

CALL FOR PROJECTS

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

COI/EXPLOI/AMI/2025/003

Country: Seychelles

Funding:



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

The ExPLOI project

The Indian Ocean Plastic Expedition (ExPLOI) is a large-scale regional initiative designed to combat plastic pollution in four Indian Ocean countries: the Union of the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The project adopts a comprehensive and integrated approach encompassing scientific, technical, economic, social, institutional, and regulatory dimensions.

This five-year project (2021–2026) is funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM). It is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

To comprehensively address the issue of plastic pollution, the ExPLOI project is structured around three main pillars:

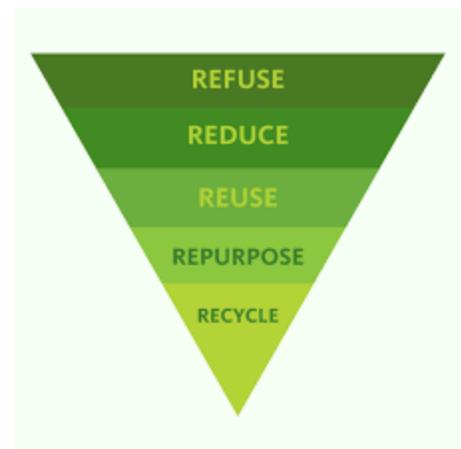
1. Improving knowledge of the impacts of marine plastic pollution.
2. Environmental education and awareness of plastic pollution.
3. Developing a regional circular economy.

Challenges of the circular Economy in the Indian Ocean

The circular economy is an essential response to plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean, where plastic waste threatens marine ecosystems and coastal populations. The islands of the Indian Ocean (Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and the Comoros) are characterized by high dependence on imported products and limited waste management infrastructure, which increases ocean discharges and worsens beach and coral reef pollution. It is estimated that 80% of waste found on beaches is plastic.

Promoting the circular economy through the 5Rs approach offers a sustainable solution to plastic pollution:

- **Refuse** means avoiding unnecessary or polluting products, such as single-use plastics.
- **Reduce** aims to minimize consumption and waste of resources.
- **Reuse** encourages extending the life of objects by repairing them.
- **Repurpose** encourages extending the life of objects by repurposing them.
- **Recycle** transforms waste into new raw materials to limit natural resource extraction.



Objectives of the call for projects

This call for projects aims to actively contribute to reducing plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean by strengthening local initiatives in the prevention, reduction, and recovery of plastic waste in Seychelles, based on the hierarchical principle of the 5Rs and promoting local green employment, particularly among women and youth.

Call for Projects Principles / Targeted Project Types

Projects must meet, as much as possible, the following criteria in order of importance:

- Demonstrated or potential impact on reducing plastic pollution.
- Compliance with the 5Rs hierarchy (refuse/reduce/reuse/etc.), with a priority on prevention/reduction/reuse.
- Proven sustainability potential (economic, social, technical, environmental) beyond the ExPLOI project's support, and potential for replication/upscaling.
- Alignment with national public policies and international strategies (Paris Agreement, upcoming UN Treaty on Plastics, Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs, National Adaptation Plans - NAPs), regional (Nairobi Convention, IOC Circular Economy Strategy), and national environmental and climate adaptation plans.
- Existence of partnerships with stakeholders from other countries in the region.
- Potential for income and job creation for women, youth, marginalized populations (e.g., informal sector workers), and persons with disabilities.
- Innovative potential of the project.

In addition, project leaders must meet the administrative and financial eligibility criteria set out in Annex I and commit to complying with the legislation in force in the country of implementation as well as AFD procedures on environmental and social risk management (see link) by signing the Integrity Declaration in Annex IV.

Project leaders must possess legal status and submit documents that are compliant with the laws of Seychelles (see Annex III) or provide proof of having initiated compliance procedures (for example, an incorporation request) at least six months prior to submission.

Plastic reduction and reuse projects. Eligible actions include:

- Proposing alternatives to single-use plastics (e.g., plant-fiber or biodegradable bags, deposit systems, etc.).
- Strengthening the production, centralization, and dissemination of information on prevention/reduction initiatives.
- Improving coordination between actors involved in plastic prevention and reduction.

Plastic waste sorting, pre-collection, collection, and recycling projects. Eligible actions include:

- Setting up or strengthening plastic recycling units (e.g., HDPE, PP, LDPE, and PET).
- Developing sustainable and innovative financing models through permanent grants, plastic credits, taxes, levies, etc.

Pilot or research/action projects on plastic reduction. Eligible actions include:

- Experimenting with solutions to recover plastic waste.
- Supporting R&D to produce recycled plastic-based materials and finished products, and BioSource/local materials (e.g., seaweed, sugarcane, banana-fiber). These projects can take the form of a “FabLab.”

