

VanDyson Marine Fund Grant Process and Frequently Asked Questions



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<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	1

Contents

1	VanDyson Marine Fund Mission	3
2	Purpose	3
3	What is our investment philosophy?.....	3
4	Evaluation criteria.....	4
5	Marine Grants Program (MGP).....	5
5.1	Funding	5
5.2	Project duration	5
5.3	Possible uses and focus of funds	5
5.4	Granting guidelines - Marine Grant Program (MGP)	5
5.5	Affiliation	5
5.6	Other funding sources.....	6
6	Scientific Research and Expedition Grant Program (SREGP)	6
6.1	Funding	6
6.2	Project duration	6
6.3	Possible uses and focus of funds	6
6.4	Expedition guidelines - Scientific Research and Expedition Program (SREGP).....	7
6.5	SREGP funding requests	8
7	Private Land and Marine Licence Purchases Program (Conserving Habitats with High Biodiversity Value)	8
7.1	Funding	8
7.2	Project duration	8
7.3	Possible uses and focus of funds	8
7.4	Granting guidelines - request for proposals by invitation only.....	9
8	Jobs – internships and volunteers.....	9
9	Who will we fund? (eligible organisations)	10
9.1	Organisations registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).....	10
9.2	Organisations NOT registered with ACNC.....	10
10	What countries or regions the VanDyson Marine Fund will grant in?	10
11	Governance.....	10
12	Can the VMF solicit additional funds from the public?	11
13	What We Do Not Fund (Exclusions)	11
14	Restrictions	11
15	Donations Outside Our Core Program Areas.....	11

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	2

1 VanDyson Marine Fund Mission

The mission of the **VanDyson Marine Fund (VMF)** is to contribute towards a sustainable marine environment in Australia and the Pacific Islands. We do this by supporting three programs: Marine Grants Program; Scientific Research and Expedition Program; and Private Land or Marine License Purchase Program that promote biodiversity. These programs need to generate measurable positive social, environmental, and economic benefits. We will use our funds and expeditions as a catalyst to raise the profile of the projects we support and where possible, we will work with partners to leverage additional support and funding.

The VanDyson Marine Fund is the family’s philanthropic structure that supports businesses, organisations, charities, NGOs, or academic institutions (grantees) working on sustainable marine projects.

2 Purpose

This document is to detail the VMF grant application process and address frequently asked questions. Potential grantees will need to have read and understood this document before a grant is made.

3 What is our investment philosophy?

- **How do we protect the ocean surrounding Australia and the Pacific Islands in a sustainable way that benefits both the marine environment and the people who use it?** – We support projects and organisations that advance the business case for protecting the environment.
 - Conservation always includes difficult tradeoffs, but it is more likely that we will conserve natural capital on a country, eco-region or eco-zone level if key decision makers and the local users value it.
 - We typically will only value it if there is a compelling business case to invest in it, not just a moral or aesthetic argument.
 - We usually will only value what we understand and what we understand needs to start with gathering the evidence and putting a compelling business case for investing in protecting the natural capital forward to the main decision makers (local community users, different levels of government and investors).
 - We support projects and organizations that advance making the **business case** for protecting the environment.
- **We focus on three programs** - We rely on funds from the VanDyson Family Office; therefore, we focus on selected areas where we can make a difference in:
 - Marine Grants
 - Scientific Research and Expedition Grants; and
 - Private Land and Marine Licence Purchases
- **We support the 30% by 2030 proposed target** – conserving 30% of land and waters by 2030 to confront the threat of climate change and sustainable use of the environment. In April 2019, scientists from around the world published a plan to address the extinction crisis and avert the worst effects of climate change. The “Global Deal for Nature¹,” which proposed a fact-based target to increase nature conservation to 30% of the world’s surface by

¹ E. Dinerstein et al., “A global deal for nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets,” *Science Advances*, April 19, 2019, Volume 5, Number 4, advances.sciencemag.org

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	3

2030. Since the publication various groups have joined in their support for this target including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

