

## A CALL FOR PROPOSALS REGARDING “PROTECTED PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS: A UNIQUE PATRIMONY OF ITALY”

### **The context**

The system of Protected Natural Areas in Italy (governed by law 394 of 6 December 1991) is a tremendous resource not only for protecting the country’s rich environment and its biodiversity, but also as an expression of the extraordinary variety and intensity of our cultural and natural heritage and of the possibility of using it for developing a system of sustainable tourism and for promoting and reinforcing territorial identities. The entities that make up this system have demonstrated great sensitivity to the subject of the development of their patrimony, as well as a dynamic capacity also to be "agencies" for developing tourism and business and for grabbing the opportunities for economic development provided by the alliance of nature and culture.

Fondazione Telecom Italia (FTI), there right from the outset of its activities in landscape protection projects, with this call for proposals intends to strengthen its commitment to education and to the development of our national environmental heritage applied to the Italian system of Protected Natural Areas as an expression of the interaction between environment, culture, landscape, tourism and a new meaning of citizenship.

### **Objectives of the call for proposals**

Fondazione Telecom Italia intends to promote projects aimed at proposing a new way of conceiving and experiencing the Protected Areas through:

- ▶ the development of the Park or Protected Coastal Area as an element that can promote the development of forms of sustainable tourism, connected to the development of the culture and the resources, also intangible, of the territory;
- ▶ the improved integration of the Park or Protected Coastal Area into the territory and into the local community, thanks to the drawing up of interventions helpful for developing forms of active citizenship with regards to the “Protected Area resource”;
- ▶ the promotion of projects aimed at improving and strengthening the involvement of Protected Areas Management Bodies with the institutional and socio-economic partnerships of the territory;
- ▶ the directing of the initiatives towards themes of respect for the environment and sustainability also through the development of technological and IT solutions;
- ▶ the enhancement of environmental assets aimed at the production of fresh input through the creation of professional figures in the environmental sector (“green jobs”);

- ▶ the promotion of new activities (including entertainment and sport) and services inside, or in any event connected to, the Park or Protected Coastal Area.

The duration of each project will be from 12 to 18 months. The total amount of money allocated by Fondazione Telecom Italia for these projects is 1 million euros. Each individual project could receive an amount not less than 120,000 euros and not more than 500,000 euros, to cover up to a maximum of 80% of the costs sustained.

### **Those for whom the call for proposals is aimed at**

This call for proposals is exclusively for national Parks and Protected Coastal Areas, and a list of the Protected Natural Areas can be obtained on the site [www.minambiente.it](http://www.minambiente.it) (going in order through the menu, Natura, Aree Naturali Protette, Aree Naturali Protette Terrestri, Elenco Ufficiale delle Aree Naturali Protette).

Fondazione Telecom Italia will accept proposals coming from bodies managing the National Parks and/or Protected Coastal Areas in partnership with one or more bodies belonging to the following categories:

- Recognised Environmental Protection Associations within the meaning of art. 13 law 349/1986;
- Non-Profit Organisations registered in accordance with Leg. Decree 460/97;
- Voluntary Service Organisations registered according to Law 266/91;
- Amateur Sports Bodies and Bodies for Promoting Sport registered with CONI,
- Social Groups registered in accordance with Law 383/2000;
- Recognised non-profit Foundations and Associations;
- Social Cooperatives registered with regional registers;
- Social Enterprises registered in the companies register, social enterprises section;
- Universities (State and private, recognised for awarding legally valid qualifications);
- Temporary Consortiums and Associations set up as the previously mentioned entities.

The proposing organisations (group leader or partner) should have their operational headquarters in the area where the project is to be carried out.

In the case of a partnership, a leading entity should be identified that will coordinate the relationships between the various bodies and with Fondazione Telecom Italia, which will be responsible for the sending in of the project, its accounting, all the implementation and monitoring phases, and which will bear most of the charges in the economic plan of the project. Each proposing body, including management bodies, should present just one proposal, whether as group leader or partner. The involvement of Public Bodies, the Civil Protection and the State Forestry Department would be more than welcome.

### **The projects**

The proposals sent to FTI should contain an adequate presentation of the overall structure of the project.

In particular the following should be addressed:

- the National Park or the Protected Coastal Area of the project and the territorial context;

- the original and innovative vision of the project in relation to the new ways of conceiving/experiencing the Protected Area;
- the integrated policy of actions that will be developed to implement this vision (including the eventual development of technological and IT solutions);
- the anticipated results and the relative evaluation tools and criteria, stating the indicators for its physical realisation, its environmental impact and the result, to which to refer to;
- any initiatives for integration/interaction with the local community and for enriching the territory's culture and traditions;
- the duration of the project (between 12 and 18 months);
- a detailed and adequately justified forecast of the costs of the project, the use of the financial resources and relative management plan;
- the timetable of the various stages (Gantt diagram);
- the system for monitoring the project for its duration, with particular reference to the above-mentioned environmental impact indicators and to any programmatic strategic organisation of the project in the ambit of the planning of the activities of the Protected Area;
- the relations between the partners.

