



End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC)

Request for Proposals - Circular Economy Costa Rica

Overview

Launched on 20 September 2023 at the 78th UN General Assembly and with catalytic seed funding from the U.S. Department of State, the [End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative \(EPPIC\)](#) is an international public-private partnership hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, The Ocean Foundation, Aspen Institute, and Searious Business.

Plastic pollution is a global crisis that transcends national boundaries, disrupts the natural world, and impacts livelihoods worldwide. Millions of tons of plastic waste enter the ocean each year, and untold millions of tons more pollute lands and waterways – persisting in the environment for centuries. To protect the health of our planet and all its inhabitants, we must act now to end plastic pollution.

PURPOSE

Led by The Ocean Foundation (TOF), the End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC) grant program will provide financial resources to in-country projects focused on location-appropriate upstream and mid-stream interventions supported by science-based knowledge, as appropriate. These grants will support projects that align with EPPIC’s mission to galvanize global action to significantly reduce plastic pollution and advance solutions to eliminate plastic waste across the plastic cycle.

Grant Award Details

Geographic Focus

Proposals will be accepted for projects based in:

- Costa Rica

Project Focus

Projects will be up to 2 years in length and focused on ecodesign of parts, products, and packaging (durability, adaptability, compatibility, labeling, certification, and standardization), upcycling models, and business models based on reduction and/or servitization (products as services), including those with a co-responsibility approach by the consumer/end-user; strengthen culture and social cohesion through educational content at the community level focused on the dissemination of the principles of the Circular Economy, as well as topics related to social inclusion, innovation, responsible consumption and the just transition to an inclusive economy; or exchange of researchers and innovators in circular economy between local and international research centers and universities. **Projects should focus on one or more of the following, however, if you have**

a promising project that aligns with EPPIC's mission and focuses on location-appropriate upstream and mid-stream interventions supported by science-based knowledge as appropriate we encourage you to apply:

- Innovation in sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics
- Develop and test new materials that can serve as sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics
- Incorporate the principles of eco-design of plastic parts, products, and packaging making them easier to recycle and ensuring that materials can be recovered and reused at the end of use
- Promote circular economy practices through reuse and/or refill solutions
- Encourage users to return empty plastic containers to be cleaned and reused by the company
- Training of industrial designers and product developers in eco-design principles and eco-innovation
- Business and financial literacy for entrepreneurs interested in launching ventures that develop and market alternatives to conventional plastics
- Strengthening the capacity of Small to Medium Enterprises to adopt circular economy practices, improve regulatory compliance, and reduce their environmental impact

Eligibility

Grant recipients can be individuals, NGOs, academic institutions, private entities, or governments in the above country(s) that are eligible to receive grants from United States government funds. Religious organizations are not eligible for grants. Preference will be given to organizations that are owned and operated by local community members, individuals who live and work in the community of project focus, and/or sub-national governments in the focus country(s) to increase the benefits derived from the project for the communities they represent.

Available Funds

Up to USD 225,000 will be awarded through this RFP; projects should submit proposals for no more than USD 75,000 total. The number of grants given will be determined based on the amount each project is awarded.

Multi-year grants will be paid in installments with payments after the initial payment tied to reporting requirements. The installment amounts and timing will be negotiated between the awardee and EPPIC.

Ineligible expenses:

- Construction
- Lobbying support
- Alcohol

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- How location-appropriate the proposal is
- If the project is science-based (when appropriate)
- How well the proposal aligns with the RFP
- If the project will engage with women, youth, Indigenous groups, the informal waste sector, and/or other under-resourced groups
- If the project contributes to the indicators listed in the Reporting section below

- If the project is innovative, has the potential for scaling or replication, and/or is self-sustainable after the initial investment
- The benefits for the local community with priority given to organizations that are owned and operated by local community members, individuals who live and work in the community of project focus, and/or sub-national governments in the focus country(s) to increase the benefits derived from the project for the communities they are in.

Application & Award Process

How to Apply

Proposals are due **7 July 2024, 23:59 ET**. The application process will be managed through [WAVES](#), The Ocean Foundation's grant administration platform. All applicants will be required to create accounts within the [WAVES](#) platform to access the application. If not submitted in English, proposals will be translated to English using translation software. The application process will be in two phases as described below:

