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SMALL GRANTS FUND

**GFW Small Grants Fund:
Guidelines for Applicants
2019**

I. Introduction

A. About Global Forest Watch

Global Forest Watch (GFW) is a free, online forest monitoring and alert system that provides timely and actionable information to support sustainable management and conservation of forest landscapes. GFW data and tools have been used by journalists and civil society organizations around the world to conduct advocacy, launch campaigns, and strengthen local forest management and law enforcement activities on the ground.

Using GFW's [interactive online platform](#), users can visualize, analyze, and download a wide array of geospatial and statistical data related to forests, including near real-time alerts showing the precise location of recent forest disturbances. The [Forest Watcher mobile app](#) will allow users in remote areas to access GFW data offline via their cell phone or tablet. Anyone can build a customized platform using GFW's [Map Builder template](#).

Global Forest Watch is made possible by a growing partnership of over 90 organizations convened by the World Resources Institute.

B. The Small Grants Fund

The Global Forest Watch Small Grants Fund (SGF) seeks to promote broad uptake and innovative use of GFW tools and data by civil society around the world. Successful projects translate information into action, applying GFW to overcome challenges in protecting the world's forests. See past grantees winners [here](#).

In 2019, the Small Grants Fund will continue to focus on rapid response to deforestation early warning – converting near real-time deforestation or fire alerts into action. Specifically, successful Small Grants Fund applicants will clearly articulate how they plan to incorporate two datasets – the [Global Land and Discovery \(GLAD\) weekly deforestation alerts](#) and/or the [VIIRs active fire alerts](#) – into improved forest management, law enforcement and advocacy.

Successful applicants will receive financial and technical support from GFW to implement their proposal.

Each cycle:

- The SGF awards organizations between \$10,000 and \$40,000 USD
- The number of projects awarded can range from 8-15, with 12 being the average

- Trainings and technical assistance are provided throughout the project implementation period, which will run from June 2019 – May 2020.

SGF recipients become part of a network of organizations and receive benefits that extend beyond the lifetime of their grant, including membership in the GFW Partnership, opportunities to connect with likeminded groups through GFW events and online forums, participation in GFW trainings and webinars, and opportunities to test new GFW features and applications.

II. Eligibility

A. Organization Eligibility

In order to be eligible, organizations must:

- Be legally constituted as non-profit and non-governmental;
- Have a total annual budget greater than \$30,000 USD;
- Possess a computerized financial system for tracking and recording expenses;
- Be able to complete an organizational assessment document (containing questions regarding organization governance, financial and compliance structure) in fluent English.
- Receive a rating of medium to low risk on WRI's organizational assessment, which will be carried out once finalists are provisionally selected.

NOTE: Grant recipients are required to undergo a grant-specific audit at the end of the project. GFW will cover the cost of this audit up to a pre-determined amount.

B. Project Eligibility

The Small Grants Fund seeks applications for **projects that clearly demonstrate how the organization intends to use Global Forest Watch's near real-time data (GLAD alerts and/or VIIRS active fires alerts) to enhance local responses to forest threats.** Applicants are also encouraged to use additional GFW data as relevant, including other datasets on forest changes (such as the GLAD annual tree cover loss layer), land cover (such as the Intact Forest Landscapes layer), and land use (such as concessions data). Applications should clearly articulate who the project aims to influence and how project activities will lead to improved identification and response to deforestation. Projects may target one or more of the following actors:

- Companies
- Local or federal government agencies
- Communities

- Journalists
- General public

Projects may employ one or more of the following approaches to influencing these actors:

- Capacity building
- Advocacy
- Enforcement
- Storytelling/journalism

Examples of past GFW projects relevant to this year's SGF Call for Applications include:

Community forest monitoring and enforcement: Global Wildlife Conservation worked with the Rama and Kriol communities in Nicaragua to establish a new indigenous forest ranger program. The rangers used Global Forest Watch tree cover loss and fires data to make the rangers' patrol routes more efficient by identifying areas under the greatest immediate threat, navigating to alerts and documenting illegal deforestation. Rangers used GFW to expose illegal deforestation caused by the encroachment of cattle ranchers, and they were successful in working with local level authorities to remove these ranchers from the reserve.

