



REGULATIONS AND ELIBIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS PLAY FOR NATURE « BIODIV'SPORT »

1. ABOUT PLAY FOR NATURE AND THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The **Play for Nature** Endowment Fund, created in 2013 by Julien Pierre (President of Fair Play for Planet) and Pascal Damois (President of the Parc Animalier d'Auvergne), is committed to protecting endangered species and their ecosystems in France and around the world. It has become a recognized expert in identifying and evaluating in situ conservation programs, combining biodiversity protection and local community involvement. Play for Nature's actions are structured around three strategic pillars:

- **Biodiv'World:** financial support for in situ conservation programs and scientific studies across five continents.
- **Biodiv'Sport:** technical and financial support for programs using sport as a tool to raise awareness of biodiversity protection.
- **Biodiv'Educ:** environmental education in schools through innovative workshops using video games and technology.

Play for Nature is launching its annual call for proposals, open to all biodiversity conservation organisations seeking financial support for their project.

This call for projects under the "**Biodiv'Sport**" category is open to all organisations including those that have already been awarded a grant in previous years.

Project selection will be conducted by an independent Evaluation Committee. Whether or not you have applied in the past, it is essential to complete your application as if it were being evaluated for the first time. Please ensure your presentation is clear, complete, and accessible to readers who are not yet familiar with it.

2. GRANTS AWARDED

For all first-time partnerships, grants are capped at **€5,000**. For established partnerships, multi-year grants or higher amounts may be considered based on demonstrated results and the quality of the collaboration.

As an indication, we receive more than 300 applications each year. Over the past three years, we have been able to support around twenty organizations, and we strive to increase this number each year as our program grows.

For 2027, all our grants will be awarded to projects falling under the Biodiv'Sport pillar.



Technical support for project leaders may be provided throughout the project, in particular to help organize an awareness-raising sporting event.

3. ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

The submitted project must concern **actions planned for 2027**.

It must be a biodiversity conservation project aimed at protecting an endangered species and raising awareness of its protection, through the practice of a sport or the organization of a sporting event.

An endangered species is defined here by its presence on the IUCN Red List under the categories Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR). Any project that does not have an impact on an endangered species will not be considered.

The proposed project must place **biodiversity conservation at the heart of its objectives**, clearly targeting endangered species. It must also integrate **the involvement of local communities** in the activities carried out under the project, whether through awareness-raising actions, education, or direct participation in the activities led by the organization.

Sport must be integrated within an overall biodiversity conservation project, in particular through educational and awareness-raising actions targeting citizens and local authorities. This may include the following categories:

- The organization of sporting events, whether existing or newly created, by the project-leading organization;
- A partnership with an existing sporting event organised by a sports body, in support of the conservation project led by the applicant organization.

All projects must also aim to raise awareness among as many people as possible about biodiversity protection, whether through the preservation of endangered species, ecosystem conservation, or the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources.

This awareness-raising may target participants in the sporting activities offered, but also other audiences located within the project's intervention area: pupils, citizens, local authorities, or participants in concrete actions such as ecosystem restoration.

Project leaders may submit annual or multi-year events. In the case of a multi-year event, it will be considered as a single project.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria are defined as follows:



- Only civil society organizations **dedicated to the conservation** of endangered species and ecosystems will be considered, either alone or in coalition with a sports organization.
- Projects must concern the conservation or awareness-raising for the protection of at least **one species listed on the IUCN Red List**, in one of the following categories: **Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered**.
- The organization must have a minimum legal existence of **3 years**.
- The amount of support requested must not exceed **50% of the organization's annual budget**, and must represent **at least 10% of the total project cost**.
- The project must **not involve any transfer of funds or re-granting** to another organization. Play for Nature gives priority to organizations locally established in the country where the project is implemented. If the applicant organization has a local branch, the latter is encouraged to apply in its own name.
- The project must not be located in an **armed conflict zone**. For certain countries, this restriction applies to specific regions. Please contact us if in doubt.
- All **mandatory documents** must be provided (see section 6).

5. NON-ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Play for Nature **does not fund**:

- Sports projects without a clear biodiversity conservation objective and/or do not raise awareness of biodiversity protection, involving at least one endangered species as defined in section 3.
- Organizational overhead costs alone. Funded human resources must be exclusively dedicated to project implementation.
- Rescue or rehabilitation centers without a reintroduction component.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Each application must include the following:

- CV of the project leader(s)
- Provisional budget of the organization for 2026 *
- Accounts for the last closed fiscal year, approved by the Board of Directors (*for example, for an application in 2026 for a 2027 grant, the 2025 accounts must be provided*)
- Activity report of the organization for 2025. *If you do not have an official activity report, a template is available in the "Files to download" tab of the call-for-projects platform.*
- Progress report on the 2026 project, if the project already exists.

* **Note:** To ensure equal treatment and ease of evaluation, **only the official budget templates provided will be accepted**. Any file submitted in **another format will not be considered**. All amounts must be **converted into euros**; a conversion formula is included in the Excel sheet provided.



7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of projects by the Selection Committee is based on an analysis grid taking into account the following criteria:

- **Organization and project leader:** track record and expertise, local presence, project leader's skills, operational capacity.
- **Conservation stakes:** target species and IUCN status, identified threats, relevance of the objectives.
- **Integration of the sport component:** nature and relevance of the sport–conservation link.
- **Awareness-raising:** quality of actions and involvement of local communities.
- **Methodology:** clarity of the application, impact indicators, partnerships, technical feasibility.
- **Budget:** clarity, realism, and coherence.

8. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

As part of the Play for Nature call for projects, all eligible applications (see sections 3, 4, 5) will undergo an initial scoring. The applications retained after this stage will then be scored by 5 separate evaluators from the Selection Committee. A shortlist of the highest-scoring applications will then be presented to the Committee at a dedicated meeting, at the end of which the awarded projects will be designated.

The Selection Committee is composed of at least 15 members, including representatives of Play for Nature's Board of Directors and Strategic Committee, as well as independent experts.

All admissible applications will be collectively reviewed by the Committee at a dedicated meeting. The awarded projects will be designated at the end of this discussion. All applicants will be informed of the results within a maximum of one month following the meeting.

Play for Nature wishes to support a diversity of initiatives. To this end, the endowment fund and its Board of Directors, in a concern for representativeness and international impact, have established criteria external to the project itself — such as geographic area, choice of species or ecosystems supported, or the sport selected — which may be taken into account in the final selection of programs.

Projects not selected but having received the approval of the Selection Committee will be kept in a complementary database and may, where appropriate, be presented to new patrons until the next call for projects.

9. TIMELINE

- Opening of the call for projects and receipt of applications: from **July 15, 2026 to August 16, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.** (Paris time, GMT +2).



- Project Selection Committee: **October 16.**
- Announcement of results: **within one month** following the Selection Committee meeting.

If you encounter any difficulties, you may send us a message via the platform's Messaging tool, or by email at conservation@playfornature.org.