- 1. Phase 1:** Applicants complete an online application. A Grant Review Committee will review all applications and identify the applications to request a full proposal from based on the evaluation criteria.
 - a. Proposal Requirements:** Complete profile information in the grant management system for both the primary contact of the application and the organization. Short project description; amount requested; total project budget; organization budget (if applicable); description of alignment with indicators in the reporting section of this RFP; short description if your proposed project is innovative for your location, has the potential for scaling or replications, and/or is it self-sustainable after the initial investment; primary project location; list of project partners (if applicable); a list of any previous, current, or prospective project funders; and an indication if you intended to provide in-kind support to the project.
- 2. Phase 2:** Applicants selected by a Grant Review Committee are requested to provide additional information to complete a full proposal. A Grant Review Committee will then review the additional information provided by the applicants and select which applications to recommend to the EPPIC Host Consortium for funding.
 - a. Full Proposal Requirements:** Further details to the short proposal as requested by the committee, any additional questions the committee may have, a list of primary personnel working on the project and their qualifications, 2-3 support letters, and a line item budget and budget narrative for the amount either requested by the applicant or suggested by the committee. Selected grantees will need to provide the following to receive grant funds:
 - i. US Federal Government Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number**
 1. This grant is funded from a United States government award therefore to be eligible to receive this funding you will need a UEI. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to register your organization or visit [SAM.gov](#). You are not required to complete full SAM registration to obtain a unique entity identifier, just the unique identifier portion.
 - ii. US Tax form** (Links to these tax forms will be provided in the application portal)

1. W-9: Organizations and entities based in the United States
 2. W-8 BEN: Individuals based outside the United States
 3. W-8 BEN-E: Entities based outside the United States
- iii. Proof of legal status if an organization
 - iv. Signed grant letter
 - v. Payment information
 - vi. Any travel included in the grant or supported by EPPIC must align with the [Fly America Act](#)

Timeline

- **Release Date:** 7 June 2024, 23:59 ET
- **Submissions Due:** 7 July 2024, 23:59 ET
- **1st Review Period Ends:** 22 July 2024
- **Applicants Notified:** 23 July 2024
 - Applicants notified if they were selected to move forward in the application process, those selected to move forward will be asked to provide additional information
- **Full Application Due:** 11 August 2024, 23:59 ET
- **2nd Review Period Ends:** 5 September 2024
- **Applicants Notified:** 6 September 2024
 - Applicants notified if their project was selected to be funded
- **Project Start Date:** 7 September - 30 September 2024
 - Initial payments will be disbursed in September 2024
- **Project End Date:** 7 September - 30 September 2026

Reporting

2-year Grants

Grantees will complete progress reports and a final report. Completion of the progress report will be required prior to the grantee receiving additional grant payments after the first payment disbursement. Progress reports will either be every 6 or 12 months as determined by the Host Consortium based on reporting needs, meaning grant payments will occur two or four payments will be made with a total of 2 (1 progress & 1 final) or 4 (3 progress & 1 final) reports required.

Progress reports will include a narrative report detailing progress to date and any obstacles encountered and a financial report for funds spent before receiving additional grant payments. Final reports will include a narrative report detailing lessons learned and a financial report for funds spent.

Grantees will report on the following metrics, as applicable:

- Number of jobs created supported by this grant
- Volume of plastic waste avoided (The amount of plastic that is removed from entering the consumer market)
 - The amount of plastic reduced will be estimated by the EPPIC grantee using a methodology agreed upon during a consultative process
- Amount of municipal plastic solid waste (in metric tons) diverted from the environment

If an approved project is less than two years in length the reporting requirements will depend on the length of the project and will follow a similar pattern to the above.

Grantee Expectations & Support

Grantee expectations and support could include all or part of the following as agreed between EPPIC and the grantee:

- Grantees will automatically become EPPIC members.
- Grantees will be expected to share lessons learned with the EPPIC community and other EPPIC grantees.
- Projects will be highlighted on the EPPIC website, newsletter, and/or reports. Grantees may have the opportunity to present their work at EPPIC events. Travel to these events would be supported by EPPIC outside of your award grant funds.
- Attend gatherings to share lessons learned and provide advice and support to other EPPIC grantees as agreed upon between EPPIC and the grantee. These gatherings could be during or after your grant award period. Travel to these gatherings will be supported by EPPIC outside of your award grant funds.
- Host one or more potential site visits by EPPIC and EPPIC partners as agreed upon between EPPIC and the grantee.
- Connect with scientific or technical experts who are members or partners of EPPIC to provide mentorship, advice, or knowledge sharing as determined by all participants
- Connect with IUCN's MEL department to learn more about MEL capacity and how to showcase outcomes and measurements for plastic waste and pollution avoided.
- Ad Hoc check-in calls with the grant manager to discuss any issues related to your project, assist with problem-solving, discuss budget management, or any other items related to the project as initiated by the grantee or grant manager.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the RFP, application process, or WAVES system can be directed to grants@oceanfdn.org.