- **We are evidence based** - We support pragmatic, “evidence based” data, science and facts that identify the issues, come up with practical cost benefit analysis studies, have a disciplined approach to addressing the issues and practical solutions where there is at least one viable and sustainable solution. We support projects that have an opportunity for meaningful and tangible progress and success.
- **We are long term** - We support multi-year giving that requires a long-term approach at the local, state, national and regional level.
- **We are hands on** - We like to work with grantees as collaborative partners to improve effectiveness. In some cases, we can help with strategy, contacts, equipment, sponsor expeditions to gather evidence, support the business cases and services as appropriate. We can also potentially invest in both private property (high biodiversity value) or profitable ventures through VanDyson Investments, the family’s investment company.
- **We support knowledge sharing** - We support cross-cultural and international knowledge sharing, capacity-building and the transfer of technical and commercial information.
- **We support raising the profile of blue economy champions** - We support sponsoring conferences and awards for leaders and unsung hero’s in the blue economy and champions of the 30% of the ocean conserved by 2030 target.
- **We like to see blue workers safeguarded and new jobs created** – we like to see blue and green workers safeguarded and new jobs created particularly in remote coastal areas.

4 Evaluation criteria

- **Safety** – Can the projects and expeditions we support be done safely?
- **Value add** - Can the VMF’s support add value?
- **Blue economy’s business case or “blue GDP” for protecting the marine environment²** - does the program contribute towards the :
 - *Methodology* for quantifying the costs and benefits of protecting the marine environment; or
 - *Gathering the evidence* to support the business case; or
 - *Drafting* the business case; or
 - *Presenting* the results to stakeholders.
- **Blue economy’s case for “blue workers”** -Can our investment support or highlight the direct and indirect workers (jobs), internships and volunteers in the blue economy?
- **Blue economy’s case for “blue credits” and climate solutions** -Can our investment support or highlight the massive potential for global carbon abatement as oceans serve as the largest carbon sink in the world?
- **Need for action** - Is there a clear need for action, that is evidenced based and there is a willingness by key stakeholders to act?
- **Level of urgency** – How quickly does the project needs to begin to address the issue(s) – now, next year, future?
- **Replicable** – Is there a communication, public education, advocacy and or policy impact that can be amplified across Australia and the Pacific Islands that is replicable elsewhere?
- **Feasibility of implementation** – What we support, is it practical, simple, repeatable and low cost?
- **Organisational capacity** – Are there adequate people with technical, administrative and, or commercial expertise to execute the project?
- **Project profile multiplier** – Can we use our funds and expeditions as a catalyst to raise the profile of the project(s) we support and where possible, can we work with partners to leverage additional support and funding?

² [Valuing-nature-conservation.pdf \(mckinsey.com\)](https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/industries/natural-resources-and-environment/Valuing-nature-conservation.pdf)

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	4

- **Private Land and Marine Licence Purchases Program** – Will the land or marine licence purchased conserve habitats with high biodiversity value?

5 Marine Grants Program (MGP)

5.1 Funding

- Up to \$5,000 for a marine grant
- Project funds will be distributed within 2 weeks of funding decisions and notice in writing.

5.2 Project duration

- Up to 6 months or aligned to a research expedition duration.

5.3 Possible uses and focus of funds

- General funding
 - (G) General support, travel, training, new computer systems, software
 - (G) VMF intern – general administration
- Communication and public education (C), advocacy & policy (A)
 - (C) Field guides, posters, reports, websites
 - (C) Development of a comm’s strategy, market research, message development, social media, educational materials
 - (C) Intern/consultant - Communication and public education
 - (A) Intern/ consultant - Advocacy & policy & regulatory approvals
 - (A) 3rd party part time staff campaign support
 - (A) 3rd party policy research campaign support
- Business case for protecting the marine environment (Economic (E) and Legal (L))
 - (E) Intern/ consultant - Economist supporting the business case for protecting the marine environment, cost benefit analysis and methods of securing sustainable conservation financing
 - (L) Intern/ consultant - Lawyer supporting the business case for protecting the marine environment.

5.4 Granting guidelines - Marine Grant Program (MGP)

- We understand that there are many businesses, organisations, charities, NGO’s, academic institutions and individuals out there doing great work that might not be in the public eye or we may not be aware of them.
- For both programs (MGP & SREGP), we will seek proposals from organisations in which we have an interest.
- To identify suitable organisations, we welcome the opportunity to find out about you.
 - Step 1: Please submit an Introduction Form via email to info@VanDysonInvest.com.
 - Step 2: VanDyson Marine Fund will contact organisations that we are interested in pursuing further contact with. If you do not hear from us, please understand that we have limited resources.
 - Step 3: We may invite you to submit a formal Request for Funding to the VDMF.
- There are no deadlines for hearing from you. Introduction Forms and Requests for Funding may be kept on file for reference (refer to our Privacy Policy on our web site).

5.5 Affiliation

- The successful grant applicant must maintain affiliation with a business, organisation, charity, NGO, or academic institution for the duration of the grant project.

