

Atlantis Atlas Project Contribution Programme Applicant Guidance

Overview

At Atlantis Dubai we envisage a healthy and productive ocean, valued by an enduring global audience that will appreciate and benefit from its diversity. Atlantis Atlas Project (AAP) is our commitment to do business in ways which are good for both people and planet. As part of the Atlantis Atlas Project, we contribute a portion of our earnings from marine animal experiences and green meeting events into partnerships that support conservation and sustainability projects focused on protecting the ocean and our environment.

Applicant eligibility

- Applications to the Contribution Programme are open to academics and non-scientists of all ages (18+) can apply.
- Non-scientists, Students and Associated Groups must be affiliated with a research institute, non-governmental organisation (NGO), governmental agency, educational institute, or community organisation such as grassroots club, special interest group and society.
- There must be a designated project leader and applicants must demonstrate the ability to submit a sound project proposal, compile progress and final project reports, and share the project's scientific, conservation and education outcomes.
- **Applicants or projects based within the GCC are welcome to apply, and international organisations are also encouraged to submit applications.** We are not accepting It will be critical for applicants to match the Atlantis Atlas Project Mission, Vision and Key Focus Areas when applying. Applicants are encouraged to align their submission accordingly.
- Funding will not be awarded to fund scholarships, conference participation, and tuition or training courses, including study abroad programmes.
- Only one submission per organization will be considered.
- Applicants must be able to supply the following information:
 - Trade License/Certificate of Incorporation
 - Decree (If UAE Government Entity)
 - VAT Certificate
 - Bank Details on Bank Letter head (of the company or organisation)
- Payments cannot be made into an individual's account, it must be through a registered company or organisation with the above information available.

Project eligibility

- Projects which run for 1 year or less
- Projects must fit into one of the following strategic pillars:
 - **Marine Conservation:** Contribute to and promote the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems.

- **Scientific Advancement:** Advance conservation practices, understanding of species' biology, taxonomy, genetic analysis, veterinary science which can be applied to animals in their natural ecosystems.
- **Education and Awareness:** Enhance understanding, impart skills, and empower people to make informed decisions about social and environmental responsibility.
- **Sustainability:** Development of new ways to reduce environmental impacts
- Projects which only benefit Atlantis Dubai animals or the zoo/aquarium community and have no application to conservation of animals in the wild, will not be eligible for funding.

Application and Reporting

How to apply

Applicants are required to complete the required forms as outlined on the webpage and submit to atlantisatlasproject@atlantisdubai.com.

Application Schedule

Applicants can submit applications once annually (refer to table below).

Request for Proposal	Deadline for Submission	Committee Review	Applicant Notification
1 st April	1 st June	1 st June-30 th July	1 st August

Applicants may submit applications outside of the above schedule if the project is of an urgent nature requiring a quick response to mitigate or address an issue of serious conservation significance and consequence. Acceptance and review of such projects will be at the discretion of Atlantis Dubai Conservation & Science Committee.

Duration of projects generally last for 1 year or less. If a proposal has a longer time period please indicate reasoning. All project applications must be submitted using the Application Form. Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the completed form to atlantisatlasproject@atlantisdubai.com.

Review of Applications

All project applications submitted to the Contribution Programme will go through a review process with specific criteria by the Conservation & Science Committee who have a range of expertise.

Approval Process

The shortlisted projects and recommended will be presented to the Board of Directors, who will deliberate on the recommendations and will support or reject projects.

Applicant Notification

All applicants will be notified by the Conservation & Science Secretariat on the status of their project proposals.

Successful Applicants

Applicants will need to sign an official Terms and Conditions for the Award of Contribution Agreement which outlines the terms and conditions of the funding award as well as obligations and commitments between the Contribution Programme and the applicant.

Successful applicants will be asked to provide the following:

- Trade License/Certificate of Incorporation
- Decree (If UAE Government Entity)
- VAT Certificate
- Bank Details on Bank Letter head (of the company or organisation)

Unsuccessful Applicants

The acknowledgement of application submission will be sent to all unsuccessful applicants.

Reporting

If awarded, a progress report will be due after 6 months of the project starting and a final report one year after funding is awarded. Applicants will be expected to report on progress of the project and tangible outcomes achieved.

Frequently asked questions

Criteria

1. What criteria are used to evaluate each application?

Support will be awarded on a competitive and case-by-case basis based on the following criteria:

- Project is consistent with the Atlantis Atlas Project objectives and strategic directions
- Project is relevant to conservation
- Project is feasible and has high probability of success
- Project contributes to education and outreach
- Project maximizes opportunities for collaboration and synergy
- Project is feasible regarding timeline, manpower and budget requirements
- Project will contribute to the scientific community
- Project has potential for further and future study
- Project is likely to be published
- Project will potentially gain international/regional media interest

2. What are the priority regions?

The Contribution Programme supports projects within the GCC region, and will prioritise projects within the UAE.

