GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENT GLOBAL GRANT FUNDING

These comprehensive guidelines are for Rotary members who want to apply for a global grant from The Rotary Foundation to support environmental activities. You can use the links below to go directly to the section you're most interested in, but we encourage you to read the whole document for a full understanding of the guidelines before you apply for a grant.

WHAT ARE THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Rotary supports activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance environmental sustainability, and foster harmony between people and the environment. The Rotary Foundation seeks interventions that have a positive, measurable, and sustainable influence. We enable members and partners to protect, preserve, and conserve the environment through a variety of project pathways in order to:

I. Conserve nature and biodiversity, from species to landscape-scale protection

II. Mitigate climate change by reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions or ensuring that they are absorbed or stored in natural carbon sinks

III. Facilitate sustainable and adaptable livelihoods with smaller ecological footprints that maintain people's social well-being in compatibility with flourishing natural systems

IV. Strengthen environmental equity by addressing socio-environmental issues that disproportionally affect marginalized communities

For a project to be eligible for an environment global grant, its projected outcome must match one or more of the four global objectives listed here and the other criteria described in these guidelines. Here is more detail about these four environment area global objectives and what they mean for qualifying projects:

I. *Nature and Biodiversity Conservation*: Biodiversity loss affects our planet at every scale, and because we are connected ecologically, nearly every family of organisms. It also affects the socio-ecological systems that human society depends upon. Humanity is closely linked to nature through our food, water, shelter, consumption, and production, and we can protect nature through these links as well. Our priority is action that strengthens conservation and safeguards nature, in terms of species, habitats, water resources, environmental services, biodiverse ecosystems, and whole ecoregions.

II. *Climate Change Mitigation*: The growing challenge of global climate change necessitates mitigation measures to confront the ways in which humans cause excess greenhouse gases (GHGs) to be released and accumulated in the atmosphere. Projects can contribute to climate mitigation by controlling the emissions of principal greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O), as well as industrial gases CFCs, HFCs, and PFCs. Each gas varies in abundance, cycle, global distribution, and potency for trapping heat, which means a variety of mitigation opportunities. We want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the source, reduce fossil fuel burning, enhance sinks for the gases' biochemical absorption, or protect and prevent the release of existing carbon and methane supplies. Natural or nature-friendly climate solutions are encouraged as an effective multi-faceted method.

III. *Sustainable Livelihoods*: Sustainable livelihoods include lifestyle practices and skills helping communities overcome external stress and avoid environmental crises, and life options to maintain or improve social well-being without exploiting their supply of natural resources. Environmental problem-

solving can be tied to socioeconomic, cultural, or behavioral dimensions that lead to sustainable change. Reducing dependence on resource-intensive activities and nonrenewable resources in favor of activities with a smaller ecological footprint supports overall resilience and leads to sustainable livelihoods. Ultimately, this prevents interference with societal necessities like healthy soil and water and helps people with climate adaptation.

IV. *Environmental Equity*: Environmental equity starts with having a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment to live in. Access to environmental benefits, opportunities for sustainable development, and protection from environmental harm should be equally available to all people, especially those populations who are currently marginalized and have been historically disenfranchised.

HOW DO I CONDUCT A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Community assessments identify where support is needed most and the role Rotary members can have in making a difference. An assessment will illustrate a community's strengths and challenges and will help you work with local residents and groups on solutions. Project sponsors (sometimes with a cooperating organization) need to conduct a community assessment before applying for a grant. If an assessment has already been done, use the relevant data to design your project. **The Foundation will not consider projects without a community assessment.**

In the environmental sector, community assessments have long been used as a tool to provide decision-makers with summary contextual information from a scientific and social science perspective. At Rotary, the **community assessment** combined with the **environmental assessment** supplemental questions detailed below allow you to design effective and sustainable projects.

In the environment area of focus, the community assessment will help illustrate the case for a project intervention based on local needs as well as fit between the proposed solution and the location. Community needs should be identified at least partially if not totally by the community itself. Project sponsors can additionally rely on information observed in the environment or that was reported by environmental authorities if project sponsors highlight how these environmental patterns are manifested locally.

Global grant applicants need to complete the community assessment and the environmental assessment supplement questions together and submit them as one document.

