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2013

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Life for Rivers

A Special Grants Programme on river basins management

WWF-India, in the Year of International Water Cooperation, announces a special grants programme – Life for Rivers – on sustainable river basin management.

India is a land of rivers and its river basins are complex ecosystems with multitude of dependencies of people and species. Indian rivers are also some of the last global frontiers of rich freshwater diversity including many endangered and threatened species. However, most of the key river basins in India are facing serious management challenges. It is predicted that in 14 out of 20 river basins in India, the water supply will be half of its demand by 2030.

Given the growing pressures, there is an urgent need to manage our rivers better in a holistic and a participatory manner. It is also vital to create spaces and institutional mechanisms to engage diverse stakeholders including riparian communities in designing, implementing and monitoring river basin programmes, hitherto non-existent in India. Life for Rivers initiative -the special grants programme (SGP) envisions creating a critical mass of knowledge and a vibrant network of “River Saviours” who will contribute towards sustainable management of key rivers in India.

This programme is supported by HSBC India.



OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this grant is to provide financial support to individuals/organizations based in India, who wish to undertake short-term initiatives, with multiplier effects, as a part of its long term strategy contributing to sustainable river basin management. The SGP will support local actions, research and innovation across river basins, cross fertilization of ideas, knowledge sharing, networking and developing of policy platforms to bring about larger change. SGP will also support ideas and innovations towards advocacy and awareness on sustainable river basin management. Following are some of the areas that will be supported.

- **River Forums:** Formation of Multi-stakeholder platforms on river basin management at sub-basin/basin level which will encourage upstream-downstream conversations, knowledge sharing, debates and focused dialogues on various basin management challenges and solutions.
- **Action research:** Focused, short-term field research on river management on diverse issues ranging from aquatic biodiversity conservation, environmental flows (E-Flows), pristine rivers, river health assessments and so on
- **Media fellowships/Documentation of best practices on integrated basin management:** To encourage journalists/writers to identify, research, analyse and document better management approaches on river basin management from across the country.
- **Innovative advocacy, capacity building and awareness campaigns on river basins management:** This support will be extended to organisations working towards creating public opinion on a very critical aspect of basin management

WHO CAN APPLY

- Individuals/Civil Society Organizations/NGOs/Community Based Organisations
- Educational/ scientific institutions
- Researchers
- Journalists



FUNDING

Rs. 2,00,000 (minimum) to 3,00,000 (maximum)



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Proposal with a clearly articulated rationale that demonstrates urgency and need for support
- Proven work experience in river basin management
- Project ideas/innovative approaches that encourage participatory, multi-stakeholder or community based river basin management
- Achieve a clear outcome within the project timeframe that can be scaled up or replicated
- Potential multiplier effect of the proposed idea and large scale impact on knowledge, attitude and behaviour which could influence policies and practices in river basin management.

THE PROGRAMME DOES NOT SUPPORT

- Administrative costs of an organization will not be covered. Cash payments for direct budgetary support to an organization
 - Payments for expenses of recurring nature
 - Organisation of seminars, meetings and conferences, except where it can be demonstrated that the organization of such events is critical to achieving the larger objectives of this grant
 - Sponsorship to attend conferences, workshops, training programs in India or abroad
 - Construction and infrastructure costs
 - Purchase of vehicles
 - Proposals from Government employees and departments
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SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

