

Land Acquisition Fund

The main objective of the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) is to provide funds for local NGOs and CSOs to acquire threatened nature, create safe reserves and connect wildlife habitats for endangered species. The fund supports land purchase, long-term lease of land and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM). Since its foundation in 2001, LAF has enabled the purchase / lease of over 320,000 hectares. The LAF is supported by a growing number of private donors. This project proposal briefing outlines the practical details and requirements for applications.

Criteria for application

I. Project objective

The general objective of a proposed project must be in line with the main objective of the LAF.

II. Implementing organisation

Proposals can be submitted by **local** NGOs and CSOs with:

- experience and capacity concerning the effective management of a conservation area, and
- experience and capacity in the field of project management, financial management and - control

LAF cannot grant financial assistance to:

- Private individuals
- Commercial (for profit) organisations
- Governmental institutions
- Projects /organisations with a primary focus on sustainable agricultural systems, education-, rescue- or rehabilitation centres.

III. Project area

High priority will be given to land acquisition (through purchase or lease) or implementation of OECMs to:

- secure areas hosting species listed as threatened (CR, EN or VU) on the IUCN Red List [www.iucnredlist.org];
- Secure areas with a high biodiversity value, like Key Biodiversity Areas;
- Secure areas that are important in a broad approach for securing the connectivity in a high biodiversity value landscape (corridors, stepping stones) or to secure ecosystem services;
- Secure ecosystems underrepresented in the public protected areas system;
- Secure important populations of threatened plants and trees. Such proposals should preferably target protection of range-restricted tree species, an Alliance for Zero Extinction site or a unique part of the range of a species.

IV. Geographical range

Local conservation NGOs, CSOs working in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific are eligible for this program and are invited to submit their proposals.

V. Local participation

The project should seek to harmonise with the needs, views, expertise and experience of local stakeholders, including attention to the role of women, youth and marginalised groups. Local participation in conservation and management of the area should be central to the proposal.

VI. Amount & spending of the grant

The maximum financial assistance provided by LAF is 100,000 euro. Co-funding of projects is possible when the impact of the IUCN NL grant is clearly visible and constitutes a substantial part of the overall budget, or when the IUCN NL grant can trigger other donors to contribute. Besides the acquisition of land, the LAF grants can also be used for initial investments to secure the sustainability and conservation impact of the purchase (fencing, signboards, guard's salary and accommodation, etc). Please note that costs for these investments may take up a maximum of 25 to 30% the requested budget.

Application process

A schematic flow chart of the application process can be found in Appendix 1.

I. Pre-proposal

All NGOs must submit a pre-proposal first. A format for pre-proposals can be found in Appendix 2 of this document. Only pre-proposals prepared according to this format, **and not exceeding 4 pages**, will be considered. The working language of the programme is **English**.

NGOs are advised to read our publication 'Sustainable Nature Reserves: Guidelines for privately protected areas' before submitting a pre - proposal (available in English, Spanish and Portuguese).

Important: The availability of good maps is a very important selection criterion. Pre-proposals lacking good maps will be rejected immediately!!