Use the community assessment to:

- Gather perspectives from a broad cross-section of the community, taking into account people's gender, age, ethnicity, and occupation
- Allow community members to identify the needs that they perceive as the most critical

- Ask community participants what they think will work and how they can be involved in the proposed project
- Work with community members to identify long-term goals and expected project outcomes
- Gather baseline data before the project so you can measure results

Use these environmental assessment supplemental questions:

- What are currently the greatest environmental threats to local land, air, water resources, and the ecosystem?
- List any cultural practices that are relevant to the project (such as agricultural techniques or traditions).
- What positive and negative environmental changes do you anticipate as a result of the project?

The community assessment results need to be incorporated into your project plan. The results should describe:

- How the project will meet the needs identified by the community
- The long-term goals or outcomes and how they will be met (for example, through training or public awareness campaigns)
- What the community's role will be in implementing the project activities
- How the community will sustain the project after the grant project is complete

When conducting the community and environmental assessment, it's important to:

- Invite diverse community members and stakeholders to be part of the discussion. Project sponsors have a unique opportunity to bring different voices together.
- Help environmental authorities and community members identify, link,and articulate their needs and goals.
- Understand local people's goals and aspirations and explain how Rotary members can help them achieve those goals.
- Be alert for conflicts of interest regarding natural resource use.
- Look for ways to build capacity and exchange knowledge to improve environmental outcomes.
- Involve the Ministry of Environment (or equivalent in Water, Natural Resources, Climate, Forestry, etc.), subnational Department of Environment, or local officials whenever possible.

HOW DO I MAKE MY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT SUSTAINABLE?

For Rotary, sustainability means helping communities develop long-term solutions to their needs that

they can and will maintain after the grant funding ends. These solutions should be context-based, community-driven, and culturally and environmentally sensitive. Rotary also values **environmental sustainability** as a key part of what makes the impact of service and action long-lasting.

For Rotary, environmental sustainability means: Ensuring the responsible care and use of Earth's natural resources for the greatest benefit of living things in a way that supports ecological integrity, planetary health, and future generations.

Projects that do not seek to achieve a positive, measurable, and sustainable impact on the environment are not eligible for global grant funding in the environment area of focus. Besides the main sustainability practices that apply to all grant projects, there are **four keys to success** for achieving environmental sustainability as well. Project sponsors will be asked to explain how they will address these key factors. Pay careful attention to the following items to ensure your project's long-term sustainability. The Foundation will not consider projects without a clear plan for sustainability. Any concerning liabilities or unaddressed risks associated with general or environmental sustainability can affect your project's eligibility.

Four environmental sustainability keys to success

Knowledge sharing

In many cases of environmental projects, local community members will know more about the area's natural resources, biodiversity, climatic conditions, topography, and infrastructure than outside visitors. Whether it is due to specialized educational training, traditional ecological knowledge, or both, the way Global Grants work means bringing together different cultures and knowledge bases to jointly solve a problem.

Therefore, from the community assessment through project implementation Rotary members should approach environmental projects with humility being prepared to listen, have assumptions questioned, and find new ideas along the way through a "dialogue of knowledge systems". This should be a collective knowledge sharing process that goes beyond a unidirectional knowledge transfer or technology transfer. Well-planned workshops, trainings, and other types of participatory capacity-building will strive to take this intercultural approach to fostering environmental knowledge sharing for everyone involved on the foundation of a strong community and environmental assessment.

Engaging environmental stewards and advocates

They are stewards of the local environment, or advocates for fixing environmental issues large and small. In some places we may know them as environmental defenders, in others local conservationists, volunteers, or green entrepreneurs. They act in important roles ranging from official forest ranger staff to fishermen wanting sustainable catch.

The more local eco-advocates, including Rotary members, that remain watching over the ecosystem, community, or energy system when a Rotary project finishes, the better. If they are well-organized into groups and associations with a visible local presence, this will enhance their influence. Some examples would be organizations like local agricultural cooperatives, "Friends of the National Park", birdwatching clubs, biking clubs, community councils, tourism industry stakeholders, and environmental authorities. Rotary Environment projects should aim to engage these types of stewards, when convenient as partners or Rotary community corps, and most importantly support stewards' positions that contribute to protection of their local natural assets. Rotary members should also play a role in enhancing this support and mobilizing their networks in these efforts.

