

Small Grant Scheme
Action Plans for Endangered Species II
EEA Grants 2009-2014

1st Call for Submission of Grant Applications for Individual Projects

On 26th May 2014 Ministry of the Environment

announce the **1st Call** for submission of applications for grants for individual projects from the EEA Grants in the **Small Grant Scheme: Action Plans for Endangered Species II**, a sub-programme of Programme CZ02 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services / Environmental Monitoring and Integrated Planning Control / Adaptation to Climate Change, under the focus area of activities of potential individual projects/grant applications, as specified below.

I. The allocated amount under the 1st Call is 2 mill. EUR (53 000 000 CZK).

The 2nd call will be announced if the allocated amount is not used.

II. Eligible Applicants

- local administrative units (regions and municipalities)
- unions of municipalities
- non-governmental organisations
- state-contributory organisations
- organisational units of the state
- scientific research institutions
- state organisations and state enterprises

Eligible applicants must be legal persons

III. Eligible Activities

Implementation of approved Action and Management Plans and updates and preparation of new Action and Management Plans for priority species established by the call, including the preparation of expert documents necessary for making decisions on Action and Management Plans for Endangered Species.

Support area I "Implementation of approved Action and Management Plans for Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna"

Subject of the support is implementation of the following Action and Management Plans:

- **Action Plan for marsh angelica (*Angelica palustris*)**
- **Action Plan for white-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*)**
- **Action Plan for Bohemian sand pink (*Dianthus arenarius* subsp. *bohemicus*)**
- **Action Plan for Bohemian early gentian (*Gentianella praecox* subsp. *bohemica*)**
- **Action Plan for freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)**
- **Action Plan for European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*)**
- **Action Plan for aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*)**
- **Action Plan for scarce fritillary (*Euphydryas maturna*)**
- **Management Plan for Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*)**
- **Management Plan for Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*)**

Below is a list of selected measures and priorities for Action Plans for marsh angelica and white-stem pondweed, as these have been approved prior to the development of a uniform structure of Action Plan texts, and for which, with regard to the date of their approval, a number of activities have been carried out. Applications implementing the following actions are eligible to be submitted:

- **Action plan for marsh angelica (*Angelica palustris*)**

a) measure 21.4.1. Research on species biology and management

- to continue in species cultivation *ex situ* and in its propagation, in order to avoid genetic erosion, especially by permanent reseeding of a large number of plants and allowing natural germination at culture sites (priority 1)
- to continue in achenes storage in seed bank and in testing achenes germination (priority 1)
- to continue in re-planting at the Cernovir locality (priority 1)
- to monitor regularly the species at the Hrdiboricke rybniky and Cernovir localities (priority 1)
- genetic variability study of the current *ex situ* population, and compare this to the genetic variability of populations in neighboring European countries (priority 1)
- to analyze data on the species occurrence in neighboring countries and to evaluate species relations to biocoenoses and habitat and local population variability, compared to the population in the Czech Republic (priority 2)
- to develop possibilities to exchange experiences with foreign partners (priority 3)

b) measure 21.4.3. Management of localities

- to continue in mowing most of the Hrdiboricke rybniky national natural monument according to its management plan, to prevent further degradation of the vegetation (priority 1)
- to tend selected places with plantings of marsh angelica manually by workers already carrying out the planting and monitoring (priority 1)
- to monitor the dynamics of the water level at Hrdiboricke rybniky and Cernovir localities, including a study of the draining of the localities (priority 1)
- to prepare documents for the possible implementation of Cernovir moorland vegetation regeneration and for protection of Cernovir moorland against further draining, and establishing experimental plantings at potentially suitable places without additional extensive locality modifications (priority 1)
- to manage the planting and seeding areas at Cernovir locality and of areas potentially suitable for the occurrence of marsh angelica (priority 1)

c) measure 21.4.4. Education and raising of public awareness

- activities in the whole range of this measure (priority 2)

