



# THE HABITATS TRUST GRANTS: GUIDELINES

## GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Applicants must be locally registered in India.
- Only projects being carried out in India will be considered.
- **Projects should be a minimum of 24 months in duration**, although each application is assessed on its own merit and the project length can be flexible upto three months.
- Applications must be submitted in English to the best of your ability. This is not a selection criterion.
- **Applicants may only apply for only one grant per year across all grant categories.**
- Projects must have direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats or 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.
- Grants will only be provided for the conservation of indigenous species. Projects focusing on non-native and exotic species will be rejected.
- Grants will only be provided for natural habitats i.e. areas composed of viable assemblages of flora and/or fauna species of largely native origin and/or where human activity has not essentially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition.
- Grants will not be provided for post graduate studies including thesis.
- Grants will not be provided for expeditions or for international travel to attend conferences and seminars.
- **Applications will only be accepted through the online grants portals on The Habitats Trust website ([www.thehabitatstrust.org/grants](http://www.thehabitatstrust.org/grants)).**
- Projects must be structured to provide long-lasting and pragmatic conservation outcomes on ground.
- Project impacts must be measurable and appropriate indicators must be provided.
- Preference will be given to projects with a significant community/stakeholder engagement element.
- **Funding must be used predominantly towards field-based activities.**
- Budgets must be provided in Indian Rupees.
- Successful applicants must submit quarterly 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 funding schedule or on need basis over the project duration.
- Field visits will be carried out for all shortlisted projects.
- **Successful grant applicants cannot apply for funding in two consecutive years.**



## GRANTS FOR ORGANISATIONS

### Strategic Partnership Grant (INR 35 lakhs)

- This grant is only open to organisations.
- 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).
- The organisation must have registered u/s 12A (A) of Income Tax 1961.
- The organization must have an 80G certificate. For institutes, in case 80G certificate is not applicable, approval by the Central Government for the purpose of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, will be considered.
- The organisation must have completed 5 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2020.
- The organisation must have at least 3 years of experience carrying out direct on-ground projects in conservation, protection and/or regeneration of India's natural habitats and threatened species.
- The organization must have an annual expenditure of over Rs. 50 lakhs, including field expenses.
- The organisation should not have any political or religious affiliations.
- The organisation should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates, 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.
- Under this grant, we invite proposals from organisations focused on the conservation, protection and/or regeneration of India's natural habitats and endangered species.
- Projects that focus on species that are listed on Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 or listed as critically endangered/endangered on the IUCN Red List will be given preference.
- Projects that focus on India's lesser-known natural habitats will be given preference.
- Projects that engage the local communities in their efforts will be given preference.





## Lesser-Known Habitats Grant (INR 30 lakhs)

- This grant is only open to organisations.
- 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).
- The organisation must have registered u/s 12A (A) of Income Tax 1961.
- The organization must have an 80G certificate. For institutes, in case 80G certificate is not applicable, approval by the Central Government for the purpose of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, will be considered.
- The organisation must have completed 2 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2020.
- The organisation must have at least 2 years of experience carrying out direct on-ground projects.
- The organisation should not have any political or religious affiliations.
- The organisation should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates, 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.
- Projects must focus on a lesser-known habitat, which we define as the biogeographic and ecological biomes of India which are not adequately represented under the Protected Area system and/or are the natural habitat of indigenous endangered species such as wildlife corridors, marine habitats, wetlands, sacred groves, etc.
- These lesser-known habitats should be diverse representative ecosystem that have generally been overlooked by the national media, tourism, NGOs and government policy.
- Landscapes holding a significant population of endangered species listed under Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 or listed as critically endangered / endangered on the IUCN Red List will be given preference.
- Projects that engage the local communities in their efforts will be given preference.



## Lesser-Known Species Grant (INR 25 lakhs)

- This grant is only open to organisations.
- 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).
- The organisation must have registered u/s 12A (A) of Income Tax 1961.
- The organization must have an 80G certificate. For institutes, in case 80G certificate is not applicable, approval by the Central Government for the purpose of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, will be considered.
- The organisation must have completed 2 years of functional existence (as per registration certificate) in India on or before 31st March 2020.
- The organisation must have at least 2 years of experience carrying out direct on-ground projects.
- The organisation should not have any political or religious affiliations.
- The organisation should have registration documents, audited financial reports, tax certificates, 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.
- Projects should focus on the conservation of one of the 42 lesser-known species listed below:

Rameshwaram Ornamental Spider	Pangolin	Hangul
Tokay Gecko	Grey Wolf	Nilgiri Tahr
Spiny-tailed Lizard	Lion-tailed Macaque	Hog Deer
River Terrapin	Hoolock Gibbon	Brow-antlered Deer
Red-crowned Roofed Turtle	Sun Bear	Dhole
Malabar Civet	Lesser Florican	Clouded Leopard
Red Panda	Jerdon's Courser	Fishing Cat
Bengal Slow Loris	Gyps Vulture	Caracal
Binturong	Rufous-necked Hornbill	Great Indian Bustard
Nilgiri Marten	Sarus Crane	Bengal Florican
Amboli Toad	Ganges / Indus River Dolphin	<i>Cycas Beddomei</i>
Kottigehar Dancing Frog	Whale Shark	<i>Dendrobium sp.</i>
Günther's Bush Frog	Dugong	<i>Actinodaphne Lawsonii</i>
Gharial	Finless Porpoise	<i>Amentotaxus Assamica</i>

- **We will also consider projects working to protect other lesser-known species** that are listed on Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 or as critically endangered/ endangered/ vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, if supported by a strong statement of need and a pragmatic conservation plan.
- Projects working on creation/collection of baseline data on species listed as data deficient as per IUCN will be considered if supported with a strong statement of need.
- Projects that engage the local communities in their efforts will be given preference.
- Projects involving the captive management or breeding of species will not be considered, except in exceptional cases where on ground conservation plans need to be supplemented.



## GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

### Conservation Hero Grant (INR 15 lakhs)

- This grant is only open to individuals.
- 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.
- Applicants must be based full-time within the location of their proposed project site.
- Individuals should have bank statements, proof of taxes, PAN card and Aadhar card.
- Individuals must be willing to present the above mentioned documents if shortlisted.
- Under this grant, we invite proposals from individuals focused on the conservation, protection and/or regeneration of India's natural habitats and endangered species.
- Projects that focus on species that are listed on Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 or listed as critically endangered/endangered on the IUCN Red List will be given preference.
- Projects that focus on India's lesser-known natural habitats will be given preference.
- Projects that engage the local communities in their efforts will be given preference.
- The Habitats Trust will support successful grant recipients through the registration process should they wish to register themselves as a not-for-profit entity in India i.e. Society, Trust, Section 8 (previously Section 25) company.