Non-eligible project types include:

- Activities solely or mainly for sponsoring individual participation in workshops, seminars, or conferences.
- Activities solely or mainly for financing individual study or training grants.

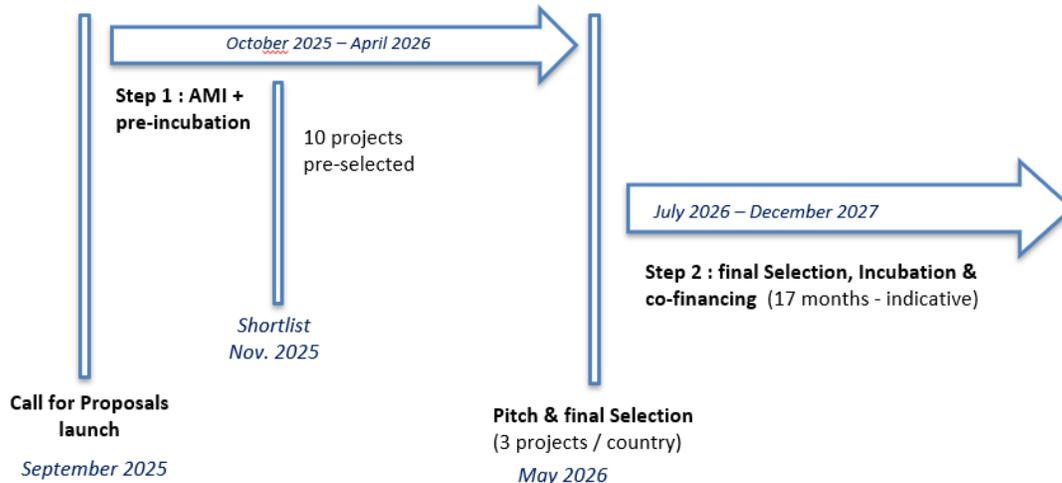
Geographic scope

Projects must be implemented in the territory of the Republic of Seychelles and may involve partners from other Indian Ocean countries (Mauritius, Madagascar, France, Union of the Comoros).

Application and Selection Process

This call for projects follows a two-phase process:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) and pre-incubation
2. Final selection, incubation, co-financing, and tailored support



Phase 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI) and Preincubation

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)

Project leaders must submit a **project concept note** (see Annex II) in French (official IOC language) or English, along with an **administrative file** (Annex III). **The Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility Declaration** (Annex IV) must be signed.

Send documents by email to: exploit@coi-ioc.org and smc@coi-ioc.org

Deadline: **October 31, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (Seychelles time)**. Late submissions will be rejected. An online public meeting to open the proposals will then be organized for all bidders.

An information session will be held online by the ExPLOI project on **October 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Seychelles time**. The link to log in will be sent on request by email to the following address: exploit@coi-ioc.org.

Questions may be submitted by email until **October 21, 2025**, with the EOI reference in the subject line to: exploit@coi-ioc.org and smc@coi-ioc.org

Projects will be reviewed by a selection committee (IOC and Seychelles Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, and Climate Change - MAECC), based on an evaluation grid (Annex I). **Around ten projects will be prequalified**. The list will be submitted to AFD for non-objection before pre-incubation.

2. Pre-incubation of Project Leaders

Prequalified projects will enter a **pre-incubation phase to build capacity and refine their proposals**.

Support will include legal/administrative updates and capacity building in areas such as financial/administrative management, proposal development, pitching, etc.

This phase will last 2 to 3 months. At the end, projects must be legally compliant and present a complete proposal (detailed budget, business model, activity plan, short/medium/long-term roadmap) to the ExPLOI project management team.

Phase 2 – Final Selection, Incubation, Co-financing, and Tailored Support

1. Final Selection

Based on a **detailed evaluation grid**, the committee will select the best proposals from each country. Selected applicants will **present their project** to a committee comprising the IOC, MAECC, UGP management team, and partners.

The **final selection** will be based on both the written proposal and the project presentation. Key evaluation criteria include **sustainability after project completion**, covering technical, financial, and organisational aspects. **Three projects (indicative)** will be selected for incubation and co-financing, **subject to AFD's non-objection**.

2. Incubation, Co-financing, and Tailored Support

Selected projects will receive **full incubation**, including training and coaching tailored to identified needs such as financial management, administration, and other relevant areas.

In addition to non-financial support, each project may receive a **grant of up to €50,000**. ExPLOI may co-finance **up to 50% of the total project cost**. Applicants are required to secure **co-funding** from their own resources, loans, grants, or other sources. Co-funding may include **in-kind contributions** such as labour or equipment, but only from the project start date onwards.

The use of co-funding must be **justified and comply with IOC, AFD, and FFEM financial procedures**, including training, close monitoring, and proper documentation. The IOC will **audit project expenditures**.