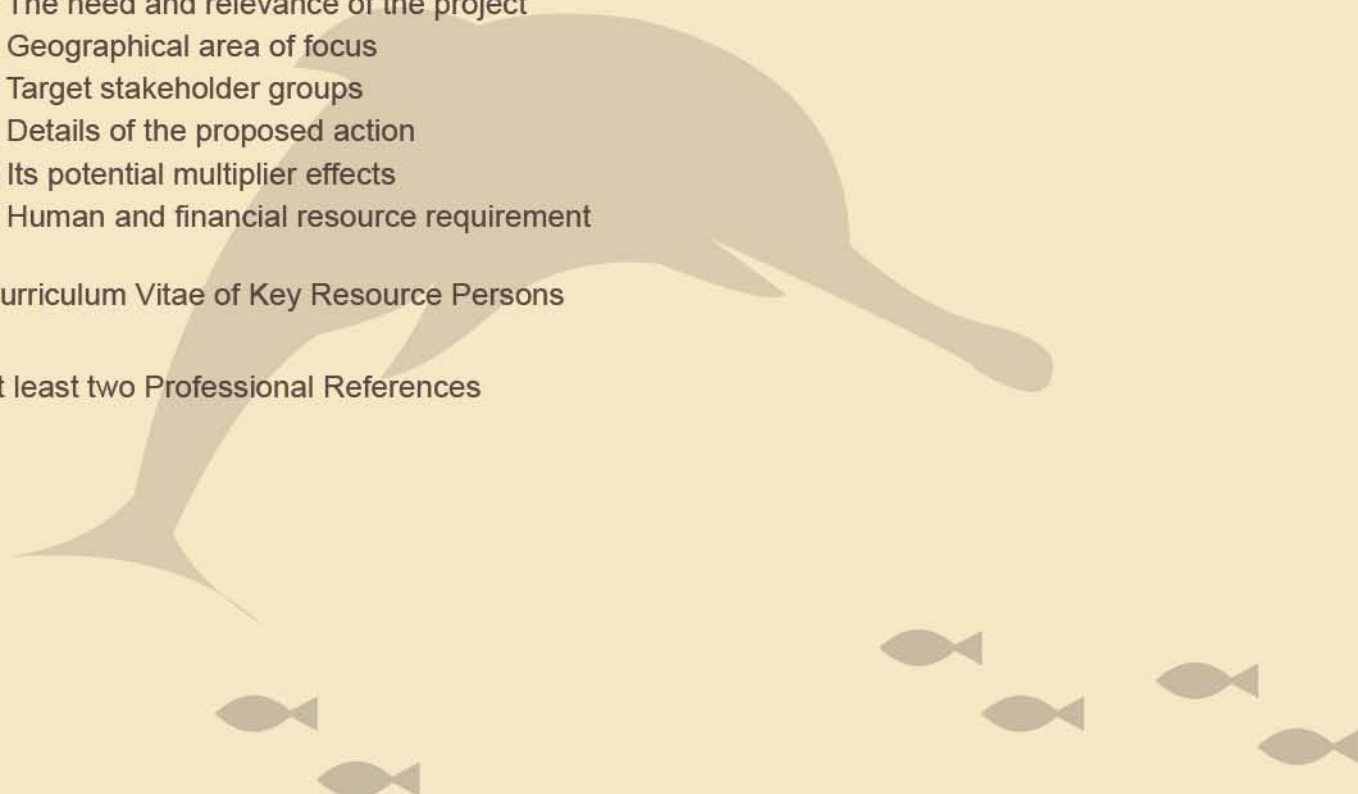
- Submission of project proposal by December 3, 2013
 - Review by the SGP committee: Second week of December 2013
 - Project initiation date: January 2014
 - Project Implementation: January 2014 to September 2014
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HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for the Special Grant, please e-mail the following documents:

- A Proposal including the following details:
 - o Past experience in River Basin Management
 - o The need and relevance of the project
 - o Geographical area of focus
 - o Target stakeholder groups
 - o Details of the proposed action
 - o Its potential multiplier effects
 - o Human and financial resource requirement
- Curriculum Vitae of Key Resource Persons
- At least two Professional References





PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS IN THE GIVEN FORMAT TO

sgp@wwfindia.net

or to

The Small Grants Programme Coordinator,
WWF-India, 172-B
Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 110003

Please include 'Life for Rivers SGP Proposal- 2013-14' in the email subject

The decision of the WWF team reviewing the applications will be final. In some cases, where there are exceptional reasons for initiating work immediately, the review committee may decide to offer a grant on a discretionary basis.

ABOUT WWF - INDIA

WWF-India is one of the largest organisations engaged in wildlife and nature conservation in the country. Established as a Charitable Trust in 1969, the organization has been working for over four decades on various aspects of conservation and environmental management. Starting as a wildlife conservation organization, WWF-India today works on a range of issues including species and habitat conservation, climate change, sustainable livelihoods, wetlands, marine and forest conservation, river basin and water management and environmental education.

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