

DALMATIAN ISLANDS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



FUNDING GUIDANCE
MARCH 2026



INTRODUCTION

The Dalmatian Islands Environment Foundation offers grants between €5,000 and €15,000 to grassroots, community-centred projects aiming to protect and restore nature.

There are three application rounds a year, usually in March, May, and October.

Individuals and groups interested in applying are strongly encouraged to get in touch prior to submitting an application.



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ELIGIBILITY

WHERE?

DIEF will support projects throughout the Dalmatian Islands.

WHO?

Local non-profit organisations (udruge, zaklade) are encouraged to apply for grants.

Organisations previously supported should get in touch to discuss a new application **before** submitting an Expression of Interest (EoI) form, as there may be additional requirements for repeat-funding requests.

WHAT?

DIEF supports a variety of projects, including baseline surveys, species reintroductions, natural regeneration, education initiatives, and policy & advocacy work.

Projects must fit into one of DIEF's Areas of Interest on Page 3, and are considered against the criteria on Page 4.

If you are unsure whether your proposed project meets the DIEF criteria, don't hesitate to get in touch with our Executive Director, Inga (inga@dalmatianenvironment.org), before completing an EoI.

AREAS OF INTEREST

DIEF grants focus primarily on these 3 areas of interest, but applications may be accepted for projects that fall within multiple areas.

REGENERATIVE LAND USE

Supporting projects that confront the root causes of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, or pollution. We've supported the following projects in this area of interest:

- [Heritage for the Future - Economic Valorisation of Indigenous Olive Varieties in Vela Luka](#) by Miro Institute
- [Roots of Resilience](#) by Samotvorac Society
- [Enhancing Sustainable Development and Nature Preservation on Korčula](#) by Miro Institute



HABITAT & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Projects that proactively protect, monitor, or safeguard valuable ecosystems and at-risk species. Projects we've granted so far include:

- [Water Leads](#) by Tatavaka Association
- [Conservation of Water Resources and Biodiversity of Zlarin](#) by Tatavaka Association
- [ReefQuest: Cladocora Caespitosa Exploration](#) (Phase 1 & 2) by KPA Zadar Association
- [Zlarin Island Leaf Expansion - ILEX](#) by Tatavaka Association



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Projects that improve human and technical capacity for sustainable development and green energy transition. The majority of our grants have fallen within this area of interest. Some of them are:

- [Children of Šipan for a Plastic-Free Island](#) by Šipan Academy
- [Eating Our Way Out of Crisis](#) by Pharos Institute
- [Connected by Tradition: Extending Hvar's Historic Paths](#) by Moj Škoj Association



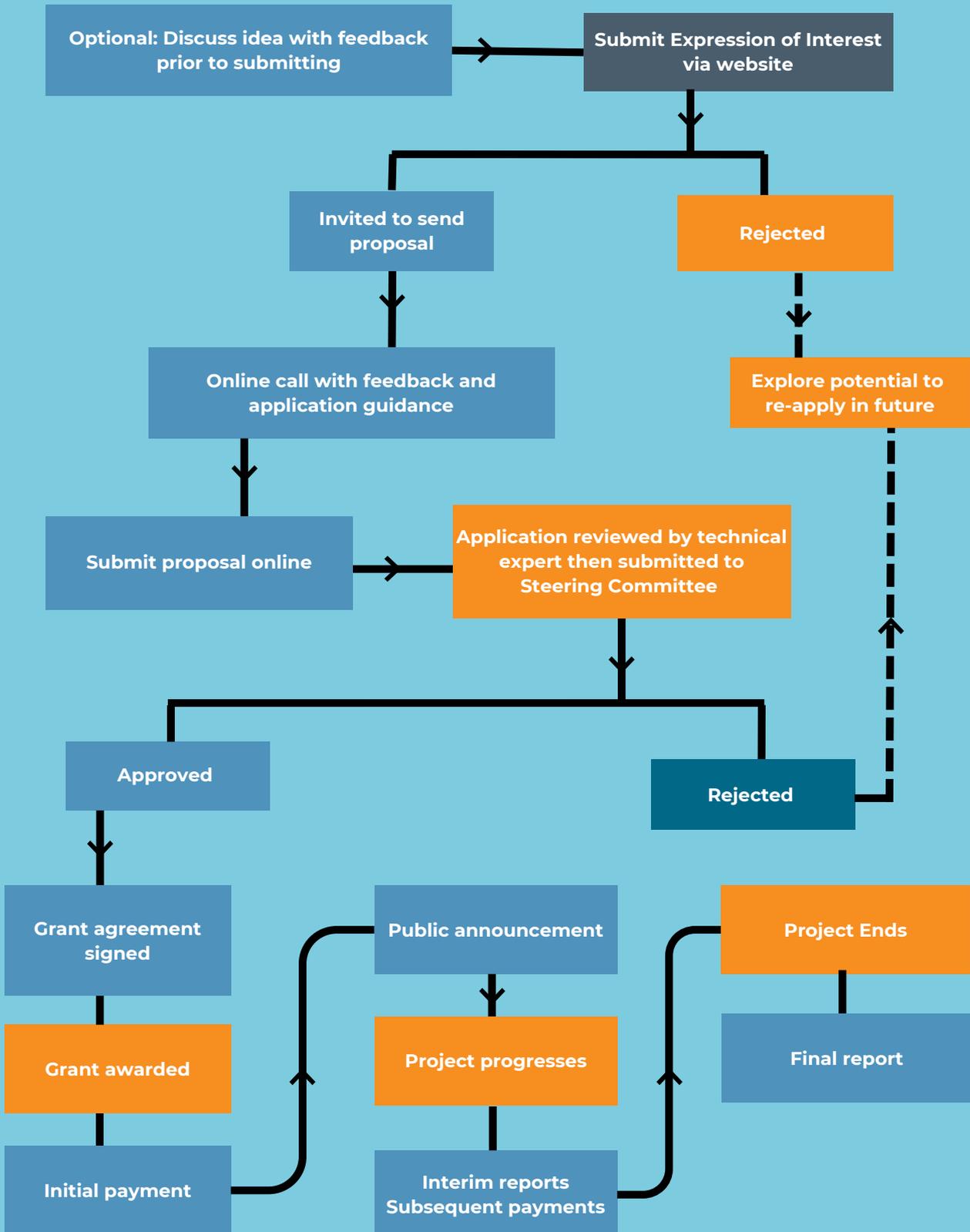
WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN PROJECTS

