



Call for Proposals “Pilot Actions of the initiative NaturAlbania”

INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday, 4 December 2019 - 14:00 to 17:00

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
Rruga Abdi Toptani, Torre Drin, 5th floor, Tirana, Albania

OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE AND PRIORITY ISSUES

- ▶ **NaturAlbania: capitalization and promotion actions in the territorial and environmental framework**
- ▶ The **global objective** of the initiative is to contribute to the enhancement and sustainable development of Albanian natural capital in the EU accession process
- ▶ The **specific objective** of the initiative is to strengthen the management capacity of the Albanian institutions in protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity, through the sustainable management of natural parks and protected marine areas, areas of naturalistic value and rural environment and the promotion of sustainable environmental tourism, in line with the Italian and Mediterranean best practices
- ▶ The Call for Proposals “Pilot Actions of the initiative NaturAlbania” is divided into two lots:
 - Lot 1: Pilot Actions in the Mountain -Countryside context and Natural Capital
 - Lot 2: Pilot Actions in the Coast - Sea context

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Lot number	Lot title	Allocation (EUR)
Lot 1	Pilot Actions in the Mountain-Countryside context and Natural Capital	321.000,00
Lot 2	Pilot Actions in the Coast - Sea context	309.000,00

maximum percentage: 90% of the total eligible costs of the action

Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s))

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- *be a legal person or an entity without legal personality*
- *be non-profit-making*
- *be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation*
- *be established in Albania or any other country of the European Union*
- *be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary*

Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

For Lot 1:

- realization of four pilot actions with local communities, linking ecosystems and enhancing protected mountain areas and ecological corridors, in the sectors of sustainable tourism, environmental protection and sustainability, promotion of local products
- realization of one pilot action for the economic evaluation of the natural capital of protected areas

For Lot 2:

- realization of five pilot actions with the local communities, linking ecosystems and enhancing the coastal ecosystems and the marine environment, in order to integrate environmental and biodiversity protection actions with the development of historical, cultural and traditional aspects of sustainable local tourism

Number of applications and grants per applicants/ affiliated entities

- The lead applicant may not submit more than 1 application per lot under this call for proposals
- The lead applicant may not be awarded more than 1 grant per lot under this call for proposals
- The lead applicant may not be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application of the same lot at the same time
- A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be the co-applicant or affiliated entity in more than 1 application per lot under this call for proposals
- A co-applicant/affiliated entity may not be awarded more than 1 grant per lot under this call for proposals

Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The reimbursement of eligible costs may be based on any or a combination of the following forms:

- actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies)
- one or more simplified cost options

Simplified cost options may take the form of:

- **unit costs:** covering all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit
- **lump sums:** covering in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance
- **flat-rate financing:** covering specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage fixed ex ante

Eligible indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- debts and debt service charges (interest)
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities
- costs declared by the beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a grant from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the action, in which case ownership must be transferred in accordance with Article 7.5 of the general conditions of the standard grant contract, at the latest at the end of the action
- currency exchange losses
- credit to third parties
- salary cost of the personnel of national administrations

Evaluation Grid

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
2. Relevance	20
3. Design of the action	15
4. Implementation approach	15
5. Sustainability of the action	15
6. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action	15
Maximum total score	100

List of Annexes

DOCUMENTS TO BE COMPLETED

Annex A: Grant application form – full application (Word format)

Annex B: Budget (Excel format)

Annex C: Logical framework (Word format)

Annex D: Legal entity sheet

Annex E: Financial identification form

DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION

Annex G: Standard grant contract

- Annex II: general conditions
- Annex IV: contract award rules
- Annex V: standard request for payment
- Annex VI: model narrative and financial report
- Annex VII: model report of factual findings and terms of reference for an expenditure verification
- Annex VIII: model financial guarantee
- Annex IX: standard template for transfer of ownership of assets

Annex H: Declaration on Honour

Annex I: Daily allowance rates (per diem)

Annex K: Guidelines for assessing simplified cost options

Annex L: Pilot Actions – Lots 1 and 2

Lot 1: Pilot Actions in the Mountain-Countryside context and Natural Capital

- **MC1 - Sustainable enhancement and safeguarding of the ecological corridor of the Vjosa river**
- **MC2 - Enhancement of mountain tourism and creation of support points**
- **MC3 - Environmentally sustainable food chain for local producers in protected areas**
- **MC4 - Protection plan for forest areas: fire risk, climate change and containment of non-native species**
- **NC1 - Economic evaluation of the Natural Capital of one protected area**

Lot 2: Pilot Actions in the Coast - Sea context

- **CS1 - Conservation of sea turtles in the Sazan-Karaburun Marine Park, the Karaburun Natural Park and the Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape**
- **CS2 - Enhancement of the military history of Vlora Bay**
- **CS3 - Sustainable enhancement of the coastal landscape of Himara - Porto Palermo**
- **CS4 - Blue tourism: proposal for the development of eco-sustainable tourism in protected areas**
- **CS5 - Modeling of the lagoon system: pilot case of the Zvernec lagoon**

Example of Pilot Action

Title	
Location	
Rationale	
Objective	
Expected results	
Output	

Special Conditions

- The implementation period of the action, as laid down in Annex I, is 24 months starting from the date of signature of the contract
- The grant is further limited to 90% of the total eligible cost of the action
- The first instalment of pre-financing shall be accompanied by a financial guarantee amounting to 40% of the grant contract and complying with the requirements of Article 15.8 of Annex II

Month		EUR
1	Initial pre-financing payment	30 % of the contract value
8	Second pre-financing payment	40 % of the contract value
16	Final payment	30 % of the contract value
	Total	100 % of the contract value
24+6	Return of financial guarantee	40 % of the contract value

Indicative timetable

	DATE	TIME
1. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the Contracting Authority	19/02/2020	17.00
2. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the Contracting Authority	29/02/2020	-
3. Deadline for submission of applications	11/03/2020	12.00
4. Information to lead applicants on the evaluation of the full applications (Step 1)	26/03/2020	-
5. Notification of award (after the eligibility check) (Step 2)	02/04/2020	-
6. Contract signature	23/04/2020	-