

Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) General Information and Application Guidelines

Introduction

The [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#)'s Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) is a small grant finance mechanism aimed at supporting the development and implementation of [Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (commonly referred to as the 30x30 target) aiming at conserving and managing at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of coastal and marine areas through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030. The Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) has been developed following the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People's win of the "Revive Our Oceans" category of [the Earthshot Prize](#) in Cape Town in 2024. It aims to provide financial support in the form of seed funding for High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People's member countries to accelerate the implementation of their 30x30 objectives and plans.

Objectives

The Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) addresses the challenge of accessing traditional large-scale financing, which often takes time to materialize and may not support smaller funding needs. By providing expedited access to smaller amounts of funding, the fund enables countries to boost their 30x30 implementation. It aims to bridge the gap between initial funding requirements and larger funding requests, ensuring countries are on track to reach the protection of at least 30% of the planet's land and 30% of the inland waters and ocean by 2030. Additionally, these smaller amounts of funding need to be considered as seed funding to unlock key steps for further 30x30 implementation.

Eligibility

The Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) is exclusively open to applications from High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People's developing state members that have committed to protect and conserve at least 30% of the Planet's land and 30% of the inland waters and ocean by 2030.

Funding Allocation

The application process is country-led, enabling participating countries, in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to define their specific needs and goals in alignment with the Coalition's objectives. Funds from the Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM) can only be allocated to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with national governments and agencies but **applications must be submitted by the HAC Focal Points using the HAC online RDM platform.**

Spending Guidelines

The allocated funds can be used for various activities related to the development and implementation of the 30x30 target. The 2026 themes are:

- Marine Conservation
- Marine and Terrestrial OECMs
- Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas

Funding Sources

The Rapid Deployment Mechanism is capitalized through the Earthshot Prize and British Airways Better World Community Fund as well as potential contributions from the public and private sectors committed to support biodiversity conservation.

Fund Size

Grants will range between USD \$25,000 and USD \$50,000 per request, depending on the specific needs and scope of the project.

Criteria for Fund Allocation

Meeting the following criteria is essential to access the funds:

Funds can only be utilized in response to a particular country's demand or request, emphasizing the need for a clear commitment to protecting and conserving at least 30% of the Planet's land and 30% of the inland waters and ocean by 2030 by the requesting country. Priority will be granted to countries presenting projects that are demonstrating ambition, concrete impact, added value, clear implementation feasibility, and for which the grant enables to leverage further actions and ambition on 30x30.

Application Process

The fund is expected to start accepting applications on **June 16, 2026**.

Only one request per country before the **August 15, 2026 deadline**.

Only **online applications** submitted by the HAC Country Focal Point will be accepted via the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People's website. <https://hacfornatureandpeople.org>

Guidelines

The following aspects will be considered in the funding decision:

- Balanced geographical representation.
- Balanced ecosystems representation.
- Detailed description of preparatory and development activities according to the RDM's pre-established form, demonstrating the project is feasible and confirming financial needs, outcomes, deliverables, timelines and responsible parties.
- Potential of the project to leverage bigger projects in favor of 30x30.
- Grant needs to be spent by September 30, 2028.

Review and approval

- The Rapid Deployment Mechanism Advisory Group - comprising the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People Secretariat, its two Co-Chairs, at least four voluntary Steering Committee members, and technical experts drawn from the HAC for N&P Partners' pool—will review all submitted applications to ensure they meet the established criteria.
- Once the review is complete, and the proposal approved, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People's Secretariat will notify the country regarding the status of their application before making an official announcement.

These guidelines are designed to facilitate the application process for accessing funds within the Rapid Deployment Mechanism. By adhering to these procedures, countries can efficiently request support for their plans and activities, fostering the development and implementation of 30x30.

Contact Information

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