



Southeast Baltic Capacity Grant

Funding conditions 2026

Grant description

BaltCF offers €150,000 for three years (€50,000 per year) as a flexible grant for one NGO based in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia or the part of Ukraine located in the Baltic Sea catchment.

The goal of this grant is to give the grantee flexible funding, to improve the grantee's long-term operating capacity and to support its professionalization, as an element of strengthening nature conservation work for the Baltic Sea. The grant thus can be used for the following activities:

- **Concrete conservation activities:** At least 60% of the grant (€30,000/year). This includes staff costs. The money can thus be used to co-fund existing projects, for new planned or ad-hoc activities, or to fund ongoing work for which it is hard to get project grants etc. Use for the purchase of goods directly needed for conservation activities (e.g. agricultural or marine equipment) is also possible. The only restriction is that the expenditures have to provide a demonstrable benefit for the Baltic Sea ecosystem, either through direct marine work or through measures with a clear impact on the Baltic Sea, like river restoration, coastal ecosystem conservation, eutrophication reduction etc.
- **General operations:** Up to 40% of the grant (€20,000/year) can be used for administrative costs like rent, utilities, office equipment and other expenses that are necessary for the proper functioning of the organization, including staff costs for administrative purposes. A lower share is encouraged.
- **Capacity building:** Within the general operations, the grant should be used significantly to improve the organization's long-term operating capacity, e.g. by building more professional structures and/or improving the sustainability of funding. This can happen by hiring staff or external services, employee training or other means that improve the organization's abilities in areas like fundraising, project management, communication or delivery of conservation results.

€25,000 will be paid as a down payment after signing the funding agreement. €15,000 will be reserved for a concluding payment after the final report has been handed in. The rest of the grant will be paid biannually in decreasing amounts upon receiving the regular progress reports (€25,000 after the first two, €20,000 after the other progress reports).

Beyond the financial dimension, BaltCF offers also non-financial support. We are happy to assist with consulting and/or coaching in all matters and questions we can offer expertise about. If possible, we can also refer the grantee to consultants or other persons with needed expertise from our network.



Eligibility

Any NGO can apply for this funding if it meets the following criteria:

- It is an environmental non-profit, non-governmental organisation. Private individuals, groups of people without legal status, governmental authorities or for-profit organisations are not eligible.
- The NGO has to be based in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, or the part of Ukraine that is located in the Baltic Sea catchment.
- The NGO does not have to focus exclusively on Baltic Sea conservation, but its work needs to be relevant for the Baltic Sea ecosystem, as the grant has to be used accordingly. The NGO should not solely or mostly focus on research, education or advocacy, although all of those can of course be part of the NGO's activities.

Reporting

The grantee is obliged to report about the use of the funding biannually, including evidence in the form of receipts, invoices etc. In this regard, the reporting is not fundamentally different from the project reporting as outlined in the general BaltCF Funding Guideline, although it is significantly simpler as there is no pre-determined spending plan with fixed budget lines to meet.

The progress reports will not only focus on conservation activities, but also on the capacity development of the grantee.

Application

The application can be sent as an informal PDF of up to five pages. It needs to include:

- A description of the organisation, its work, and how this work is relevant for the Baltic Sea.
- A short introduction of the lead staff of the organisation, including their background and qualification in the administrative and conservation area.
- A description of/concept about what the organisation wants to achieve with the grant, both in the conservation as well as in the capacity-building sphere.

BaltCF does not expect a detailed budget or spending plan. However, given the purpose of the grant we do expect that the applying organisation demonstrate a serious level of reflection about what it wants to achieve with the funds, especially in the sphere of capacity-building.



A proof of the organisation's registration and non-profit status as well as the statute need to be added to the application. If activity reports exist, those from the last three years need to be included as well.

This package needs to be sent to applications@baltcf.org

The deadline for application is 30th April 2026 at 12:00 p.m CEST. BaltCF intends to make a decision within four weeks of this deadline.

A webinar will be held on 20th April 2026 at 11:00 a.m. CEST to explain the grant conditions and answer questions that might arise. Please contact applications@baltcf.org for an invite.