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	5

5.6 Other funding sources

- The grants do not need to constitute the sole or primary source of funding for the proposed project. They can serve as complementary funding for larger, more costly projects; however, this needs to be agreed in writing up front.

6 Scientific Research and Expedition Grant Program (SREGP)

6.1 Funding

- Up to \$10,000 per month (capped \$30,000) of in-kind Scientific Research and Expedition vessel operating costs
 - Includes costs towards the supply of licensed vessel and certified crew
 - Supply of PPE safety equipment (see note on who ultimately owns the equipment below in 6.3)
 - Vessel operating costs – fuel, basic maintenance and repairs, basic mooring costs
 - Daily set meals (basic food and beverage)
 - Insurance (vessel and public)
- Project funds will be distributed either to the lead organization who will then disperse directly to suppliers over the course of the expedition.
- Excluded are personal discretionary costs (e.g., Personal food and drink, private excursion costs) and local marina costs, cruising permits and other jurisdiction taxes, fees and levies).

6.2 Project duration

- Up to 3 months per expedition.

6.3 Possible uses and focus of funds

- Purchase of satellite imagery of marine habitats to locate features of interest
- Marine and estuary expedition travel
- The following are examples of research that maybe undertaken on the expedition on a country, eco-region or eco-zone level:
 - Determining best local methodology of valuing nature conservation for that area
 - Gathering evidence for what the cost of protecting and natural capital benefits for that area
 - Building the business case for protecting the marine environment
 - Presenting the business case to stakeholders
 - Surface geospatial analytics
 - Underwater habitat and bathymetric maps of shallow marine habitats
 - Composition, structure, health, uses and trends of shallow marine habitats
 - Passive acoustic marine life studies
 - Document the impacts of natural and man-made disturbances and actual/ potential patterns of recovery
 - Establish a baseline of existing Protected Areas and identify potential new areas
 - Identify a variety of scenarios that would result in the conservation of 30% of the country's marine waters, eco-region and, or eco-zone level within the country
 - Quantify the potential impact of expanded nature conservation on climate, the economy, human health, and biodiversity
 - Calculate the potential operating costs of expanded nature conservation
 - Regulatory regime (federal, state and local level)
 - Investment and job opportunity studies in sustainable marine farming and ecotourism
 - E.g., Specific mariculture studies (mariculture = marine farming of fish, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic plants, algae etc. as opposed to freshwater farming).
 - E.g. Algae/seaweed industry studies with a focus on approvals, financing and the offtake market (food, animal feed, high-value pharmaceutical and industrial compounds, biofuels, and fertiliser)

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	6

- Identifying funding sources for public and private partnerships
- Supporting organisations, charities, academic institutions and individuals that want to turn more of the oceans into Marine Protected Areas
- Examples of research equipment for the expedition. Note equipment purchased by VMF will be owned by VMF so it can go back into the equipment pool to be used for the next research project (either existing or new parties)
 - Scuba gear and onboard air compressor for tank fills
 - Underwater passive acoustic equipment
 - Underwater tethered video camera (drop-cam) to gather video of the benthic composition at survey sites
 - Ruggedized laptop(s)
 - Research software and their licence (e.g., GIS-geospatial surface and underwater mapping)
 - Transect equipment
 - Remote control drones (aerial survey site photography and video)
 - Mini-submarine drones (underwater survey site photography and video)
 - Plankton samplers
 - Sediment grab samplers
- Scholarships on a particular issue could possibly be covered on the expedition route
- Major research program on a specific issue over one year or several years on the expedition route.

6.4 Expedition guidelines - Scientific Research and Expedition Program (SREGP)

- The research and expeditions will be geographically-based within ten major marine regions across different countries, eco-regions and eco-zones. The Marine Regions are:

Australia

- *Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea Marine Region*
- *Temperate East Marine Region (includes Lord Howe and Norfolk Island)*
- *SE Marine Region (mostly VIC waters, Tasman sea and Southern Ocean)*
- *SW Marine Region (mostly SA & WA waters)*
- *NW Marine Region (mostly WA waters includes Ningaloo Reef)*
- *North Marine Region (mostly NT waters)*