Applicants are required to submit **technical and financial reports** at the end of the project. While the ExPLOI project will assist in identifying and securing co-funding, ultimate responsibility remains with the applicant.

This phase, which includes **incubation, co-financing, and support**, is expected to last **up to 17 months** (indicative).

ANNEX I – ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria for project leaders are summarised below:

1. The project leader must be a **legal entity**.
2. The project leader must be a **Non-State Actor** operating independently and responsibly. According to the Cotonou Agreement, Non-State Actors include:
 - The private sector
 - Civil society in all its forms
3. The project leader must be **based in the Republic of Seychelles**, where the project will be implemented, and may form a consortium with partners from the sub-region (Mauritius, France, Comoros, Madagascar).
4. The project leader must be **solely responsible** for the preparation and management of the action with its partner(s) and must **not act as an intermediary**.
5. The project leader must be **legally constituted** before the concept note submission deadline or must have **initiated the legal recognition procedure more than six months prior** to the date of submission of the concept note. Administrative compliance will, however, be accepted during the pre-incubation phase (Phase 2). Required documents are listed in Annex III.
6. The project leader must provide **evidence of having successfully completed at least one project or activity related to the circular economy or waste management within the past three years**.
7. The project leader may apply alone or in partnership (as part of a consortium). If awarded a grant, the project leader becomes the **main beneficiary**, representing other partners and coordinating implementation.

Technical Evaluation Grid

N°	Criteria	Notes
1	Demonstrated impact on marine plastic pollution reduction	30
2	Compliance with 5R hierarchy, with priority on prevention/reduction and alternatives to plastic	30
3	Proven sustainability beyond project support	20
4	Alignment with public policies and strategies (national, regional, international); Regional partnerships	10
5	Income and job creation potential for women, youth, marginalized groups, and people with disabilities	5
6	Innovation potential	5
	Total	100

ANNEX II - PROJECT PRESENTATION NOTE

GENERAL INFORMATIONS	
PROJECT NAME	
PROPOSAL NUMBER	<i>Leave blank – for IOC use only</i>
PROJECT LEADER	Organization name: Entity type: Contact person name: Email address: Phone number: Postal address:
PARTNERS	<i>(Add lines as needed)</i> Organization name: Legal entity type: Contact person name: Email address: Phone number: Postal address: Organization name
ANNUAL BUDGET OR TURNOVER (€)	
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SITES	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (€)	
REQUESTED GRANT AMOUNT (€)	

1- PROJECT RELEVANCE (max two pages)

- **Explain how your project aligns with the objective of the call for projects)**
- **Explain how your project responds to the context in Seychelles** (plastic waste situation, existing strategies, coordination with ongoing projects, etc.)

2- ACTION DESCRIPTION (max two pages)

- Describe the main proposed activities, expected outputs and results (at least three activities)
- Provide a development **timeline**

3- IMPACTS (max one-half page)

- How will you demonstrate the impact of your project on reducing plastic pollution in the Indian Ocean?

4- BUDGET

Indicative budget

	Amount (SCR)	Amount (EUR)
Human resources		
Operations (internet, travel, etc.)		
Investments (equipment, materials, etc.)		
Administrative costs (bank fees, etc.)		
Others...		
TOTAL		

Note: Technical support during pre-incubation and incubation phases is directly covered by ExPLOI and should not appear in this budget.

Funding sources (indicative)	Amount (EUR)	Percentage (%)
ExPLOI co-financing amount		
Estimated external co-financing		
Estimated personal contribution (cash or in-kind)		
Total project costs		

ANNEX III – ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Required documents (non-exhaustive list):

	Private Sector	Civil Society
Organization presentation document	Organization presentation (max two pages): mission, objectives, activities, organization (org chart, ownership, etc.)	Organization presentation (max two pages): mission, objectives, activities, organization (org chart, ownership, etc.)
Legal registration document	Certificate of Incorporation (FSA)	Certificate of Registration (>6 months) (Registrar / CEPS)
Tax Identification Number	TIN / Taxpayer Identification Number)	NA
Licence	Trade/Business Licence	NA
Constitution / Bylaws	Memorandum and Articles of Association (MoA & AoA)	Status (Constitution or Rules of Association)
Financial report / Balance sheet	2024 financial report and/or audited balance sheet	2024 financial report
References / experiences	References or past projects (within past 3 years): reports, attestations	References or past projects (within past 3 years): reports, attestations

ANNEX IV

Statement of Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility

Reference name of the bid or proposal: _____ (the "Contract")

To: _____ (the "Contracting Authority")

We recognise and accept that the French Development Agency (AFD) only finances projects of the Contracting Authority subject to its own conditions, as set out in the Financing Agreement, which benefits directly or indirectly the Contracting Authority. Consequently, no legal relationship exists between AFD and our company, our joint venture, or our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants. The Contracting Authority retains exclusive responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the procurement process and for the performance of the Contract. For the purposes of this Annex, the Contracting Authority refers to the Purchaser, Employer, or Client for the procurement of goods, works, plants, consulting services, or non-consulting services.

