

# BEST

VOLUNTARY SCHEME  
FOR BIODIVERSITY AND  
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES  
IN TERRITORIES OF  
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



# BEST 2.0+ Call for proposals

## Information Session



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BEST  
2.0+



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Overall information on BEST 2.0+ grants
3. Eligibility criteria
4. Timeline
5. How to apply
6. Evaluation
7. Conclusion





# 1 / Introduction

## The Regional Focal Point

- ❖ The first point of contact for the region to provide information on the BEST 2.0+ programme and its call for proposals

## BEST 2.0+

- ❖ BEST 2.0+ is the continuation of the BEST initiative and BEST 2.0

The overall objective of BEST 2.0+ is to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as a basis for sustainable development in OCTs.

The specific objective is to enable, empower and strengthen local authorities and civil society organisations which are committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services in OCTs through the implementation of a grant scheme accompanied by the capacity building activities.

- ❖ A two-stage call for proposals:

1. Open application process for concept notes
2. Full proposals by invitation only



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# **Overall information on BEST 2.0+ Grants**

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## 2 / Overall information on BEST 2.0+ Grants

### Financial allocation and grant amount

- ❖ BEST 2.0+ Call for proposals total budget : €1,300,000
- ❖ A maximum of €60,000 per BEST 2.0+ grant
- ❖ The budget should reflect the expected results, activities and related costs. It is not necessary to request the maximum amount
- ❖ **!** Co-funding is not allowed

### Grant duration

- ❖ A maximum of 19 months
- ❖ Duration should be aligned with the activities and workplan
- ❖ **!** No extension will be granted







# Eligibility criteria



### 3 / Eligibility criteria

#### Applicant's eligibility

- ❖ UK OCTs' organisations are eligible
- ❖ Applicants must be: a private or public legal entity; **registered** in one of the European OCTs\*; **directly responsible** for the project; have a bank account in the name of the organisation
- ❖ Target beneficiaries are primarily: **local NGOs and non-profit organisations; micro-enterprises; local sub-governmental bodies**
- ❖ Individual consultants, sole traders and consultancy firms are **not** directly eligible but can be sub-contracted
- ❖ **Special conditions apply to uninhabited territories and OCTs with low population (*following slide*)**
- ❖ The lead applicant may act **individually or with co-applicant(s)**
- ❖ An organisation can submit a maximum of two proposals but can only be awarded **one grant as lead applicant**
- ❖ **!** A research organisation can only apply as co-applicant, provided that the applied research supports tangible actions

# Eligibility criteria



## Special conditions for uninhabited Territories

Exceptional access allowed for:

- ❖ Territorial governments departments, agencies and their services
- ❖ Organisations that are based in the region (but not regional organisations)
- ❖ Organisations based in a EU Member State or the UK
- **! In the two later cases: the applicant must demonstrate the support from the relevant OCT authorities**

## Special conditions for OCTs with a low population

Exceptional access allowed for OCT territorial governments and their services when:

- ❖ There is a low population, i.e. **< 60 000 inhabitants and a population density < 100 pop/km<sup>2</sup>**