Institutionalization

Many environmental challenges are issues of public concern, and governments at many levels are responsible for protecting the environment for the benefit of their people and the environmental services on which everyone's well-being depends. At the same time, environmental sustainability also inherently includes long-term solutions and systemic change that will last for future generations, yet consistent policy designed for this critical long-term change is sometimes lacking. So, in addition to interventions meant to inspire behavior change or influence incentives, deliberately institutionalizing positive environmental change is one of the essential approaches to prioritize environmental sustainability and counter the possibility of advances being reversed. Otherwise, the environment can get sidelined in favor of other considerations like economic expediency.

Institutionalizing progress on climate, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, or environmental equity works most effectively through governments which possess pertinent responsibilities usually through an environmental ministry and subnational units. In some countries the process has as much to do with meeting technical requirements to make something official as with public advocacy. In addition, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and social enterprise can shape distinct methods. Institutionalization takes many shapes and forms such as certifications, declarations, seed funding, signed agreements, ordinances, and public support.

Financial sustainability

Public environmental and climate change-related budgets are often underfunded relative to the amount of financial need that has been identified by scholars, policymakers, and local stewards. This is part of why the contribution of international service projects to the environment is so important. Projects can increase their chances of long-term success for example by securing counterpart funding from a partner during the project term. Even more ideal is taking steps during the project to ensure a steady financial flow for the benefit of conservation and environmental sustainability in the community long after the project ends, through other donor collaborations or commitments from public or private sources to assume a financing plan.

For other important sustainability considerations, review the five environmental sustainability measurement principles described in the monitoring and evaluation section.

Financial planning

Ensure that your project will have sustained funding from local organizations, the community, or the government to integrate the project into the region and support its long-term success. Confirm that local funding sources are available and a plan in place to cover long-term operation, maintenance, training, and equipment replacement costs, including compensation of project participants as required to ensure continued service.

The grant application should:

- Describe the fundraising activities that the community, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, or private entities have planned to generate future funding. (The Rotary Foundation and clubs cannot provide indefinite support.)
- Document the available support for the project, if applicable, from the relevant government ministry or authority, including funding for current or recurring costs, advocacy, policy implementation, training, education, allocation of personnel, or materials.
- List foundation or private-sector partners that support, or may support, the project and will continue to do so after the global grant project is complete (include the corresponding memorandums of understanding).
- Describe any fee-for-service, insurance, or revolving funds that may provide sustained revenue for the project.
- Describe a two- to four-year plan for how the community will replenish funds after the global grant is complete, if applicable.
- Include details on how the community will raise additional funds, if necessary. For many environment global grants, Rotary members work with public or government programs on tight budgets.

Here are budget recommendations for global grants:

- For environment projects applicants are encouraged to designate funding for outcome measurement and evaluation up to the limit of 10% of your project budget as established by the Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation Global Grants.
- Dedicate a higher proportion of your budget to soft project costs (such as human capital, programmatic investments, fees, per diem costs, and project logistics) rather than to hard costs associated with equipment and infrastructure.
- A good approach is to hire independent, short-term consultants and technicians that live in-country to carry out specialized project tasks. This means dedicated capacity by specialists who can bring specific expertise and unique local skills to a project team.
- Make sure if you are proposing a costly technological investment that the amount of beneficial impact and beneficiaries is at a large enough scale to justify the expense.

- Proposals that have committed co-funding from partner organizations, or interested co-funders outside of Rotary, have a better chance of success and sustainability
- We encourage this type of co-funding for shared targets or shared locations of interest in collaboration with governments, bilateral development agencies, or multilateral institutions.

Materials

Involve community members when you select environmentally sustainable materials, acquire the items locally, and train people to operate, maintain, and repair equipment on their own. Describe the physical environment where any materials, equipment, or technology will be kept and identify who owns it and will manage it.

Training and education

Many types of environmental projects will include training, education that builds a community's capacity, or outreach to service providers, technicians, and the people who'll benefit from the project. Training should be conducted in the local language about topics that were determined by the community assessment. A clear understanding of how the training will affect knowledge and behavioral outcomes is important. Work with local governments, private and public agencies, and other organizations to find trainers who have the appropriate expertise.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GLOBAL GRANT FUNDING?

The Rotary Foundation has approved allocation of funding for projects that demonstrate the following outcomes (environment global objectives - numerals I-IV), by working on the following eligible action goals (numbers 1-12):

I. Nature and Biodiversity Conservation
II. Climate Mitigation
III. Sustainable Livelihoods
IV. Environmental Equity

Eligible grants will demonstrate one or more of the environment area global objectives (above) and match at least one action goal (below).