- **Action plan for white-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*)**

a) measure 1.1.1 Monitoring of population changes in distribution and size

- species monitoring at the area of Poorlici (priority 1)
- species monitoring at PLA Kokorinsko (priority 1)
- verifying the success of plantings at the area of Poorlici and the Ceska Lipa region (priority 1)

b) measure 1.1.2 Study of species biology and ecology

- study of generative reproduction and germination biology (priority 2)
- study of genetic variability - comparison of variability between the populations in the Czech Republic and data from foreign countries (priority 3)
- study of the influence of other organisms (e.g. epiphytic and metaphytic algae, herbivorous organisms) on the growth and vitality of white-stem pondweed (priority 2)

c) measure 1.1.4 Monitoring of other characteristics of the locality

- monitoring of habitats condition – e.g. measuring of water transparency, pH, conductivity, water temperature and light conditions (priority 1)
- chemical analyses of water and sediment samples (priority 2)

d) measure 1.2.1 Species management

- species protection against harmful interferences (e.g. browsing by herbivorous organisms, spreading of competitive plant species, etc.) (priority 1)
- species planting in selected suitable locations at the floodplain of Orlice river and at the Ceska Lipa region (priority 1)

e) measure 1.2.2 Management of localities

- appropriate management interventions in benefit of the species (e.g. blocking succession, protection of the localities against the overgrowth of expansive species, excessive shading, etc.) (priority 1)
- field assessment of localities potentially suitable for species reintroduction (priority 1)

f) measure 1.3.1 *Ex situ* cultivation

- management of *ex situ* cultivation (priority 1)
- growing plants from seeds and sterile tissue cultures (priority 1)
- activities for improving conditions of *ex situ* cultivation (priority 2)
- maintaining a sterile tissue culture (priority 1)
- growth experiments aimed at setting optimal conditions for successful species cultivation (priority 2)

g) measure 1. 5 Strengthening populations, repatriation

- activities in its entirety of measures (priority 2)

h) measure 2. Education and awareness

- activities in its entirety of measures (priority 1)

Support area II "Updating and preparation of new Action and Management Plans for Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna"

Subject of the support is:

Group 1:

Preparation of action plans for the species:

- Lady bells (*Adenophora liliifolia*)
- Gentians (*Gentianella amarella* subsp. *amarella*, *G. obtusifolia* subsp. *sturmiana*)
- Eastern pasque flower (*Pulsatilla patens*)
- Bath asparagus (*Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* subsp. *sphaerocarpum*)
- Natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*)
- Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*)
- Jewel beetle (*Eurythyrea quercus*)
- Alcon blue (*Phengaris alcon*) and large blue (*Phengaris arion*)
- Woodland brown (*Lopinga achine*)

Preparation of management plan for large carnivores - Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*)

Group 2:

Update action plans for the species:

- **White-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*)**
- **Marsh angelica (*Angelica palustris*)**

Group 3:

Processing of data for decision on action plans for endangered species for the species:

- **Garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*)**
 - detailed monitoring of the species in the Czech Republic
 - verification of the assumption that the lack of appropriate shelters is one of the main threatening factors, using a local scale
- **Edible dormouse (*Glis glis*)**
 - detailed monitoring of the species in the Czech Republic
 - finding out the ecology and habitat requirements of the species, including verifying the relations to certain types of microhabitats and testing of artificial shelters for hibernation
- **Dung beetle (*Bolbelasmus unicornis*)**
 - detailed monitoring of the species at historical localities in southern Moravia
 - optimization of the potentially suitable localities structure (pilot management intervention) in order to increase the number of specimens above the limit of detection and facilitate the monitoring
- **Red cicada (*Tibicina haematodes*)**
 - confirmation of the species in the Czech Republic, including examination of historical localities
- **Tiger moths (*Watsonarctia casta*, *Chelis maculosa*)**
 - systematic mapping in areas of potential occurrence of the species to verify the current distribution
 - determination of the threatening factors at detected localities
- **Little owl (*Athene noctua*)**
 - detailed monitoring of the species in the Czech Republic
 - to provide safe nesting (nest/booth security against predators and eliminating risk factors near the nest - pipes, hollow columns, etc.) in selected long-term occupied territories
 - to modify grassland management in the territories of the little owl on the basis of new scientific knowledge (improving hunting territories) in selected long-term occupied territories
- **Ortolan bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*)**
 - intensive survey of all existing populations in the Czech Republic and survey of appropriate environment at the area of Ceske Stredohori (historical localities and localities with forest-steppe character)

- research focused on the preference of the nesting environment, the influence of establishing green belts and of areas left without management or areas with a low abundance of vegetation, on nesting population