Pacific Islands

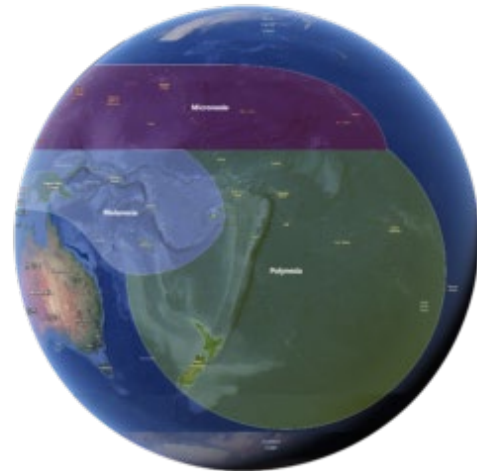
- *Melanesia Waters (New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia & other group islands)*
- *Micronesia Waters (Palau, Marianna, Kiribati & other group islands)*
- *Polynesia New Zealand Waters (NZ N&S island & surrounding smaller islands)*
- *Polynesia Waters (Tonga, Samoa, Hawaii, Easter island & other group islands).*

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	7

Fig: Australian Marine bioregional plans ³



Fig: Pacific Islands (3 major groups)



6.5 SREGP funding requests

- We understand that there are many businesses, organisations, charities, NGO's, academic institutions and individuals out there doing great work that might not be in the public eye or we may not be aware of them.
- For both programs (MGP & SREGP), we will seek proposals from organisations in which we have an interest.
- To identify suitable organisations, we welcome the opportunity to find out about you.
 - Step 1: Please submit an Introduction Form via email to info@VanDysonInvest.com.
 - Step 2: VanDyson Marine Fund will contact organisations that we are interested in pursuing further contact with. If you do not hear from us, please understand that we have limited resources.
 - Step 3: We may invite you to submit a formal Request for Funding to the VDMF.
- There are no deadlines for hearing from you. Introduction Forms and Requests for Funding may be kept on file for reference (refer to our Privacy Policy on our web site).
- We will also seek proposals from organisations in which we have an interest.

7 Private Land and Marine Licence Purchase Program (Conserving Habitats with High Biodiversity Value)

7.1 Funding

- Up to \$[confidential]

7.2 Project duration

- Across generations.

7.3 Possible uses and focus of funds

- Planning, collaboration & network building
- Land site selection, ranking, due diligence (legal, acc. & tax, business, biodiversity surveys) and negotiations
- Purchase of private land for conservation purposes as part of a consortium-part owner

³ Source: Marine bioregional plans, prepared by Dept of Agriculture, Water and Environment under the EPBC Act 1999 in relation to the protection of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of our oceans and their resources by our marine-based industries

Document Name	Date	Version / Status	Pg
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	8

- Purchase of private land for conservation purposes - full owner
- Ongoing management of a property
- Research program for a specific management issue
- Endowment for ongoing management of a property
- Marine license purchase and retirement.

7.4 Granting guidelines - request for proposals by invitation only

- All of our property purchases are driven by the Family Office; therefore, we do not maintain a generic open request for proposals (RFP) from grant applicants, and instead we only solicit proposals for which we already have an interested party in mind.
- That said we do welcome the opportunity to hear from you to develop ideas that may lead to a solicited proposal.

8 Jobs – internships and volunteers

- The VMF has a very small team as we prefer low overheads and maximum dollars spent in the marine environment.
- We typically provide funding for related expenses etc. for volunteers and interns (existing or new roles) in the grantee organizations that we support.
- Only in very specific project related circumstances will VMF hire an intern(s), manage volunteers or consultants directly.
- We also support specialist consultants (accounting, tax, legal, regulatory, finance etc.) on an as required basis for a bespoke project(s).
- We will support interns keen to develop their skills and volunteers keen to help (see difference below) with up to A\$5,000 under the Marine Grant Program to cover related expenses.
- We are always seeking talented, skilled and enthusiastic people in the marine conservation space that want to benefit the industry.
- Internships create lasting connections between the interns, volunteers, businesses, institutions and the Australian and Pacific Island regions. Many people who participate in an internship become full-time employees where they intern.
- We will advertise vacancies as they become available on our web site.
 - Expedition projects provide field-work and hands-on research opportunities for under-graduate and post-graduate students, as well as for researchers looking to gain field-research experience or to collect data for scientific publications.
 - Participants have the opportunity to collect data for producing a thesis and scientific publications. This internship provides skills and expertise, valuable for a professional career in marine conservation, environmental management, primary industry, mariculture and business case management.
 - When not conducting scientific research surveys for VMF projects, interns have the opportunity to conduct their own independent research projects, for university credit or for a thesis/dissertation.
 - Most expeditions will be multi-week expeditions, the research team lives on the vessel, so applicants must be able to live in tight but comfortable quarters for weeks at a time.