Eligible action goals:

1. Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources
2. Enhancing the capacity of communities and local governments to carry out natural resource management and conservation
3. Supporting agroecology and sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices

4. Addressing the causes of climate change through reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases and interventions in energy usage
5. Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and communities affected by climate change and climate disruption
6. Using education and social outreach to promote pro-environmental behaviors
7. Advocating for a resource-efficient economy of sustainable goods and services and the environmentally sound management of material life cycles
8. Addressing environmental justice and environmental public health concerns
9. Implementing responsible land use tools for environmental protection
10. Enhancing environmental innovation and related incentives
11. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to the environment
12. Other Rotary humanitarian goals for grants taking place within protected natural areas (special case of environment as secondary area of focus, see Area of Focus Policy Statements)

Global grants fund these twelve goal types for environment projects. For each action goal, environmental outcomes must be specifically identified. Please pay close attention to the grant eligibility requirements and the information that must be submitted with your application as described below. The Rotary Foundation assesses each project individually.

Criteria for all project goals:

The Rotary Foundation requires the following information included with the application to assess the fit of **all** environment global grants:

- The completed community assessment and environmental assessment
- A description of the activities to be carried out
- Ensure eligibility with a reference to at least one selected environment objective and at least one selected action goal
- A description of which project participants will serve as the source of scientific expertise and/or traditional ecological knowledge
- A sustainability plan: Project sponsors should develop this plan with stakeholders to show how the project will continue after the grant funding ends. When possible, include a written acknowledgement from the institution that will maintain the project or program. Projects cannot rely on Rotary, either through Foundation grants or club funding, for their continuing operational costs.
- A monitoring and evaluation plan: This is the specific plan to track, measure, and learn from the project. The desired outcomes need to be realistic for the project's time frame, and indicators should inform how the project is implemented and evaluated.

Project site location is a significant factor in the environment area of focus. To make the best use of the funding available, the global environmental community prioritizes action in the parts of the natural world that are threatened and irreplaceable in the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change, as well as places where people are subject to particular environmental stress.

Hands-on conservation (Action Goal 1)

Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources

Specifically this can involve:

a. Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems through initiatives such as preventing deforestation and habitat degradation, planting native vegetation, promoting reforestation and habitat restoration, and removing invasive plant and animal species

b. Protecting and restoring coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems through initiatives such as protecting and propagating native plant and animal species, removing invasive species, and addressing overfishing, pollution, coastal erosion and ocean acidification

c. Prioritizing action to monitor and guard nature against threats of degradation

d. Supporting targeted initiatives to improve aquifer and groundwater recharging, water conservation, water quality, and watershed management (in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for water, sanitation, and hygiene)

e. Preserving biodiversity by protecting habitats, conserving native species, preventing poaching, and monitoring and protecting endangered species

f. Preserving biodiversity across jurisdictions by conserving migratory species and preventing the illegal wildlife trade

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 1 must provide:

- A basic project map
- The project site's approximate altitude, in meters above sea level, or altitudinal range for projects working at landscape scale (not needed for ocean or coastal projects)
- An identification of which watershed the project will take place in (if applicable)
- Name of the major habitat types in the area
- A brief description of the most common types of land use in and near the community (or coastal resources use, where applicable)
- Attention to natural asset ownership, control, and land tenure (including whether the site is on public or private land) to allow for widespread benefit and address fairness of benefits
- Assurances that any conservation or restoration effort is being guided significantly by ecological connectivity considerations, i.e. the degree of spatial connection to or between locations of high-

value natural environments

Note also that:

- Project participants should acquire any necessary permits and approvals needed under local regulations.
- For 1d) above, waterway modification for immediate human consumption and use is not eligible unless additional widespread or downstream benefits are expected.

Community natural resource governance and management (Action Goal 2)

Enhancing the capacity of communities and local governments to carry out natural resource management and conservation

Specifically this can involve:

a. Training and educating communities in conservation and resource management to preserve, protect, and sustainably use natural resources and natural heritage

b. Mitigating human-wildlife conflict through ecologically sound, peaceful, and equitable resolutions

c. Building capacity of governments or local groups to prevent and combat deforestation and wildfires

d. Developing peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives related to natural resource management and use (in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for peacebuilding and conflict prevention)

e. Forming and strengthening grassroots environmental and natural resource management groups

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 2 must provide:

