



International Education and Outreach
IMPACT SEED FUNDING (ISF) 2024
SOUTHEAST ASIA GUIDELINES

The Pulitzer Center Impact Seed Fund (ISF) supports educational and engagement initiatives addressing the most critical issues confronting our planet's ecosystems and communities. The 2024 ISF focuses on a range of topics, including rainforests, oceans, and climate change, with a particular emphasis on its interconnectedness with workers and vulnerable communities.



Southeast Asia: Rainforests, Climate and Labor Nexus

Impact Seed Funding (ISF) is a microscale grant provided by the Pulitzer Center to support education, research, or scientific activities with the aim to enrich the perspectives and knowledge within the university community —specifically students and educators.

ISF facilitates a deeper understanding of complex problems and encourages the exploration of solutions and innovations to address the impact of human activities on rainforests, oceans, and the climate crisis.

MODUL PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

CLIMATE CHANGE DAN KESEHATAN PEKERJA DALAM PERSPEKTIF HUKUM PERDAGANGAN INTERNASIONAL

2023

JANI PURNAWANTY
NI MADE SUKARTINI
ASRI WIJAYANTI

IMPACT SEED FUNDING (ISF) 2023



The Problem-Based Learning module integrated several Pulitzer Center-supported reportages from Our Work/Environment on the topic of Climate & Labor, providing real-life perspectives for classes in Universitas Airlangga in Indonesia. Image credit to **Jani Purnawanty**, Indonesia, 2023

The ISF is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of educators and communities, enabling applicants to create activities related to pressing issues of climate and environment, relevant to the local context.

Launched in 2022 in Indonesia, the ISF expanded its scope to Latin America and beyond.

Our aim

We aim to support projects that inspire changes in perspectives, narratives, and actions, fostering a more informed and empathetic community. By utilizing Pulitzer Center-supported stories, the ISF initiative aims to:

- Improve the awareness and critical thinking of students and educators about complex issues related to tropical forests, oceans, climate crisis, including their impacts on vulnerable communities. It encourages members of the university community to explore innovative
- Equip students and educators to take action and drive change to protect the environment, as well as the rights of those most affected by environmental destruction.



Utilizing stories as the center of the proposed projects

The Pulitzer Center's different programs have produced journalism stories that bring to light local perspectives, often from voices that are rarely heard. These reports focus on underreported stories and situations that are crucial to better understand the challenges around tropical forests, climate change and oceans.

These reports produce high-quality visuals, in-depth analysis, and data resources capable of conveying complex issues in a powerful and digestible way, making them excellent educational and communications tools. As such, they can generate important inputs for ISF-funded projects.

All proposals must utilize at least one story reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists.

Who can apply?

- Applicants should be university professors or researchers based in an institution
- Applicants are welcome to propose a project through a consortia of educators from universities in one or more regions of the country.



Objective

We believe in the power of knowledge and the role of education and educators in addressing multidisciplinary issues in social and environmental topics. Therefore, the ISF is designed to provide seed funding to educators globally to raise awareness of key issues to their communities around the world and contribute to aspired positive changes. The ISF provides micro-scale support to:

- Initiate new collaborations or build on existing collaborations among professors, researchers, students, local universities, most affected local communities, and journalists;
- Increase engagement between educational communities, journalists and Indigenous and traditional populations;
- Encourage the use of creative materials (e.g., photographs, short videos, documentaries, podcasts), infographics, data visuals, and information from the reports in teaching materials, student activities, curricular and classroom materials, or scientific publications;
- Facilitate the adoption of the results presented in the reports into relevant research and other scientific products.

Our Grants

ISF Southeast Asia grants range from USD \$3,000 to \$4,000

We expect projects to be implemented within four months of approval.



What we fund

- Collaborative projects with Pulitzer Center-supported journalists or multi-disciplinary educators;
- Collaborative projects with the most affected local communities, such as: knowledge exchange activities, student immersive learnings, biodiversity expeditions, and citizen journalism;
- Insertion of results into teaching materials, campus debates, hackathons on social issues, student-led debates, and dialogues;
- Support for webinar series, seminars;
- Production and dissemination of visual content to support learning aids (short videos, documentaries, podcasts);
- Small exhibitions on campus, such as photo exhibits or film screenings;
- Journalism workshops for student press clubs;

