



THE TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND ("TMF")

Trust No IT890/98 VAT No.: 4220232013

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<http://www.thetablemountainfund.org.za>

14 June 2021



-CALL FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS TO THE TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND -

1. INTRODUCTION

The Table Mountain Fund is a capital conservation trust fund that was established in 1998 with funds from local and international sources. Founded by WWF-SA and launched by Sir Edmund Hillary, the fund has to-date invested approximately R90 million into 342 conservation projects that protect and restore the Cape Floral Region.

The Table Mountain Fund's investment direction is informed by its 2019 – 2024 Conservation Strategy which is available on www.thetablemountainfund.org.za. This strategy identifies four priority programmes, namely: The Pride Programme; The Prosperity Programme; The Care Programme and the Fynbos Forever Programme. The Fund is now calling for concept proposals which align to the Prosperity Programme. The total amount of funding available for all projects within this Programme over the full programme period is R4 500 000.

The Prosperity Programme aims to ensure that fynbos-based economies are productive and resilient. The objectives are that:

- More fynbos-based industries are established;
- Youth have meaningful careers in fynbos conservation;
- Innovative financing mechanisms are established in the sector; and
- People, communities and organisations living and operating within the CFR are empowered and derive social and economic benefits from fynbos.

2. WHO CAN APPLY?

Social entrepreneurs/ enterprises ready to scale their business to provide greater environmental and social impact in a financially sustainable manner. Enterprises must be registered entities in good standing and with a specific interest in undertaking conservation business in the Cape Floristic Region. Multi-disciplinary project teams with business or economic development and conservation experience / expertise will be favourably considered.



TRUSTEES:
Y FIRFIREY (CHAIR), E B MNISI, L PLIT
J SMITH, J J MANUEL, K A NENGIKE.

3. WHAT TYPES OF APPLICATIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING?

- Projects must align to the Prosperity Programme and deliver on at least one of the stipulated objectives.
- Projects must deliver social and or environmental benefits.
- Projects must be based within the Cape Floristic Region.
- The premise of the Prosperity Programme is that there is sustainable revenue to be generated from fynbos conservation and as such, projects which can mobilize resources to ultimately deliver a return (albeit partial) on the investment will be favourably considered.
- The intention is to provide seed funding and access to finance for social enterprises. The proposal must clearly show that the need for funding from the Table Mountain is temporary in nature as opposed to long term. Applicants must provide evidence of a proof-of-concept and reasons as to why the venture is not yet commercially viable.
- Funding towards capital assets having material consequences for conservation related businesses will be considered, especially whereby risk to the Table Mountain Fund can be mitigated e.g. through the retention of ownership of such capital by the Table Mountain Fund and leasing of such capital to the applicant throughout the project period.
- Student loans, bursaries, internships and other skills development options will be considered only when coordinated by a suitable institute and linked directly into an earmarked career path. Individual applications will not be considered.

***The Table Mountain Fund has been approved as a Public Benefit Organisation. This needs to be taken into consideration when developing proposals, particularly in respect of business undertakings and trading activities. The Table Mountain Fund's review of such proposals will include a feasibility and tax liability assessment based on the constraints imposed on Public Benefit Organisations.*

4. FUNDING

The Table Mountain Fund offers a maximum of R250 000 per annum, for a maximum period of three years, i.e. R750 000 in total per project/ enterprise. In exceptional circumstances and where well motivated for, a weighted upfront payment or a five year project period to allow for the delayed return on investment, will be considered.

Traditionally, such funding has come in the form of an obligatory grant. However, for the Prosperity Programme, where a return on this investment is encouraged, we invite applicants to make suggestions on the appropriate funding arrangement. Funding flows could potentially include grants, partial or interest-free loans, bursaries, loans, shareholder options or even realization of royalties from product or services sold. Please note that the Table Mountain Fund is piloting the use of these diversified funding options for the Prosperity Programme only for now and there is no commitment to roll it out beyond this years call for concept proposals.

5. THE CONCEPT PROPOSAL

Concepts are envisaged to outline details of the project at a high level and should be no more than four A4 pages in length. The following headings must be addressed in concept proposals (please note that incomplete concept proposals will not be considered for funding):

- 1: Project Name
- 2: Information about the entity (name, status, registration, location etc.) and project team members (name, age, gender, role and experience)
- 3: Project Objectives
- 4: How will the project meet the Prosperity Programme objectives?
- 5: Conservation and socio-economic benefits
6. How will the project address equity in terms of gender, cultural and ethnical diversity, and/ or disability.
- 7: Budget (*as per the template reflected below). Please also indicate co-funding secured.
8. Financial plan regarding the proposed project including cash flow projections, a breakeven analysis and a clear indication of how the applied for funding would influence these numbers over the next three years.
- 9: A summarised Implementation Schedule with timelines.
- 10: Partners or collaborating organizations
- 11: Potential risks and responses

* BUDGET FORMAT

Line Item	Description	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Staff costs	Permanent and temporary staff. Including only that portion of salary directly related to the project.			
Third party fees	Consultant(s) and subcontractors. Include 3 rd party travel & subsistence. Exclude consultants contracted to undertake project evaluation.			
Travel and Subsistence	Travel expenses including air fares, vehicle running expenses, vehicle hire, accommodation, etc. Exclude 3 rd party travel.			
Capital Asset costs – to be strongly motivated for	All assets with a value of R1 000 or more and a useful life of more than one year. Items with a value less than R1 000 should be considered operating expenses.			
Operating expenses	All remaining project expenses such as phone, postage, stationery, administration levies, consumables.			
Meetings / Education / Training	Include audio-visual material, training manuals, course fees, etc.			
Project Promotion / Communication/ Printing / Publication	Include printing, design and distribution costs. Costs related to Funder / media visits.			
Project Evaluation	Appointment of external and independent reviewers only.			
TOTAL				

6. APPLYING FOR A GRANT

Applications should be emailed to the Table Mountain Fund Project Coordinator, Carla Wood (cwood@wwf.org.za), 021 762 8525, before midnight on 27th July 2021. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted. Please ensure that you receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal.

7. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION

Applications will be assessed by the Project Review Panel on the basis of the above provided criteria. Given that the nature of the call is competitive, even projects which meet all stipulated criteria may not be awarded funding. Short-listed applicants will be invited to develop their concepts into full applications for further consideration based upon comments received from the Project Review Panel (which may also ask for the independent review of any application). All applicants, whether successful or not in their application, will be provided with feedback by the 31st October 2021.

The Table Mountain Fund reserves the right to not allocate the full R4 500 000 to the Prosperity Programme through this call.
