

The Habitats Trust Grants 2024: General Guidelines

THT Conservation Grant & THT Action Grant

- Applications will only be accepted through the THT Grant's application portal online, on The Habitats Trust website (www.thehabitatstrust.org/grants).
- Applicants must be registered in India.
- Only projects that are being carried out in India will be considered. Applications must be submitted in English; however, language is not a selection criterion.
- Applicants can only apply for one grant per year.
- The budget should be provided in INR (Indian Rupee).
- Preference will be given to applications involving conservation work on neglected natural habitats and/or threatened species and/or data deficient species.
- Pure research work will not be considered; however, special consideration will be given in the case of data gathering for data deficit species or habitats which may be a critical element in developing a conservation or management strategy.
- Grant applications should be backed with peer-reviewed publications. A reliable justification must be provided for data-deficient habitats and species.
- The IUCN red list will be the primary guide to determine the conservation status of the given species. However, for species that may not be globally threatened but are threatened in India will be considered.
- Grants will only be provided for the conservation of native species and natural habitats. Projects focusing on non-native and exotic species will be disqualified.

- Postgraduate and Ph.D. studies, including thesis work, are not eligible to apply for the grant. Successful grant recipients cannot use the grant funding for postgraduate and Ph.D. studies, including thesis work; however, the data collected from the project can later be converted to a thesis provided prior written consent from The Habitats Trust is obtained by the grantee.
- Projects must be structured to provide long-lasting and impactful conservation outcomes.
- Project impacts must be measurable and appropriate indicators must be provided.
- The projects will be evaluated on the basis of - applicant strength, capacity to deliver, project relevance, status of target habitat/species, objectives of the proposed project, activity plan, methodology, outcomes, impact and budget.
- Grants will not be provided for expeditions or for international travel to attend conferences and seminars.
- The grant amount should not be sublet or provided to another entity as loan.
- The applicant will have to take full responsibility of the proposed project, especially in cases where the project will be executed by a consultant. We discourage applications where organisations are used as proxies by individual applicants.
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- The organisation applying should not have any political or religious affiliations.
- The organisation must not be blacklisted by any government agency/department/ministry, donor, or international agency.
- The organisation or functionaries/governing body members should not be/have been involved in any fraud or other non-conforming behaviour with the law.
- Successful applicants must submit bi-annual reports and a final report on the work supported by The Habitats Trust as per the reporting cycle and templates provided.

- Grants will be dispatched as per a bi-annual funding schedule over the project duration.
- Field evaluation visits by The Habitats Trust team will be carried out for all shortlisted projects.
- Grant recipients cannot apply for the grants again up till one-year post project completion and submission of final report.

Criteria for withdrawal of THT Grants

- If the organisation or individual has:
 - a. Discrepancies in the legal or auditing paperwork b. Illegitimately submitted documents
- If The Habitats Trust finds any discrepancy in the execution of the project vis-a-vis the project proposal. If the budget prepared by the organisation/individual shows any form of discrepancy in the utilisation of funds.
- If The Habitats Trust audit team finds incomplete paperwork/documentation which is required for the grant.
- If the organisation encourages the use of child labour or forced labour.
- If the background check of the said organisation/individual brings to light misuse of previously received funding through other grants.
- If the funds provided by The Habitats Trust are misused in any way.
- If the activities proposed by the organisation/individual have the potential to cause adverse impacts to critical habitat or its flora and fauna.
- If the organisation/individual is involved in removal/alteration of any cultural heritage.
- If any applicable law/regulation has been violated.

The Habitats Trust Grants 2024: Eligibility Criteria

THT Conservation Grant

- This grant is open only to organisations.
- The organisation must have completed 5 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2024.
- The organisation must also have at least 3 years of experience carrying out direct on-ground projects in conservation of India's natural habitats and threatened species.
- The average expenditure incurred by the organisation over the last three financial years (FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23) must be greater than or equal to INR 50 lakhs.
- The organisation must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or a registered institute under Section 35(1)(ii) Of The Income-Tax Act, 1961.
- The organisation must have registration u/s 12AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- The organisation must have an 80G certificate. For institutes, in case 80G certificate is not applicable, approval by the Central Government under Section 35(1)(ii) Of The Income-Tax Act, 1961 will be considered.
- The organisation must have a CSR-1 certificate.
- The organisation should have registration documents, audited financials, tax certificates, bye laws, FCRA (if applicable) and/or similar documents depending on the nature of the funding/donations that it receives. Organisations must be willing to present the above-mentioned documents if shortlisted.

THT action Grant

This grant is open to organisations and individuals.

Organisations

- The organisation must have completed 2 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2024.
- The organisation must also have at least 2 years of experience carrying out direct on-ground projects in conservation India's natural habitats and threatened species.
- The organisation must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or a registered institute under Section 35(1)(i) Of The Income-Tax Act, 1961.
- The organisation must have registration u/s 12AB of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.
- The organisation must have an 80G certificate. For institutes, in case 80G certificate is not applicable, approval by the Central Government under Section 35(1)(ii) Of The Income-Tax Act, 1961 will be considered.
- The organisation must have a CSR-1 certificate.
- The organisation should have registration documents, audited financials, tax certificates, bye laws, FCRA (if applicable) and/or similar documents depending on the nature of the funding/donations that it receives. Organisations must be willing to present the above-mentioned documents if shortlisted.

Individuals

- Applicants must be based in India for the entire duration of the project, preferably full-time within or in close proximity to the proposed project site.
- This grant seeks to support grassroots conservationists who are not currently full-time employees of any registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company.
- Applicants must be based in India for the entire duration of the project, preferably full-time within or in close proximity to the proposed project site.
- This grant seeks to support grassroots conservationists who are not currently full-time employees of any registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company. Applicants must not be on the Board of Trustees or Management Committee of any registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company.
- Individuals should have a valid bank account based out of India, proof of taxes paid, valid PAN card and Aadhaar card.
- Successful grant recipients cannot pursue any full-time academic studies during the project period.