WCT Small Grants for Conservation of Endangered Species and their Habitats (WCT-SG) 2018-19

Phase - I

Frequently Asked Questions

PROGRAMME THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

What is WCT-SG?

WCT-SG is a grant started with an objective to encourage and strengthen on-ground conservation in India.

What is the maximum grant amount?

The maximum grant amount will be INR 5,00,000/- (Rupees five lakh only) per successful application.

What kinds of projects are eligible for WCT-SG?

Projects should focus on conservation of endangered species and/or their habitats in India. The projects can also have a social dimension as WCT recognises that nature awareness, education and sustainable livelihoods for local communities are important for long-term conservation. We will only fund projects that are related to the conservation of endangered species and/or their habitats in India.

What is the expected duration of the project?

The submitted project should be for a minimum duration of six months and maximum of one year.

What are the permitted inclusions and what cannot be included in project budgets?

Budgets may include:

- Activities (interviews, research etc.,)
- Purchase of essential equipment for carrying out fieldwork
- Lodging and boarding
- Laboratory analysis
- Staff stipend

Budgets may not include:

- Any overhead costs of the organisation
- Travel for attending workshops, conferences etc.
- Undercover/enforcement work
- Expenses related to litigation
- Purchase of equipment such as SLR camera/lenses, laptop or vehicle etc.,

Does the grant allow for a stipend/salary/per diem for the staff?

A nominal stipend may become part of the proposal. The grant is meant to further on-ground conservation and a large salary/stipend component may be counterproductive to the overall outcome of the project.

Can I apply if I have previously benefitted from WCT-SG?
Yes, if the project under the earlier received grant is completed, you may apply.

Do I need reference letters?
Yes, you will need two letters of recommendation detailing why the proposed project is critical for conservation in India. The letter should also state why the applicant is qualified to execute the proposed project.
Note: Applications received without reference letters will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible?
Individuals as well as organisations are eligible to apply.
Note: The principle investigator of the proposed project will be considered as the 'applicant' when more than one individual is involved in the project or in the case of an organisation.

What is the role of the principal investigator?
A principal investigator is the primary contact person who would be responsible for the preparation, usage and administration of a grant in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing the conduct of sponsored project.

What is the required educational qualification?
The applicant needs to hold at least a graduate degree from a recognised university.

Is Master's dissertation work eligible?
Yes, it is eligible.

I am an individual applicant. Am I eligible to apply if I am not an Indian citizen?
No, only Indian citizens can apply.

Am I eligible to apply if my organisation is not registered in India?
No, only organisations with a valid registration certificate for India operations can apply.

Can I apply for an on-going project which is funded by other agencies?
No, on-going projects will not be considered for WCT-SG grant.

Can I combine WCT-SG in conjunction with another matching grant for a project which has not been initiated?
Yes, the applicants are encouraged to use WCT-SG with other matching grants.

Do I need to furnish a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the other grantor if I am using WCT-SG in conjunction with another matching grant?
Yes, the applicant will have to furnish an NOC from the other grantor.

Do I need to submit the NOC at the time of submitting the application for WCT-SG?
No, the NOC can be produced later at the time of selection of the applicant.

APPLICATION PROCESS & MATERIALS

How do I apply?
Applicants are required to submit the duly completed application by email to smallgrants@wctindia.org with a subject line mentioning the name of the applicant followed by the text "WCT-SG_2018-19_PhaseI". The application form is available at:
http://wildlifeconservationtrust.org/SmallGrants/
Applications should only be filled in the format provided; no other format will be accepted.

What documents will I have to submit for my application?
The below mentioned scanned copies of the documents are required to be submitted:
For organisations - PAN card (mandatory), permits/approvals (if applicable), organisation's registration certificate (mandatory) and certificate under section12A of Income Tax Act (if applicable).
For individual applicants - PAN card (mandatory) and permits/approvals (if applicable).
Applications submitted without the documents marked as mandatory will not be accepted.

Can I apply even if I don't possess a Pan Card?
No, PAN card is mandatory.

My project work requires permits/approvals from the concerned authorities but I have not applied for/received them yet. Can I still apply?
Yes, permits can be shared at a later stage but before the commencement of the project. Permits/approvals that have already been secured have to be attached along with your application.

What should a reference letter include?
The reference letter should detail why the proposed project is critical for conservation in India. The letter should also state why the applicant is qualified to execute the proposed project.

How do I submit the reference letters?
Two reference letters are to be sent by the referees directly to WCT on smallgrants@wctindia.org with the subject line mentioning the complete name of the applicant followed by that of the referee, separated by a hyphen. Eg: Gaurav Saxena-Dr.Ramakrishnan Iyer

If I have applied as an individual applicant but wish to change it later to organisation applicant or vice-versa, will it be allowed?
No, the applicant cannot change the applicant type at a later stage.

How will I know if I have completed the application?
You will receive a confirmation email from WCT on the receipt of your completed application form.

What should be the format of the budget?

The budget should be provided in the given format with a detailed breakup of costs along with a description.
Eg 1: Field assistant salary @ INR 300/- per day for 45 days = INR 13,500/-
Eg 2: Travel - Mumbai to Nagpur @ INR 2,500/- per round trip for two round trips = INR 5,000/-
If WCT-SG is going to be used in conjunction with another matching grant, please include a budget breakup of how you intend to spend the other grant.

Can a project have multiple principal investigators?

No, there should be only one principal investigator.

Can I make any changes after submission of the application?

No changes are acceptable after the submission of the application.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

What is the application deadline?

The application deadline is February 15, 2018 (12:00 Midnight). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Is there any deadline for sending reference letters? If yes, what is the deadline?

Yes. The referees should submit their letters no later than February 23, 2018 (12:00 Midnight). References received after the deadline will not be considered.

SELECTION PROCESS & GRANT DISBURSEMENT

How will the Selection Committee make its decision?

The Selection Committee will consider applications based on the relevance to the project theme, proposal completeness, concept and approach, budget and its implication on conservation.

When can I expect to receive a decision on my application?

The results will be announced on March 15, 2018 (12:00 Midnight) on the WCT website at http://wildlifeconservationtrust.org/SmallGrants/

What Intellectual Property Rights do I have?

All data collected and intellectual property generated under WCT-SG will remain the property of the concerned grantee. The grantee is free to use the data collected for her/his professional use (including scientific and popular publications). The grantee acknowledges/agrees to share relevant data, photos and videos with WCT. Both parties will have the rights to use the materials outlined above without violating any party's rights and copyright of such materials will remain with and be credited to the grantee. All intellectual properties generated will be governed by the laws of the Union of India.

Who can I contact for more information on WCT-SG?

Ms. Vinni Munjal or Ms. Sheetal Navgire via email at smallgrants@wctindia.org or phone at +22 49255555.