



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS IN BRAZIL

Background

In areas that are particularly affected by environmental crime, the communities can play a critical role in the response. Communities often own, manage, use or occupy a significant proportion of land in areas that are rich in biodiversity, which, typically, are hotspots for environmental crimes. They also possess knowledge and follow practices that can be valuable for protecting the environment. This expertise is essential in helping address environmental crime, which is recognized as one of the most lucrative forms of transnational criminal activity.

Environmental crime has a devastating impact on communities where it occurs and on the environment. The degradation of natural resources severely hampers access to clean water, threatens food security and diminishes communities' livelihood opportunities. These problems are particularly acute in biodiversity-rich regions, where historical and systemic inequalities, coupled with lack of state support and infrastructure, often drive communities into informal or illegal activities for survival.

About the grant

Despite the challenges, there is insufficient support for community-based initiatives in areas prone to environmental crime. In Brazil, ECO-SOLVE seeks to overcome this deficit through a grant to fund community-based initiatives that tackle environmental crime, such as illegal logging and mining, deforestation and wildlife trafficking. Communities, as stewards of resources, can play a crucial role in preventing crime, protecting resources and promoting rule of law.

This call for community grant applications aims to enhance the capacity and resilience of community-based organizations to address environmental crime by supporting transformative interventions aiming to protect natural resources, build community awareness to prevent environmental crimes, and foster coordination between the communities and law enforcement officials.

For the purposes of the grant, 'communities' are defined as people residing in or near biodiverse sites associated with illicit environmental activities, particularly those with a historical, social, political or cultural relationship with the environment. In the Brazilian context, these communities encompass indigenous peoples, riverside communities, and black and peasant communities residing in the Amazon region's rural and urban areas.

Similarly, environmental crime, is defined here in its broadest sense to encompass an extensive range of illicit activities involving the illicit trafficking of animals (including fish), and plants and other commodities such as timber, minerals and waste. Activities such as deforestation, and illegal logging and gold mining are particularly relevant for Brazil.

Available funding: The value of each grant is between €10 000 and €20 000, to be used to fund a six-month to one-year project.

Target applicants for grants: Grass-roots organizations and small non-governmental organizations operating in the Amazon region in Brazil.

Deadline for applying: 23 June 2024, for submission of your expression of interest. Further details about the process for applying are provided below.

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, organizations and civil society groups applying for grants should:

- Be a registered organization.
- Operate in the Amazon Basin, Brazil.
- Demonstrate that the environmental degradation within their community is a result of environmental crime.
- Propose a project that contributes to preventing environmental crime or addresses the impact of environmental crime in the target area.
- Work closely within communities severely affected by environmental crimes.
- Demonstrate how the funding and activities will be implemented.
- Prove that prior work demonstrates a commitment to the ethics and values of the ECO-SOLVE project.

Application guidelines and timings

- If you consider yourself eligible for a grant, please express your interest by writing to: laura.avila@globalinitiative.net. Interested applicants should state in the email subject line 'Application to ECO-SOLVE Grant in Brazil' and provide a short background or weblink to the applicant organization and its location.
- Once we have reviewed your email and deemed it suitable, we will email you a preliminary questionnaire to be filled out. You will have two weeks to complete it.
- If you progress to the next phase, we will provide you with a project template. You will have two weeks to submit your proposal. If any changes are required, we will contact you again.
- Following this, we will hold an internal grant committee review, and grants will be approved. This process could take up to two months from the moment you submit your application.

Timeline for applying

	Deadline for submission
Expression of interest	23 June 2024
Preliminary questionnaire	8 July 2024
Project proposal	22 July 2024
Review of proposals and grants approval	End September 2024