



Sea-Changers' Grant Giving Policy 2018

Who and what do we fund?

Sea-Changers gives one off grants (i.e. not continual funding) to a range of UK-based, marine conservation charities and 'not for profit' organisations. We welcome applications from a wide variety of groups and entities. We will consider partial funding of projects where other funds are also being sought or are already in place; but we will be keen to understand exactly which elements of the project Sea-Changer's grant will be used to fund and how our funding fits into the wider finances of the project.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

What do we fund?

The projects funded will achieve **one or more of the following objectives:**

1. To **address the root causes** of marine conservation threats and challenges in the UK.
2. To **prevent or reduce negative impacts** on UK coastal and marine environments and / or species.
3. To **add to the body of knowledge** about marine conservation threats and challenges in the UK.

Sea-Changers is particularly interested in grassroots projects which galvanise community action and in projects which increase the number of people taking action for marine conservation. Data and results from research projects undertaken as a result of Sea-Changers grant funding must be made available to Sea-Changers and shared with appropriate marine databases when completed.

What don't we fund?

We do not fund the following:

- Projects that have a political aim.
- Applications solely to fund administrative or core operating costs.
- Retrospective projects or funding requests.
- Individuals or causes that will benefit only one person.
- Capital costs for building work or refurbishment.
- Projects partly or wholly outside the British Isles.

How are applications evaluated?

Eligible applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Measurable impact

How well does the project meet one or more of the three objectives? How far does the project have a positive impact on sea and coastal environment and /or species? How well does the application identify appropriate measures of success? Is it possible effectively to evaluate the impact?

2. Community / grass roots base

How far is the project community-based with involvement of communities and the public in solutions to address marine conservation challenges? Does the project have elements of community engagement or citizen science?

3. Value for money

How well justified is the sum proposed? Is it good value for money and is there good leverage? Are there other ways for the funding to be obtained?

4. Ongoing or wider benefits

Will the project have lasting benefits and outcomes? Is it replicable and could it have wider applicability? Will the project raise awareness or get publicity for the issues it is addressing and / or for marine conservation issues in general?

5. Innovation and creativity

Does the project create an innovative approach to the problems facing the marine environment?

MARINE LITTER FUND 2018-2019

From Spring 2018 Sea-Changers has a specific fund to address marine litter issues, with the following objectives:

1. To address the root causes of marine litter in the UK.
2. To prevent or reduce marine litter impacting on UK coastal and marine environments and / or species.
3. To add to the body of knowledge about the nature and impact of marine litter in the UK.

Approximately 60% of this funding will support projects in Scotland with 40% going elsewhere in UK.

If you are applying to conduct beach cleaning activities, we will look favourably on projects that can demonstrate connections to existing wider beach clean activities (For example, <https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/> and <https://www.sas.org.uk/our-work/beach-cleans/>). We will also look more favourably on activities that are considering potential recycling options for material gathered (For example: <https://www.terracycle.co.uk/en-UK/brigades/beach-plastic-programme>).

Evaluation criteria will be the same as for the main grant fund.

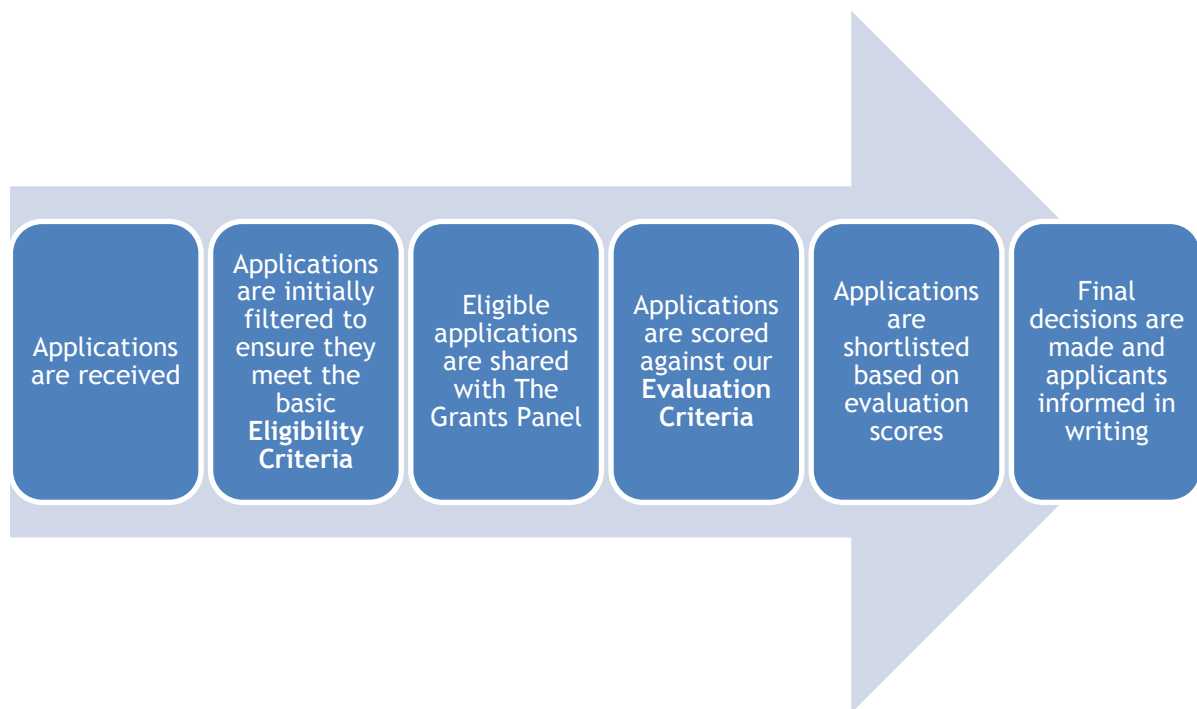
How do we allocate funding?

In each cycle there is generally an upper limit on funding requests of £600. This amount varies according to how much we have available, so please check the website for the latest update.

For exceptional projects we may consider funding of up to £1,000. If you do apply for a grant of over £600, please make it clear how you will fund the project if you do not receive the full grant applied for from Sea-Changers.

Funding decisions will be made by the Sea-Changers Grants Panel which comprises of our Trustees and an external marine conservation expert. The panel has unfettered discretion over how the funds are allocated. They will ensure that the purpose and practice of any receiving organisation can be demonstrated to conform to Sea-Changers' funding criteria and meet our charitable aims.

The process we follow is shown in the diagram below:



Further information may be requested from applicants at any stage in the evaluation process. Timings for the process will be confirmed to applicants following receipt of their application. We are sorry that, due to the volume of applications received we are unable to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Measuring the success of funding

Sea-Changers will require all organisations supported through grant funding to complete a short evaluation form once the project is completed. This will include:

- A detailed account of the ways in which the funding has been used.
- An audit of grant spend (i.e. when expenditure took place, any unspent funds).
- Details of the specific activities undertaken.
- How the project has met the proposed outcomes and targets set out in the original application.

Sea-Changers are keen to promote collaborative working between projects, including sharing of research data. Please ensure you consider how your project does, or could link with similar projects.

If a successful applicant wishes to retrospectively change the purpose of the grant they have been awarded, they must discuss this with Sea-Changers and request permission to do so. Failure to do this may result in the grant offer being withdrawn.