- A basic project map
- An identification of which watershed the project will take place in (if applicable)
- Name of the major habitat types in the area
- A brief description of the most common types of land use in and near the community (or coastal resources use, where applicable)
- Training plan or workshop methodology
- Attention to natural asset ownership, control, and land tenure (including whether the site is on public or private land) to allow for widespread benefit and address fairness of benefits

Agriculture, fishing, and primary production (Action Goal 3)

Supporting agroecology and sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices

Specifically this can involve:

a. Increasing adoption of ecologically viable agriculture practices through regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, managed grazing, agroforestry, silvopasture, or tree intercropping

b. Supporting sustainable fisheries and ecologically sound aquaculture

c. Promoting, revitalizing, and preserving the use of traditional and Indigenous knowledge in agricultural, land, ocean, and natural resource management practices

d. Improving food security through sustainable agricultural, aquaculture, and fishing methods, support to local food sources, agricultural diversity, reduced food waste, and equitable access to high-quality food

e. Supporting sustainable production of natural craft goods, herbs, and non-timber forest products compatible with conservation (if applicable, also in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for community economic development)

f. Supporting sustainable natural resource use for non-market, subsistence, and cultural needs

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 3 must provide:

- A basic project map
- The project site's approximate altitude, in meters above sea level, or altitudinal range for projects working at landscape scale (not needed for ocean or coastal projects)
- An identification of which watershed the project will take place in (if applicable)
- Name of the major habitat types in the area
- A general description of the area's precipitation patterns or rainy season, for terrestrial projects
- A mention of the local soil type, for terrestrial projects
- A brief description of the most common types of economic activity in the area
- Relevant economic or financial information about crops or fisheries (if applicable)
- Attention to natural asset ownership, control, and land tenure (including whether the site is on public or private land) to allow for widespread benefit and address fairness of benefits

Climate, energy, and electricity (Action Goal 4)

Addressing the causes of climate change through reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases and interventions in energy usage

Specifically this can involve:

a. Providing access to locally sourced, renewable energy, including solar, methane-capture, and small-scale wind power systems, as part comprehensive interventions in energy systems
b. Reducing the environmental footprint of energy consumption at the household level as it relates to electricity, cooking, and heating/ventilation/air-conditioning systems (HVAC)
c. Setting up or upgrading neighborhood-scale energy systems for efficiency and decarbonization with shared benefits, e.g. community solar
d. Supporting the transition to sustainable, energy-efficient transportation modes through holistic urban and regional planning, education, or infrastructure changes
e. Preventing the negative impacts of large-scale energy infrastructure

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 4 must provide:

- A basic project map
- For 4a) or 4b), a general description of the area's precipitation patterns or rainy season
- A brief description of the most common types of land use in and near the community
- A mention of the energy or power capacity of any new installation, and the fuel efficiency of any project-funded mode of transportation
- Assurances that any activity under Action Goal 4 aligns with the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC—national climate action plans issued to the UN) of the country in which the project takes place

Note that new hydropower installations, or any dam more substantial than check dams, are not eligible under the environment area of focus.

Additional Goal 4 guidance below

Solar energy initiatives

Solar energy projects can focus on aspects such as energy storage, distribution, access, and renewable incentives. If your project involves solar panels or other solar thermal or photovoltaic components, it may be eligible under certain conditions:

1. An adequate community and environmental assessment must demonstrate why the project site is an apt place to improve the local or regional energy system with reference to current energy sources, storage systems, and usage, and how the solution fits a demonstrated environmental need, including basic feasibility based on climate conditions.
2. Solar projects must focus on reduced energy consumption, reduced pollution or emissions, increased energy efficiency or be planned with other eligible environmental goals in mind, such as

resolving an instance of socio-environmental inequity or improving energy market conditions.

3. Solar projects must be holistic in addressing energy systems, climate change, resilience, or sustainability, rather than simply providing equipment installation and maintenance.
4. For projects purchasing solar panels and associated components, it is recommended that no more than 70% of a total project budget should be allocated to the equipment purchase cost. Projects installing solar energy equipment must include other substantive components after purchase and installation, such as training, capacity-building, and social outreach. Projects lacking financial sustainability will not be approved.
5. Multiple vendor options should be considered.
6. If installing a solar photovoltaic system, sponsors must clarify if panels will be connected to a public energy grid or be off-grid.
7. Project sponsors must have a plan for related administrative costs such as permitting, fees, or long-term maintenance and repair.
8. Any ground-mounted solar must be set up on land in possession of the community, institution, or cooperating organizations or can be made available via donation or easement.