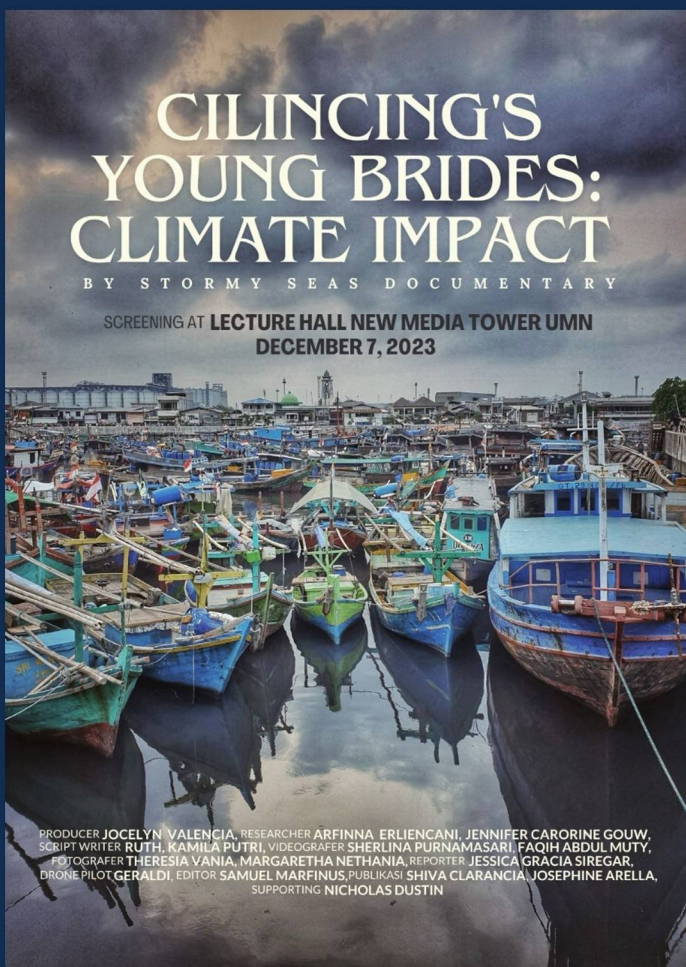
- Communication activities to promote citizenship related to the proposed themes;
- Support for research activities: Adoption of data to improve the accuracy of ongoing research, insertion of data or knowledge in a book chapter.



- Proposals need to utilize and be inspired by at least one story reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists about rainforests (RIN and RJF), oceans, and Our Work/Environment grants
 - Proposal shares key subtopics within the spectrum of forest, oceans, climate & labor issues, placing the reportings of [Rainforest Journalism Fund](#) / [Rainforest Investigations Network](#) / [Our Work & Environment](#) / at the center of project activities. You can find the list of stories, the topics and other details in the annex 1. Examples include: collaboration with Pulitzer Center network journalists in the activity design upon proposal approval; utilization of key data/information from the journalists' reportings in proposal outputs or activities.
 - Projects will ideally collaborate with the most affected communities, e.g. co-conceiving ideas with Indigenous communities, community leaders, or local organizations working directly with disadvantaged communities; collaboration with smaller universities in local areas.
- The activity must present intended impacts with audiences in the academic community (students or faculty/research fellows) and civil society that align with one or both of the following outcomes:
 - Improve the awareness and critical thinking of students and educators about complex issues related to tropical forests, oceans and the climate crisis including their impacts on vulnerable communities, and encourage the exploration of solutions and innovations to address these impacts.
 - Equip students and educators to take action and drive changes to foster protection of the social and environment discourse as well as the rights of those most affected by socio-environmental destruction.
 - The project must demonstrate a strong Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion approach. See the Pulitzer Center's [DEI statement](#) for more information.

How to Apply

- All applicants must apply through the submittable, an online application platform for all of the opportunities
- For Southeast Asia applicants that needs to apply in local language, please make sure you send application in the appropriate links:
 - [English](#)
 - [Bahasa Indonesia](#)
 - [Thai](#)



A short documentary produced collaboratively by students of Universitas Multimedia Nusantara as part of ISF 2023. Image by Samiaji Bintang, Indonesia, 2023

What you need to prepare for the application form:

- Name and other contact details
- Project Title
- Elaboration of the proposed project
- Elaboration on working with Pulitzer Center supported stories or journalist
- Target audience
- Elaboration on impact
- Strategy or methodology to ensure the success of the project
- Proposed budget
- Budget Details, defining the related deliverables or activities followed by the unit details and price
- Timeline
- Consent from the local community if applicant plans to work with them
- Preliminary content production plan if applicant plans to produce contents including references and content distribution plan
- CV of the project leader including three referees

Timeline

- Application process: March - May 27, 2024
- Selection process: May 27 - Jul 27, 2024
- Grants announcement: July 31, 2024
- Briefing and grants administration: August 1 - Aug 14, 2024
- Implementation duration: August 1 - Dec 1, 2024
- Project closure: December 7 - 31, 2024
- Project reporting: January 2025

For more information, please contact the responsible managers:

Grenti Paramitha (Southeast Asia region): gparamitha@pulitzercenter.org

Learn more about the ISF and view previously approved projects for inspiration in the regional guidelines.

Apply Now



Annex I. - LIST OF STORIES/REPORTAGES

Table of Reportages of Impact Seed Funding, 2023-2024

Our Work/Environment Topic on Climate and Labor

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
I N D O N E S I A	The Archipelago: Resilience in the Face of Climate Change	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/archipelago-resilience-face-climate-change	Adi Renaldi	<p>Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, has been facing the devastating consequences of climate change. From rising sea levels to longer droughts, Indonesia is predicted to lose more than \$36 billion between 2020-2024, according to the Ministry of National Planning Development.</p> <p>Major cities, including the capital city of Jakarta, along the northern coast have been frequently hit by tidal floods due to sinking land and rising sea levels, causing more than \$27 billion in losses. Meanwhile, crop failures across the archipelago have been a common phenomenon in the past few years due to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and longer drought. Rice production has been declining in the past five years, and it's estimated that the total loss amounted to \$5.2 billion.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video

