, tourism, and crafts. These ecosystems also provide vital functions: shoreline stabilization, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, and pollutant filtration.

But this balance is seriously threatened. Coastal erosion is intensifying, resources are being depleted, and habitats are degrading under the combined pressure of climate change and unsustainable human activities, including sand extraction, uncontrolled urbanization, pollution, and deforestation. This context of increased vulnerability calls for bold, integrated responses rooted in the territories.

It is within this logic that the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) is an ambitious regional initiative designed by the World Bank in response to requests from coastal countries, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), and its partners. The West Africa Coastal Resilience Investment Project 2 (WACA ResIP 2), for the period 2023–2027, consolidates the achievements of the first WACA ResIP project by integrating: (i) strengthened regional governance, (ii) better policy coherence, (iii) increased attention to environmental and social sustainability, and (iv) active development of local dynamics and civil society.

As part of this Project, reference institutions, such as the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone (PRCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO), the Abidjan Convention and the Dakar Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE), have been mobilized by WAEMU to provide strategic technical assistance to the nine (9) beneficiary countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo.

Among these partners, the PRCM – Regional Platform for Influence, Dialogue and Action for Coastal Conservation – plays a key role in strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue, citizen mobilization, support for local innovation, and climate resilience. It is in this spirit that it is establishing a financing mechanism dedicated to small, innovative initiatives led by civil society, with a focus on territorial impact, community ownership, and sustainability.

The purpose of these Rules is to structure and frame the implementation of a call for projects (APP) within the framework of the WACA ResIP Project, ensuring coherence, transparency, and efficiency.

This call for projects, initiated by the PRCM, is based on an approach focused on subsidiarity, territorial anchoring, equity, linguistic and cultural diversity, as well as sustainability.

The mechanism aims to:

- Encourage the emergence of concrete and innovative local solutions to coastal threats.
- Strengthen citizen mobilization, advocacy, and the co-construction of resilience policies.
- Leverage other initiatives while boosting local capacity.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The call for projects (CFP) is a strategic lever for the emergence and support of innovative, high-impact local initiatives in the field of coastal resilience. It aims to meet the general objective of the WACA ResIP Project and to strengthen the direct involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the preservation and sustainable enhancement of coastal ecosystems.

Specifically, this CFP aims to:

- Strengthen the ecological, economic, and social resilience of coastal communities to the effects of climate change, through local solutions for sustainable resource management, environmental restoration, and environmental risk reduction.
- Support pilot projects that test new approaches or strengthen existing initiatives in environmental education, shared governance, advocacy, or social innovation.
- Promote nature-based best practices (nature-based solutions – NbS), which can be replicated or scaled up in other contexts in the sub-region.
- Strengthen the technical, organizational, and operational capacities of CSOs and local community networks by facilitating their professionalization, networking, and integration into regional coordination mechanisms.
- Create a space for dialogue and co-construction among local actors, researchers, communities, and decision-makers by facilitating the integration of traditional knowledge, technical innovations, and public policies.

Through these objectives, the CFP aims to strengthen the participatory, inclusive, and territorialized dimension of the WACA ResIP Project by stimulating bottom-up innovation and fostering sustainable alliances between coastal resilience actors.

The CFP covers the nine beneficiary countries of the WACA ResIP Projects: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, and Togo.

Based on the priorities identified in the project documents and the available knowledge, the following areas are proposed as priorities:

- Benin: Coastline between Cotonou, Grand-Popo (the Mouth of the King in particular), and the wetlands of the Ouémé valley.
- Côte d'Ivoire: Ébrié and Aby lagoons, coastal area between Grand-Lahou and Assinie (including the Ehotilés Islands).
- Gambia: Gambia River estuary, mangrove areas, and beaches near Tanbi Wetlands.
- Ghana: Central Coast around Cape Coast – Elmina and Erosion Vulnerable Areas (Keta).
- Guinea-Bissau: Bijagos Archipelago and coastal areas around Cacheu and Cacine;
- Mauritania: Areas within the PNBA, the Senegal River Delta (Diawling National Park and RBT on the Mauritanian side), Nouakchott, and Nouadhibou.
- Sao Tome & Principe: Coastal and marine areas rich in biodiversity in the south and around the islet of Rolas and the area of Angolares.
- Senegal: Petite Côte, Saloum Delta, Casamance Maritime, mangroves of Ziguinchor and Kolda.
- Togo: Coastal area between Aného and Lomé, lower Mono valley.

4. TARGETS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 Target Audience

The call for projects is open to initiatives by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), operating in the coastal areas of countries eligible for WACA ResIP. Projects will need to demonstrate their potential to produce concrete, valuable, and transferable results, particularly through the development of decision-making tools, publications, or platforms. They will contribute directly to the objectives of the WACA ResIP Project and the activities planned as part of the support for innovation for resilient coastal management in West Africa, carried out by the PRCM.