### **Duration of the call for proposals**

From 30 November to 28 February 2011 (the final and irrevocable date for submitting projects). The projects should be forwarded to FTI only through the specific procedure that will be available on the FTI site [www.fondazionetelecomitalia.it](http://www.fondazionetelecomitalia.it) during this period.

### **Duration of the projects**

The selected projects should be realised and completed within a period of twelve to eighteen months.

### **Value of the project**

The financial contribution allocated by FTI for a single project will be between a minimum of 120,000 euros and a maximum of 500,000 euros. The contribution will be paid to reimburse the beneficiary up to 80% of the costs inherent in the complete implementation of the project, including monitoring, and for all the correlated management activities (by way of example only: administrative, logistical, technical, etc.). The remaining amount defrayable to the partnership (at least 20% of the value of the project) could be made up of revenues coming from the project itself and/or other contributions (from public and private bodies), destined to cover costs of a various nature, but in any event relevant to the economic plan of the project itself.

### **Eligible expenditures**

FTI will give beneficiaries up to 50% of the pluriannual costs sustained for investments made in equipment, property purchases and/or restructuring work, only when closely related to the project, and necessary for its completion.

The pluriannual charges requested of FTI cannot, in any event, exceed 40% of the overall costs of the project itself.

Any work on infrastructures should be supported by an itemised estimate if the sum is more than 25,000 euros as well as by adequate certification, in full compliance with legal regulations. These interventions, in any event, will have to be completed within the period of the duration of the project. The general charges, like for example administration expenses, utility charges, staff costs, office supplies, will be allocated only up to the maximum limit of 10% of the overall value of the project.

Also falling under this heading are planning costs, i.e. expenses regarding the economic and managerial study costs for the project. These charges can be allocated to the project even if incurred before the date of the implementation of the project.

As will be clearly stated in the agreement that will be signed between FTI and the Beneficiary, for individual expenditures and charges over 10,000 euros, detailed estimates of the expense to be incurred will have to be provided.

### **Method for allocating the payment**

The financial contribution can only be used for realising the project proposed within the context of this call for proposals. The allowance will be paid to the proponent of the project in the following way:

- **first allocation** as an advance payment, 30% of the total approved allocation, after notification of the start of the project and in any event following the signing of the agreement between FTI and the Beneficiary;
- **second allocation** will be carried out not before 30 days from the half-way point of the project (not before 7 months for projects lasting 12 months; not before 10 months for projects lasting 18 months) for a maximum amount of 35% of the total approved allocation and, in any event, up to the amount of the expenses reported and accounted for. The payment will be made after the intermediate economic-social accounts are presented, complete with evidence of the expenses incurred;
- **third and final allocation**, subject to the presentation of the final accounts, to be carried out within 90 days from the date the project is complete.

FTI reserves the right to suspend the financial contribution, in its entirety or in part, in the event that the project is not carried out in the agreed manner and in accordance with the goals agreed with FTI and stipulated in the project itself.

### **Reporting, monitoring and variations**

The economic and social report of the project should be carried out at the times and in the ways indicated by FTI in the reporting regulation that will be signed by the beneficiary organisations. FTI reserves the right at any time to request updates and verifications, also in the field.

Any variations in sums higher than:

- 10% of the value of each individual category of expenses that was presented; and/or
- 10% of the overall value of the project as presented;

will have to be specifically approved by FTI, following a request for restructuring, to be effectuated at least three months before the end of the project and in any event before the relative expenses are incurred, as detailed in the reporting regulation, which will be available on this site and enclosed with the agreement that will be signed between FTI and the Beneficiary.

### **Selection criteria**

Fondazione Telecom Italia has full discretion in assessing the existence and/or relevance of the admissibility requisites of proposing bodies and/or the projects, as well as in the process of evaluating and analysing the project proposals that are received and the relative allocation of funds, and is, moreover, under no obligation whatsoever to allocate funds.

Subject to what has been said above, in order to evaluate the proposals received, Fondazione Telecom Italia will appoint a Commission, which will include a representative of the Ministry of the Environment, which will adopt the following criteria:

- the originality and novelty of the project;
- the potential of the project to bring about positive changes in the way of experiencing the Protected Area;
- the future sustainability of the project;
- the quality and effectiveness of the system for periodically monitoring the project, the final results and the anticipated objectives (including the above-mentioned evaluations of the environmental impact);
- the effectiveness and the efficiency of the project management plan and of the use of the financial resources;
- replicability on a national scale;
- the quality of the partnership.

In addition, additional criteria will be taken into consideration for evaluating and selecting a project:

- the creativity and innovation in the application of technologies;
- interaction with the local community;
- the involvement of Public Bodies, Civil Protection and the State Forestry Department;
- the availability of further financial and/or natural resources (in addition to the minimum required percentage of 20%) for co-financing the project.

Once the phase for analysing the projects has concluded, FTI will inform the participants of the outcome of the assessment of the project, including a summary of the grounds for the decision and the final ranking.

### **Inadmissible projects and bodies**

- The economic grant will not be allocated to projects and initiatives that already exist: only new projects will be accepted;
- projects will not be eligible if they have costs that are not strictly related to the project (for example regarding the normal business of the proponents);
- projects will not be eligible if they are presented by bodies whose activities are aimed at making a profit;
- projects and bodies will not be eligible if they do not meet the requirement of this call for proposals.