- **Thick shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*)**
 - data precision of the species occurrence in the Czech Republic
 - improving information about the species reproduction, especially in relation to the presence of host fishes and their possible local preference, to possible pro-population measures, and to threatening factors (water pollution, flow interventions mainly related to the bottom morphology, migration barriers, increased predation pressure, competition with invasive species, etc.)
- **Alpine asphodel (*Tofieldia calyculata*)**
 - obtaining detailed information on species habitat requirements, for setting appropriate localities management
 - study of species reproductive strategy
- **Bastard toadflaxes (*Thesium dollineri*, *T. ebracteatum* and *T. rostratum*)**
 - study reproductive mechanisms, phenology, biocoenosis affiliations, genetic variability within and between populations, etc., in order to determine the main factors limiting the occurrence of bastard toadflaxes - study in particular whether the populations are dependent primarily on appropriate management (regular mowing), or rather the abundance of their potential hosts, the presence of specific ant species or other factors
- **Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*)**
 - obtaining detailed information on species habitat requirements
 - to optimize pond management at locations with species occurrence
- **Forget-me-not (*Myosotis stenophylla*)**
 - study of the ecology and biology of the species and the need for potential management based on results of the study
- **Smooth cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*)**
 - detailed monitoring of species in the Czech Republic
 - study of the biology and ecology of the species in order to determine its habitat requirements and determine optimum conditions for the species survival and the resulting potential management measures
- **Hairy stonecrop (*Sedum villosum*)**
 - hydrological study of recent preserved localities
 - study of the biology and ecology of species, with a focus on finding a successful way of seeding and setting conditions for reintroduction
- **Fleawort (*Tephrosieris aurantiaca*)**
 - study of biology (including production and germination of achenes) in order to identify and provide optimal conditions for the survival and reproduction of species at its last area of occurrence
- **Rusty bogrush (*Schoenus ferrugineus*), black bogrush (*S. nigricans*)**
 - study of breeding and genetic variability of both species
 - study of habitat requirements of both species and their hybrid *Schoenus x intermedius* and proposing appropriate measures for the long-term presence of both species in the Czech Republic
- **Seaside centaury (*Centaureum littorale* subsp. *compressum*)**

- study of the species' biology and ecology in order to identify the causes of population decline and determination of appropriate measures for species conservation at its habitats

- **Gentian (*Gentianella lutescens*)**

- study of the species' biology and ecology in order to identify the causes of population decline and determination of appropriate measures for species conservation at its habitats

IV. Eligible Expenditures

To be considered eligible, costs must be included and approved in the budget of a grant application. Costs which are not provided for in the budget of a grant application are not eligible for financing, even if they comply with all other signs of cost eligibility.

Costs necessary for project implementation must be directly linked to implementation of project activities and lead to achieving project aims (i.e. must be incurred on items listed in the approved grant application).

To be considered time eligible, costs must be incurred during the lifetime of the project, as defined in the project contract. Costs are eligible from the date of grant application approval until the final date for costs eligibility.

Costs related to construction works are eligible up to 80 % of total eligible expenditures. Purchase of new equipment or facility of tangible nature and expenditure on intangible property are considered eligible on condition of their compliance with Guidelines for Applicants and Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009 – 2014.

Purchase costs of new or used equipment are eligible provided that the purchased equipment is an integral and necessary component for the implementation or development of a technology that is essential for achieving the outcome of the project. This property must be recorded in accounting and property inventory of durable goods of the beneficiary in line with accounting rules.

Indirect costs – overheads are costs necessary for implementation of the project. Applicants may identify overheads either based on actual costs from analytical accounting system or opt for a flat rate up to 20 % of its total direct eligible costs, excluding its direct eligible costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on premises of the Applicant. The methodology of Indirect costs' calculation is described in the NFP Guideline for eligible expenditures and the Guidelines for Applicants.

Costs related to sub-contracting works are eligible on condition that the sub-contracted work will contribute to project implementation and prove to be an

added value to the project. Guidelines for Applicants will provide more information on specification and division of these costs into specific budget items.

Personnel costs are costs related to employment of workers, who serve specific professional action, which is needed for accomplishment of projects goals, i.e. employment directly connected to the content of project realization and costs related to workers of the Applicant who relate to project management or financial management. Guidelines for Applicants will provide more information on specification and limitations of personnel costs.

For VAT charges to be considered eligible, the payer must not be in position to recover the VAT paid for assets and services required for the project. The information on whether the applicant is/is not payer of VAT must be included in the submitted application.

V. The Grant amount – co-financing – advance payment – payment system

- The minimum amount of grant is CZK 132 000, and the maximum amount of grant is CZK 5 300 000;
- The maximum rate of financial support for projects is 100 % of the total eligible project expenditures (85 % will be covered by EEA grants and 15 % by the Ministry of the Environment);
- Projects shall be finished by **30 April 2016**, which is also the final date for costs eligibility.