The difference between an internship and volunteer role at VMF:

Internship role

- **Motivation:** An intern primary goal is to further their professional development as they want to get experience in their chosen field, develop skills and make important contacts
- **Nature of the role:** Typically provides the intern or students with skills and specific learning outcomes identified at the beginning which should help them transition from study to work or into a new career path
- Intern will be mentored by a specific person in VMF
- **Time frame:** A short-term arrangement, that is more rigid than volunteering and requires the intern to commit to between 3 and 5 days a

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	9

week for the project duration (fixed period of time). Projects vary in time frame, but can range between 3 and 9 months

- **Expenses:** No salary is provided for the work performed, as the main purpose is skills development. However reasonable out of pocket expenses are covered up to \$5,000 for the project.

Volunteer Roles

- **Motivation:** A volunteer’s primary goal is they want to help and support their local community and the marine environment
- **Nature of the role:** Similar to an intern, they also get experience in their chosen field, develop skills and make important contacts, but this not their primary goal
- **Time frame:** Best practice for volunteering dictates that a volunteer role should not exceed 16 hours per week for the project duration (fixed period of time). Projects vary in time frame but can range between 3 and 9 months. Some volunteers may want to move onto the next project, or the same project but supported by VMF on an annual basis, hence they can be involved for years
- No legal contract binds a volunteer to perform work or attend the workplace, so it more flexible than internships in terms of time and location
- **Expenses:** No salary is provided for the work performed, as the main purpose is benefitting their community or local environment. However reasonable out of pocket expenses are covered up to \$5,000 for the project.

9 Who will we fund? (eligible organisations)

9.1 Organisations registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

We will provide grants to organisations registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The VanDyson Marine Foundation uses a Public Ancillary Fund (PuAF) and can only approve grants to organisations endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a Deductible Gift Recipient Type 1 (DGR1) status and which are Income Tax Exempt. These organisations should be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

9.2 Organisations NOT registered with ACNC

If these organisations (charities, not-for-profits (NGO’s) or academic institutions) are not endorsed by the ATO and are not registered with the ACNC, but are registered with their respective jurisdiction, granting is possible from a different fund, but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

10 What countries or regions the VanDyson Marine Fund will grant in?

- **Australia**
 - To qualify for a VMF grant, the recipient organization (grantee) must be based in Australia or must be proposing to use the grant funds for the benefit of Australians.
- **Pacific Islands (Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia)**
 - Qualifying for a grant (non-VMF grant and sourced from different funds) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, it will need to meet the Family Board’s interests.
- By necessity, this broad geographic area approach requires that all of the VMF's grantmaking must be done on a strictly invitational basis. We regret that we are unable to consider unsolicited requests for support.

11 Governance

The VanDyson Marine Fund, established in 2021, is a sub-fund in the Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation (APS Foundation). The APS Foundation is a public ancillary fund registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), governed by the APS Foundation Board and chaired by Chris Cuffe AO. It has deductible gift recipient (DGR) item 2 status.

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	10

The family makes decisions about organisations it wishes to support and the grants it wishes to make, and the APS Foundation issues these grants on behalf of the VanDyson Marine Fund.

For more information on the APS Foundation, please see <https://australianphilanthropicservices.com.au>.

12 Can the VMF solicit additional funds from the public?

A PuAF's can solicit funds from the public, but this will be done on a strictly invitational basis.

13 What We Do Not Fund (Exclusions)

Currently, applications for funding in the following areas will not be supported:

- Scholarships and bursaries
- Grants directly to individuals (an individual not working for the VMF will need to find a charity, NGO or academic institution who will sponsor them)
- Deficit funding or organisations with a potential negative equity position
- Retrospective funding, meaning support for programs that have already taken place
- Capital fund raising for building purchases, construction and maintenance works
- General fundraising appeals
- Purchases of major items of equipment that will be owned by a 3rd party
- We do not support grants to religious, political organisations or for election campaigns.

14 Restrictions

Applications made within twelve months of a previous grant being approved or before an existing grant is completed will not be accepted.

15 Donations Outside Our Core Program Areas

The VMF will occasionally award small grants under \$5,000 to organisations across Australia and the Pacific Islands which work to tackle important issues that fall outside the VMF's core program areas.

<i>Document Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Version / Status</i>	<i>Pg</i>
VMF Grant Process & FAQ	2021/04/18	V01	11