Rainforest Investigations Network

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media	Remarks
C A M B O D I A	Cambodian Forests Under Threats	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/cambodian-forests-under-threats	Anton Delgado	As a Rainforest Investigations Network Fellow, Anton Delgado is continuing his investigation into how macaques from Cambodia are being illegally traded. He is further expanding his previous coverage into environmental violations on the border with Vietnam and Laos and the role of Cambodia's biodiversity preservation policy.	Pictures, Map	Vietnam, Laos, South Korea, Britain, Singapore, United States, Canada
	Power, Profits, and Patronage: Cambodian Elites Plunder the Cardamoms	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/power-profits-and-patronage-cambodian-elites-plunder-cardamoms	Gerald Flynn	<p>"The Cardamom Mountains region remains one of the few intact ecosystems in Southeast Asia, but questionable development projects established by extractive patronage networks in Cambodia threaten to fracture the forest to feed economic development, and could be fueling an illicit wood trade.</p> <p>Working with Mongabay, freelance journalist Gerald Flynn uses extensive on-the-ground reporting, coupled with GIS mapping, financial relationship charting, and satellite imagery assessments to highlight the damage done by various economic sectors in Cambodia and the people seeking to plunder the country's last, best rainforest. While promising few positives for local communities, the projects slated to carve up the Cardamoms look set to benefit a network of powerful Cambodian and foreign nationals, at the cost of widespread environmental devastation."</p>	Pictures, Map, Graphic, Footage, Video, Diagram	Hong Kong, Canada, Spain, Irish, Swedia, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Europe, United States, Japan, Laos

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media	Remarks
Deforestation and the Global Supply Chain	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/deforestation-and-global-supply-chain	Andrew Lehren	<p>Corporations and governments keep promising to combat losses of the planet’s tropical rainforests, but forests continue to be cut down at alarming rates. A key driver is economics. Some products that come from rainforest regions are well known, like palm oil, gold and exotic hardwoods for homes and construction. Others might be surprising, like baby wipes, Adidas clothing, and Tesla car batteries.</p> <p>Working as a senior editor with the NBC News investigations team, Andy Lehren combines analysis of satellite imagery and large datasets with a team of on-the-ground reporters, examining whether corporate and government promises are being kept, and collaborating with journalists around the world, to document rainforest devastation and its links with supply chains and global markets.</p>	Pictures, Illustration, Courtesy Video	United States, Brazil
Passing for Protection Country	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/passing-protection	Anton Delgado	<p>Large swaths of Cambodia are designated “protected areas,” but while laws supposedly safeguard these national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, the reality of these landscapes often diverge far from their designation.</p> <p>Working as a staff reporter for the Southeast Asia Globe in Cambodia, Anton L. Delgado combines data trends, map analysis, and extensive boots-on-the-ground reporting across the kingdom to uncover the truth under the canopies. Delgado plans to show how the narratives and nuances of Cambodian forest management, with millions of dollars in international aid and a robust global market, affect the world.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Map, Graphic, Short Video, Footage Video, Social Media Post	United States, Canada, Europe, United Kingdom, China, France, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Singapore

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Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media	Remarks
Unrecorded Forest Loss in Peninsular Malaysia: Locations, Actors, and Consequences	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/unrecorded-forest-loss-peninsular-malaysia-locations-actors-and-consequences	Yao-Hua Law	<p>Yao-Hua Law investigates the apparent gap between Peninsular Malaysia’s officially reported forest area and the forest area measured by independent satellite analyses.</p> <p>In Peninsular Malaysia, the size of total forest area is calculated based on registered land use, rather than what is physically on the land. As long as a site is registered as forest land, one could clear it all and not cause a dent in the official forest area tally.</p>	Pictures, Map, Graphic, Footage Video, Illustration, Powerpoint Slides, Official Document	
Planned Deforestation in Indonesia	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/planned-deforestation-indonesia	Erwan Hermawan	<p>The Indonesian government claims that the rate of deforestation in Indonesia has fallen by 75 percent during 2019-2020. But the facts on the ground show that deforestation has continued, and has been going on for a long time.</p> <p>Oil palm plantations are the most reported on because they cause millions of hectares of deforestation. But often overlooked are the large swaths of mangrove forests that are being deforested by shrimp farming projects and paper mills.</p>	Pictures, Graphic, Map, Poster, Infographic, Short Documentary Video	France, Switzerland, China, Germany

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Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media	Remarks
Vietnam's Forests Have Been Cleared To Supply the World's Timber Industry	https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/vietnams-forests-have-been-cleared-supply-worlds-timber-industry	Bao-Uyen Vo-Kieu	<p>Vietnam is ranked the fifth-largest country in the world, second in Asia, and the largest in Southeast Asia in furniture exports. Vietnamese furniture has been directly exported to 120 countries and territories.</p> <p>However, behind this impressive figure is that series of natural forests that have been cut down and quickly. These forest land areas have been occupied for growing short-term timber trees.</p>	Pictures, Map, Footage video, Graphic	Japan, South Korea, China