These approaches are not eligible for global grant funding:

- Projects with the primary goal of increasing energy consumption to a higher level than baseline
- Projects that aim to use a solar energy system simply to provide cost savings alone

Household and consumer energy use initiatives

If your project plans to include substitution or improvement of residential/community electricity and heating methods, please note that

1. These plans should respond to a complete community assessment where information would be revealed about current fuel sources, consumption, and effects, as well the specific environmental problem or need. Beneficiary participation in the selection of the solution and project design is required to ensure a community-driven project
2. Eligible holistic approaches are: reduction of air pollution, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of fossil fuel consumption, or reduction of deforestation or forest degradation.
3. Projects involving electrical, cooking, or heating technologies should prioritize mitigating exposure where pollutants or polluting fuel consumption is relatively high, and/or where pressure on natural resources is relatively high, according to local authorities or other data sources.
4. Technology choice should not be prescribed as part of the assessment. Sponsors will need to weigh solutions carefully and avoid making assumptions about fuel sources and community behavior.

Resilience and adaptation (Action Goal 5)

Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and communities affected by climate change and climate disruption

Specifically this can involve:

a. Supporting adaptation and resiliency strategies for communities affected by climate-related events, emphasizing vulnerable segments of the population

b. Promoting conservation strategies that anticipate climate-induced migration and habitat needs

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 5 must provide:

- A basic project map
- The project site's approximate altitude, in meters above sea level, or altitudinal range for projects working at landscape scale (if applicable)
- A hydrological survey (if water resources are threatened or vulnerable)
- A brief description of the most common types of land use in and near the community (or coastal resources use, where applicable)
- A description of vulnerabilities and local climate impacts, whether present or anticipated

Environmental education and communication (Action Goal 6)

Using education and social outreach to promote pro-environmental behaviors

Specifically this can involve:

a. Implementing community-based environmental education, environmental awareness, participatory mapping, and advocacy initiatives for a specific purpose

b. Supporting environmental education programming in schools that aligns with local government curriculum and has a specified environmental purpose (in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for basic education and literacy)

c. Implementing targeted environmental campaigns and strategic communications with decision-making stakeholders toward a specific large-scale result

d. Educating in situ and disseminating information at environmental learning centers, such as biological stations and interpretive nature centers, toward a specific result

e. Promoting and educating on environmental human rights

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 6 must provide:

- A communications plan, stakeholder analysis, or training plan
- For 6a) or 6d), a basic project map
- For 6d), name of the major habitat types in the area
- An assurance that any educators or facilitators have the appropriate expertise

Note that approaches involving wildlife rescue centers may be eligible under this project type or goal 1 (hands-on conservation), but zoo-based activities without a field component or application of knowledge are not eligible.

Material life cycles and circular economy (Action Goal 7)

Advocating for a resource-efficient economy of sustainable goods and services and the environmentally sound management of material life cycles

Specifically this can involve:

a. Supporting community planning efforts to strengthen circular economies through composting, recycling, upcycling, and repurposing programs (for solid waste management projects, working in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for water, sanitation, and hygiene)
b. Supporting community or sector-specific efforts for sustainable sourcing of materials
c. Reducing food waste by local businesses and households, and/or capturing resulting methane
d. Reducing demand for plastics and petrochemicals

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 7 must provide:

- For 7a) or 7b), a brief description of the most common types of economic activity in the area
- For 7a), 7b), and 7c), details about where the materials or waste will be gathered, stored, and transported
- Economic or financial information relevant to diagnosing the problem or the viability of the solution
- An explanation of how raw material, organic material, or manufactured material is used or reused after serving its initial purpose

Environmental public health (Action Goal 8)

Addressing environmental justice and environmental public health concerns

Specifically this can involve:

a. Eliminating and reducing exposure to environmental toxins and environmental risks in or adjacent to homes, schools, and communities within vulnerable and marginalized populations

b. Increasing equitable long-term access to nutritious food for environmentally vulnerable and marginalized populations

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 8 must provide:

- A basic project map
- An estimate of the water table depth (if water quality is a confirmed or potential concern)
- An advocacy plan or training plan
- A description of the geographic scope of vulnerability

Note that:

- For Action Goal 8 and any other eligible project idea involving marginalized groups, beneficiary belonging to that group will be based on self-identification by the community members themselves
- Consultation and participation of the beneficiary group in the full project cycle is required for this goal
- Approaches for the above involving advocacy and outreach may combine elements of Action Goals 6 and 8