We hereby certify that neither we, nor any member of our joint venture, nor any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants are in any of the following situations:

2.1 Being bankrupt, wound up, ceasing activities, having activities administered by the courts, entering receivership or reorganisation, or being in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure.

2.2 Having been:

a) Convicted, within the past five years, by a court decision with the force of res judicata in the country where the Contract is implemented, of fraud, corruption, or any other offence committed during a procurement process or contract performance (in such cases, supporting information may be attached showing the conviction is not relevant to this Contract);

b) Subject to an administrative sanction within the past five years by the European Union or by competent authorities in the country where we are incorporated, for fraud, corruption, or other offences during a procurement process or contract performance (supporting information may be attached showing the sanction is not relevant to this Contract);

c) Convicted, within the past five years, by a court decision with the force of res judicata, of fraud, corruption, or other offences during the procurement process or performance of an AFD-financed contract.

2.3 Being listed for financial sanctions by the United Nations, European Union, and/or France for the purposes of countering terrorist financing or threats to international peace and security.

2.4 Within the past five years, having been subject to a fully settled contract termination against us for significant or persistent failure to comply with contractual obligations, unless the termination was challenged, and dispute resolution is pending or has not confirmed a full settlement against us.

2.5 Not having fulfilled fiscal obligations regarding payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of either the country of incorporation or the Contracting Authority's country.

2.6 Being subject to an exclusion decision of the World Bank and listed on <http://www.worldbank.org/debarr>.

(supporting information may be attached showing the exclusion is not relevant to this Contract).

2.7 Having created false documents or misrepresented information in documentation requested by the Contracting Authority as part of the procurement process.

We certify that neither we, nor any members of our joint venture, nor any of our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants are in any situation of conflict of interest:

3.1 Being an affiliate controlled by the Contracting Authority, or a shareholder controlling the Contracting Authority, unless the conflict of interest has been disclosed to and resolved to AFD's satisfaction.

3.2 Having a business or family relationship with Contracting Authority staff involved in the procurement process or contract supervision, unless disclosed to and resolved to AFD's satisfaction.

3.3 Being controlled by, controlling, or under common control with another bidder or consultant; receiving from or granting subsidies directly or indirectly to another bidder or consultant; sharing the same legal representative; or maintaining contacts that allow access to information in other bids or proposals, influencing them, or influencing Contracting Authority decisions.

3.4 Being engaged in a consulting activity that may conflict with the assignments we would perform for the Contracting Authority.

3.5 In the case of procurement of goods, works, or plants:

a) Documentation, including specifications, drawings, calculations, and other materials, was prepared by us or in association with a consultant for use in the procurement process under this Contract.

b) We or our affiliates have been, or are proposed to be, engaged to conduct works supervision or inspection under this Contract.

If we are a state-owned entity, we certify that, to compete in this procurement process, we have legal and financial autonomy and operate under commercial laws and regulations.

We undertake to notify the Contracting Authority, which will inform AFD, of any changes regarding points 2 to 4 above.

In connection with the procurement process and contract performance:

6.1 We have not, and will not, engage in any dishonest conduct intended to deceive, conceal items, circumvent legal or regulatory requirements, or violate internal rules for illegitimate profit.

6.2 We have not, and will not, engage in dishonest conduct contrary to legal, regulatory, or internal rules to obtain illegitimate profit.

6.3 We have not promised, offered, or given, and will not promise, offer, or give, directly or indirectly, any undue advantage to any public officer, official, or person performing a public function, in order to act or refrain from acting in their official capacity.

6.4 We have not promised, offered, or given, and will not promise, offer, or give, directly or indirectly, any undue advantage to any person in an executive position in the private sector to act contrary to legal, contractual, or professional obligations.

6.5 We have not, and will not, engage in practices likely to influence the contract award process to the detriment of the Contracting Authority, including anti-competitive practices.

6.6 Neither we nor our joint venture members, suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants shall acquire or supply equipment or operate in sectors under UN, EU, or French embargoes.

6.7 We commit to comply with, and ensure that all our partners comply with, international environmental and labour standards, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including ILO fundamental conventions and international environmental treaties. We will implement environmental and social risk mitigation measures as specified in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) provided by the Contracting Authority.

We, our joint venture members, and our suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants authorise AFD to inspect accounts, records, and other documents related to the procurement process and contract performance, and to have them audited by auditors appointed by AFD.

Name: _____ In the capacity of: _____

Duly empowered to sign in the name and on behalf of1: _____

Signature: _____

Dated: _____