

AWARE COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Guidelines

What we fund, and what we don't.

For PADI Dive Centres and community-based non-profits planning a conservation project.



REEFolution Foundation, Mkwiro, Kenya - Photo: Stephanie Foote

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Local people, protecting the water they know.

A reef has a better chance when the people who live beside it are the ones protecting it. Community Grants pay for the equipment, the training and the time that lets a local dive centre or non-profit do that work properly.

Community Grants are intended to help develop and deliver grassroots conservation projects, and to support outcome-driven activities. This guide gives you more detail on each program area, and on what will and will not be funded under it.

GRANT SIZE

Up to \$10,000 USD

Requests above this may be disqualified from review.

OPEN TO

Non-profits and PADI Dive Centres

Non-profit ocean conservation organisations and PADI Dive Centres.

NON-PROFIT OPERATING BUDGET

Less than \$1 million USD

Confirmed by a recent financial statement.

TYPE OF GRANT

One-time

Multi-year projects are not funded.

FOUR PROGRAM AREAS

Your project should sit in one of these areas. Each has its own page in this guide.



Marine Debris



Vulnerable Marine Species



Marine Protected Areas



Marine Habitat Restoration



ALL PROGRAM AREAS

In general

People and the Sea • seagrass survey



These rules apply to every application, whichever program area it sits in.

PADI AWARE will fund

- ✓ Diving-related projects
- ✓ The percentage of staff time directly related to the project, outside regular operational or dive centre duties, up to 25% of the total grant amount
- ✓ Equipment directly related to the project and essential to the activity
- ✓ Projects that need a one-time grant to develop long-term participation or continuation

PADI AWARE will not fund

- ✗ Staff time that covers normal dive store or general work operations
- ✗ Unrelated equipment that does not move the project forward
- ✗ Purely scientific research projects with no conservation outcome
- ✗ Multi-year projects
- ✗ Projects above \$10,000 USD that don't have additional secured funding
- ✗ Projects that have a negative impact on the environment
- ✗ Projects that focus solely on awareness raising



PROGRAM AREA 01

Marine Debris



Projects that stop debris reaching the water, and build the long-term data that changes decisions.

PADI AWARE will fund

- ✓ Recycling projects
- ✓ Dive Against Debris® events that establish long-term monitoring
- ✓ Dive Against Debris® events that include decision-makers

PADI AWARE will not fund

- ✗ One-off Dive Against Debris activities or events
- ✗ Projects that contribute to a citizen science project that competes with Dive Against Debris
- ✗ Removal of “live” fishing gear
- ✗ Beach clean-ups
- ✗ Isolated awareness events with no follow-through



PROGRAM AREA 02

Vulnerable Marine Species

Photo: Florian Allgäuer



Projects that protect species listed as Vulnerable or higher on the IUCN Red List.

PADI AWARE will fund

- ✓ Projects focused on species listed as Vulnerable or higher (VU+) on the IUCN Red List
- ✓ Proposals to protect VU+ species

PADI AWARE will not fund

- ✗ Purchase of tags or tagging equipment
- ✗ Projects that are not focused on VU+ species

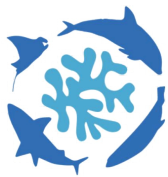
What VU+ means. Species assessed by the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR). Check your species at [iucnredlist.org](https://www.iucnredlist.org) before you apply.



PROGRAM AREA 03

Marine Protected Areas

People and the Sea



Projects that create, strengthen or expand Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

PADI AWARE will fund

- ✓ Establishment of new MPAs
- ✓ Strengthening protection of existing MPAs
- ✓ Expansion of existing MPAs

PADI AWARE will not fund

- ✗ Any enforcement activities that do not have appropriate government endorsement or approval
- ✗ Buying boundary marker buoys
- ✗ Generic habitat monitoring that is not part of an MPA management plan

PROGRAM AREA 04

Marine Habitat Restoration

TRACC Borneo



Projects that restore the habitats marine life depends on, using proven methods and the right permits.

PADI AWARE will fund

- ✓ Seagrass, coral, kelp and mangrove restoration projects
- ✓ Invasive species removal using approved methods
- ✓ Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) prevention and treatment

PADI AWARE will not fund

- ✗ Restoration projects without the required permits, or without proven methodologies and technologies for the restoration area
- ✗ Invasive species removal not using scientifically verified procedures
- ✗ Sinking of vessels to create artificial reefs

Coral reef and climate-related habitat work sits within this program area.

THE PROCESS

How a round runs

Roughly three months from quiz to funds.

01 Eligibility Quiz

One short form. If you qualify you are emailed a link to the full application, specific to your organisation and project.

02 Application and budget

Completed in full and submitted online with a Project Budget, using your own link. Not accepted by email.

03 Independent review

Assessed by the Community Grant review panel and members of the PADI AWARE Board of Directors.

04 Funding Agreement

Signed by an authorised representative and returned. Bank details must match the organisation name. Funds never go to individual accounts.

05 Project and report

A Project Report on outcomes is due within one month of the project ending. It is required for any future funding.

PREPARE WITH

Application guide

Every section of the online form, with tips and worked examples.

Budget template

Excel. Your itemised project budget, attached to the application.

Setting SMART goals

How to write goals you can measure and report against.

Round dates and every document

donate.padiaware.org/community-grants-apply

Not sure about something? Ask, don't guess

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