



Call for applications To identify young innovative project leaders in marine and coastal conservation in West Africa

On the occasion of the 10th edition of the coastal and marine Forum scheduled **29 March to 1 April 2022 in Bissau**, the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM) launches a call for proposals for young people with innovative initiatives.

The objective of the programme is to:

- Enhance the youth's leadership and innovation capacities in the area of conservation;
- Arrange contact between bearers of relevant ideas and technical and financial partners in the sub-region;
- Promote the development of new initiatives for coastal and marine conservation across the sub-region.

Key issues

Projects should prioritise the conservation of coastal and marine areas and resources, while showing a clear interest for West Africa coastal communities. Specifically, the following issues could be addressed or serve as inspiration:

- Environmental management of offshore oil and gas operations
- Reduction of the impacts of coastal infrastructure (including the impacts of oil and gas activities)
- Sustainable management of fishery resources
- Protection of sea turtles
- Conservation of birds and coastal wetlands
- Conservation and restoration of mangroves
- Establishment and/or strengthened management of marine protected areas.

Selection criteria

Applicants must be young people aged **less than 35 year-old** and nationals of one of the PRCM member countries (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone). Applications from young researchers or people exercising leadership within a civil society organisation or a community association are strongly recommended.

Five projects will be shortlisted based on the following criteria:

1. relevancy and link in respect of the conservation of the West Africa coastline and its resources

2. originality
3. sustainability
4. benefits on the lives of coastal communities
5. level of involvement of the youth and/or communities in implementation.

The **five shortlisted candidates** will be invited to participate in the 10th Forum in Bissau from **29 March to 1 April 2022**. Not only will shortlisted projects be promoted during the Forum but also all concept papers will be posted on the PRCM website, and authors will receive support in seeking funds.

Final selection procedure

At the Forum, the five shortlisted candidates will have an opportunity, during a plenary session on “talking project” **on Friday 1 April 2022**, to make a dynamic presentation of their initiatives to a high level panel comprising donors, researchers and environmental experts.

Their presentations must aim at answering the following three questions:

- Why this project?
- What does the project attempts to address?
- Why should the project be financed?

Thereafter, candidates will have to answer questions from the panel. Following deliberations, the panel will select the **best project**. His author will be invited to present it at one of the international events identified by the PRCM

Applications

Applicants must submit to the PRCM a summary concept paper of not more than five pages in **English, French or Portuguese**, to be structured as follows:

1. Name and contacts of the applicant
2. An overview of the context and issues that the project attempts to address
3. A description of the project objectives, main activities and area of intervention
4. Show the innovative aspect of the project
5. Impact of the project on communities (if applicable)
6. Project implementation steps
7. Stakeholders
8. The budget
9. Name and contacts details of two referent persons or organizations

Submission of proposals

Proposals are to be sent exclusively at forum@prcmarine.org not later than **February 20, 2022**, at 17:00, as a strict deadline.