



International Education and Outreach
**IMPACT SEED FUNDING (ISF) 2024
GLOBAL GUIDELINES**



About ISF

Impact Seed Funding (ISF) is a micro-scale grant provided by the Pulitzer Center to support education activities with the aim to enrich the perspectives and knowledge of the university community—specifically students and educators—about the problems, solutions, and innovations related to the impact of human activities in tropical forests, ocean, and the climate crisis. We aim to support projects that inspire changes in perspectives, narratives, and actions among communities as its ultimate impact. In this way, the main goal of the grant is to create more informed and empathetic communities about the underreported issues of the rainforest and climate change. The ISF is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of educators and communities, allowing applicants to establish activities related to pressing issues of the rainforest, the ocean and the climate crisis.

The stories as inspiration for the projects

The stories resulting from the [Rainforest Journalism Fund](#), [Rainforest Investigations Network](#), [Transparency and Governance](#), and [Ocean Reporting Network](#) programs bring determinant local and global perspectives, often from voices that are little heard. In addition, the reports focus on underreported stories and situations that are key to thinking about current challenges around tropical forests, ocean, and transparency issues. These reports produce many high quality visual, writing, and data resources, capable of conveying complex issues in a powerful and easy-to-understand way, configuring an excellent educational and communication tool. As such, they can generate important inputs for ISF-funded projects, and proposals need to be inspired by and utilize the stories reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists.

Topics that will be funded by the 2024 project

The Pulitzer Center has supported reporting that works on underreported issues in tropical forests for the past years, especially via two journalism funding funds: Rainforest Journalism Fund and Rainforest Investigative Network. In 2023, we also started a grant program for stories with a focus on discussing ocean-related topics. Based on these stories, the ISF proposes to fund activities related to education and engagement of the university community specifically on these two topics: **tropical forests and ocean.**

Who can apply?

Applicants should be professors or researchers in a higher education institution, or groups of students guided by a responsible professor, and not have the project applied in Africa, Brazil, or Southeast Asia, as these areas have their own ISF grant. Projects carried out through consortia of professors are also very welcome.

Resources and timing of projects

ISF grants range from US\$2,000 to US\$4,000 (US dollars). We expect projects to be implemented and concluded within five months of approval.

Type of activities we fund

Examples of activities and desirable outcomes of ISF support may include, but are not limited to:

- **Educational material development:** Incorporating Pulitzer Center journalism into teaching materials and syllabus, field trip program, active citizenship training.
- **Engagement with students, academia and public:** Student writing competition, debate, public dialogue, exhibition on campus, hackathons.
- **Research support and dissemination of findings:** This may include updating ongoing research and incorporating new insights in a book chapter, organizing a seminar.
- **Content production and dissemination** including short videos, documentaries, podcasts.

Aims of ISF

We believe in the power of knowledge and the role of education and educators in addressing multidisciplinary problems. Therefore, the ISF is designed to provide seed funding to educators in order to raise awareness of pressing tropical forests, ocean, transparency and governance issues among communities. The ISF provides micro-scale support to:

- Initiate new collaborations or build on existing collaborations between professors, researchers, students, and journalists;
- Increase engagement between educational communities, journalists, and Indigenous and traditional populations;
- Encourage the use of creative images (e.g., photographs, short videos, documentaries, podcasts), data images, 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.



Photo by Anton L. Delgado, Cambodia, 2023

Requirements

- Proposals need to be inspired and utilize stories reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists for the rainforest (RIN and RJF), ocean, and transparency and governance programs. **All proposals must utilize at least one story reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists and explain how it will be relevant in the project.**
- The activity must present an intended impact with audiences in the academic community (students or faculty/research fellows) or 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, climate crisis, including their impacts on vulnerable communities and explore innovative solutions to address these impacts.
 - 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.
 - It is desirable (but not mandatory) that projects include partnerships with civil society, local social movements, and Indigenous or traditional community movements.

Project Duration

The maximum duration for the implementation of the proposal is five months. Upon approval of the project proposal and the signing of agreement with Pulitzer Center, funds will be transferred to the selected lead applicant. Formal start and end dates for the project will be established in the agreement. Applicants must submit financial and narrative reports at the end of the period and support, detailing costs incurred and outcomes

How to Apply

All applicants are required to submit their proposal via Submittable, an online platform for managing all proposal submissions. Please see the link below.

The application must include the following:

- A general description of the proposed project in no more than 400 words. This should include the objectives, problem statement and rationale, proposed activities, and intended impact of the proposed project;
- Description of the target audience and projection (number) of the total audience reached;
- Strategy (or methodology);
- Activity implementation timeline;
- A preliminary budget estimate, including a cost forecast;
- If the proposed activities include knowledge exchange activities with Indigenous peoples or traditional communities, a statement from a community member demonstrating their consent must be submitted. This can be in the form of a message or letter;
- If the activities include content production, a content production and distribution plan should be included;
- A copy of the curriculum vitae (only) of the lead applicant, including a letter of recommendation (from department heads or the directors of your workplace).



Selection Process

- Submission of the proposal by the applicants;
- Shortlist of proposals by a panel of Pulitzer Center staff;
Interview with the proposal lead applicant by a panel of
- Pulitzer Center staff;
- Announcement of selected proposal for immediate implementation of the grant (expected date: End of July 2024).

Timeline

- Application process: April - 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 - December 2024
- Project closure: December 7 - 31, 2024
- Project Reporting : January 2025

For more information, please contact the responsible managers:

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