4.2 Eligibility criteria and conditions

The eligibility criteria aim to ensure that the beneficiaries of the subsidies are legitimate, competent, rooted in the coastal territories, and bearers of concrete and realistic solutions. These criteria apply to all types of projects submitted under this call and revolve around the following points:

- Be a legally constituted civil society organization (CSO) (NGOs, associations, cooperatives, EIGs, women's or youth groups, etc.), active in the coastal area of one of the nine countries of the WACA ResIP Projects.
- Grassroots Community Organizations (CBOs) or village committees involved in natural resource management, coastal management, or local governance in the coastal zone of one of the nine countries of the WACA ResIP Projects.
- Regional or national CSO coordination networks or platforms operating at the level of the marine and coastal area in West Africa, focusing on fields such as environment, local development, or action research.
- Justify a legal existence of at least 12 months on the date of submission of the project.
- Demonstrate the ability to produce transferable results (publications, tools, platforms).
- Provide financial statements or a declaration of resources for the last year of activity.
- Present experience in at least one of the themes of the call for projects.
- Provide ethical guarantees: respect for human rights, a commitment to anti-corruption, social inclusion, and transparency.
- Not be in a situation of conflict of interest or be the subject of ongoing litigation related to the management of previous projects.

Collective applications (coalitions or consortia) are encouraged, provided that a single lead partner is appointed to oversee administrative and financial management.

5. PRIORITY THEMES

West African coastal regions face growing environmental, social, and economic issues, including erosion, climate change, ecosystem decline, overuse of natural resources, and increased vulnerability of local communities. In this situation, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are vital for boosting community resilience, encouraging sustainable practices, and fostering social and environmental innovation at the local level.

Thus, the main themes for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) align with the objectives of the WACA ResIP and the strategic directions of the PRCM, focusing on the following points:

1. Restoration and conservation of coastal ecosystems

- Ecological restoration of mangroves, dunes, estuaries, and wetlands.
- Support for the establishment and/or community-based and participatory management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and implementation of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- Support for awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in support of biodiversity conservation processes on the high seas.
- Participatory ecological monitoring and the protection of threatened or emblematic species.

2. Local governance and citizen mobilization

- Establishment or strengthening of multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks.
- Awareness-raising initiatives, environmental education, and advocacy and/or community engagement for the protection of coastal resources and areas.
- Promotion of local resilience or integrated coastal management policies.

3. Innovation for socio-economic resilience

- Development and/or enhancement of sustainable value chains (fisheries, handicrafts, ecotourism).
- Support for the blue and green economy, blue carbon, and green entrepreneurship (women/youth).

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Grant amount: The requested budget amounts must be less than USD 40,000. They can be adjusted according to the relevance and scope of the projects.

Duration of projects: Projects must be completed within a maximum of 12 months for CSOs (and associations). An exceptional extension may be granted upon a well-justified request approved by the PRCM.

Co-financing rate: At least 20% must be provided, either in cash or in kind (such as volunteer hours, facilities, or partner contributions).

Grant payment terms: Funding will be disbursed in three tranches as follows:

- A first instalment (advance) will be paid after signing the formal contract and after submitting a request for funds to the PRCM, to the beneficiary's bank account.
- A second tranche will be carried out after the PRCM has submitted and approved the interim technical and financial reports, accompanied by copies of supporting documents covering at least 80% of the expenses of the first tranche, and after the submission of a request for funds.

- A third and final payment will be made once the final technical and financial report is approved and supporting documents covering all amounts previously disbursed are submitted, along with a request for funds.

Financial justification: The beneficiary must submit supporting documents for each tranche, including accounting records, proof of expenditures, and budget monitoring sheets. A financial reporting template will be provided. If there are significant deviations from the original budget, a revision of the expenditure plan might be necessary.

Dedicated bank account: The PRCM may require the opening of a project-specific account to ensure traceability of financial flows.

Contractualization: a draft contract will be provided to the beneficiary by the PRCM project coordinator once the budget, payment schedule, co-financing, expected results formulation, planned achievements, monitoring and evaluation system, and various contractual obligations (such as formats and submission dates for reports) have been discussed, verified, and approved. A formal contract will then be signed between the PRCM and the project leader (or the leading organization of the consortium). This contract will specify:

- The expected results.
- The implementation schedule.
- The terms of disbursement.
- The contractual obligations of the beneficiary and the PRCM.
- Reporting and auditing rules.

Following the signing of the formal contract between the PRCM and the successful project leader, and the submission of a request for funds, a first payment will be made to the project leader's bank account or to the bank account dedicated to the project, if applicable.

Budget revisions: budget adjustments can be made if they are justified, documented in writing, and approved by the PRCM.

Measures in case of non-compliance: If there is non-compliance with contractual clauses, especially if planned activities are not completed, funds are misused, or required reports are not submitted on time, the PRCM reserves the right to take appropriate action. This may include suspending disbursements, requesting a review of the implementation plan, or even terminating the contract early. These measures aim to ensure the proper management of allocated resources and achieve the expected results.

Valuation of co-financing: In-kind contributions will be valued in the financing plan and analysis grids, provided they are well justified (e.g., a letter of availability, a time estimate, etc.).

