

## The Habitats Trust Grants 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is there any focus geography(s) for The Habitats Trust Grants?

THT Grants accepts proposals for conservation of India's natural habitats and native species of flora and fauna and does not focus on any particular geography. The proposed projects must have direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats and/or species.

### 2. Can I apply for more than one grant?

No, an organisation or individual can submit only one application.

### 3. Can I apply for the same project applied for in previous grants cycle?

Yes.

### 4. Can an organisation apply if it is already associated or associated in the past with The Habitats Trust?

The organization/individual must have completed one year following the completion of a previous THT-funded initiative before making an application under THT Grants 2023.

### 5. Do I email my application?

Yes, please download the form and the excel budget sheet, along with attaching the required documents and email it to us at [grants@thehabitatstrust.org](mailto:grants@thehabitatstrust.org). Please share the documents in a zip folder.

### 6. What documents are required to apply?

Please find below list of mandatory documents you need to upload as part of your application:

Please download the document checklist for more clarity

### 7. Is it possible to make modifications to the application once submitted?

No. Once your application is submitted, no changes are allowed. It is recommended to review your application before submission.

### 8. Is there an application/registration fee to apply for the THT Grants?

No, THT Grants do not charge any fee for applying.

### 9. What is the deadline for submission of application?

The THT Seed Grant is open for applications all year round.

### 10. How will I get to know if my application was submitted?

You will get a confirmation email from the grants team, once your documents are submitted.

### 11. Will the THT Grants amount be given in cash or kind?

The grant amount is given to the grant recipients in their bank account. For THT Conservation Grant recipients, the amount is given in a bank account opened by the organisation, specifically for the implementation of the proposed project.

### 12. When will the results be announced?

For THT Seed Grant, the results are announced one month after the applicant has applied.

### 13. When will the project begin for the recipients?

The project begins once the result is announced and the grants team has drafted an MoU with the applicant.

**14. I have applied for my not-for-profit's registration certificates but have not received them yet. Am I eligible to apply?**

An organisation applying for the Seed Grant must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India i.e., Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company or an approved scientific research association under Section 35(1)(ii). If you do not have the relevant certifications, unfortunately you will not be eligible for applying for the grant. The Conservation Grant applicants must have completed 5 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before March 31, 2023, and the Action Grant applicants must have completed 2 years of functional existence.

**15. Should the organization be a registered entity having 80G/35 (1)(ii)/12A/Audited Accounts to apply?**

Yes, an organization must be a registered not-for-profit entity in India [Society, Trust and Section 8 (earlier section 25) company or an approved scientific research association under Section 35(1)(ii)]. An organization applying must have registration under Section 12AB, 80G or 35(1)(ii) of Income Tax Act, 1961.

**16. Is renewal of 12A & 80G under New Registration Procedure under section 12AB mandatory for applying The Habitats Trust Grants?**

The new registration procedure prescribed under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act requires all existing trusts and institutions to re-register themselves under section 12AB of the Income Tax Act from April 1, 2021.

According to the new Compliance with regards to section 12A and section 12AA, All NGOs presently having exemption u/s 12AA of the IT Act shall have to reapply for the same by March 31, 2022 (As extended). and shall have to obtain new registration under Section 12AB.

**17. Can a professor or research scholar from an academic institution apply for the grant?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply for the THT Action Grant and THT Seed Grant as an individual.

Please note that proposed projects must have direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats or species. Pure academic research work will not be considered; however, consideration will be given in the case of data gathering for data deficient species or habitats which may be a critical element in developing a conservation or management strategy.

**18. Being a faculty from a Government College (Govt. Institute), are we eligible to apply for the grants at institutional level?**

Associations/Institutes having a valid registration under section 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can apply for the grants. Individuals 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 can also apply.

**19. Are government colleges allowed to apply for the grants at an institutional level?**

Associations/Institutes having a valid registration under section 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can apply for the grants.

**20. Can a research Association/Institutions apply for the grant?**

Associations/Institutes that have a valid registration as an approved scientific research association under section 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, are also eligible to apply for the grants.

**21. I work for a for-profit company/enterprise; can I apply for Action Grant or Seed Grant?**

Yes, you can apply if that's the case. However, to apply for both the grants, individuals should not be full-time employees or board members of any registered not-for-profit entity in India.

**22. Is FCRA registration mandatory for applying in the Organizations category?**

No, since it's a domestic grant, FCRA registration is not mandatory to receive this grant, however if the organisation has an FCRA, we encourage them to provide it to us along with the application form.

**23. What are the criteria for evaluation of proposed projects?**

Organizations are evaluated based on their organisational background, financial sustenance, capacity to deliver. The projects are evaluated based on the problem statement and the solution, activities and methodologies, relevance, potential impact, etc.

**24. If the organization's primary objective is employment generation, education, healthcare etc., can they also apply for The Habitats Trust Grant?**

The Habitats Trust Grants aims to recognize and support organizations and individuals whose primary objective it to conserve natural habitats and native species of flora and fauna. The object clause in the MoA/Trust deed of the organisation should be inclusive of the requirements of the grants. Employment generation, education, healthcare, etc. may be secondary criteria or by-products of the proposed project and its activities.

**25. Do THT Grants support projects for filming education and awareness documentaries on habitats and their rare and unique wildlife?**

The Grants do not support wildlife documentary films. Proposed projects must have direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats or species

**26. Can I apply for conservation of flora?**

Yes

**27. Can equipment, including fixed assets, be purchased under the grant?**

Yes. The Habitats Trust encourages the use and re-use of equipment purchased with the grant amount. Organizations/individuals are required to clearly mention the use of the equipment during the project, and after its completion.

**28. What is the difference between Recommendations and References?**

Recommendations are formal letters showcasing why you should get this grant by the recommender. This should be on an official letterhead or signed off by the person attesting your work.

Whereas references can be from anyone who is familiar with your work in the field. We will get in touch with your references towards a later stage.