



M/V Vogetrader – South Shore Oahu Coral Restoration

2022 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **April 18, 2022 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is soliciting proposals to provide compensatory restoration for injury to corals caused by the *M/V Vogetrader* incident. An estimated \$35,000 will be available for a Phase 1 project, and NFWF may decide to extend the award for additional phases in the future.

In 2010, the cargo vessel *M/V Vogetrader* ran aground near Barber's Point as it was crossing Honolulu Harbor in Oahu. The grounding and associated response activities caused substantial injuries to coral reef habitat, harming more than 100,000 coral colonies. The [Restoration Plan](#) outlined restoration projects intended to compensate the public for injuries to coral resources including in-water nurseries and coral restoration at Airport Reef Runway, Waikiki, and Kaneohe Bay.

Preferred compensatory restoration projects outlined in the Restoration Plan began in early 2018. The goal is to prevent coral losses by salvaging loose corals (corals of opportunity) and husbanding them for reattachment into outplanting sites injured through natural and/or anthropogenic factors. Projects will support implementation of coral restoration activities at the Airport Reef Runway including but not limited to: collecting and husbanding corals of opportunity, identifying suitable outplanting habitats, outplanting corals, and collecting metrics of outplanting success. Additional phases may include similar activities in Waikiki.

Project proposals should include

- Work Plan – Description of activities with details on how they will be conducted. Describe tasks, deliverables, and outcomes.
- Project timeline outlining major activities, milestones, and reports
- Environmental compliance information, such as a list of Federal, tribal, state, and local permits acquired for projects under this award

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The south shore of Oahu, Airport Reef Runway and Waikiki (see map), were identified in the Restoration Plan as sites for in-water coral restoration. The implementation of coral restoration in Waikiki is still in the planning phase.



View of the South Shore of Oahu from Pearl Harbor entrance channel to Diamond Head Crater showing the Airport Reef Runway site (A), and the proposed site for restoration activities in Waikiki (B).

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Applications under this funding opportunity will work directly with local resource agencies, e.g. NOAA and State of Hawaii, to implement projects that will address the priorities listed below for reefs associated with the Restoration Plan.

Coral Reef Restoration:

Projects will help jurisdictions prepare to implement coral reef restoration projects at scale. The expected size of awards is unlikely to be sufficient to support large-scale restoration efforts but rather prepare for these larger efforts and increase their likelihood for success.

Increase Capacity for Coral Restoration at Scale:

Projects will increase the available number and diversity of coral and associated reef species available for direct coral reef restoration efforts. Activities may include but are not limited to training in propagation techniques, establishing new nurseries, techniques to scale-up propagation, and exploring the needs of new and complex lifecycle species.

Support Out-planting Success:

Projects will focus on smaller-scale out-planting case studies that seek to learn about predation, competition, water quality, disease resistance, etc. or help streamline logistical hurdles like permitting that can be used to increase the success of larger scale restoration efforts. Projects can also coordinate with existing out-planting activities on larger scale projects to further refine techniques to increase success and test approaches.

Applicants should address how they will monitor for coral metrics outlined in the Restoration Plan at one year after outplanting. Metrics for progress reports will include: # of corals of opportunity

collected for nursery, # of outplants, species and size class of outplants, survivability of outplants at 6 and 12 months, and # of acres restored (reef).

Community Impact and Engagement:

Projects that incorporate outreach to communities, foster community engagement, and pursue collaborative management leading to measurable conservation benefits are encouraged. When possible, projects should be developed through community input and co-design processes ensuring traditional knowledge elevation. Additionally, projects should engage community-level partners (e.g., municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders) to help design, implement, and maintain projects to secure maximum benefits for communities, maintenance, and sustainability post-grant award.

PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, this program has a list of metrics in Easygrants for full proposal applicants to choose from for future reporting. We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project.

