



RUSSELL E. TRAIN
EDUCATION
FOR **NATURE**

GRANT GUIDELINES

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Grant

At the heart of connecting nature and people is the inextricable link between inclusive conservation and sustainable development. Inclusive conservation plays a critical role in ensuring the diversity of human-ecosystem interactions with an emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and developing capacity to accelerate responsiveness in tackling potential adverse impacts to people and the environment. In Africa, efforts are underway to implement interventions and actions that collectively strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. However, the complexity of balancing loss of biodiversity with development continues to demonstrate that achieving inclusive conservation and sustainable development requires action to deliver institutional and individual capacities in line with the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

The capacities to achieve social, environmental and governance standards are still inadequate in many countries. International institutions and non-governmental organizations often rely on consultants to fill this gap, fulfilling requirements for due diligence, but not creating local ownership and therefore making implementation more difficult. Collectively strengthening capacities of country systems is crucial in ensuring ownership and accountability. This approach involves taking into account environmental and social risks while putting in place both direct mitigation measures and adaptation measures that are attuned to the long-term vision of inclusive conservation and sustainable development.

In the last 30 years, EFN has been at the forefront of advancing research, training, and education through the provision of funds to individuals and institutions to address critical challenges facing biodiversity conservation in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. WWF recognizes the urgency to continue strengthening institutional mechanisms and abilities to advance contributions of national institutions, local communities and organizations, and youth, who often are ill-equipped to drive and achieve the goals of addressing environmental and social impacts.

With support from Charlotte Bingham, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Grant seeks to build capacity and empower communities to achieve development objectives and inclusive conservation with projects that robustly address environmental and social issues.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility criteria to be considered for a grant:

- ▶ Organization must be legally registered in an eligible country (Kenya, Tanzania, and Madagascar).
- ▶ Teams or organizations must have a track record in capacity building related to environmental and social impacts, application thereof to local activities related to conservation and development; and ability to monitor results.
- ▶ Organization must submit all required documents by the application deadline.
- ▶ Organization must complete all grant activities before December 2027.
- ▶ The proposals must include active learning, practical skill components, mentoring and/or field-based learning activity that build skills and knowledge for local stakeholders, institutions and networks. Priority is given to local organizations that focus on addressing challenges of development that affect ecosystems and their services and enhancing sustainable development and conservation.

Focus Areas

Proposals should seek to engage diverse groups and sectors with emphasis on the following:

- ▶ Developing skills, good practice, and standards. These should include hands-on activities and case-studies that directly address the dual institutional challenges and gaps to understanding and mitigating the potential social and environmental impacts and risks associated with development programs and projects and opportunities for enhancing inclusive conservation objectives to achieve sustainable development.
- ▶ Engaging diverse stakeholders, including gender mainstreaming and involvement of local and indigenous people and communities.
- ▶ Fostering a professional network among individuals and organizations with an emphasis on collaboration and information exchange. Priority will be given to proposals that seek to strengthen collaboration with local associations (e.g., conservation professionals, impact assessment professionals, environmental journalists, urban and regional planners or environmental lawyers), and regional bodies.
- ▶ Strengthening institutional capacities to address governance challenges related to conservation, development, and infrastructure projects and to improving the expertise and experience of individuals and communities to achieve impact assessment and conservation outcomes collaboratively, including attention to cumulative effects, strategic level cooperation and the use of nature-based solutions to environmental impacts and risks.

Selection Criteria

Project proposals will undergo a rigorous and competitive selection process and scored based on a set of criteria including, but not limited to the following score areas:

- ▶ Proposed objectives and goals - the proposed work demonstrates an understanding of the rationale, the proposed activities are feasible within the proposed work plan, and the budget is realistic.
- ▶ Project impact – both short- and long-term impacts as well as far-reaching outcomes on environmental and social sustainability beyond proposed timeframe whilst taking into consideration a risk assessment; Contribution to capacity development and ecological and social outcomes.
- ▶ Project measurability - the proposed initiative has measurable outcomes and outputs.

- ▶ Project scalability and transferability - the proposed activities can be scaled to context specific and are replicable.
- ▶ Collaborations - projects that enhance partnerships with a clear outline of each stakeholders' role in delivering the proposed objectives.

Application Process

The call for applications will close on April 15, 2026 by 11:59 PM US Eastern Time. An overview of the grant timeline is below. The application is available [here](#).

- ▶ April 15, 2026: Deadline for submissions of applications in the portal
- ▶ April - June 2026: Selection process
- ▶ July 2026: Successful applicants informed
- ▶ August - September 2026: Contracts signed, and grants issued

Notes about the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Grant

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Grant, supported by Charlotte Bingham, seeks to build capacity and empower communities to achieve development objectives and inclusive conservation with projects that robustly address environmental and social issues. Charlotte believes the key to attaining inclusive conservation and sustainable development is collaboration at the local level among those who are engaged in development, conservation, and environmental and social impact assessment.

After 40 years doing environmental and social impact assessment, including training, Charlotte understands this is only part of the solution. She says, "Let us break down the silos of conservation, biodiversity restoration, impact assessment, economic development, etc., by interacting together whatever our roles (conservation managers, urban planners, impact assessors, food aid workers, farmers, fisherfolk, and so on). Let us focus on nature-based solutions and educate each other. To do so requires action anchored in thinking big about the whole planet and its interdependent resources, but at the same time delivering action locally, creating local ownership and using local knowledge to promote equity in access to resources and recognition of our place in nature." Charlotte's hope is that those who offer proposals will think broadly and deliver innovative solutions.

For all inquiries and questions about Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Grant, please contact efn@wwfus.org.

Applications should be submitted online by April 15, 2026 by 11:59 PM US Eastern Time.