

# Community Support Fund

## Criteria

### ABOUT THE FUND

The Community Support Fund is a dedicated small grant fund operated by Fauna & Flora to support member groups of the Coastal Communities Network, and other relevant community-based organisations. The grant fund has been established to enable groups to meet specific locally-determined goals and outcomes, with the overall aim of progressing local biodiversity conservation and/or development of local groups with a biodiversity focus. Grants can be sought by Network members for discrete projects, to build the capacity or governance of a group, or to support learning and development.

The Community Support Fund offers grants with no lower limit and with an anticipated range of up to £5000. The fund has a maximum overall cap of £25,000 per year and applications will be closed when the available funds are exhausted.

### FUND CRITERIA

- The Community Support Fund is open to Scottish community-based organisations (CBOs) who are active in biodiversity conservation, either via the Coastal Communities Network, or through engagement with Fauna & Flora.
- The application must be submitted in your group's name, with a quorum of three group members endorsing the application and with clear articulation of how the grant is in line with your group's aims.
- Grants must enable groups to meet specific goals to progress local biodiversity conservation, group development or capacity building of the group (in line with your group aims) – or a combination of these outcomes.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel against the fund criteria and wider fund goals, with decisions based on how well applications meet the relevant criteria and goals.
- Any group may not submit more than one application at any time. Current grants will be considered in decision making, to ensure a good spread of funding between organisations, whilst also aiming to support the most impactful projects.
- Grants can only be made to groups with an agreed constitution in place and a named group bank account ('community account' or similar). However, we may be able to find other ways to offer support to groups which are not yet constituted but which are working towards this – please do talk to us about this.

### FUND GUIDELINES

- Applications are accepted and considered on a rolling basis, until the available funding is exhausted within any fund year.
- Grant payments will generally be made in tranches based upon agreed delivery of outcomes and reporting, based on a formal signed grant letter. A different process will be used to reimburse agreed travel costs or invoices.
- If grant funds are not spent as agreed, FFI reserves the right to request repayment of any grant given under the Community Support Fund.

### **WHAT MIGHT THE FUND CONSIDER?**

- Specific discrete projects with clear biodiversity conservation or group development outcomes.
- Group-to-group community learning and knowledge exchanges.
- Costs related to group formalisation and governance.
- See previously funded projects on the Community Support Fund webpage.

### **WHAT WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE?**

- Capital funding: Large equipment, buildings, cars and other infrastructure.
- International conference or event attendance/travel.
- Business, enterprise or livelihoods related costs.
- Student funding.
- Any applications that do not have clear outcomes meeting the fund criteria.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Please submit the completed application form, plus any further information you deem relevant, to Rebecca Plant, Fauna & Flora Programme Manager, Scotland [rebecca.plant@fauna-flora.org](mailto:rebecca.plant@fauna-flora.org). Applicants are encouraged to make initial contact to discuss ideas before submitting a formal application to the Fund.