Applications to DIFE should demonstrate **environmental impact** as the primary aim of the project, and also fit into at least one of DIFE's Areas of Interest. We also consider the following themes when assessing applications:

Theme	What we look for
Environmental impact	Clear and compelling environmental impact aligning with DIFE Areas of Interest
Social impact	Clear and compelling social impact through community involvement or leadership
Innovation	Uses new or alternative approaches to solving environmental problems
Replicability	Shares methods, data, or tools so others can copy or adapt the model, multiplying impact across the Dalmatian islands
Scalability	A grant will kickstart a project, or enable a 'step change' - expanding the project's scale & influence
Financial Sustainability	Has a credible path to continued funding or income after the grant period (follow-on funders, sustainable income)

NOTE: Rather than strict criteria, these are guiding principles used to compare applications. Projects are expected to be stronger in some areas than others.

GRANT PROCESS FLOWCHART



GRANT PROCESS EXPLAINED

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Presented to Steering Committee meetings three times a year and decided democratically
- DIEF communicates decisions to the grantee providing feedback

TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

- Experts in the relevant field who review applications for DIEF on a pro-bono basis

GRANT AGREEMENT includes:

- Conditions of grant
- Awarded amount
- Reporting requirements

INTERIM REPORTS

- Three times a year
- Via an online form or a Word document
- Allows DIEF to share updates publicly (as agreed) and at SC meetings

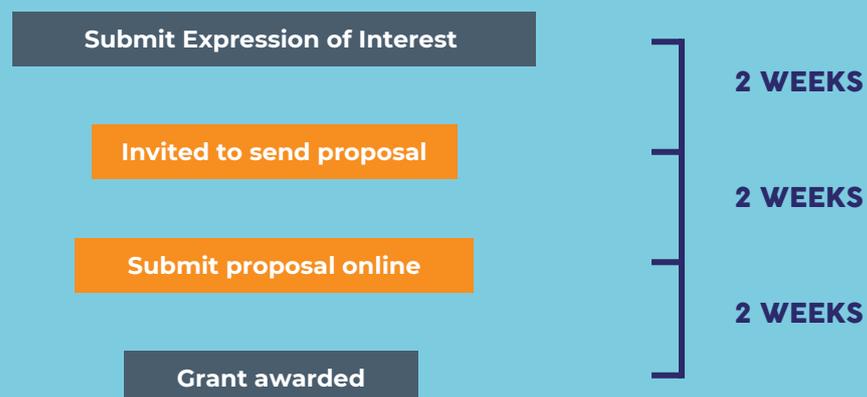
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Shared on DIEF website, social media, newsletter and publications
- Content agreed between DIEF and grantee before publication

FINAL REPORT

- Online form sent by DIEF
- Measures project impact by reporting main results against the outcomes and indicators selected in the grant application

TIMELINE





CONTACT

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