Advocating for community land rights: Environmental Rights Action (ERA)/Friends of the Earth (FoE) Nigeria worked to empower rural local communities in Edo State, South-South Nigeria to advocate against land grabbing and deforestation for large-scale plantations on lands traditionally held by communities. They used GFW to map, monitor and communicate the impact of agricultural activity that was negatively affecting communities. A series of meetings with local government officials and a joint petition by ERA/FoE and the communities to the Edo State Government led to a successful revocation of about 13,750 hectares of land that had been grabbed by a plantation company.

Reporting on the real costs of hydroelectric dams: Reporter Brasil exposed some of the environmental and social impacts of hydroelectric dams in the Amazon by publishing a series of investigative articles and multimedia animation videos, based on GFW data and visits to the dam sites. Currently dozens of large-scale hydroelectric plants are being constructed in the Amazon. Reporter Brasil discovered that several of these dams were in direct violation of the environmental plan approved by the government in order for the project to take place, including illegal deforestation, failure to remove timber from flooded areas (increasing greenhouse gas emissions), failure to implement biodiversity safeguards and human rights violations against communities and indigenous people. Among all the in-depth journalism pieces produced by Reporter Brasil, a feature of Belo

Monte Dam spread most widely, with one post reaching an audience of over 3 million. As a result, the Brazilian government opened an investigation, and fined Belo Monte contractors US\$300,000.

Investigating deforestation with mobile technology: Global Forest Watch partnered with the Jane Goodall Institute to develop an application that provides forest monitors the most up-to-date deforestation alerts on their mobile phones. GFW trained monitors on how to visit the site using GPS coordinates (with downloaded data for where there is no cell service) and validated the information, uploading what they have found back to the system when they are back in communication range. A forest monitor investigated an alert in the Kasyoha Kitomi Forest Reserve, and found an illegal logging camp. The National Forest Authority prosecuted the loggers using GFW data and other evidence collected at the site. The logging has stopped and the group was fined for the violation.

Advocating for expanded protected areas: In the region of Cantao, Brazil, two of the richest ecosystems in the world meet - the most biologically diverse Savannah in the world and the Amazon's flooded forests. But soy bean plantations are expanding into the region and threatening habitats. Two national parks had been established in the area but lacked important buffer zones, which are critical for wildlife that rely on both ecosystems. With the help of data provided by GFW, Instituto Araguaia was able to successfully advocate for a 3-km strip of Cerrado around the parks to be legally designated as a buffer zone, which protects an area of 40,148 hectares and creates a wildlife corridor between the two parks.

C. Geographic Eligibility:

With the recent expansion of the GLAD alert system, countries across the entire Pantropical region now have access to weekly updates on changing forest conditions in near-real time. However, due to the nature of how tree cover loss is measured – i.e. tree cover greater than 5 meters in height with greater than 60% canopy cover – the Global Forest Watch (GFW) platform does not have data for some countries.

To ensure that the geographic area of your project is eligible with the GLAD alert system, you will be asked to choose from the list of countries in the Appendix.

The application will also ask you to indicate the specific area(s) where you will be implementing your project. To do so, please visit the GFW Platform at: <http://bit.ly/2S47Xr3>. Note, this link already has the GLAD alerts layer selected. Once you've found your geographic area, please share this with us in the space(s) provided in the application form. You can share up to five links. To share a view, simply click the "Share or embed view" icon on the map, which is the highlighted icon in the photo below.



III. Application Process

All applications must be submitted by March 15th, 2019.

To apply, please visit the [Grants and Fellowship page](#) on the GFW website and click on “Apply Now.” This link will direct you to the online application. Once you have started your application, you may save and return to it anytime.