**And**

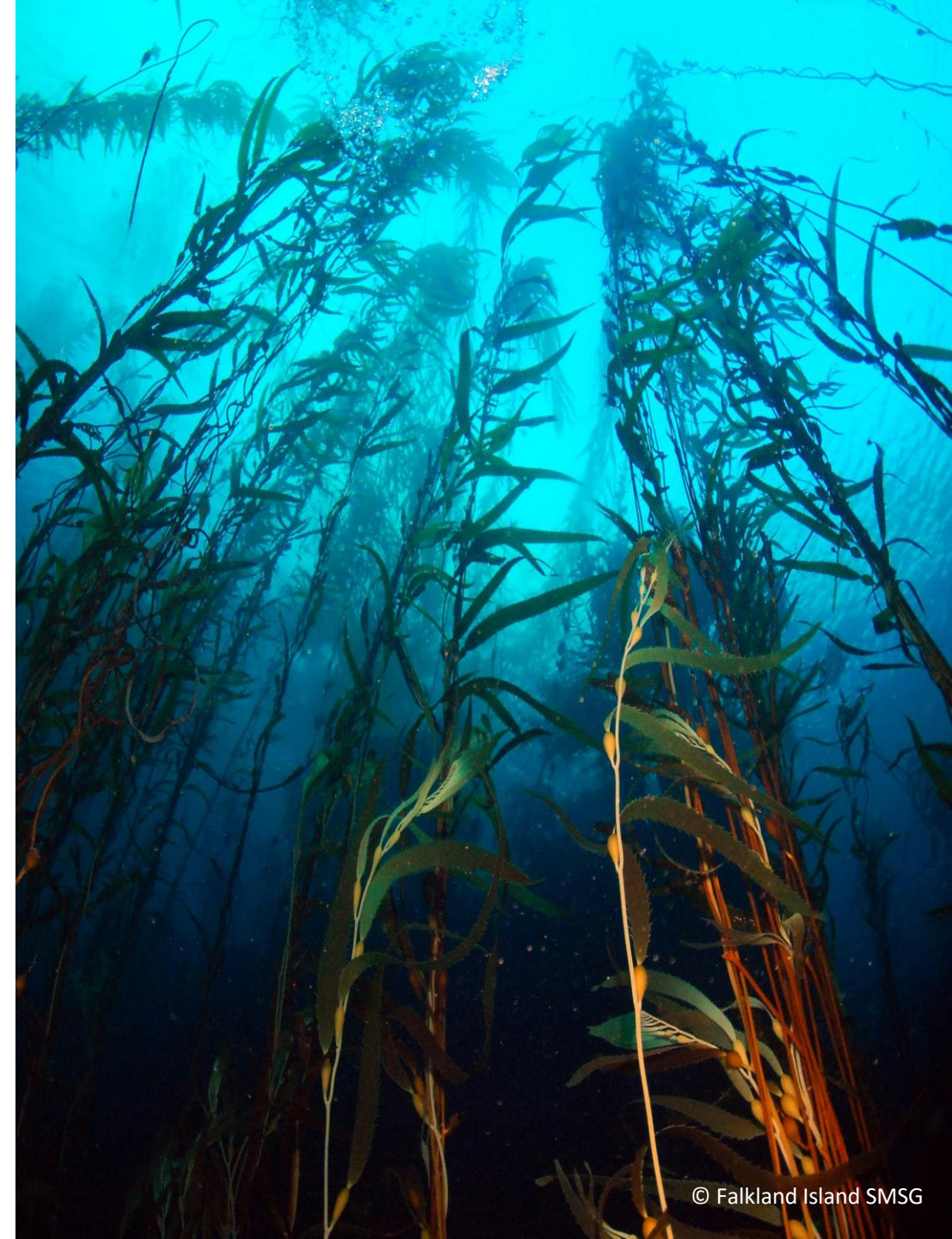
- ❖ The project puts a strong emphasis on the territory (collaboration with local stakeholders, capacity-building)



# Eligible criteria

Eligible activities must:

- ❖ Be located in one of the EU or UK **OCTs**
- ❖ Comply with IUCN **environmental and social safeguards**
- ❖ Contribute to **tangible impacts** on conservation, sustainable development / use of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- ❖ Encourage **partnerships** with local stakeholders
- ❖ Guarantee **open access to data**, results and all information generated by the project
- ❖ **Not** be fundamental research activities





- Improving the status of OCTs' threatened species and their habitats;
- Vegetation/habitat mapping for supporting tangible activities on the ground of protection and/or restoration of critical habitat;
- Strengthening Protected Area management and/or governance effectiveness (training, new/updated PA management plan, participatory activities);
- Support to local stakeholders' initiatives (e.g., local communities and authorities) to help protect/manage biodiversity, ecosystems (e.g. ecosystem management, participatory monitoring);
- Analysis to better understand/quantify the threats on biodiversity for supporting new tangible activities on the ground;
- Socioeconomic studies for supporting the development of new sustainable economic valorisation of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystems services (e.g. ecotourism);
- Mitigation of specific threats such as climate change impacts, invasive alien species;
- Traditional solutions promotion and deployment in terms of sustainable management and biodiversity conservation;
- Local and participatory circular economy solutions preserving ecosystems and reducing pressures on biodiversity;
- Sustainable agricultural and fisheries good practices promoting species and habitat conservation; agro-ecological activities (including agroforestry);
- Public awareness, education campaigns, socio-cultural activities, training and capacity building;
- Support to local stakeholders' enhanced participation to biodiversity and sustainable development (e.g. participatory monitoring, eco-sentinels).



