



Séance d'information / Information session



Fonds Business Biodiversité Océan Indien / Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity Fund

Lundi 25 mai 2023 / Monday 25th may 2023

- Pour l'interprétation simultanée en Français, veuillez cliquer sur le globe puis sur le canal Français, les présentations seront entièrement en français / For simultaneous interpreting in English, please click on the globe then choose the English channel, slides will be in French
- Veuillez vous renommer en « Votre Nom – Votre entreprise / organisation » / Please rename yourself to "Your Name - Your company/Organization"
- Veuillez vous présenter sur le chat : « Votre nom, Fonction, Votre Entreprise / Organisation, votre pays d'implantation, contact » / Please introduce yourself in the chatbox: "Your name, Function, Your Company / Organization, your country of establishment, your contact"
- Nous allons prendre une photo de groupe, prière de réactiver votre caméra quand demandé / We will take a group photo, please switch on your camera when requested
- Cette séance sera enregistrée et sera mise en ligne sur notre chaine Vimeo / This session will be recorded and will be posted on our Vimeo channel
- Nous allons couper les micros des participants pendant les présentations / Attendees' microphone will be muted during presentations
- Veuillez écrire vos questions au fur et à mesure dans le « chat » / Please write your questions as you go in the "chatbox"



Goals

- Presentation of the context
- Understanding of the expectations for the Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity fund
- Transparency of the process
- Clear Allocation procedure
- Exchanges between actors



Déroulement

- The Varuna Program
- The Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity fund
- Eligibility criteria
- The PLACE platform
- Recommendations
- FAQs
- Questions & Answers



The Varuna Program



Amount : 10 million Euros from AFD (French Agency for Development) in delegation of funds to Expertise France

Duration : 4 years (2022-2025)

Multi-country program:

Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and France

Ambition: Act in favor of biodiversity in the Indian Ocean and federate a coalition of development partners invested in the long term around these issues

Governance and Partners



Donor :



Coordinator :



Partners :