Land use (Action Goal 9)

Implementing responsible land use tools for environmental protection

Specifically this can involve:

a. Supporting community, non-governmental (NGO), or governmental capacity to maintain environmental standards inside and adjacent to protected areas

b. Supporting processes to establish or expand a publicly recognized natural protected area or rural community land

c. Protecting land and setting it aside for conservation through nonprofit ownership, appraisals, conservation easements, or strengthening the work of land trusts and land conservancies

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 9 must provide:

- A basic project map

- For 9b) or 9c), the project site's approximate altitude, in meters above sea level, or altitudinal range for projects working at landscape scale. Not needed for ocean or coastal projects.
- For 9b), an identification of the corresponding watershed(s) the area overlaps (if applicable)
- Name of the major habitat types in the area
- A brief description of the most common types of land use in and near the community
- Background information on the local policy context
- Attention to natural asset ownership, control, and land tenure (including whether the site is on public or private land) to allow for widespread benefit and address fairness of benefits

Environmental innovation (Action Goal 10)

Enhancing environmental innovation and related incentives

Specifically this can involve:

a. Empowering communities to develop conservation skills for economic gain and providing income-bearing alternatives to environmentally-detrimental activities (in conjunction with the policy statements and guidelines for community economic development)

b. Supporting community-managed small-scale ecotourism initiatives based on proven sustainable models

c. Advocating for public environmental incentives to positively change behavior

d. Scaling or expanding usage of environmental technologies based on biomimicry, natural materials, circular economy, or spatial data

Along with standard environment global grant criteria, grant applicants for Action Goal 10 must provide:

- For 10a) and 10b), name of the major habitat types in the area
- A simple business plan, cost-benefit analysis, or policy analysis (if relevant)

Note also that projects involving technology need to do more than donate equipment, such as capacity-building.

Additional topic-based guidance below

Vegetation planting, reforestation, and restoration

1. If a Rotary grant project plans to include tree planting, other vegetation planting, or active ecosystem restoration, please note that: Tree and vegetation plantings that are not part of a larger

ecological framework and strategy are ineligible for Global Grants. Strategies might include increasing habitat quality, restoring or adding new habitat area, or restoring specific ecosystem functions.

2. Tree planting that is holistic and consistent with scientifically sound reforestation is eligible only if native (i.e. autochthonous) tree species are used.
3. Planting or seeding of other types of plant life in a scientifically sound manner is also eligible only if native species are used, subject to two exceptions:
    a. In sustainable agriculture projects or similar, when they are common non-invasive introduced species planted for domestic agricultural consumption or herbalism.
    b. Ex situ propagation and conservation of plant species at a botanic garden or nursery, for preserving their viability and eventual reintroduction.
4. Any funded reforestation or planting activity must use at least two species, except when the ecosystem in its natural state has a monodominant woody keystone species, such as in some mangrove forests, and some boreal pine or spruce forests.
5. Tree plantings in ecosystems that are naturally treeless are not eligible for Global Grants, e.g. some North American prairies, Eurasian steppe, high-altitude grasslands above the natural tree line. Afforestation in general (as opposed to reforestation) is discouraged.
6. Project sponsors should reference information about the watershed/drainage basin if planning to reforest around streams or bodies of water.
7. Project sponsors should inquire with local authorities about any required permits for planting.

Plastic pollution in watercourses

If your project involves removing or preventing plastic pollution in water systems, note that you should:

1. Discuss in the community and environmental assessment the state of plastic pollution in the body of water in terms of trends and sources. Outline what alternatives you considered before choosing the most reliable, efficient, and replicable way to remove, recycle, or dispose of the macro- and microplastics collected from the water.
2. Explain how proposals to collect, transport, and recycle or dispose of the plastic fit within policy frameworks.
3. Include in your monitoring and evaluation plan a consideration of the type and quantity of the waste collected, and if applicable to your project goals, the water quality before and after the project.
4. Consider including an advocacy and educational element to influence district, regional, and national strategies about plastic use and packaging, and river basin management.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES AREN'T ELIGIBLE FOR GLOBAL GRANT FUNDING?