Project Activity	Recommended Metric	Additional Guidance
Coral Restoration and Interventions	Coral - Marine habitat restoration - # individuals propagated for coral restoration	# individuals propagated for coral restoration
	Coral - Marine habitat restoration - # of coral outplants	# of coral outplants
	Coral - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored	Acres restored
		In the “Notes” please breakdown the value by species/genotypes the project will make available and the relevance of these species/genotypes to restoration for the area/jurisdiction. For the acres target please identify to what density you are restoring or providing a management intervention (i.e. invasive removal).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

Eligible applicants include *non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and Organizations, educational institutions, international organizations.*

Ineligible applicants include *U.S. Federal government agencies, for-profit organizations, and unincorporated individuals.*

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- **Equipment:** Federal funds and matching contributions may not be used to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems (including entering into or renewing a contract) that uses telecommunications equipment or services produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) as a substantial or essential component, or as critical technology of any system. Refer to Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information. Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. NFWF acknowledges, however, that some projects may only be completed using NFWF funds to procure equipment. If this applies to your project, please contact the program staff listed in this RFP to discuss options.
- NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

Available funding for Phase 1 project(s) is expected to be approximately \$35,000. Projects should be 16-18 months in duration. Matching funds are not required. If the Phase 1 project is successful, additional funds may be available for the recipient to partner on additional phases of the project at the Airport Reef Runway and/or Waikiki coral restoration projects.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria.

Program Goals and Priorities – Project contributes to the Program’s overall habitat and species conservation goals, and has specific, quantifiable performance metrics to evaluate project success. Project addresses one or more of the program priorities.

Technical Merit – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible.

Partnership and Community Impact – The applicant organization partners and engages collaboratively with diverse local community members, leaders, community-based organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement the proposed project. This ensures long-term sustainability and success of the project, integration into local programs and policies, and community acceptance of proposed restoration actions. Non-traditional partners or communities are enlisted to broaden the sustained impact from the project. Describe the community characteristics of the project area, identify any communities impacted, describe outreach and community engagement activities and how those will be monitored and measured. Use demographic data to support descriptions and submit letters of support from community partners and/or collaborators demonstrating their commitment to the project and engagement in project activities as proposed.

Cost-Effectiveness – Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness evaluation may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget. The federal government has determined that a *de minimis* 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a NICRA, as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize **ALL** proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.

Transferability – Project has potential and plan to transfer lessons learned to other communities and/or to be integrated into government programs and policies.

Conservation Plan and Context – The project advances an existing conservation plan or strategy.

Monitoring – Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Past Success – Applicant has a proven track record of success in implementing conservation practices with specific, measurable results.

Partnership – An appropriate partnership exists to implement the project and the project is supported by a strong local partnership that leverages additional funds and will sustain it after the life of the grant. Identify proposed partners, if known (including potential or contemplated subawards to third party subrecipients of the applicant), the roles they will play in implementing the project, and how this project will build new or enhance existing partnerships. (Note: a project partner is any local community, non-profit organization, tribe, and/or local, state, and federal government agency that contributes to the project in a substantial way and is closely involved in the completion of the project.)

OTHER

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF's [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) as applicable.

Matching Contributions – Match is encouraged but not required. Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the Project during the Period of Performance.

Procurement – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF’s express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF’s financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project. Award recipients will also be required to acknowledge NOAA in press releases, publications and other public communications.

Receiving Award Funds – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

Compliance Requirements – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. **Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals.** As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

Permits – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

Data Sharing - Successful applicants will be required to satisfy NOAA data sharing requirements, including making environmental data collected or created under this award publicly visible and accessible in a timely manner.

Reporting – Successful applicants will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports based on reporting templates that will be provided.

Project Safety – Successful applicants will be required have a written safety plan for management of the project, which should specifically address safety of project personnel, associates, visitors, and volunteers; and should address SCUBA-related activities, in particular.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change.

Full Proposal Due Date	April 18, 2022 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time
Review Period	Late April
Awards Announced	May 18

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.
2. Once on your homepage, click the “Apply for Funding” button and select this RFP’s “Funding Opportunity” from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded [here](#).

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website’s [Applicant Information](#) page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:
Margette Bourne, Manager for Federal Relations at Margette.Bourne@nfwf.org

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:
Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.

Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.