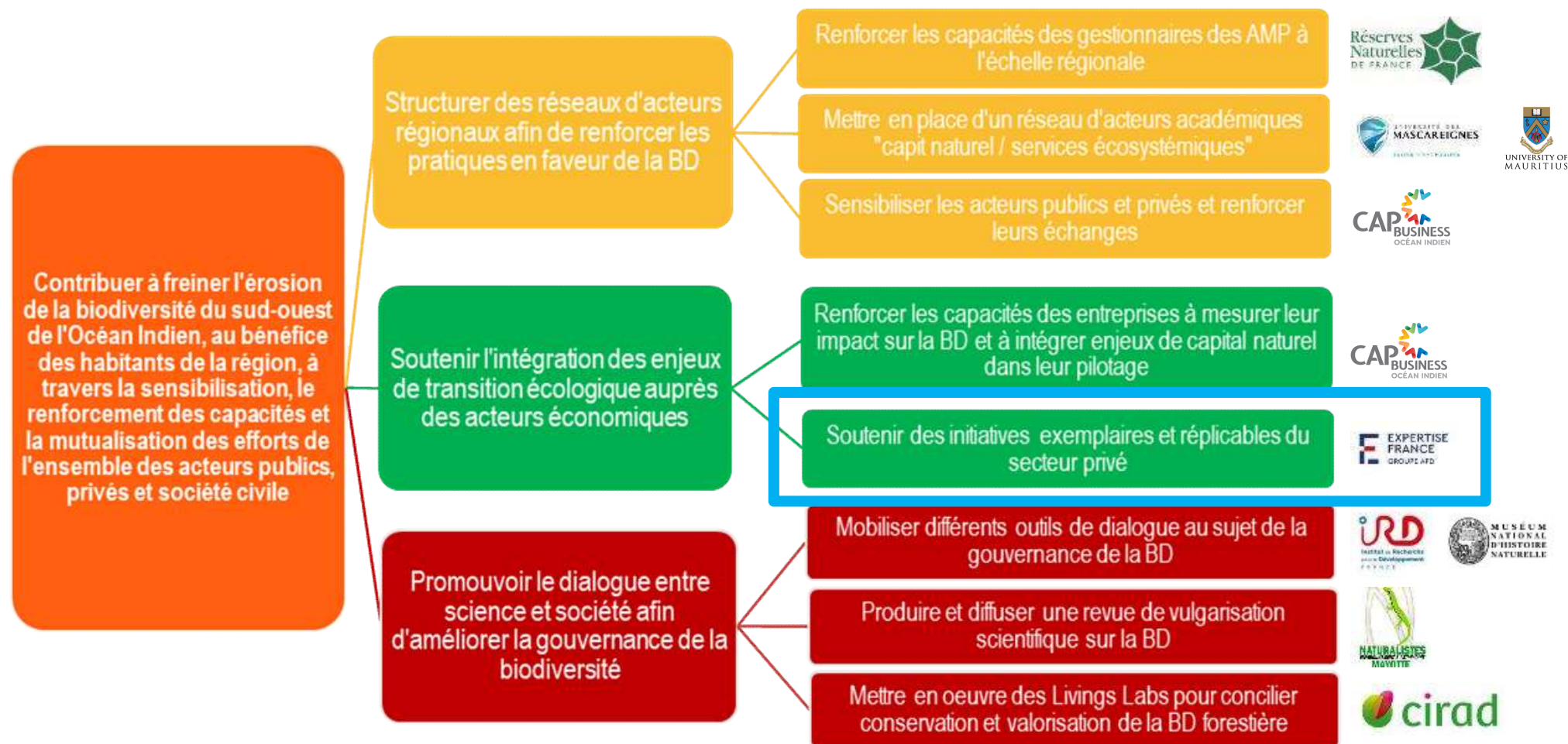


Participants in the steering committee:



Associate Partners: National Museum of Natural History of Paris (MNHN), University of Antananarivo, Comorian National Centre for Agricultural Research, Managers of Marine Protected areas, MedPan, WIOMSA, WIOMPAN, ...

Logical framework of the Varuna Program



Indian Ocean Business Biodiversity Fund

Type	Restricted : 2 steps (concept note then full application)
Total amount and eligible territories	2,5 Million Euro (for all eligible territories : Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles)
Duration	24 months (up to maximum 31st of December 2025)
Amount and conditions	• Between 10.000 € and 500.000 € • Maximum funding up to 90% per project • Grant amount up to 50% of the Lead applicant's annual turnover
Deadline for the submission of Concept Note	Monday 19th June 2023 at • 1pm (UTC+2) – Paris, France or • 2pm (UTC +3) – Madagascar and Union of Comoros or • 3pm (UTC+4) – Mauritius and Seychelles
Language	French or English



Eligibility of actors



Project owner = Lead applicant= Compagny

- Be a legal entity, company or federation of the private sector
- At least 3 years of activity in one of the territories of the Varuna Programme region: Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and the French overseas territories of the Indian Ocean
- Be registered in the Trade Register or equivalent of one of the eligible territories : Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- Not be a bankrupt and not have been subject to any criminal conviction

Partner = OSC

- Be a legal entity belonging to one of the following categories: non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, associations, universities and research institutions
- work in the fields of study, preservation, conservation and/or restoration of marine and/or terrestrial biodiversity
- have all or part of its operational activities carried out and/or in progress over the last 3 years in one of the territories of the region: Madagascar, Union of the Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and French overseas territories of the Indian Ocean
- Not be a bankrupt and not have been subject to any criminal conviction

Eligibility of actions

NON EXHAUSTIVE LIST



The main theme of the call for projects is **the consideration of biodiversity issues in the private sector and their mainstreaming in the management of companies**

- Limiting impacts on ecosystems and natural resources by improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities
- Limiting impacts on ecosystems and natural resources through access to sustainable energy sources
- Limiting impacts on ecosystems and natural resources through waste management/reduction
- Communication and/or awareness on responsible and sustainable best practices
- Research and development related to the preservation of biodiversity and/or the sustainable management of natural resources and spaces
- Sustainable land use planning, space redevelopment
- Securing supply chains for sustainable raw materials
- Conservation, preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity
- Strengthening human capital by increasing skills in biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources through staff awareness and training
- Revision of business models to position themselves on new markets favorable to biodiversity
- Creation of forums for dialogue between stakeholders to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the restoration of impacted ecosystems
- Practice changes (technical, technological, agricultural, etc.) to reduce pressure on ecosystems, species and ecosystem services



