

f. Evidence of potential organizational capacity to promote coordination of governmental agencies and stakeholder involvement.

2. Projects proposed under "Enhance Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas" must:

a. Incorporate the approach being developed by the WCPA-Marine/WWF International MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative. The approach can be found in the working draft of *How is Your MPA Doing? Guidebook for Evaluating Effectiveness of MPA's* posted at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/mgmteffect/guidebook.html>.

In order to be selected, project sites must:

b. Have a management program in place, including a management plan, on-site staff, and infrastructure to carry out effectiveness assessments;

c. Be able to implement the guidebook to conduct a comprehensive assessment including use of indicators from each of the biophysical, socioeconomic and governance categories;

d. Demonstrate the intent to incorporate the assessment of indicators into management planning and review process; and,

e. Include a letter of support from the MPA managing authority or site supervisor, that also demonstrates the involvement of the authority/supervisor in the project if the agency is not proposing the work.

3. Projects proposed under "Encourage Regional Approaches to Further Marine Reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia" must:

a. Follow the themes of the Caribbean Regional Coordination Plan and the Southeast Asia Regional Action Plan posted at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>;

b. Benefit sites in two or more countries in the region;

c. Involve managers from the reserves; and,

d. Include letters of support from the marine reserve management authorities from all sites that are involved in the project.

4. Projects proposed under "Promote Socio-Economic Monitoring in Coral Reef Management" must:

a. Demonstrate a link with an existing or planned marine resource management program (e.g., MPA, fisheries management, or coastal management program) with clearly defined socioeconomic goals as suggested in the SocMon Guidelines (e.g., improve livelihood, increase environmental awareness);

b. Include a letter of support from the marine resource management authority;

c. Describe the plan for socioeconomic monitoring, including

preparatory activities, data collection and analysis and long-term monitoring after the first assessment. For Southeast Asia sites, the plan should reflect the variables and methods in the SocMon-Southeast Asia Guidelines. For the Wider Caribbean sites, the plan should reflect the variables and methods in SocMon-Caribbean Guidelines. Both SocMon-Caribbean and Southeast Asia Guidelines can be found at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html>;

d. Include a social scientist that will be actively engaged in the socioeconomic monitoring, planning, data collection, and analysis either from staff or elsewhere (e.g., local university);

e. Demonstrate involvement of coral management staff in the proposed monitoring even if personnel not engaged in site-management are overseeing the monitoring; and,

f. Explain how the assessment team will translate the socioeconomic data into useful information for coral reef managers and decision makers (e.g., making written management recommendations to policy makers or managers, and presenting results and recommendations to management staff and other stakeholders).

C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$300,000 will be available in FY 2003 to support grants and cooperative agreements under this program. Approximately \$75,000 will be allocated to each of the four project categories listed below, with the following award ranges:

a. Watershed Management: Up to \$75,000

b. Management Effectiveness: \$20,000 - \$40,000

c. Marine Reserves: \$25,000 - \$40,000

d. Socio-economic Monitoring: \$15,000 - \$25,000

Applications with requests of over \$40,000 will not be accepted, except for the Watershed Management category. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations. Support in out-years after FY 2003 is contingent upon the availability of funds and any new guidance published in the **Federal Register**.

2. Funding Mechanism

Grants and cooperative agreements will be reviewed by the NOS International Program Office. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12-to 18-month period with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2003.

D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format Section below.

E. Application Content and Format

1. Application Content

The four International program categories are priorities of the *National Action Plan*. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12-to 18-month period and must meet all applicable DOC grant requirements. Initial applications may be submitted by email, fax (301-713-4389), or express air courier and must be received by NOAA on or before the date established in the DATES section above. Federal financial assistance forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable CD-346 and/or SF-LLL are not required until the applicant is notified and invited to submit a final application. One original and two signed complete hard copies of the jurisdiction's final application, including federal forms, must be received by NOAA on or before the due date established in the DATES section above.

2. Application Format

Each application must clearly describe the proposed work in 20 pages or less, including letters of support and attachments. Font size should be 12 point. Applications should not be bound or stapled, but can be bundled, for example, by rubber bands or binder clips. All applications, letters of support and attachments must be written in the English Language. Each application must include the following elements (a-d):

a. A cover sheet with the following information:

- (1) Project Title;
- (2) Applicant organization: nonprofit, university, government, etc.;
- (3) Principal investigator or contact responsible for conducting the project;
- (4) Contact information including address, phone number, fax and email;
- (5) Program Category (i.e., International Coral Reef Conservation) and the appropriate International grant program project category from the following choices: Watershed Management, Management Effectiveness, Marine Reserves, or Socioeconomic Monitoring;
- (6) Geographic location of project (countries and sites);