

## CALL FOR IDEAS:

### SeAct SCALING UP CORAL RESTORATION

#### RULES OF PARTICIPATION

##### Article 1. Purpose

The non-profit MSC Foundation – established to lead, focus and advance the MSC Group's marine conservation, humanitarian and sustainable development commitments worldwide – is seeking, in partnership with Le Village by CA Milano, to support and harness ideas and projects for scaling up coral restoration through sustainable, effective and efficient practices.

Coral reefs support 25% of marine life and are critical for the health of the oceans. More than 10% of the world's population depend on coral reefs for food, income, and coastal protection. But despite their critical importance to people and society, we face the risk of coral reef systems becoming extinct by the mid 2040s. There are multiple reasons for this immediate risk including overexploitation, destructive fisheries techniques, coastal development, and reduced water quality. But the biggest risks to reefs around the world are those brought about by climate change and the increased severity and frequency of marine heatwaves. For reefs to stand a chance of surviving climate change we need to ensure that coral reefs are in the very best condition and those coral reefs that are restored are done so in a way that maximizes their resilience to climate change. **The science is now available to restore reefs, to produce corals that are climate resilient and to rebuild coral reefs** - but to date these practices are mainly only at the scale of a few hectares at best.

The act of coral restoration, where corals are put back into those systems that have lost their natural ability to recover naturally, needs to be **scaled-up to never seen before industrial levels**. Scientists from multiple disciplines need to work closely with businesses, industry, governments, and local communities around the world to put best practices in place to get to the scale needed. **We need to restore hundreds of thousands of hectares rather than the one or two that are currently restored annually – the mindset of the entire field needs to change.**

Massively scaling up coral restoration requires a new way of thinking and the bringing together of people with multiple skill sets. New blended funding instruments need to be established that focus on coral reefs as national and international infrastructure (e.g. coastal protection) and economic resources (e.g. by working with insurance companies, and tourist industries) to ensure long term sustainable finance. This is the UN decade of Ecological Restoration and much can be learnt from restoration of terrestrial systems but if we don't act now we will lose coral reefs from the planet with dire consequences for the health of our planet's oceans.

## Article 2. Who we are looking for and the requirements for participation

**AIM:** Coral reefs support 25% of marine life and are critical to the health of the oceans. More than 10% of the world population **depends on coral reefs** for food, income and coastal protection. But despite their critical importance to people and society, **we face the risk of coral reef systems becoming extinct by the mid-2040s.**

There are multiple reasons for this, including **overexploitation, destructive fishing techniques, coastal development, reduced water quality** and above all **global heating**, with increasingly severe and frequent marine heatwaves. For coral reefs to survive, we need to ensure they are restored in a way that maximises their resilience to global heating.

In accordance with the **MSC Foundation's vision** "*to restore the critical balance between people and nature within a generation*" and **its mission** "*to utilize MSC's global reach and unique knowledge of the sea to take immediate action that contributes to protecting and nurturing the blue planet and all its people*", the **MSC Foundation is seeking to assist and partner with innovative people/organisations that support the scaling up of coral reef restoration and resilience techniques that are environmentally friendly.**

These **innovative ideas and projects** could harness **innovative strategies, technologies, materials** and/or **techniques** that are in harmony with the marine environment, such as the 3D printing of coral structures or the application of mass production techniques to the performance of restoration tasks, etc.

**PROCESS:** We are calling for organizations that can help define the coral restoration pipeline and identify bottlenecks, define opportunities for sustainable economics through engagement with different stakeholders, and produce a global coral restoration strategy supported by creative and novel business development.

Current coral restoration practices can be considered as a pipeline of activity that involves several steps, for example:

- 1) First, the most suitable environments need to be selected based on environmental conditions, current health status and reasons for their degradation (damaged systems capable of supporting reef growth but with original impacts removed) and the likelihood of being able to attract restoration funding (requiring the development of new economic models and identification of new stakeholders). It may also be possible to use current scientific knowledge to identify high value sites based on the likelihood of those environments being less impacted by near-future climate change.
- 2) Secondly, species to be restored need to be identified and stocks supplied (from natural ecosystems but also nursery environments (field or laboratory based). These stocks should focus on the most climate resilient species either through careful selection in the field or stress hardening in the laboratory. Business opportunities exist for organizations to supply stress-hardened corals suitable for restoration in different parts of the world.

- 3) Thirdly, corals need to be put back into the system via the act of out-planting and this needs to be done at industrial levels and across multiple places (potentially using franchise like models to increase the points of restoration delivery). The art of restoration is to increase the ecological footprint relative to the physical footprint and outplanting, and environmental and species selection should recognize this (i.e. by adapting larval distribution and oceanographic models).
- 4) Finally, there needs to be trained individuals capable of overseeing and evaluating restoration success providing opportunities for the development of new training modules and new restoration career pathways.

Consequently, there are several marine issues that need to be solved and the act of coral **restoration needs to be viewed through the lens of best management practices, engineering processes, blended finances, and franchise like restoration business models**, if we are to tackle this global issue.

The MSC Foundation is calling for solutions that support the pipeline of coral restoration activities, including: Solutions identifying high-value sites in environments likely to be less impacted by near-future climate change. Solutions that supply stress-hardened corals suitable for use in restoration initiatives in different parts of the world. Solutions for coral outplanting at an industrial level across multiple locations. Solutions that train people to oversee and evaluate restoration success. The proposals could, for example, address questions such as:

What models would be suitable for franchising the restoration of coral habitats?