Scoring table

1. Pertinence of the actions		Sub-score	25
1.1 To what extent does the proposal meet the objectives and priorities specified in the call for projects? Are the co-benefits for biodiversity made very clear? Are the objectives and results at the end of the project stated?	5(x2)*		
1.2 Have the needs of the final beneficiaries or target groups been clearly defined and are they adequately addressed in the proposal? To what extent does the proposal address these particular needs and take into account the constraints of the country/countries in the region?	5		
1.3 Does the project propose technical, social, governance or environmental innovations?	5		
1.4 Does the proposal contain specific value-added elements, such as the promotion of the equality between men and women and equal opportunities, the needs of people with disabilities, minority and indigenous rights, or the innovation and the best practices?	5		
2. Actions design		Sub-score	20
2.1 To what extent is the overall design of the project coherent? In particular, does it include the analysis of problems? Does it take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders?	5(x2)*		
2.2 Is the project feasible and logical vis-à-vis the objectives and anticipated results? Has the applicant demonstrated that it has the capacity to lead the project?	5		
2.3 Do the chosen partner(s) have the skills to technically support the project on the chosen theme? Do the chosen partner(s) have a good knowledge of the local context and issues?	5		
TOTAL SCORE			45



Indicative timetable

	PROVISIONAL DATES	TIME (Paris time)
Information meeting * 1st session: * 2nd session:	May 15th 2023 May 25th 2023	1pm 1pm
Deadline clarification requests issued to Expertise France	June 09th 2023	2pm
Last date on which clarifications are given by Expertise France	June 14th 2023	11:59pm
Submission deadline for concept notes	June 19th 2023	1pm
Information of applicants	End of july 2023	
Submission deadline for the full application	End of september	
Notification of award	December 2023	
Signing of the contract	December 2023	



For more informations

1. Rules and regulation of the call for projects (available in french and english):

- The Varuna Program
- Eligibility criteria : of actors (lead applicant, partner, etc), of actions, of costs
- Presentation of the application and procedures to be followed
 - Concept notes: contents, where and how to submit, deadline of submission, other informations ...
 - Full application: where and how to submit, deadline of submission, other informations, ...
 - Assessment and selection of applications
- Annexes:
 - Annex A: Grant application form (Word format)
 - Annex B: Budget (Excel format)
 - Annex C: Logical framework (Excel format)
 - Annex D: Financial Identification Sheet
 - Annex E : Form setting out the financial and organisational capacities of the applicant
 - Annex F : Model grant contract and annexes
 - Annex G: Daily allowance rates (per diem)



For more informations

2. Project owner guide (available in French and in english) :

- Presentation of Expertise France and Varuna Program
- Table of key informations of the [Ocean Indian Business Biodiversity Fund](#)
- Brief concepts and key references of thematic (Biodiversity, Nature based solutions (NBS))
- Advices and key recommendations
 - What is a project?
 - What is a project owner ?
 - How to design a project? *How to formulate the general objective of the Project; How to determine the specific objective; Analyze the context and environment in which the project takes place; Define the results to be achieved; Define project indicators, Formulate project activities, Build your problem tree, Build the logical framework , Develop a timeline consistent with the action, Estimate the project budget , Draft the budget , Understand and measure the risks*
 - How to fill up the application form (see Annex A of the Rules of the Call for Projects) ?
 - PLACE platform user guide



For more informations

3. Websites (non exhaustive list):

<https://www.expertisefrance.fr/en/accueil>

<https://varuna-biodiversite.org/en/>

<https://www.cepf.net/>

<https://www.ofb.gouv.fr/>

<https://www.iucn.org>



PLACE platform

Direct link to the call for projects: <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/?page=Entreprise.EntrepriseAdvancedSearch&AllCons&id=2296286&orgAcronyme=s2d>

Applications and bids will only be considered if submitted on this platform; application sent by e-mail or by mail will not be admissible

