



BEST2.0 Media Programme Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Applicants are invited to refer to the BEST2.0 Request for Proposals (RfP). In case of outstanding questions, a list of frequently asked questions and answers can be found below.

General

1. What is the BEST2.0 Media Grants Scheme?

The BEST2.0 Media Grants Scheme is a programme designed to boost and amplify impactful coverage of the BEST-funded projects in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), revolving around local stakeholders' initiatives to protect their local biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ultimately, this media scheme seeks to enhance the promotion and the understanding of the EU support to the OCTs, the acknowledgement of local stakeholders, and the results of their BEST-funded field actions.

2. What is BEST?

BEST is a European dedicated financial mechanism for biodiversity actions in the EU Overseas. It has been implemented both in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and in the Outermost Regions (ORs) with the aim to support local stakeholders in the protection of their unique biodiversity and critical ecosystems, and in the deployment of nature-based solutions.

3. Who manages the BEST2.0 Media Grants Scheme?

The BEST2.0 Media Grants Scheme is managed by the BEST Secretariat of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

4. Where does the funding come from?

The funding for the BEST2.0 Media Grants Scheme comes from the European Union through the BEST Programme.



Applicants' eligibility

5. Who can apply for funding?

Freelance journalists (or consortium of those) and staff journalists (or team of those) working for non-profit or for-profit media organisations with their principal place of business located in one of the OCTs.

6. How do I apply?

All applications are submitted via email to BESTmediagrants@iucn.org. The subject heading of the email shall be [IUCN Request for Proposal – BEST2.0 Media Grant - [Proposer Name]]. Applications can be made either in English or French.

7. Is there a maximum number of co-applicants?

No, there is no maximum threshold. As a matter of fact, applications from groups of freelancers or staff journalists gathering diverse expertise, perspective and gender-balanced are strongly encouraged.

Activities' eligibility

8. Can I apply with a project that is not original to this media scheme?

No. The BEST2.0 Media Grant funds stories that are originally and exclusively produced for this programme and not for already done work, whether published or not.

9. My project tackles biodiversity issues in the OCTs and yet does not address any of the BEST 2.0-funded field actions, can I apply?

No. All the nominated projects must focus on the results, positive impacts and the leverage effect of two or more of the BEST2.0 projects.



10. Can I apply for funds with one single output?

No. This media scheme does not fund stand-alone outputs or stories produced in one single format. This programme funds multiformat packages, i.e. including a mix of mini-docs, radio podcasts, on-line series, interviews, online long reads, etc. published in a series, and yet avoiding duplication of content.

Media partners

11. Do I need to apply with several media partners?

No. You may apply with just one media partner. However, since the stories are to be delivered in a combination of formats and published in a series, you are strongly encouraged to have more than one media partner carrying the different outputs.

12. My media organisation is a magazine linked to an advocacy group, can I apply?

No. Government-controlled media entities and media that are totally or partially funded by a political party or an activist group are not eligible for this media grant.

13. Can I submit an application if I don't provide a letter of intent from my media partner?

Yes. You are strongly encouraged to supply this letter of intent upon submitting your application, but it is not mandatory. In absence of that, an exchange of emails with the relevant editor will also serve the purpose. However, if your application is selected for funding, the submission of this letter of intent will be necessary upon the signing of your contract.

14. Can I syndicate my content beyond the media partner (s) I am applying with?

Yes, you are strongly invited to do so. Please note that the original copy holders (individual freelance journalists or publishers,) will retain unrestricted copyright and further exploitation opportunities for their work.



Funds and budget

15. How much funding can I apply for?

The media grants are provided as lump sums with a maximum amount: EUR 10,000. However, the amount requested needs to be commensurate with the proposed project, and based on the grounds of a budget that will be double-checked, scored and approved by the BEST Secretariat as credible and reasonable.

16. How should the budget be presented if the project involves co-applicants?

The contract is signed with the lead applicant, who will have to submit one single budget reflecting the costs of all the journalists involved in the project, as per the budget template provided.

17. Can I receive co-funding from a private entity to support my project?

No. Co-funding, whatever its sources, is not permitted.

18. What is the grant payment schedule? Are advanced payments being made?

The successful and selected applicants will receive lump-sum stipends in several instalments (2 or 3) to be defined on the basis of their proposal. The first of those instalments will be made upon the contract signing.

19. What currency will the funds be issued in?

The funds will only be issued in EUR.

20. Can I purchase technical equipment if I submit detailed documentation of the spending?



No. Neither the purchase nor the rent of equipment are deemed as eligible costs in this media grant scheme.

21. Are the costs incurred during the preparation of the proposal eligible?

No. Only the costs incurred during the implementation of the project are eligible costs.

Award notification

22. When will I find out the outcome of my application?

The estimated award date is November 2021.

23. Will I be contacted regardless of it?

Yes. All applicants, successful or not, will be informed in writing by the BEST Secretariat about the results of their proposals.

Grantees obligations

24. What type of progress reporting will it be expected from me?

The agreement between the successful applicant and IUCN will take the form of a contract for service. As such, grantees will not be requested to do any formal progress reporting, being it narrative or financial, to the BEST Secretariat. Having said that, the main applicant will be requested to stay in regular contact with the BEST Secretariat on the progress of the work being done.



25. What If I cannot complete or publish the stories?

We understand that we are facing unpredictable times due to the COVID19 pandemic, which is affecting our travel and movement. For this reason, grants contracts will require that the successful applicant (s) have a contingency plan in place, should they need to proceed with it. Furthermore, successful applicants will be required to make every reasonable effort to have their work published by the deadline stated in their contract, or to inform the BEST Secretariat as soon as there are indications that these requirements cannot be met. As stressed earlier, the main applicant will be requested to stay in regular contact with the BEST Secretariat on the progress of their work.

Additional information

26. Whom should I contact in case of questions?

Should you have any questions or encounter any difficulties, please contact the BEST Secretariat at BESTmediagrants@iucn.org. You may also contact the Regional Focal Point. The contact details of the Regional Focal Points are available online on the BEST portal following [this link](#).

27. Who are the Regional Focal Points?

The Regional Focal Points are the local partners of the BEST Secretariat in the OCTs. They act as the first point of contact for local stakeholders and for institutional partners of their respective region. They are in charge of addressing queries on all BEST calls for proposals, organising capacity-building activities, and supporting the BEST grantees in their reporting and promotion of their projects in their region. They act under the coordination of the BEST Secretariat.