Which techniques could increase the speed of coral outplanting?

### Article 3. What we offer

The organization/s offering the solutions best suited to the MSC Foundation's interests will have the opportunity to:

- Collaborate with the MSC Foundation on the potential development of a partnership to integrate and improve their activities or develop new projects
- Receive consulting and support from MSC Foundation Experts and Managers for the development of their project/s
- Gain visibility for their project/s through MSC Foundation channels.

### Article 4. How it works and deadline for submitting applications

The initiative will involve the following phases, with the times indicated below:

- Submission of applications: 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2022
- Applications will be evaluated, and the selected organizations will be contacted by 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

- The top 3 selected solutions will be awarded during an event which will be organized on a cruise ship in Autumn 2022.

### Article 5. How to apply

Applications can be submitted in English by filling in an online application form by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Participants must apply by filling in the dedicated form published on the website [www.levillagebyca.it](http://www.levillagebyca.it). The applicants will have to upload a pitch in .pdf or .ppt format with a maximum size of 20MB. The application form can be reached at the following link: <https://levillagebyca.it/itmsc-foundation-for-coral-restoration/>

### Article 6. Evaluation of applications

1. First skimming of received applications by the Advisory Board of MSC Foundation.
2. Submission to the jury of pre-selected projects for their evaluation.
3. The top 3 selected projects will be awarded during an event which will be held on a MSC cruise ship in Autumn 2022.

### Article 7. Elements subject to evaluation

The following criteria will drive the applicant selection:

- **Relevance** of the proposal to the goals of the call;
- **Innovativeness** of the proposed solution;
- **Impact** of the proposed solution related to the field of this call, and why it would shift the needle relative to other techniques and solutions
- **Environmental Impact** of the proposed solution; environmental impacts that may occur during a) the development of the solution and b) the implementation of the solution and should take into consideration the full project life cycle (eg impacts of any material design / footprint etc);
- **Evidence-based of the solution:** service/technology development phase; has the proposed solution been proven its effectiveness? (where, under which conditions and when); is it completely new or an amalgamation of other proven technologies and solutions. What are the risks of failure based on this?
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** the ability of the solution to have an impact consistent with the investment made, relative to other restoration solutions within the region.
- Please notice that in general, the coral restoration domain the geographical context where the solution is applied determine the inquired cost of its application.
- **Expertise of the applicant-s,** know-how in managing and applying the solution;
- **Applicability of the solution for the primary region of interest (the Caribbean)** but applicants are also invited to comment on the wider global applicability. It would be hugely valuable to provide a solution that has wide applicability but most importantly for MSCF is that it would be applicable in the Caribbean region.

## **Article 8. Protection of privacy and confidentiality**

The interested parties, by submitting their application, give their consent to the processing of their personal data. Le Village by CA Milano is the owner of the data collected. The data will be processed in compliance with Article 13 of EU regulation 2016/679 "Code regarding the protection of personal data", the data provided by the participant in this initiative will be processed in accordance with the provisions contained in the Data Protection Code personal, as well as the contents referred to in the privacy policy that the participant accepts at the time of registration. All those involved, in each phase of the activity envisaged by the Partner and even after its conclusion, undertake to ensure the confidentiality of information relating to the ideas and projects presented acquired under the initiative.

## **Article 9. Guarantees and Indemnities**

Participants in the "SeAct - Scaling Up Coral Restoration" initiative guarantee that the contents sent:

- do not contain illegal material, prohibited by law or contrary to what is indicated in this Call;
- do not contain material in violation of the rights, positions or claims of third parties (with reference to the law on copyright and industrial property and other applicable laws or regulations);
- they are freely and legitimately usable in accordance with the provisions of this Call, as the participant is the owner of the rights of use of the same, or as he has acquired their availability from all those entitled to them, having taken care of the full compliance and / or satisfaction of the rights, also of an economic nature, due to the authors of the contents and / or works from which such contents are derived and / or extracted, or to other subjects entitled to, or due for the use of related rights pursuant to of law. Those who participate in the "SeAct - Scaling Up Coral Restoration" initiative declare that they are aware that the responsibilities, including criminal ones, of the contents of the projects delivered, for the purpose of participating in the initiative governed by this Notice, are their sole and exclusive responsibility, indemnifying until from now Le Village by CA Milano from any claim and / or action advanced by any third-party claim. Le Village by CA Milano reiterates its extraneousness to any act and behavior carried out during the course of the event by individual participants that constitute a violation of current civil and criminal laws. Participants in the "SeAct - Scaling Up Coral Restoration" initiative declare that all guarantees and indemnities referred to in this article are complete, truthful, and concretely provided both at the time of application and during the entire initiative.

## **Article 10. Acceptance of the Call**

Application to the initiative implies the total and unconditional acceptance of this Call, which the participants declare that they have read, understood, and accepted.

## **Article 11. Updates to the Call**

Any updates relating to this Call or to the terms and methods for submitting applications will be published on the website <https://levillagebyca.it/itm-sc-foundation-for-coral-restoration/>

## **Article 12. Jurisdiction**

The Court of Milan will be competent for any dispute.