
NATURE POSITIVE SMALL GRANTS CALL FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Introduction

The overall goal of this project is to realize the potential of National Geographic’s Team Sayari content, to catalyse behavioural change that will have a lasting impact on the conservation of high biodiverse landscapes and generate meaningful economic development opportunities for communities in East Africa. This project focuses on Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. The project is expected to make a significant contribution to the achievement of USAID’s HEARTH Objectives 1 and Biodiversity Policy 2, while delivering on gender equality by motivating and supporting women and girls to become agents of change, as entrepreneurs and leaders of the conservation and sustainable management of nature and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

About the small grants program

The small grants program seeks to promote nature positive activities that are solution-based and promote conservation actions such as successful recycling of plastics, conservation of water and other sustainable conservation activities. Successful applicants will receive \$500.00 from the small grant program. Grants will be awarded for a wide range of purposes, such as environmental initiatives contributing to HEARTH¹ and biodiversity² goals (e.g. reduced deforestation by changing energy sources in schools, tree planting to restore landscapes, measures to address human–wildlife conflict, waste management), and small-income generating projects that also contribute to environmental goals. Fourteen (14) schools in each region will be selected.

Funding Eligibility

In order to meet Team Sayari’s requirements for sub-grant eligibility, schools must:

- i) Be members of the Team Sayari schools.
- ii) Be legally registered as a school with the Ministry of Education in their respective country.

¹ https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/HEARTH_Overview_Oct2020.pdf

² <https://www.usaid.gov/biodiversity/policy>

- iii) Entries in the competition should be in the form of projects that the school wishes to implement within five months of receipt of grant.
- iv) Project objectives must be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely. For example, a project about putting up gutters to collect and conserve water must clearly indicate what they will do, by when and how they will measure success. Schools must have an operational bank account.
- v) The project must be approved by the school's Head Teacher.
- vi) Projects must come from the children. The children must agree to implement the project within 5 months from May 2023.
- vii) Funds can only be used for the projects they are awarded for.
- viii) Funds will be disbursed on a 60% - 40% basis. The second payment will be made after accounting of the previous funds have been made and verified, including evidence of progress report which will include a narrative report, photos and financial reports.
- ix) Disbursements made out must be allocable, reasonable and verifiable.
- x) The call is made on World Wildlife Day March 3rd 2023
- xi) Deadline for submission of proposals will be on March 31st 2023
- xii) Winning projects will be notified on Earth Day April 22nd 2023
- xiii) Implementation May, June, July and August 2023
- xiv) Grant recipients will be required to undergo a WildlifeDirect grant specific audit at the end of the project, Aug 31st 2023;

Grant Purpose

- **What is the fund for** – to improve the environment and to encourage schools to create and implement nature positive activities based on Team Sayari content and children's imagination.
- **Who can apply** – All schools enrolled in the Team Sayari Program are eligible to apply for the sub grant.
- **What and how to apply** – Applications will be submitted as proposals using the official application forms. These will then be sent by email to the accredited partners.
- **Eligibility requirements** – As indicated above.

Grant Process

- Call for proposal – A call for proposals will be sent out during World Wildlife Day and will close on March 31st, 2023.
- The review process will take one week after the submission deadline has closed.
- All applicants will be notified upon receipt of their application.
- Proposals will be shortlisted for funding following a three-stage review process. The selection committee will first verify proposals for completeness and eligibility, and perform an initial quality assessment.
- Eligible proposals will then undergo a second review to assess whether they meet sustainable and eco-driven conservation actions that are aligned to the National Geographic's Team Sayari and Nature Positive Outreach program.
- The third stage of review will entail shortlisting and ranking of proposals for decision-making by the selection committee.

- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by April 22nd 2023 through mail or email.

Timelines

- Call for proposals - March 3rd 2023
- Application submission deadline – March 31st 2023
- Application review –April 7th 2023
- Finalist Selection –April 14th 2023
- Final Approval and sub grant agreements prepared –April 17th 2023
- Grantee due diligence and vetting –April 19th 2023
- Winners announced and sub grant agreements signed –April 22nd
- Projects begin – May 1st 2023
- Project end date - August 31st 2023

Selection criteria

All applications will be reviewed by the Small Grants selection committee following the submission deadline. Winners will be selected based on the projects that are feasible while also likely to attain meaningful results leading to increased biodiversity or reduction in biodiversity loss.

Selection committee

The selection committees will comprise of the Education Officer, one other member from the accredited partner's organization and a WLD representative." Each committee will review submissions from schools managed by different accredited partner i.e. the selection committee from Prime Biodiversity Conservation from Rwanda will review applications from either Oceans Alive Foundation, WLD from Kenya or the African People and Wildlife in Tanzania and vice versa.

Branding & Marking

All conservation projects funded under this small grant award will follow the approved branding and marking plan for National Geographic's Team Sayari and Nature Positive Kids Outreach program.