# Timeline

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## 4 / Timeline



- ❖ The deadline for the submission of concept notes is **22 October 2020 (at 23:59 Brussels' time)**
- ❖ The deadline for the full proposals will be indicated in the notification letter of preselection

	DATE
Deadline to request clarifications	08/10/2020
Deadline to submit concept notes	22/10/2020
Notification of the preselection to submit a full proposal	Between 01/12/2020 and 22/12/2020
Deadline to submit full proposals	March 2021 <i>Depending on the notification date</i>



# How to apply?

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## 5 / How to apply?

### Procedures

Only through the BEST 2.0+ portal: <https://www.best2plus.org/>

➤ Applicants need to:

- 1) create an account
- 2) fill in the required parts online
- 3) upload the completed documents and SAVE the application at each step ! Submitted applications cannot be modified

Make sure that all required information and documents have been entered and uploaded successfully

### Documents

- A draft application can be saved
- Templates can be filled offline first

- ❖ **Concept Note** Template (*next slide*)
- ❖ **Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire**
- ❖ **Application Declaration**
- ❖ **Co-applicant mandate**
- All forms are available [online](#)
- ❖ CVs and other supporting documents to be uploaded

To be filled by the lead applicant and co-applicant(s)



# How to apply? Registration



Enter your details below.

WORK E-MAIL:

ORGANISATION

REGION

PASSWORD:

CONFIRM

- ☐ I agree to BEST 2.0+ Call [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).
- ☐ I allow IUCN and third parties to control my personal data, for the purposes described in the IUCN [Privacy Policy](#).

REGISTER

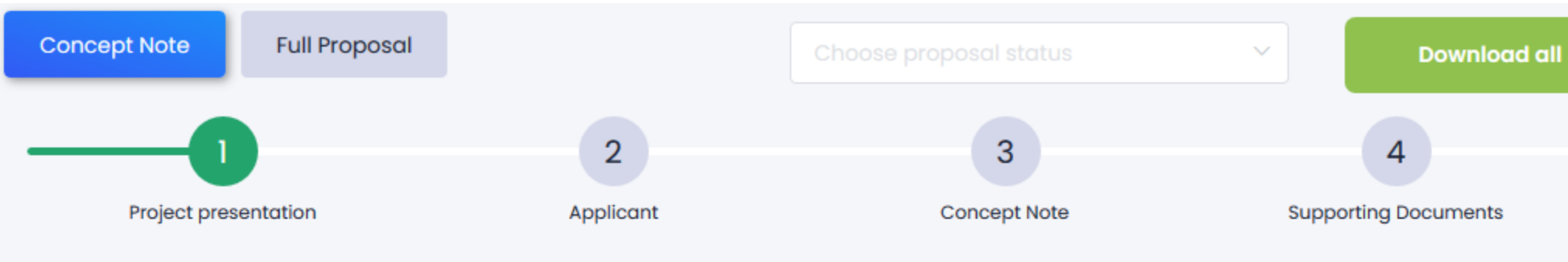


# How to apply?

Concept note – Stage 1 & 2

- ❖ ‘Project Presentation’ & ‘Applicant’ are filed online (*content on next slides*)

Do not hesitate  
to check the  
requirements in  
the Guidelines  
(Annex 1, pp. 16-  
18)



Reference: 2020-

1. Project title

2. Region ?

3. Geographic scope ?



# How to apply?

## Concept note – Stage 1

1. Overall presentation of the project			
Reference of the proposal: <i>Available on the BEST 2.0+ portal</i>			
Project title:			
Region: <i>The region where the project will take place</i>			
Geographic scope: <i>The site where the project will take place</i>			
Start date: <i>At the earliest the day of the contract signature</i>	DD/MM/202Y	End date:	JJ/MM/202Y
Duration (in months): <i>19 months maximum. No extension will be granted</i>			
Main BEST 2.0+ objective addressed by the project <i>Select <u>only one objective</u></i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation		
Secondary BEST 2.0+ objectives addressed by the project <i>Optional - select, if relevant, one or the two other objectives that differ from the main objective selected</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystem services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation		
Requested Grant Amount:		€	
Project Summary <i>Maximum 150 words</i>			