Rainforest Journalism Fund

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
I N D O N E S I A	Is Social Forestry a Solution for Forest Conservation?	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/social-forestry-solution-forest-conservation	Fendra Tryshanie, Titik Kartitiani	<p>Social forestry has existed in Indonesia since 1970, a hope for forest sustainability that also takes into account the welfare of the community. President Joko Widodo set a target of 12.4 million hectares of social forestry, with 5,087,754 hectares already achieved (October 2022).</p> <p>The mechanism for implementing social forestry is with the statuses of village forest, community forest, customary forest, community plantation forest, and forestry partnership.</p>	Picture
	Illegal Gold Mining in Kerinci Seblat National Park	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-kerinci-seblat-national-park	Suwandi Wendy	<p>This project reveals the actors of illegal gold mining: local businessmen in Merangin Regency and Merangin Regency DPRD members who are financiers of illegal gold mining.</p> <p>Villagers who have been controlled by illegal gold mining actors in Kerinci Seblat National Park have acted anarchically. They blocked the national road, the only access to Kerinci-Merangin, to undermine law enforcement. The police were forced to release a number of illegal gold miners who were arrested because the community's roadblocks had caused congestion and cut off access to land transportation.</p>	Pictures, Map
	The Dilemma of Indigenous Forest Status	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/dilemma-indigenous-forest-status	Irma Tambunan, Erika Kurnia, Sucipto Cipto, Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo)	<p>The recognition of customary forests in Indonesia still has many problems. As of December 2022, the Indigenous Territory Registration Agency has registered 1,167 maps of Indigenous territories with an area of 21.3 million hectares covering Indigenous territories in 29 provinces and 142 districts/cities. The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) noted that throughout 2022 the government had only succeeded in establishing 105 customary forests with an area of 148,488 hectares.</p> <p>However, Indigenous people also feel that their rights and requests have not been fully fulfilled because an area of 2,400 hectares of Indigenous territories is instead used by the government for a number of social forestry schemes, including village forests, community forests, community plantation forests, and partnerships.</p>	Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video, Infographic

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Protecting the Forest and Water Resources of Small Islands	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/protecting-forest-and-water-resources-small-islands	Palce Amalo	<p>Three small islands in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), namely Semau, Rote and Timor, have springs that never dry up throughout the year. The springs are Uiasa on Semau, Lelain and Oemau on Rote, and Adang, Kabola, and Nostalgia on Alor Island.</p> <p>The preservation of forests on these three islands has helped to maintain groundwater stocks so that the need for clean water for drinking, sanitation, and irrigation can be met. Information on the condition of forests and water sources on these three small islands was obtained from research and interviews with geology experts from Nusa Cendana University Kupang, the rector of Tribuana University Alor, and village</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Infographic
Degradation of Mangrove Forests in Indonesia	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/degradation-mangrove-forests-indonesia	Tonggo Simangun-song, Dewantoro, Haryadi Klik, Suryadi M Nur	<p>This project is an in-depth report on the triggers, impacts, and solutions to mangrove degradation in Indonesia, using the provinces of West Kalimantan, South Sumatra, and Riau as case studies.</p> <p>Riau represents the province with the largest mangrove forest on the island of Sumatra, and the province of North Sumatra has extensive damage with complex problems ranging from land tenure for oil palm plantations and fish ponds. The third province, West Kalimantan, has the largest mangrove forest in Indonesia.</p>	Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video
National Food Estate Program Destroying Indonesia's Small Islands	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/national-food-estate-program-destroying-indonesias-small-islands	Ahmad Arif, Saiful Rijal Yunus, Fransiskus Pati Herin, Yola Sastra	<p>Indonesia is an archipelagic country blessed with a diversity of biological resources, including food. For thousands of years, the islands have enjoyed a food culture that's adaptive to the local environment.</p> <p>However, the extraction of natural resources and centralized food policies have hurt this local food system. As a result, people on small islands are increasingly dependent on food shipments from outside, which has led to a decline in food security along with the destruction of the local ecosystem.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Graphic

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Illegal Logging Practices in the Southern Part of West Sumatra	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-logging-practices-southern-part-west-sumatra	Vinolia Achmad, Mona Triana	<p>Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS) along with Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (TNBBS) were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2004. However, due to the high threat to the integrity of the national park areas, IUCN-UNESCO recommended TNKS, TNGL, and TNBBS be included in the World Heritage in Danger list in 2011.</p> <p>The decline in forest cover in this area, especially TNKS, is thought to be due to massive illegal activities in the form of illegal logging. In West Sumatra, this illegal activity is acute in the TNKS area in Pesisir Selatan Regency. As a result, the southernmost district of West Sumatra is subject to flooding.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
Palm Oil in Senunsur Sembulu	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/palm-oil-senunsur-sembulu	Dini Pramita, Abdus Somad, Alyaa Alhadjri	<p>Senunsur Sembulu II Protected Forest Area is located in East Belitung Regency, Bangka Belitung Islands. This protected forest area is a natural habitat for three important endemic animals, namely the binturong (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>), and pangolin (<i>Manis javanica</i>). It is also the remaining habitat for the Bangka tarsier or mentilin (<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>). These three endemic animals are designated as protected animals in the Indonesia's Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018.</p> <p>All three are also endangered and on the radar of The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List). Based on the latest IUCN assessment, February 6, 2016, the binturong is categorized as vulnerable due to its dwindling population in the wild. The Bangka tarsier is in the same position with a population of 19-20 individuals per square kilometer as of the last observation on 22 November 2015. Meanwhile, over the past 21 years, the rate of decline in the population of mackerel has continued to fall by 80 percent.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Map, Videographic Illustration, Graphic

