



AEF GRANT CYCLE - 2025-2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- GENERIC QUESTIONS -

What is the AEF and what does it do?

The Argosaronic Environment Foundation (AEF) mobilises funds and channels them into the support of impactful, [local environmental projects](#) across the Argosaronic region. We back projects that protect nature, promote sustainability and strengthen local engagement, enabling meaningful impact and locally driven action for the environment. We prioritise initiatives that arise from or mobilise local communities, promoting participation, collaboration, and environmental awareness.

What is the AEF Grant Cycle?

The Grant Cycle is the Foundation's funding round, an open call for proposals that takes place once or twice a year to support initiatives and projects aligned with our mission. During each cycle eligible parties are invited to submit their proposals following the Grant Application Procedure.



What are the steps of the Grant Application Procedure?

The Grant Application Procedure has **2 steps**:

Step 1: Concept Note (optional)

 **Submission Opens:** July 25, 2025

 **Submission Deadline:** September 3, 2025

 **Results Announcement:** September 18–22, 2025

Step 2: Full Project Proposal

 **Submission Opens:** September 23, 2025

 **Submission Deadline:** October 20, 2025

 **Results Announcement:** End of November

Who can apply for funding?

We support **a wide range of civil society actors**. Eligible applicants include Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Social Cooperatives (AMKE), Associations (environmental, educational, cultural, sports, recreational), Professional Unions (e.g. fishing, agricultural and tourism cooperatives), Research and Educational Institutions and environmentally driven small businesses provided their proposal aligns with the Foundation's mission .

We particularly encourage initiatives by local actors who understand the needs of their area, as well as collaborative partnerships between organisations and regions.



What kinds of projects are you looking for?

We support impactful environmental initiatives in the Argosaronic region that are rooted in or involve the local communities.

We are particularly interested in actions that promote sustainability, protect biodiversity, enhance environmental awareness, and strengthen local resilience.

Our **key areas of focus** are:

- Marine Ecosystems
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Pollution
- Wildlife
- Conscious Tourism

Within our key areas of focus, we support a wide **range of activities** that contribute to positive and lasting change. These include, but are not limited to: research, education, skills development, volunteer engagement, capacity building, empowerment, advocacy, livelihood support, institutional engagement and technical support for the implementation of environmental action.

We welcome both the creation of new and the continuation of community-based initiatives. We particularly encourage innovative approaches and replicable good practices that align with our mission and values.



This funding cycle prioritises projects taking place in the islands of **Aegina, Hydra, Poros, Spetses** as well as along the **Peloponnese coast of the Argolic Gulf, without excluding other areas** within the Foundation's broader geographical scope.

The proposed projects shall be clear and compelling, with the objective of creating measurable and **sustainable results**. Ideal proposals should demonstrate tangible actions that lead to **long-lasting benefits** for nature and have the potential for systemic change.

Projects with **opportunities for replicability**, to amplify their impact, will be emphasised.

How can I prepare for the Grant Application Procedure?

Before you start completing the **Concept Note** or **the Full Project Proposal**, we encourage you to take some time to ensure that your project aligns with the mission, values, and priorities of AEF by reading the following **Frequently Asked Questions**.



- CONCEPT NOTE QUESTIONS -

Is submitting a Concept Note mandatory?

We encourage you to begin by submitting a Concept Note. This allows us to assess your idea initially and gives you the opportunity to receive timely feedback and guidance.

Alternatively, you may choose to proceed directly to the Full Project Proposal step if you prefer.

What does the Concept Note form include?

Interested parties are invited to submit a brief **Concept Note**, which includes:

- The organisation's profile
- Implementation area and project duration
- The problem the project aims to address
- The proposed solution
- Involvement of local stakeholders
- A general budget estimate



What do you evaluate on the Concept Note?

In reviewing Concept Notes, we focus on **three key criteria**:

- **Relevance:** Does the proposal align with AEF's mission, thematic areas, and types of actions supported?
- **Local Approach:** Does the proposal address local needs and meaningfully involve local actors such as citizen groups, associations and NGOs?
- **Environmental Impact:** Does the project offer a practical solution to the environmental issue it seeks to address?

What happens after submitting the Concept Note?

Concept Notes are evaluated by the **AEF's Steering Committee**, which makes the final decisions on which projects will move forward. During this stage, we may contact you for clarifications.

- If your Concept Note is **approved**, you will be invited to submit a Full Project Proposal.
- If your Concept Note is **not selected** to proceed, you will receive a written notification via email.
- If your proposal **requires adjustments** to better align with our priorities, we will contact you with suggestions for a possible resubmission.



- FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL QUESTIONS -

What does the Full Project Proposal form include?

The Full Project Proposal is a **detailed** submission that outlines the project's structure, planned activities, feasibility, expected impact, and budget of the project. It typically includes:

- **Organisation Overview**

- Organisation Details
- Organisation Presentation
- Project Team Presentation

- **Project Description**

- Environmental Challenge Statement and Justification
- Proposed Solution, broken down into Implementation Steps, with clear objectives, a timeline, impact measurements, and expected deliverables
- Realistic Budget
- Information about collaborators, locals or otherwise
- Communication Plan: how you will share your project's activities and results with the public or relevant audiences
- Potential Risks you foresee and how you plan to address them



What do you evaluate on the Full Project Proposal?

In reviewing Full Project Proposals, we focus on **six key criteria**:

- **Relevance:** Does the proposal align with the Foundation's mission, thematic priorities, and the types of actions it supports?
- **Local Engagement:** Does the proposal address local needs and meaningfully involve local actors such as citizen groups, associations and NGOs?
- **Environmental Impact:** Are meaningful and measurable improvements for the local environment expected?
- **Feasibility:** Can the proposed activities be realistically implemented within the suggested budget and timeline?
- **Sustainability:** Will the benefits of the project continue beyond the funding period?
- **Visibility:** Can the project be effectively communicated — through stories, photos, and data — to inspire a broader audience?



What happens after submitting the Full Project Proposal?

Full Project Proposals are evaluated by the **AEF's Steering Committee**, which makes the final decisions. During this stage, we may contact you for clarifications.

- If your Full Project Proposal is **approved**, you will receive a guide for the next steps via email.
- If your Full Project Proposal is **not selected** to proceed, you will receive a written notification via email.
- If your Full Project Proposal **requires adjustments** to better align with our priorities, we will contact you with suggestions for a possible resubmission.

Contact

For any questions or clarifications, please feel free to contact us at: info@argosaronicenvironment.org. If you want to arrange a video call with us, please choose from the available dates and hours from our [Calendly](#).

We are particularly interested in collaborations and proposals that cultivate the spirit of “togetherness” — organisations, schools, researchers, local communities, and other stakeholders joining forces for a sustainable future in the Argosaronic.

**ARGOSARONIC
ENVIRONMENT
FOUNDATION**



We look forward to hearing your **ideas** and **vision**!