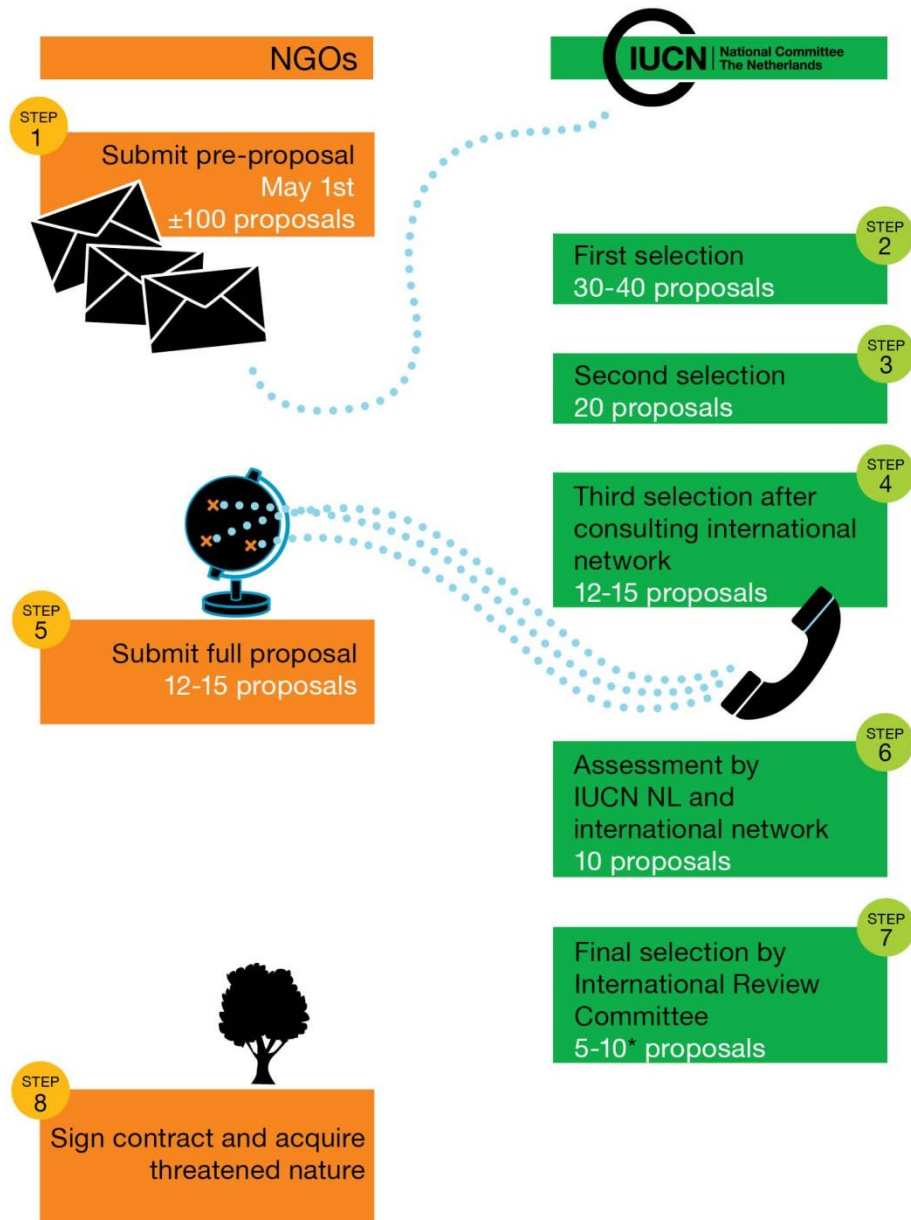
II. Deadline & submission

The deadline for applications is the **1st of May, 2025**. Pre-proposals can be submitted in English and Spanish, in a free Word format (.docx) and must be sent to landacquisitionfund@iucn.nl. Questions about the procedure and content of proposals can be sent to the coordinator of the LAF (marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl).

III. Assessment & selection

All pre-proposals are screened by IUCN NL, supported by an extensive global network of experts. We will invite a limited number of NGOs to submit a full proposal after a positive assessment of their pre-proposal. The full proposals will be assessed by IUCN NL with assistance of an International Review Committee. A selection of these proposals will be awarded a grant. Final decisions will be made in **October 2025**. Please note that an invitation to develop a full project proposal does in no way constitute a guarantee that the project will be funded.

Flow chart of application process



Format for pre-proposals

KEY INFO

Project title			
NGO			
Country			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease <i>(include lease term (yrs))</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (OECM) <i>(please describe)</i>
Number of hectares			
Price per ha			
Ecoregion ¹			
Focal species (incl Red List status)			
Total budget requested (EUR)			
Co-funding requested / secured	<input type="checkbox"/> no		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <i>(please include amount in EUR)</i>

ORGANISATION

Full name of organisation	Legal status	
	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	<input type="checkbox"/> CSO
Country of registration:		
Address:	Website:	
Contact person:	Email:	
Qualifications - Explain why your organization is best qualified to implement this land acquisition project (maximum 150 words)		

The following information should be provided in **maximum 4 pages**. Species lists and maps can be provided in annexes.

Project summary - describe the projects' key features: including location, biodiversity value of the area, major threats, proposed intervention (maximum 200 words)

Project area

- **Map(s) of the project area** - map(s) should also show the location of the project area in the wider landscape, and show any other areas that enjoy protection through another legal status like indigenous territories, community lands, sustainable certified forestry concessions
- **Description of the project area and wider landscape**- Describing land use, vegetation type and - cover, nearby protected areas, show the role of this plot in the wider landscape (why should this particular plot be secured?)
- **GPS coordinates** - latitude and longitude, using Decimal Degrees (DD)
- **Biodiversity value of project area** - For example: presence of endangered (CR/EN/VU) species, endemics, AZE site, KBA
- **Main threats and urgency**

¹ Navigator | One Earth

- Why is the instrument of your choice to secure the land (purchase / lease / OECM) the best solution to secure the land compared to other options?
- Current owner(s) - Is there a willingness to sell / lease / share management responsibility? / is the land title clear and undisputed?
- Will you be implementing restoration activities? - if so, indicate on the map where this will be implemented
- Long term / future management - who will own / manage the land and how will management be funded in the long term?
- Other relevant conservation initiatives in the wider landscape / region

Project partners

- Local stakeholders - describe how local stakeholders are involved in the project
- Other partners to be involved with this proposed project

Budget

- Amount needed for land purchase / lease - in local currency and euros
- Amount needed for other expenses

References (national and international)

- Provide the contact details of persons we can contact about your work. Please note that pre-proposals will be shared with experts in our global network, in order to make a good assessment.