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia's Indigenous Customary Forest	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/indonesias-indigenous-customary-forest	Peter Yeung	<p>Indonesia is home to millions of hectares of forest, 12% of the world's mammals, and a dizzying array of Indigenous peoples. However, as the nation of 280 million develops, that forest—which plays a crucial role in keeping the earth's ecosystem in balance—is quickly being destroyed through mining, logging, plantations and infrastructure building.</p> <p>But at the start of 2017, more than 13,000 hectares of customary land was handed over to nine Indigenous communities across the country, recognizing their longstanding good stewardship and management of forests. This scheme could provide a sustainable solution to the country's future development.</p>	Pictures, Graphic
Linking Paper Pulp Deforestation in Indonesia and Forced Labor in Xinjiang	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/linking-paper-pulp-deforestation-indonesia-and-forced-labor-xinjiang	Tonggo Simangun-song, Nithin Coca	<p>It seems quite possible, if not likely, that wood fiber from conflict rainforests, or plantations on peatlands in Indonesia, is being sent to Xinjiang and, in facilities using forced labor, turned into viscose fiber that flows into garment supply chains, including to the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p>This investigation, published in English and Indonesian in Vice and Project Multatuli, will mix data, desk, and field work to link these supply chains. The goal: to connect deforestation and environmental degradation in Sumatra with labor and human rights abuses in Xinjiang and show how these tainted goods flow across the world."</p>	Pictures
Planting Coffee, Maintaining Sustainability at Batang Gadis National Park	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/planting-coffee-maintaining-sustainability-batang-gadis-national-park	Prayugo Utomo	<p>Batang Gadis National Park, which has an area of 72,150 hectares, is a habitat for the Sumatran tiger and other endangered species. Mitigation of damage is done by educating the public to look for economic alternatives.</p> <p>One example is what was carried out in Ulu Pungkut District, which is the buffer zone of the Batang Gadis National Park. The community formed the Mandailing Jaya Coffee Cooperative (Komanja).</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Podcast

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
The "Shaman" Spirit in the Remaining Forest of Bangka Island	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/shaman-spirit-remaining-forest-bangka-island	Nopri Ismi, Taufik Wijaya	<p>Hundreds of years of tin extraction on Bangka Island left only forest on 32 granite hills. Mount Maras [705 meters] is the highest hill on this 1.6 million hectare island.</p> <p>Based on information from a number of traditional leaders from three ethnic Malay communities, namely Mapur, Jerieng, and Maras, almost every hill on Bangka Island is a forbidden or sacred area. The main Mount Maras, designated as a national park, is the sacred spiritual center.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
Fueling Deforestation Through Fake Green Fuel	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fueling-deforestation-through-fake-green-fuel	Stefano Valentino, Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo), Dina Febriastuti	<p>Over 50% of palm oil, mostly imported in Europe from Indonesia, ends up in biodiesel. Palm oil is a major driver of both deforestation and carbon emissions which are released in the atmosphere as carbon sinks are cleared to make room for new plantations. This project will prove that European drivers unintentionally subsidize tropical forests destruction and global warming through purchasing fake clean diesel for their vehicles.</p> <p>The team will investigate the case of a large European energy company supplying gas stations in different countries. Journalists will track the company's dirty supply chain from my diesel car all the way back to the Indonesian plantations where palm oil fruits are harvested in areas where land has been cleared in breach of law.</p>	Illustration, Pictures
Hungry People at Merauke Food Estate	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/hungry-people-merauke-food-estate	Ahmad Arif, Agus Susanto, Saiful Rijal Yunus	<p>On August 11, 2010, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono initiated the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) project.</p> <p>From its conception, the project has received criticism from the local community, because it is considered to prioritize biophysical aspects and land suitability for large-scale investment and does not consider cultural aspects and customary land ownership (Zakaria et al., 2011; Santosa, 2014).</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Map, Graphic