Support for project leaders: Coaches recognized for their diverse skills and extensive experience in coordinating conservation and local development projects can be mobilized to provide methodological and technical advice to project leaders upon request. These coaches could assist them in identifying technical training resources, facilitate organizing exchange visits, or support

the preparation of periodic activity reports. They will also offer support throughout the implementation phases of the funded projects.

Monitoring methods and expected deliverables: A monitoring and evaluation system for the effects of the WACA ResIP2 project will be established by the PRCM, enabling the maintenance of a dashboard and the regular production of reports on the progress of the funded projects. Each project's leader will also be responsible for producing periodic reports in a format agreed upon with the PRCM and documenting the development of the indicators agreed upon during contract negotiation.

The updating of the dashboard of each project will be ensured by the coordination of the WACA ResIP2 project at the PRCM, on a quarterly basis.

The feedback of information on both a verbal and written basis will continuously feed the communication of the WACA ResIP2 Project of the PRCM with the stories of actions, events, as well as the transmission of media (maps, photos, videos, interviews, deliverables and reports).

7. CONDUCT OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

7.1 Process

1. Launch of the call for projects by the PRCM.
2. Reception and pre-selection of projects.
3. Interview phase or request for further details.
4. Final selection by an independent multi-stakeholder committee

7.2 Selection Criteria

- Relevance of the project to the themes and objectives.
- Methodological clarity and operational feasibility.
- Organizational capacity of the wearer.
- Innovation, sustainability, potential for replication or scaling.
- Gender and social inclusion consideration.
- Geographic relevance and environmental urgency.

8. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

The project selection process is conducted in a **single phase** to simplify the procedure and expedite its implementation.

Project leaders will have to submit a **complete project file directly**, based on a framework provided by the PRCM. This file must include:

- A clear analysis of the context and the issues identified.
- Definition of objectives and expected results.
- A detailed description of the proposed activities.
- The area of intervention, the stakeholders, and the implementation mechanisms.
- A structured logical framework (with indicators, results, sources of verification).
- A detailed budget by item of expenditure and an estimate of co-financing (at least 20%).
- An implementation schedule (timeline).
- Governance, monitoring, evaluation, and risk management modalities.

- The required administrative documents include articles of organization, proof of registration, an activity report, financial statements, and a declaration of resources, among others.

The independent selection committee will review each application received using a **detailed evaluation grid** (see Annex 1), evaluating specifically the relevance of the proposals, their feasibility, sustainability, territorial anchoring, and compliance with the objectives of the WACA ResIP program.

9. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Launch of the call for projects	July 14, 2025
Deadline for submission of projects	August 25, 2025
Selection Committee Meeting	September 25, 2025
Announcement of results and signing of contracts	October 25, 2025

10. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING PROJECTS

Project leaders are invited to send their application to the following email address: webgis@prcmarine.org, no later than **August 25, 2025**.

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

- Failure to follow the format or submit the mandatory documents may render the application inadmissible.
- The PRCM reserves the right to reject any non-compliant or incomplete application.
- No funding will be granted to two projects submitted by the same organization in the same call.
- The PRCM may request adjustments or reformulations before the signing of the agreements.
- Participation in the call implies full and complete acceptance of these rules.

Done in Dakar, 14th of July 2025

The Executive Directorate of the PRCM

APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION GRID FOR FULL PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Criteria	Weighting
Quality of the diagnosis and relevance of the analysis	15 pts
Coherence of the logical framework and proposed indicators	15 pts
Detail and realism of planned activities	15 pts
Clarity of the timetable and implementation modalities	10 pts
Realism and justification of the proposed budget	10 pts
Gender mainstreaming, social inclusion and youth	10 pts
Environmental sustainability and ethics of the project	10 pts
Organizational capacity and references of the wearer	10 pts
Total	100 pts

Minimum score required for selection: 70 points

The PRCM will provide support to project leaders, including:

- An initial training session on project management and financial monitoring.
- A follow-up system including field visits and personalized support.
- A mid-term review and a final validation of the project.

Funding will include:

- Production of experience sheets
- Participation in regional webinars
- Participation in the Regional Marine and Coastal Forum
- Dissemination of results on the PRCM and WACA platforms

APPENDIX 2: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES

1. Intellectual Property: Submissions remain the intellectual property of the applicants. However, by submitting a proposal, applicants authorize the PRCM and its partners to publicly share the results, visuals, and summaries for communication, learning, and visibility purposes.

2. Originality: Applicants must ensure that their proposals do not infringe on any third-party rights, including copyrights, trademarks, or patents. If third-party elements are used, the necessary written permissions must be provided.

3. Misrepresentation: If proven misrepresentation or plagiarism occurs, the PRCM reserves the right to disqualify the proposal and cancel any funding agreement.

4. Code of Conduct: Applicants agree not to submit any content that is defamatory, offensive, illegal, or inappropriate. Files must be free of viruses or corrupted content.

5. Taxes and Responsibilities: Applicants are solely responsible for any taxes or financial obligations associated with the funds received.

6. Dispute Resolution: Participation signifies acceptance of the stated rules. Any disputes that may occur will be resolved amicably between the PRCM and the concerned party.

7. No Obligation to Award: The PRCM reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or withhold funding from a proposal at its sole discretion.