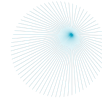




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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: ECO-SOLVE COMMUNITY GRANTS

Building Community Resilience Against Environmental Crimes in Vietnam

Background

Local communities play a crucial role in responding to environmental crime. They traditionally own, manage, use, and occupy a significant proportion of land, possessing valuable knowledge and practices for protecting the environment. This expertise is essential in preventing environmental crime, recognized globally as one of the most lucrative forms of transnational criminal activity.

Environmental crime has an immediate and devastating impact on communities and the environment. The direct degradation of natural resources severely hampers access to clean water, food security, and economic opportunities. This issue is further exacerbated in biodiversity-rich regions, where historical and systemic inequalities, coupled with a lack of government support and infrastructure, often force communities into informal or illegal activities for survival.

Despite this reality, not enough community-based initiatives are being supported. One main reason could be that community engagements and strategies are complex and take time to implement, while responses aim to be quick and direct. Therefore, ECO-SOLVE seeks to overcome this challenge by supporting community-based initiatives that tackle environmental crime affecting Vietnam, such as wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, illegal mining, and illegal fishing. We believe that local communities, as stewards of resources, can play a crucial role in preventing crime, protecting resources, and cooperating with law enforcement officials.

Grant objective

This call for proposals 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 collaboration between the communities and law enforcement officials.

For this grant, "communities" are defined as people residing in or near biodiverse areas and sites associated with illicit environmental activities, particularly those with historical, social, political, or cultural ties to the environment. In Vietnam, these communities include ethnic minorities, forest-dependent communities,

coastal communities, urban and peri-urban populations, farming communities, riverine communities, and those living in and around biodiverse areas.

Similarly, environmental crime, defined in its broadest sense, encompasses an extensive range of illicit activities involving the trafficking of animals, including fish, plants, and other commodities such as timber, minerals, and waste.

Available funding: Available Funding: The grant provides €10,000 – €20,000 for projects with a duration of six to nine months. All projects must be completed by April 2026, so please consider government authorization requirements in your planning if applicable.

Target audience: community-based organizations, and small non-governmental organizations operating across Vietnam.

Deadline: The preliminary questionnaire must be submitted **by April 7th**. Further details about the process are provided below.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, organizations and civil society groups should:

- Be a registered organization.
- Demonstrate that environmental degradation within their community is a result of environmental crime.
- Propose a project that builds community resilience against environmental crime and addresses its impact in the target area. Past initiatives have included training local youth as marine defenders to combat illegal fishing, supporting indigenous communities in monitoring and protecting their ecosystems using drones and satellite technology, and providing legal support and assistance to environmental defenders at risk. We encourage applications from organizations implementing new or proven approaches to strengthen community resilience, tailored to their specific context. Each proposal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure relevance and impact.
- Work closely with communities severely affected by environmental crimes.
- Demonstrate how the funding and activities will be implemented.
- Show that prior work aligns with the ethics and values of the ECO-SOLVE project.

Application guidelines and timings

- If you consider yourself eligible, please express your interest by emailing laura.avila@globalinitiative.net. Interested applicants should include "Application to ECO-SOLVE Grants in Vietnam" in the email subject line. Upon receiving your email, we will send you the preliminary questionnaire to complete.
- If you advance to the next phase, we will provide you with a project template, which must be submitted within two weeks. If any modifications are needed, we will contact you.
- Following this, an internal grant committee review will take place, and grants will be approved accordingly.

Timeline

	Deadline for submission
Submission of expression of interest and preliminary questionnaire	07 th of April
Submission of project proposal	21 th of April
Feedback by the Grants Liaison	30 th of April
Selection of proposals	End of May