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
The Threat of Extinction of Noken Raw Material Plants	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-extinction-noken-raw-material-plants-0	Yuda Yudistir, Titik Kartitiani	<p>Papua's Noken craft has been designated World Heritage since December 2012. Noken materials and colors are all taken from plants in the highland rainforests of Papua. The cultivation of noken materials, especially orchids, is difficult due to the high altitude. In addition, there is limited personnel and funds resulting in minimal patrols from officers in Region II of Manokwari Regency, which is where none resources grow and blossom.</p> <p>The main threat to Papua's Noken craft is the continuous exploitation while plant growth is slow. But that's not the only one: there's also forest narrowing due to infrastructure development for regional expansion, illegal logging, and gold mining.</p>	Pictures, Map
The Lowland Tropical Rainforest of Nusakambangan Island: Threats and Conservation Efforts	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/lowland-tropical-rainforest-nusakambangan-island-threats-and-conservation-efforts	Lilik Darmawan	<p>This project features in-depth coverage of the existence of lowland tropical rainforests on Nusakambangan Island, Cilacap, Central Java. The management authority of Nusakambangan Island is the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, as the local island is used as a prison island.</p> <p>On Nusakambangan there are forests that are the habitat of various wildlife. Based on data from the Central Java Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA) there are still wild animals and various rare plants, especially in the Nature Reserve (CA) area. Among the wildlife that still exist are leopards, jungle cats, langurs and others. While the rare and typical plant of Nusakambangan Island is Plalar.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Kalimantan's "Food Estates" Drive Hunger for People and Disaster for Environment	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/kalimantans-food-estates-drive-hunger-people-and-disaster-environment	Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo), Ahmad Arif	<p>The purpose of this report is to look into the wild food and medicine for local communities that have been lost or are at risk of being lost as a result of the Central Kalimantan Food Estates Program. This identification comprises identifying flora and fauna species by their local names, as well as nutritional composition and community use. Furthermore, the history of land use and ownership are investigated, as well as the potential losses and hazards posed by environmental disasters. As an example, a similar effort carried out by the New Order in the 1990s failed and became Indonesia's leading cause of forest and land fires.</p> <p>The report's findings will be published in Kompas, an Indonesian national newspaper, and online at Kompas.id.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Infographic
Orang Rimba, Guardians of Bukit Duabelas	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/orang-rimba-guardians-bukit-duabelas	Irma Tambunan	<p>In the midst of modern civilization, the Orang Rimba's belief in ""Bedewo"" lives on. The Orang Rimba not only worship their ancestors, but also trees with large crowns and charismatic animals.</p> <p>Every newborn is given a protective plant, a tenggeris tree (<i>Scyma</i> sp), to care for throughout its life. The baby's placenta is then buried under the sentubung tree (<i>Gonocaryum gracile</i>). Both types of protective trees must not be cut down. Violators are subject to the heaviest customary sanction, ""nyawo replace nyawo."" Through this belief, the Orang Rimba's bond with nature marks their important role in protecting the jungle.</p>	Documentary Video, Pictures, Infographic, Map
The Homeless Giants: Forest Loss and the Fate of Sumatran Elephants	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/homeless-giants-forest-loss-and-fate-sumatran-elephants	Dyna Rochmyani ngsih, Fieni Aprilia	<p>Poisoned. Hunted. Snared.</p> <p>Much is known about the tragic fate of the Sumatran elephant, one of the critically endangered megafaunas in Sumatra. In the past two years, around 44 elephant deaths were reported across the island due to conflicts with industrial and smallholder plantations. But how imperiled is the species?</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Map

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Preserving Herman Johannes Forest Park Area	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/preserving-herman-johannes-forest-park-area	Palce Amalo	<p>The Herman Johannes Forest Park has an area of 1,900 hectares. It is located in 12 villages and four sub-districts in Kupang District, East Nusa Tenggara Province. Herman Johannes Forest Park is an important forest area in the southern part of Timor Island as it is host to an enormous diversity of animals and plants.</p> <p>Research in Herman Johannes Forest Park in 2015 by Wim Bureni – a student of the Department of Biology, Nusa Cendana University – found teak, ampupu, sandalwood, mahogany, haubesi, and mountain cypress trees. There are Timor deer, wild boars, Timor monitor lizards, jungle fowls, cuscus, and yellow-breasted lorikeets. No less important are the site's 60 springs.</p>	Pictures, Infographic
The Threat to Four Endemic Primates and the Biodiversity of Sipora Island	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-four-endemic-primates-and-biodiversity-sipora-island	Febrianti, Gerson Saleleubaja, Rus Akbar	<p>Sipora Island, part of the Mentawai Islands located on the west coast of Sumatra, has a unique flora and fauna because it has been geologically separated from the Sunda mainland plate since the Mid-Pleistocene period, 500,000 to a million years ago. Separateness makes the local evolutionary process produce high endemism for species that live there.</p> <p>Sipora Forest is an important habitat for four endemic primates of Mentawai, namely bokkoi (<i>Macaca pagensis</i>), joja (<i>Presbytis potenziani</i>), bilou (<i>Hylobates klossii</i>), and simakobu (<i>Nasalis concolor siberu</i>). There are also endemic flying squirrels, different types of birds, reptiles, and various types of plants.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Map, Infographic

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Company's Profit, Society's Loss	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/companys-profit-societys-loss	Didit Hariyadi	<p>The Environmental Organization Forum (Walhi) of South Sulawesi noted that currently East Luwu Regency is losing about 41,000 hectares of forest cover. The cause is nickel mining activity. In 2009, the area of forest cover in the district still reached 428,000 hectares. Then in 2014 it was reduced to an area of 412,000 hectares and until now an area of 387,000 hectares. Tropical forests in South Sulawesi are indeed undergoing nickel mining expansion.</p> <p>As a result, it is bad for the environment and local communities/local customs. The seizure of community management territory makes them suffer. Human rights violations occur until their incomes are declining. Meanwhile, PT Vale is getting richer because mining and nickel management continue to expand.</p>	Pictures, Graphic, Short Documentary Video
The Impact of Deforestation on Apis Dorsata Habitat in Nagari Latang	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/impact-deforestation-apis-dorsata-habitat-nagari-latang	Yethendra Bima Putra	<p>New land clearing and illegal logging have made a lasting impact on wild bee habitats and the production of Sialang Honey managed by the Forest Farmers Group (KTH) Ingin Maju in Nagari Latang, Lubuk Tarok District, Sijunjung Regency, West Sumatra, Indonesia. In 2017, the Sialang KTH Ingin Maju annual honey production reached 4000 kilograms; in 2020, production decreased by 1000 kilograms.</p> <p>KTH Ingin Maju is a place for dozens of traditional farmers of Sialang Honey that formed in 2015. The business uses wild bee varieties (Apis dorsata) that nest in Sialang rocks and Sialang trees (<i>Koompassia excelsa</i>) in the forest, covering an area of 13.5 hectares, and is situated away from settlements in Nagari Latang. Apis dorsata eat flowers from the forest trees.</p>	Pictures, Map