Funds from SGS are provided in a form of one advance, one interim payment and one ex-post final payment.

Usually 3 payments are provided:

- **advance payment** may not exceed **30 %** of the awarded grant. Advance payment will be provided no sooner than 14 days before and no later than 1 month from the project start
- **interim payment** in the amount of approximately **50 %** of the awarded grant. The 2nd advance payment shall be provided within 1 month since the approval of the **midterm report** which is carried out to the date of the payment request. The 2nd advance payment may be provided on condition that the applicant has used minimum **25 %** of total eligible project expenditures as stated in the project contract
- **final payment** in the amount of approximately 20 % of the awarded grant shall be paid within 45 days after the approval of the final report.

There is no legal entitlement to a grant award.

VI. Time period of the call – deadline of the call – place for submission of an application

Applications may be submitted only in the form of completely prepared project application and its annexes. Application shall be submitted **personally** to the Mail Room of the Ministry of the Environment or **by post office** to the address of the Ministry of the Environment. In case of applications submitted by the post office, the decisive date is the date of submitting the application to the post office.

- Applications can be submitted no later than on **28 July 2014, 15:00**

VII. Information for preparation of applications

Information necessary for preparation and submission of applications are provided in this Call and Guidelines for Applicants which are available at website: http://www.mzp.cz/cz/financni_mechanismy_ehp_norska

- Applications and their annexes shall be prepared in the Czech language and in the prescribed format (where relevant – see Guidelines for applicants)
- Project expenditure will be provided in CZK.

VIII. Criteria for assessment of formal requirements and eligibility and criteria for quality evaluation

All applications fulfilling formal requirements shall be assessed by nominated evaluators. Evaluation of each application will be conducted at least by two evaluators. Evaluated applications will be arranged by scores for the Selection Committee according to criteria stated below. In case the total amount of approved applications exceeds allocated amount, projects from Area I will be given priority of financial support according to their evaluation score.

Evaluation Criteria:

Maximum sum of criteria scores is 100. Each criterion has its scale reflecting the significance of that criterion. A lower score represents decreased adequacy of requirements which are specified below. Contrary to other score points (including 0), the 0! score results in rejection of that particular application.

Support Area 1: Implementation of approved action and management plans for endangered species**Score:**

1. Focus of the project (6/4/0!)
The measure is implemented for species with adopted action and management plans.
2. Priorities of proposed measures (9/6/3/0!)
The proposed measure is in accordance with relevant priorities.
3. Relevance and necessity of proposed measures of implementation (15/7/0!)
Relevance and necessity of the measures of implementation regarding its character and relevant schedule at the time of project evaluation.
4. Methodology of proposed measures (Chart of planned activities) (30/20/10/0!)
Suggested methodology is in accordance with the proposed measures established for endangered species.
5. Qualification and experience of the applicant (10/5/0!)
Required verifiable qualification and experience specified for particular measure.
6. Cost adequacy of actions (30/20/10/0!)
Expenditures correspond to the usual level of prices for particular type of measure.

Support Area 2: Updating and preparation of new action and management plans for priority species

1. Focus of the project (15/10/0!)
Complexity of suggested action or management plan for endangered species.
2. Methodology of proposed measures (Chart of planned activities) (35/20/10/0!)
Suggested methodology is in accordance with current level of knowledge, specified structure or key issues.
3. Qualification and experience of the applicant (35/20/10/0!)
Required verifiable qualification and experience specified for particular measure.
4. Scientific expertise of the applicant (10/5/0!)
Applicant is (co-)author of scientific publications regarding particular species.
5. Cost adequacy of actions (30/20/10/0!)

Expenditures correspond to the usual level of prices for particular type of measure.

Detailed description of evaluation criteria is stated in Guidelines for Applicants.

IX. Further information

Questions can be:

- raised verbally at the telephone no. +420 267 122 170 or +420 267 122 830;
- sent by an e-mail to **mgs@mzp.cz**;
- questions can be sent electronically by an e-mail no sooner than on the first day of the open call and no later than 5 working days prior to the deadline of the call;
- replies will be sent to an applicant within 5 working days, no later than on the last day of the call.

Only written answers are binding.

Frequently asked questions and answers related to the 1st call for proposals will be published under the Questions and Answers Section at http://www.mzp.cz/cz/financni_mechanismy_ehp_norska.