The application contains three sections: basic information, financial information, and project information. You will also be required to upload a project budget, using a template that will be provided to you via the application software. Each section should be completed in its entirety. If you have any difficulty responding to a question, please contact gfwfund@wri.org for guidance.

Important note: This year, GFW will hold its first-ever User Summit on June 18-19 in Washington DC. An estimated 350-400 users from civil society, communities, the private sector, governments are expected to attend from around the globe. While not mandatory, applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and budget for travel to attend this event in their application.

IV. Selection Criteria and Process

All applications will be reviewed by the Small Grants Fund selection committee following the submission deadline. The committee is comprised of World Resources Institute experts in forest policy and management, human rights, advocacy, geospatial analysis and remote sensing.

The committee will systematically score all applications based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance:** a clear indication of how your project will support using near real-time forest monitoring data for improved forest management, enforcement and campaigning
2. **Clear use of GFW:** demonstrating how GFW data and tools are central to the success of the project
3. **Cost-effectiveness:** proposed use of funds is efficient, and the proposal clearly articulates how WRI funding will be leveraged to enhance existing projects.
4. **Feasibility:** carrying out the proposed activities within the project period and with the proposed budget is realistic.
5. **Potential for impact:** GFW data and tools lead to outcomes, such as a change in policy or recognition of an area’s legal status, a lawsuit, an investigation, a fine or penalty, or a successful campaign or boycott.

Special considerations will be given to projects that promote gender equity or social inclusion.

After the committee review, finalists will be contacted for a brief Skype or phone interview. The Skype or phone interview will allow the committee to ask additional questions and the finalist will have the opportunity to learn more about the Small Grants Fund.

V. Timeline

Application submission deadline:	March 15, 2019
Finalist interviews, selection and organizational assessment:	April - May, 2019
Winners announced and projects begin:	June 1, 2019
Project end date:	May 31, 2020

VI. Resources and Support

The most successful applications are those that can most clearly articulate how they will use GFW and how it will contribute to their ongoing work. For more information about how to use GFW:

- ✓ Visit the [How To](#) page for video tutorials and step by step instructions for how to analyze forest change, subscribe to alerts, submit stories and more.
- ✓ Read the [Global Forest Watch Blog](#), including this helpful [post on the recent expansion of GLAD alerts to the entire Pantropical region](#).

- ✓ Join the [Global Forest Watch Discussion Forum](#)

For questions about the application process, or to be invited to a webinar for prospective applicants in February, please write to gfwfund@wri.org.

Appendix: List of Eligible Countries

Africa	Asia	Caribbean	Central America	North America	Pacific	South America
Angola	Bangladesh	Antigua and Barbuda	Belize	Mexico	Fiji	Argentina
Burundi	Bhutan	Bahamas	Costa Rica		New Caledonia	Bolivia
Cameroon	Brunei	Barbados	Ecuador		Palau	Brazil
Central African Republic	Cambodia	Cuba	El Salvador		Papua New Guinea	Colombia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	China	Dominica	Guatemala		Solomon Islands	French Guiana
Equatorial Guinea	India	Dominican Republic	Honduras		Vanuatu	Guyana
Ethiopia	Indonesia	Grenada	Nicaragua			Paraguay
Gabon	Laos	Haiti	Panama			Peru
Gambia	Malaysia	Jamaica				Suriname
Ghana	Maldives	Saint Kitts and Nevis				Venezuela
Guinea	Myanmar	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				
Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	Trinidad and Tobago				
Ivory Coast	Philippines					
Kenya	Singapore					
Lesotho	Sri Lanka					
Liberia	Taiwan					
Madagascar	Thailand					
Malawi	Timor-Leste					
Mauritius	Vietnam					
Mozambique						
Nigeria						
Republic of the Congo						
Rwanda						
São Tomé and Príncipe						
Sierra Leone						
South Africa						
South Sudan						
Swaziland						
Tanzania						
Togo						
Uganda						
Zambia						
Zimbabwe						