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Illegal Gold Mining as the Main Cause of Deforestation in West Sumatra	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-main-cause-deforestation-west-sumatra	Afrimen MN	<p>The rise of gold mining activities without permits or illegal gold mining is a problem for West Sumatra. In this area hundreds of illegal gold mines operate and there are no legal mines.</p> <p>Illegal gold mining activities have an impact on environmental damage and a decrease in the quality of the carrying capacity of the soil. This then contributes greatly to forest destruction. Throughout 2021, at least 6,968 hectares of forest were found in West Sumatra damaged by illegal gold mining. The biggest damage occurred to the forest in South Solok Regency, which covered an area of 2,559 hectares. Most illegal gold mines are in the area.</p>	Pictures
Expansion of Tripe Palm Oil Conservation Area in Banggai	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/expansion-tripe-palm-oil-conservation-area-banggai	Sarjan Lahay	<p>The Bangkiriang Wildlife Reserve (SM) Conservation Area in Banggai Regency, Sulawesi, Indonesia, has become a victim of the expansion of the palm oil company PT. Kurnia Luwuk Sejati (KLS).</p> <p>The company is using residents to clear the Bangkiriang forest and plant oil palm trees. The method is people cut down trees and then get paid.</p>	Pictures, Documentary Video, Graphic, Map
Villages in the Buffer Zone Area of Kerinci Seblat National Park Maintain Conservation Area	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/villages-buffer-zone-area-kerinci-seblat-national-park-maintain-conservation-area	Joni Aswira Putra	<p>Of the 371 villages around the national park or buffer zone, 270 villages in four provinces have settlements close to the boundary of Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS). Residents of these villages often work on land within the national park area and take their forest products. The amount of land that has been opened in TNKS reaches 105,000 hectares, some of which has been opened before the boundary fishing.</p> <p>For most of them, their lives depend on forest sources. But at the same time, there are also those who guard and defend the TNKS area from encroachment and illegal logging.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Documentary Video

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I N D O N E S I A	The Struggle To Protect the Last Forest on Pagai Island	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/struggle-protect-last-forest-pagai-island	Rus Akbar, Febrianti	<p>Indigenous Mentawai people are struggling to defend their last forest in North Pagai Island, Mentawai Islands Regency, West Sumatra.</p> <p>They stopped heavy equipment belonging to the Essential Oil Cooperative, which began cutting down large tropical forest trees in Silabu Village to make 1,500 hectares of lemongrass plantations and cinnamon bark plants. The clearing of forests by the Essential Oil Cooperative received permission from the West Sumatra Forest Service.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
T H A I L A N D	Our World Heritage in Danger?: A Close Look Into Thailand's Natural World Heritage Sites and Challenges	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/our-world-heritage-danger-close-look-thailands-natural-world-heritage-sites-and-challenges	Piyaporn Wongruang	<p>Having been designated as Natural World Heritage Sites, Thailand's most valued forests are highly expected from the public that they can retain their ecological values that meet global recognition and the context of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>However, the three sites—Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries, Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex—have been facing pressure from highly charged threats, from sophisticated poaching to unsound state development, to a decades-long land rights conflict, prompting their world heritage statuses and conservation work to be critically challenged.</p>	Pictures, Infographic,

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
The Complexity of Thailand's Northern Wildfire Crisis	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/complexity-thailands-northern-wildfire-crisis	Molecule Jongwilai, Patchar Duangklad, Pitshaya Chonato, Pimpatipan Angkharue ngrattana, Ploythida Ketkaew, Paris Jitpentom	<p>The wildfire is one of the most severe environmental issues Thailand has faced, especially in the northern region. Many specialists have suggested that this crisis is a main contributor to the haze pollution issue, including the high concentration levels of PM2.5. It has been acknowledged that every type of wildfire and burning in agricultural areas mostly situated next to the forest is a critical problem that needs to be handled or prevented from happening.</p> <p>There are numerous factors that influence wildfires. This leads to significant questions: What are the actual problems causing the haze pollution? Which regulations or policies can handle this complicated issue effectively?</p>	Infographic, Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video
A Fragile Coexistence	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fragile-coexistence	Luke Duggleby, Maria Stöhr	<p>During the latter half of 2022, over 10 people were killed by wild elephants in provinces just hours east of Bangkok. Mostly villagers in the wrong place at the wrong time, these deaths tell of what has become Thailand's worst human-elephant conflict.</p> <p>With the highest concentration of wild elephants per square kilometre of natural forest in the country, the area known as Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) has become an unlikely battleground between farmers trying to protect their livelihoods and wild elephants who can't resist the food they grow.</p>	Pictures, Map