- This link is also available on our website : <https://varuna-biodiversite.org/en/>
- It can be found by searching in <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/> main page
- **PLACE user guide for companies is available on** <https://varuna-biodiversite.org/en/>
- **Help section** where there is a user guide and online assistance <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/>
- **FAQs** and **online support on PLACE** also available on <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/>
- On computer or phone, check the **technical prerequisites** on <https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/>
- You can test your configuration on the site
- Please double check the PLACE address and logo as there are fake PLACE sites





Recommendations

- Read the details carefully
- Consider eligibility and assessment criteria
- Respect the templates
- Do not overestimate your budget
- Consult stakeholders
- Coordinate with your partners
- Do not wait until the last moment
- Visit PLACE regularly for Q&A



FAQs

- Number of application per applicant
 - 1 applicant = 1 application
- Number of partners
 - The Lead applicant is free to partner with all necessary partners for his project. Only, one of these partners must be a CSO in biodiversity conservation that meets the eligibility criteria.
- Are agricultural cooperatives also part of the targets of this initiative or is it only aimed at commercial companies such as EI, SARLU, SARL, SA...?
 - Yes, if they meet the eligibility criteria, i.e. be registered in the Commercial Register of one of the eligible territories
- Our project is to do "this, that, etc.", is this eligible?
 - We have given a non-exhaustive list of project type ideas, but we are always looking for other ideas to be financed under this Fund, subject to compliance with the eligibility criteria specified in the Rules & Reg. Submit your idea to us, the selection committee will decide.



FAQs

- Is cofunding mandatory?
 - Yes, 10% minimum of the total budget of the project.
- Cofunding (source)
 - Other than funds coming directly from the AFD Group or other French State institutions
- What types of costs are considered (VAT, loan etc.) as matching funds?
 - All costs that appear on the project leader applicant's financial (and accounting) report. In our case, the Varuna program does not benefit from VAT exemption and therefore if the project leader applicant is not exempt either, it will be eligible. On the other hand, if the project leader applicant has an exemption then the VAT cannot be valued as co-financing.
- Taxes eligibility
 - Yes, taxes are eligibles (please see Rules&Reg : « *Taxes can be paid through the grant, only if the beneficiaries prove that they are not exempt and that they must pay these taxes.* »)



FAQ

- It says on page 8 of the regulations that "*Actions whose objective is to make a profit*" are not eligible, whereas a private company is precisely intended to generate profit
 - This is the principle of non-profit specific to grant contracts (see Grant Contract in annex). The grant itself cannot provide a profit to the Beneficiary. Profit is defined as a surplus of receipts over eligible costs approved by Expertise France.
- Where could we find the general/specific conditions of the grant contract mentioned?
 - You will find the standard contract with its annexes, if you open the "consultation file (11.54MB)" package on PLACE.
- In the "Annex B -Budget" file, the existing budget lines are dedicated to administration costs (salary, training, per diem, travel,), I did not see a budget line dedicated to project activities (ex: dyke construction)
 - You can put on "6. Others". As a reminder, detailed budget is not yet required on concept note stage.