# How to apply?

## Concept note – Stage 2

2. Organisation			
Organisation legal name:			
Common name of the organisation/acronym: (if any)			
Address:			
Website: (if any)			
Project leader contact details			
Main referent for the BEST 2.0+ Secretariat			
Name/Surname:		Email:	
Job title:		Phone:	
A CV of the project leader must be uploaded together with the concept note			
Type of organisation			
Select the relevant type of organisation corresponding to your situation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Local NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, non-profit organisations			
<input type="checkbox"/> Small socio-professional organisations, SMEs, small for-profit organisations			
<input type="checkbox"/> Research organisations			
<input type="checkbox"/> OCT local sub-governmental bodies			
<input type="checkbox"/> OCT territorial government departments, agencies and services			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organisations based in the same region as uninhabited OCTs			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organisations based in a Member State			
Presentation of your organisation and role in the project			
Maximum 250 words			
Is there any co-applicant?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please complete the information below			
Co-applicant 1. Add as many lines as co-applicants			
Organisation legal name:			
Type of organisation:			
Choose among the relevant types of organisation above			
Presentation of the organisation and role in the project			
Maximum 200 words			



## How to apply?

Concept note – Stage 3

Alike all templates, the Concept Note can be downloaded on the [BEST 2.0+ portal](#)

Stage 3 is composed of:

- ❖ 8 questions about the project's context; objectives; relevance to BEST; activities; timeline; risks and resources; partnerships and stakeholders; sustainability and added value; rough budget estimate
- ❖ 5 Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) Preliminary Questions
- ❖ Once fully completed, it should be uploaded online

Upload PDF project description

Electronic or scanned signature by the authorised representative (PDF only)

 **DOWNLOAD**

**DOWNLOAD CONCEPT NOTE DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE** 

# How to apply? ! Do not forget Supporting documents - Stage 4



Lead Applicant Declaration duly signed electronic or scanned signature are accepted (PDF only) <i>The Lead Applicant Declaration duly signed field is required</i>	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE</a> 📄
Lead Applicant Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire (PDF only)	<a href="#">📄 DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE</a> 📄
<a href="#">+ ADD DOCUMENT</a>	
Co-applicant mandate, if applicable electronic or scanned signature are accepted (PDF only)	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE</a> 📄
Co-applicant Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire, if applicable (PDF only)	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE</a> 📄
<a href="#">+ ADD DOCUMENT</a>	
CV of the project leader (PDF only) <i>The CV of the project leader (PDF only) field is required</i>	
ESMS Questionnaire supporting documents if applicable (PDF only)	<a href="#">📄 DOWNLOAD</a>
<a href="#">+ ADD DOCUMENT</a>	



Submit your  
proposal



# Evaluation

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## 6 / Evaluation

- ❖ Proposals will be examined by the Regional Advisory Committee
- ❖ ! Only the concept notes with a score of **at least 30** will be preselected
- ❖ Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the concept note evaluation

Criteria	Maximum Score
Does the project make a clear demonstration that it is concretely addressing the BEST 2.0+ objectives?	5
How relevant is the proposal to local and national strategies, and the BEST Regional Ecosystem Profile? <sup>2</sup>	5
Are the foreseen activities relevant and tangible enough for achieving the overall objective? Do they present positive impacts during its lifetime?	10
Is there already a clear approach for the sustainability and replicability of the project?	5
Does the proposal contain particular added-value elements? To which extent does the proposal integrate elements such as promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, people with disabilities and youth participation, rights of minorities?	5
How coherent is the overall design of the project? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved? Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results?	10
Are the workforce and timeline realistic? Are the activities feasible and consistent in relation to the expected results (including timeframe)? Are results realistic? Does the design take the risks into account?	5
Does the project identify all relevant partners and their capacities? How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved?	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>



## 7 / Conclusion

- ❖ **! Read carefully the Guidelines** 
- ❖ Consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- ❖ Clarifications can be asked by email to the Regional Focal Point but no later than 10 days before the submission deadline

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR  
REGIONAL FOCAL POINT

and CC the BEST secretariat [BEST2.0secretariat@iucn.org](mailto:BEST2.0secretariat@iucn.org)

## Do you have any questions?



### BEST 2.0+

**Promoting conservation and sustainable  
use of Biodiversity and Ecosystem  
Services in Overseas Countries and  
Territories**

**Call for proposals 2020**

**Guidelines for Applicants**

Deadline for submission of concept notes:

**22 October 2020 at 23:59** (Brussels date and time)

(In order to convert to local time click [here](#))

Applicants are strongly recommended to read this guidance document in full before completing and submitting a proposal for BEST 2.0+



This programme is funded by the European Union

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# GOOD LUCK!



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