

Established Conservationist Grant 2022-2023
Request for Proposal

Overview

Conservation Nation preserves the planet by cultivating an inclusive and resilient wildlife conservation movement. We break barriers to accelerate the growth of a strong community of wildlife champions solving urgent biodiversity challenges together.

The Conservation Nation Grant Program provides funding to help save endangered animals and their ecosystems by building a stronger, more diverse community of conservation practitioners. We believe there is great conservation progress to be made by broadening the field of committed individuals working to address the global wildlife conservation challenge.

Conservation Nation supports innovative, on-the-ground conservation around the world by practitioners from traditionally marginalized communities. Our focus is on helping foster conservation solutions that serve the needs of both nature and people and in terrestrial, marine, or freshwater ecosystems that support a wide range of biodiversity.

We place a strong emphasis on ensuring that grant recipients share their work and knowledge and become mentors for our Emerging Conservationists and Youth Conservationists.

Our grantees will work with Conservation Nation as mentors and role models to inspire the next generation through ongoing chats, blogs, lectures, and/or participation at special events. The stories they share will help garner the attention of other conservation leaders and practitioners, donors, and a wider audience, allowing the Established Conservationist grantees (as well as the Emerging Conservationists) to increase their impact and augment their profile.

Established Conservationists are eligible for grants up to \$10,000 (for a grant period of one to two years).

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Application Information:

Established Conservationists are eligible for grants up to \$10,000 for a grant period of one to two years.

Who Can Apply/Eligibility:

- Mid-career conservationists. For example, 7+ years experience.
- Special consideration will be given to people from traditionally marginalized communities.
- Home base, and/or place of work is based in the U.S.
- Projects and programs can be domestic or international.
- The project must be connected to an in-country partner.

Grants Timeline:

- Applications must be submitted beginning **August 15, 2022**, and no later than **August 28, 2022**.
- Successful applicants will be notified by **October 5, 2022**. Should you be selected, you must provide a photo and bio within three business days.
- The formal public announcement of grantees will be by **October 24, 2022**, and funds will be disbursed shortly thereafter.

Funding Criteria:

- The applicant must demonstrate that the funds will be used for or to support conservation activities or research conducted *in situ* for wildlife conservation.
- The project must be co-created with an in-country partner and a letter of support must be provided with the application to show the intent of co-creation of the project.
- Priority will go to projects that are sustainable and have community involvement.

Grants will fund:

- Both ongoing and new projects, including seed and proof of concept projects.
- Travel for research or conservation efforts. Funds may cover incidentals, meals, and expenses.
- Funding to support range in-country personnel at project sites (international and domestic).
- Funding to support intern stipends and wages, to be awarded on a case-by-case basis.
- Stipends or honoraria for guest speakers or lecturers, to be awarded on a case-by-case basis.

Items purchased for projects in partnership with range country organizations may be donated to the organization at the conclusion of its intended use in the grant-funded project. These items must be visibly labeled as Conservation Nation donations whenever possible.

Grants will not fund:

- Unsupported activities, activities that are strictly of personal interest.
- Working or collaborative teams that focus on topics not related to conservation.
- Salaries or gifts for guest speakers or lecturers, etc.
- Organizations. This grant is for individuals only.
- Cash donations to conservation organizations or third parties.
- Lobbying activities or supporting attempts to influence legislation.

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Grantee Requirements:

All grant recipients will be required to agree to the following:

- Attend the grantee orientation online seminar or confirm that you have reviewed the recording.
- Completion of an onboarding questionnaire.
- To provide updates on your project via filling-out of periodic surveys to track progress. These surveys may ask you for data points such as shareable GPS coordinates, media uploads (audio, images, video, or other), and to answer some brief questions. We will use this data to track the impact on funded projects and to engage our donors.
- Media Release: Any images that you provide to Conservation Nation may be used as part of marketing campaigns, donor outreach, social media posts, and/or posted to the Conservation Nation website.
- Completion of an interim, mid-year check-in report to share with our supporters across our communication channels, i.e., website, social media, emails, and donation platform.
- Ongoing support of Conservation Nation and of their project whenever possible on social media channels.
- Participation (in-person or virtually) in a minimum of two to three education or outreach-based events or activities within one year of receiving the grant. E.g., Community presentation for an affiliated organization or group.
- A brief check-in with the grants manager part-way through and at the end of your project.
- Completion of an end-of-year summary, in the form of a recorded PowerPoint presentation, StoryMap, or video presentation that we can share with our supporters to show our collective team's work to save threatened wildlife.
- Public recognition of the Conservation Nation grant when and where possible including but not limited to publications (print or digital), presentations, interviews, conference posters, public signage, and social media.
- A complete financial accounting of grant funds awarded, including a copy of all receipts. Grant funds should be spent down within the contract year. If needed, a 3-month extension would be considered upon request.

Additional Notes:

- The grant selection committee may contact the grant applicant with follow-up questions, as necessary.
- Conservation Nation may contact recipients for additional information, an interview, or photographs to use as part of marketing campaigns and donor outreach.
- Grantees will work with program coordinators throughout the year to meet grant requirements.
- Conservation Nation Education staff members are available to grant recipients throughout the grant cycle to help develop ideas in advance of your education outreach commitments.
- Proposed changes to the allocation of grant funds must be submitted and approved by Conservation Nation in advance.
- Conservation Nation reserves the right to decline funding grants in any given year.
- Conservation Nation is committed to the success of our grantee partners. We recognize that our grantees incur essential, expenses ("indirect costs") that are not identified with a specific activity or project such as general administrative expenses, utilities, rent, legal expenses, accounting, and digital infrastructure. Grant applicants are encouraged to request reimbursement of indirect costs to reflect these operational expenses up to 10% of their project's direct costs such as personnel, equipment, travel, training, and software. If you have questions about this policy or seek an exception, please contact our Grants Team at grants@conservationnation.org.

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Grant Proposal Submission Requirements:

Proposals must include a completed application form and the following eight pages:

Pages one, two, and three must include:

- One paragraph project summary.
- Project background.
- Project goals and objectives.
- Target outcomes.
- Evidence of community involvement, including in-country partner identification and a letter of support* from the said partner.
- Answers to the following questions:
 - What is your experience, ability, or interest to act as a mentor for our Emerging or Youth Conservationists?
 - If you could describe your career journey in 3 words, what would those 3 words be?

Page four: A one-page budget and financial narrative:

- Please download and complete the budget document to list your itemized expenses.
- Include a justification for each item in the context of your project or activity goals.

Page five: A single-page timetable for implementation within the grant cycle.

Page six: A single page of sources and citations.

Page seven: Please upload your CV or resume.

Page eight: *Please upload your partner organization's letter of support. The letter of support should include:

- Name, address, and website URL of the partner organization.
- Name and email of a contact person.
- Description of their role as a partner organization to you and your project.

Proposals are not to exceed these eight pages as noted above.

Applications that do not follow the requirements and requested content noted above will be automatically disqualified.