

Innovation Grant

Detailed description

The PLEASE (Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia) Project is awarding new grant opportunities up to US\$120,000 per proposal (the final award decision is subject to the donor approval) for innovative approaches to reduce plastic waste in South Asia's rivers and seas from community-based organizations, social enterprises, private sector, and academic institutions registered in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; priority will be given to female-led entities. The Deadline for applications is 2nd November 2023.

This call for proposals is seeking innovative approaches in reducing, avoiding, and re-designing plastic that target change on the ground and support for select innovative ideas, respectively at local, national, and/or regional levels (within participating SAR nations). The proposals are expected to be rooted in one of the following Parley AIR thematic categories: Avoid (Reduce and Replace), Intercept (Retrieve and Recycle) and Redesign (Create New Materials; Create Smart Products; Develop New Industry Standards), which includes and innovates beyond the 3R's framework (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) of the past several decades.

The selection criteria will prioritize organizations that can demonstrate visible, meaningful, and recurrent reduction in plastic waste within 12 months that otherwise would have accumulated in South Asia's rivers and seas, and those projects that would not have been possible without the support from the grant. These projects are ideally able to establish meaningful business partnerships that enable 'end to end' solutions, from improved product design, alternative material use, and product delivery systems, interception, collection, sorting, baling, washing, flaking, pelletizing, yarn spinning and/or product development – and thus significant reductions of plastic pollution that would have ended up in South Asian seas – that would not have been possible without project support.

Other possible recipients of Innovation Grants could be involved in

- (a) designing and creating alternatives to major single-use plastic pollutants such as sachets,
- (b) education of fishers and enlisting them to intercept marine plastic pollution as an alternative or supplemental livelihood and selling that plastic waste to recyclers and up-cyclers for a guaranteed minimum price until the market is better understood;
- (c) creating material innovations, including the design of recyclable plastic resins that can replace non-recyclable resins in similar products, among other solutions to encourage innovations of all types.

Eligible entities interested in submitting Proposals can submit more than one Proposal. The Innovation Grant will provide investment support and will seek proposals, each up to US\$120,000 (the final award decision is subject to the donor approval) from registered organizations adapting innovative solutions in eligible SAR nations. To register or for more information please visit www.sacepplease.org.

The PLEASE Project is co-funded by the World Bank and Parley for the Oceans and implemented by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP),

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PLEASE Project
Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia

INNOVATION GRANT

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

FOR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES THAT PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION IN SOUTH ASIA'S RIVERS AND SEAS FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, PRIVATE SECTOR AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, MALDIVES, NEPAL, PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA; PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO FEMALE-LED ENTITIES



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