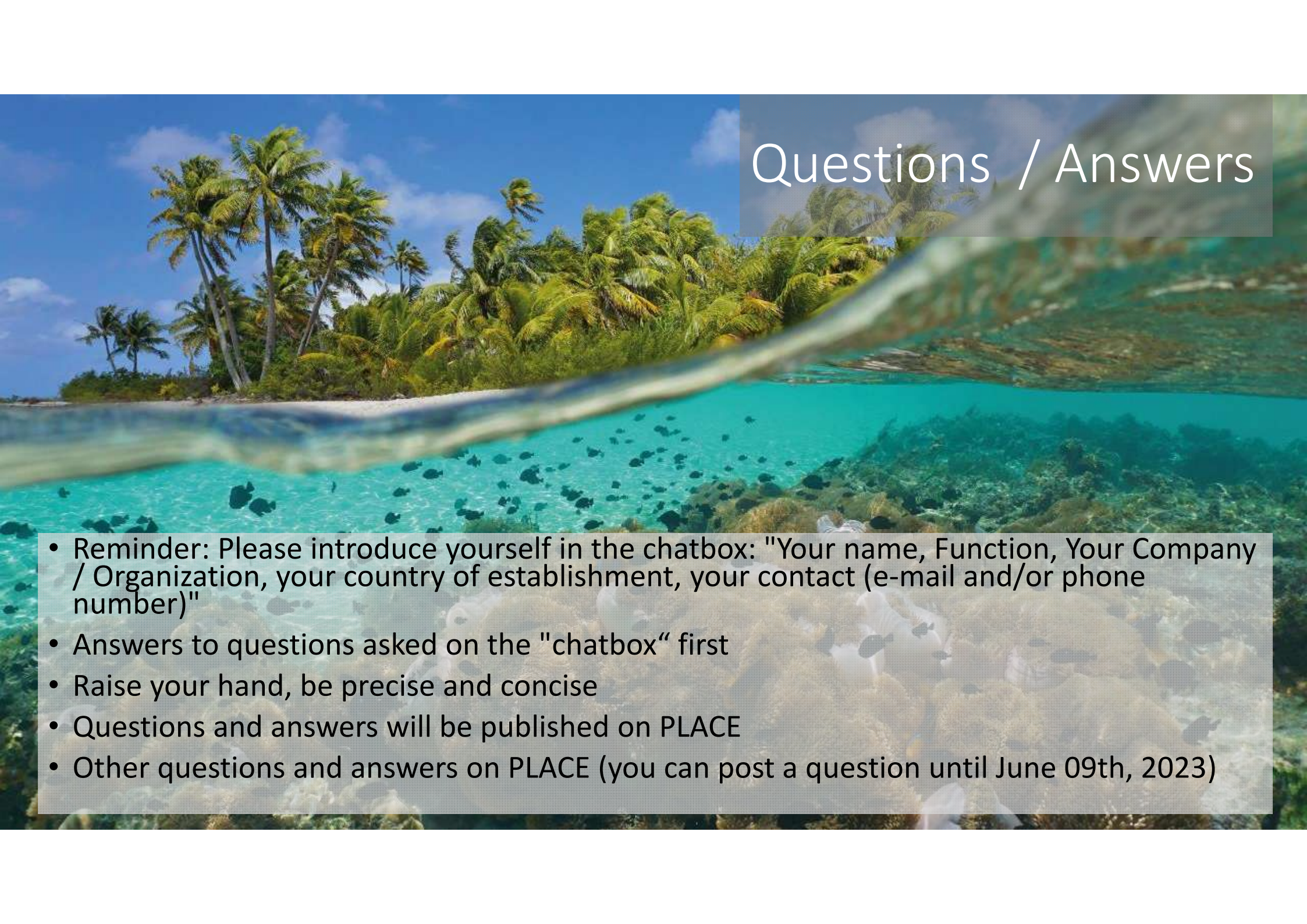
FAQs

- Why 50% of the company's turnover?
 - To ensure that there are technical and human capacities to manage the grant
- About 50% of turnover, as a hotel we have had almost no turnover for the last 3 years 2020/21/22, because of Corona. Can we take into account the turnover of 2019? I would add to my question about 50% of turnover, that the human resources situation from 2019 to 2023 is similar. But not the situation for the last three years (Corona) of 2020/21/22.
 - We need turnover of the last 3 years of the project. It is possible to explain the deficit over the last years (if there is), in the attached form on financial and organizational capacities.



FAQ

- Can we contact the call for project manager during the process?
 - Any questions must be posted on PLACE. The answers will be on PLACE and available to all
- Will today's slides be shared?
 - Yes, it will be on <https://varuna-biodiversite.org/en/> and on PLACE in video recording format
- The recording of the 1st information session of May 15, 2023?
 - The Vimeo link is already available on our website <https://varuna-biodiversite.org/> and on PLACE
- Why are French territories excluded?
 - The Indian Ocean Business-Biodiversity fund comes from the French government's public development aid budget (program 209) and therefore cannot benefit French territories.



Questions / Answers

- Reminder: Please introduce yourself in the chatbox: "Your name, Function, Your Company / Organization, your country of establishment, your contact (e-mail and/or phone number)"
- Answers to questions asked on the "chatbox" first
- Raise your hand, be precise and concise
- Questions and answers will be published on PLACE
- Other questions and answers on PLACE (you can post a question until June 09th, 2023)