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
C A M B O D I A	When a Flooded Forest Is Drowning	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-flooded-forest-drowning	Marta Kasztelan, Andy Ball	<p>This reporting project highlights the cumulative impacts of upstream Mekong River dams in China and Laos on Cambodia's Stung Treng flooded forest. Designated as a Ramsar site because of its exceptional biodiversity and uniqueness, it is home to endangered bird and fish species. But the forest is dying, and its demise will affect fisheries in all of Cambodia as it offers critical food supplies and a breeding site for migratory fish.</p> <p>Located in northeastern Cambodia, the sprawling Stung Treng flooded forest once could dry out and replenish once the monsoon rains stopped. The cyclical release of water from upstream dams during the dry season—allegedly without consultation with downstream nations—has rendered that impossible and will likely lead to the complete eradication of the region's biodiversity.</p>	Pictures, Map
M A L A Y S I A	Undrinkable: The Story of Tasik Chini Pollution	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/undrinkable-story-tasik-chini-pollution	Hariz Mohd, Aznael Ishak	<p>Tasik Chini is one of Unesco's Biosphere Reserves (BR), and the second largest natural freshwater lake in Peninsular Malaysia. However, since it was designated as reserve in 2009, the lake reportedly started to endure pollution as the byproduct of deforestation, mining, and plantation activities.</p> <p>The Malaysiakini news portal visited the lake in June 2022, where it learned from Tasik Chini locals that they no longer will be able to depend on it as a water source due to alleged heavy contamination. It has come to the extent that villagers face water shortage problems despite living right beside a massive lake basin.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Table

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Sabah's Mangrove Defenders	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sabah-s-mangrove-defenders	Emily Ding, Yih Wen Chen	<p>Southeast Asia is home to a third and most of the world's mangroves; it is also the region that has experienced the most extensive mangrove loss.</p> <p>In Malaysia, which has nearly 5 percent of the world's total mangroves, about 60 percent are located in Sabah, mostly along its east coast. Most mangroves in Sabah are formally protected as forest reserves, though there remain difficulties of enforcement in more remote areas. Moreover, some mangroves, such as on Sabah's west coast, are unprotected. A 2020 study shows that the annual average rate of mangrove loss in Sabah—0.58% or 1,705 hectares a year—between 2000 and 2015 is higher than global average estimates of 0.16% to 0.39%. This is especially worrying amid our climate crisis, as mangroves can store up to five times more carbon than other forest ecosystems.</p>	Pictures, Footage Video, Short Documentary Video, Map
Forest Clearing and Floods at Baling, Kedah Malaysia	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/forest-clearing-and-floods-baling-kedah-malaysia	Si Err Yap, Mukhriz Hazim	<p>On July 4, 2022, three people died and more than 3,000 people were displaced when sludge, debris and flood waters buried several villages near Baling, Kedah, in the north of Peninsular Malaysia. On September 6, 2022, water came gushing down Gunung Inas to flood the village again after a 30-minute heavy downpour, forcing more than 100 residents to evacuate. Faced with a third round of flooding in two months, residents of Kampung Iboi near Baling are now asking how much longer they need to live in fear each time it rains.</p> <p>Crucially, they said the series of flooding started when works started on a mega durian plantation in a water catchment area in the mountainous Gunung Inas Forest Reserve.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Footage Video, Map

Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
The Human Stories Behind the Mekong's Ecological Collapse	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/human-stories-behind-mekongs-ecological-collapse	Nhung Nguyen	<p>Vietnam's southern plain, one of the most significant wetlands on earth, has been almost drained. According to the WWF, the Greater Mekong subregion risks losing over a third of its remaining forest within the next two decades.</p> <p>The area has been transformed into an agriculture and aquaculture hub that is now feeding a growing population of 100 million people while producing 13 percent of the world's rice.</p>	Pictures
Sacrificing Forests for Economic Development	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sacrificing-forests-economic-development	Le Quynh	<p>Almost 90% of the forest area in Dak Doa township and two communes, Glar and Tan Binh of Dak Doa district in Gia Lai province in Vietnam's Central Highlands, will be obliterated to give way to the 517-hectare Dak Doa Complex, which will include a golf course and residential and resort facilities.</p> <p>The Vietnamese government has approved this project, which is owned by FLC Corporation, one of Vietnam's largest conglomerates. However, FLC has been facing a financial crisis since its president, Trinh Van Quyet, was arrested for manipulating the stock market.</p>	Pictures, Map
When the Forests Fall Silent	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-forests-fall-silent	Audrey Tan, Anton Delgado, Mark Cheong	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic, which likely spawned from a wildlife market, has highlighted how human and planetary health intertwine. The outbreak prompted some countries to re-evaluate their relationship with nature. But in Southeast Asia, forests are still being emptied of birds, reptiles and small mammals. Some of these animals are sold in local markets for consumption, while some are taken for other industries, such as to feed the exotic pet trade or for civet coffee. This not only has implications for future disease outbreaks, but also for the health of the rainforest—a habitat increasingly valued for its ability to soak up planet-warming carbon dioxide.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Footage Video, Map, Videographic

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
L A O S	China's Appetite and the Decimation of Laos' Forest	https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/chinas-appetite-and-decimation-laos-forest	Aidan Jones	<p>Laos holds the keys to China's grand plans to connect Southeast Asia.</p> <p>Poor, landlocked and dwarfed by its giant neighbour, the Communist nation has been carved apart by train lines, roads and dams. Many are funded—or debt-funded—by Beijing which trumpets its Laos' investments as an unequivocal Belt and Road success story.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures



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