Timeline

3. What is the timeline for the 1USD Contribution Programme?

- Application deadline: 11:59pm (GMT+4), 1st June
- Notification: 1st August

- Six-month Progress Report Deadline: 1st March
- Final Annual Progress Report Deadline: 1st September

Please do not contact us any earlier than 1st August regarding the status of your proposal. It is our policy to notify all applicants at the same time regarding their application.

Late proposals cannot be considered out of the fairness to all applicants.

Eligibility

4. Who is eligible to apply?

- Applications to the Contribution Programme are open to academics and non-scientists of all ages (18+) can apply.
- Non-scientists, Students and Associated Groups must be affiliated with a research institute, non-governmental organisation (NGO), governmental agency, educational institute, or community organisation such as grassroots club, special interest group and society.
- There must be a designated project leader and applicants must demonstrate the ability to submit a sound project proposal, compile progress and final project reports, and share the project's scientific, conservation and education outcomes.
- **Applicants or projects based within the GCC are welcome to apply, and international organisations are also encouraged to submit applications.** It will be critical for applicants to match the Atlantis Atlas Project Mission, Vision and Key Focus Areas when applying. Applicants are encouraged to align their submission accordingly.
- Grants will not be awarded to funding scholarships, conference participation, and tuition or training courses, including study abroad Programmes.
- Only one submission per organisation will be considered

5. If my organisation receives support this year, are we eligible to apply for funds next year?

Yes, funding can be applied for by the same organisation each year.

6. How does Contribution Programme consider diversity, equity, access, and inclusion when determining grant distributions?

Atlantis Dubai prioritises diversity, equity, access, and inclusion across its businesses.

7. How do I receive an invitation to apply?

An invitation is not required to apply. Organisations should self-identify if they are eligible to apply for Contribution Programme.

8. Can I submit more than one application?

No, each organisation is limited to one application.

9. What do I do if I submitted my application prematurely?

If you feel you have submitted your application in error, please contact the Conservation and Science team at atlantisatlasproject@atlantisdubai.com.

Funding

10. Where can I find a list of previously funded projects?

Please visit <https://www.atlantis.com/dubai/sustainability/atlantis-atlas-project/one-usd-projects> to access a listing of past projects supported.

11. How much funding can be applied for?

Small funding below \$15,000 and larger funding between \$10,000-\$15,000 can be applied for per project.

12. What can funding be used for?

- The Contribution Programme will cover some travel for teams, students and field work equipment and supplies. Some percentage of the budget can be allocated for lab work and testing. Additional equipment needs, and other costs may be provided if those needs can be explained how the equipment is vital to the project.
- The applicant can allocate funds for hiring or contracting assistant, specialist and consultants please identify the percentage allocated for such costs.
- The Contribution Programme will prioritize grants to those allocating a high proportion of their total budget to the operation and running costs of the project.

13. If I am successful, when are reports due?

If awarded, a progress report will be due after 6 months of the project starting and a final report one year after funding is awarded. Applicants will be expected to report on progress of the project and tangible outcomes achieved.

14. How are funds disbursed?

Funds will be disbursed only to an account registered under the institution, organisation, or body with which the applicant is affiliated.

Applicants will need to:

- Sign Terms and Conditions for the Award of Contribution Agreement which outlines the terms and conditions of the funding award as well as obligations and commitments between Contribution Programme and the applicant.
- Acknowledge receipt of disbursed funds upon every successful transfer to the Conservation and Science team.
- Keep detailed accounts which must be made available to Contribution Programme, upon request, for audit purposes.

15. If I'm not successful, will my application be reconsidered?

Inquiries and full applications are not re-visited after the review is completed. The committee reviews applications only once per year.

16. Can I obtain feedback on my application?

If possible, the Conservation and Science Committee will provide feedback on full proposals as a part of grant notification communications. Due to the number of inquiries we receive, we cannot provide individual feedback at the inquiry phase of our process.

17. How are applications reviewed?

All project applications submitted to the Contribution Programme will go through a review process with specific criteria by Conservation and Science Committee who have a range of expertise.

First Tier

The first tier in the review process will be conducted by the Conservation and Science Secretariat. The review will include:

- Ensuring complete information submitted by applicants.

- Grouping the applications into those that meet our priorities.
- Producing an executive summary for each application.

Second Tier

After a preliminary review the projects will be handed to the Conservation and Science Committee comprising of colleagues from:

- Conservation & Education
- Public Relations
- Zoological & Veterinary Services
- Finance

The review process will be facilitated by the Secretariat and should further refine the projects recommended for the Contribution Programme by:

- Assessing and segregating applications that need external review
- Further define the objective of applications and placement in the Conservation and Science strategy
- Assist in determining milestones and progress reports
- Depending on the quantity of applications submitted and scope which they cover, this will define how many will be reviewed.
- The Conservation and Science will have a minimum of 2 months for review and the third month to make any recommendations or modifications to the proposals.