



COMMISSION DE  
L'OcéAN INDIEN



## Call for Applications

### **The Blue Champion Award** to promote circular economy and combat marine pollution

1. *Are you a young entrepreneur (aged between 18-40 years) operating a business promoting circular economy to combat marine pollution?*  
*Or*
2. *Do you (aged between 18-40 years) have an innovative idea within the concept of circular economy that aims at considerably reducing marine pollution?*

If so, this is your chance to take your business or concept to a higher level by responding to this call for application initiated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) for the:

1. Blue Champion Award - Best Ocean Entrepreneur Category;
2. Blue Champion Award - Best Innovative Concept Category.

### **What is circular economy?**

Circular economy is the most recent attempt to conceptualize the integration of economic activity and environmental and social wellbeing in a sustainable way. The concept places emphasis on the redesigning of processes and cycling of materials, which may contribute to a more sustainable business model. The system aims to redefine growth and focuses on positive society-wide benefits. Three principles encompass circular economy: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products, and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.

The Blue Champion Award aims at promoting the emergence of young entrepreneurs and innovative ideas for the promotion of circular economy to fight marine pollution in the African and Indian Ocean Developing Island States (AIODIS).

This Award is being organized in the context of the Indian Ocean Commission SWIOFISH2 Project, funded by the World Bank. This is the first time that such an Initiative is being launched in the AIODIS, namely Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles and Réunion.

You can submit your application if you meet the eligibility criteria listed below.

## **Eligibility criteria**

### **1. Best Ocean Entrepreneur Category**

You can apply for the Best Ocean Entrepreneur Category if:

- a) you are a national and/or resident of Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Maldives, Réunion, and Seychelles;
- b) you are aged between 18-40;
- c) you are the founder or co-founder of an enterprise that integrates circular economy in its business model and that contributes in the reduction of marine pollution in addition to delivering economic and social benefits;
- d) your business has been operating for at least one year following registration;
- e) your business presents an innovative and practical model with strong growth potential;
- f) your business has significant impact in AIODIS;
- g) your business has potential for scale-up or significant replication for benefit of people.

### **2. Best Innovative Concept Category**

You can apply for the Best Innovative Concept Category if:

- a) you are a national and resident of Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, and Réunion;
- b) you are aged between 18-40;
- c) you are thinking of starting a business or have been operating a business in the AIODIS for a maximum of 12 months as of 31 August 2019;
- d) your concept/business will be/is an individual initiative or a partnership where you have a lead role;
- e) your concept/business will have/ has significant impact in AIODIS;
- f) your concept/ business will have/has potential for scale up or significant replication;
- g) your concept/business will have significant impact for the promotion of circular economy and will contribute/contributes in the reduction of marine pollution;
- h) your concept/business has the potential to become financially sustainable.

## **How to Apply**

You can apply [online](https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/) at the IOC website <https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/> or you can download an application form for the appropriate category of the Blue Champion Award (Best Ocean Entrepreneur or Best Innovative Concept) and email it to [communication@coi-ioc.org](mailto:communication@coi-ioc.org). For any enquiry, please contact IOC on [communication@coi-ioc.org](mailto:communication@coi-ioc.org) or phone Asha or Catherine on +230 402 61 00.

**In addition to the application form and requested supporting documents, ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT:**

- 1. A ONE-PAGE CV; and**
- 2. A TWO-MINUTE PITCH VIDEO ANSWERING THE QUESTION: WHY SHOULD YOU WIN THE AWARD? (FOR BEST OCEAN ENTREPRENEUR OR BEST INNOVATIVE CONCEPT)**

Submissions should reach the General Secretariat of the IOC latest at **23:59 Mauritian Time (UTC+4) on the 20 October 2019**. Late submissions will not be considered. Shortlisted candidates may be invited to submit additional information.