A successful environment global grant project requires a holistic approach to resolving specific issues that

have a harmful effect on the environment. The Rotary Foundation considers the following activities to be outside the scope of the environment area of focus and **not eligible** for global grant funding:

- Community beautification projects
- Single-event training or education sessions
- Single-event river, beach, or habitat clean-ups
- Tree plantings that are not part of a larger ecological framework and strategy
- Purchase or installation of crematories
- Nature therapy unless part of a peacebuilding program
- Food distribution programs
- Funded outdoor recreational activities
- Projects that involve only building infrastructure, purchasing equipment, or training in how to use that equipment
- Lobbying as defined by the law in the country where the project takes place

HOW DO I MONITOR AND EVALUATE A PROJECT IN THE ENVIRONMENT AREA OF FOCUS?

Your community and environmental assessment, which contains baseline data about the local needs and capacity, will be the foundation of how you develop your project goals and implementation plan, but also of how you measure and evaluate your project. Develop clear and measurable objectives (see eligible objectives, action goals, and activities in this document) and decide how you'll collect the data. Select at least one standard measure and explain whether you have baseline data for it and how you'll use it to compare the results. Describe the data collection plan and who will collect and compile the information.

Before finalizing your selection of indicators that will allow you to evaluate a project's impact, carefully consider how the project design will adhere to the environmental sustainability measurement principles to try to avoid any unverifiable claims or unintended negative effects.

Environmental sustainability measurement principles

- Additionality – A project intervention aims to help achieve an environmental outcome that would not have quite resulted in the absence of the project, marking a difference between before and after. Success is often measured in new outcomes or replication of proven methods
- Permanence – Also known in some cases as conservation in perpetuity, environmental projects anticipate future threats and aim to leave a lasting impact that will not be easily undone. Success is measured over the long-term and sometimes is about maintaining existing assets and systems that work
- Stopping "exported" impacts – Project planners look at the whole panorama knowing that stopping environmental damage in one spot may lead to it being "exported" to another place to

avoid controls. All-encompassing solutions are recommended

- Avoiding a Rebound Effect – The measurable progress expected from environmental interventions are sometimes undermined by unpredictable human behavior, or unintended incentives, so project sponsors must have foresight to deal with risks and errors
- Equilibrium and Tradeoffs – Helping one species does not always help the ecosystem, and some seemingly positive changes for people or the environment can disrupt a system's equilibrium. Win-win projects are not always easy to identify and execute. Project planners carefully weigh the tradeoffs of project decisions.

Gather data based on your project type and objectives to inform how the project is implemented and evaluated. The indicators can be customized to your project but mainly will correspond to the selected environment objective(s). Methods to gather this data are varied. It can be collected by Rotary members, cooperating organizations, or other stakeholders such as local community groups.

Evaluating a project is also important so you can understand if the implementation is going well, if you need to make any changes, if the project is ready to expand or be replicated, and more. Work with your cooperating organization and other stakeholders to develop an evaluation.

An evaluation of environmental projects focuses on the pre- and post-project state and trends. For some projects, the change extends beyond the implementation time frame Even so, follow-up check-ins, data collection, and evaluation is important to both understanding and being able to share your project impact and sustainability.

HOW DO I SUPPORT A SCHOLAR IN THE ENVIRONMENT AREA OF FOCUS?

Environmental global grants support graduate-level scholarships through two programs for professionals who want to pursue careers related to the environment.

The first program is a core environmental fields scholarship. The second recognizes the uniquely vital links between Indigenous peoples and environmental knowledge. It is a scholarship for self-identified Indigenous applicants to pursue a course of study from a broader curricular range related to the intersection of environmental and Indigenous studies.

For the core environmental fields program, the Foundation considers these factors:

- The person's previous work experience in environmental fields
- The academic program's alignment with the environment, through an eligible field of study:
    - Climatology

    - Conservation biology
    - Ecological economics
    - Ecology
    - Environmental justice
    - Environmental policy
    - Environmental science
    - Environmental studies
    - Environmental toxicology
    - Forestry
    - Geography
    - Natural resource management
- The applicant's career plans and how they relate to the environment

For the Indigenous environmental studies program, the Foundation considers these factors:

- The person's previous professional or academic experience in environment-related fields
- The academic program's alignment with any of the disciplines listed above in the first program, or from the following options:
    - Anthropology
    - Architecture
    - Development
    - Environmental engineering
    - Environmental sociology
    - Ethnobotany
    - Hydrology
    - Indigenous studies
    - Plant science
    - Public policy
    - Soil science
    - Urban and regional planning
    - Zoology
- The applicant's career plans as they relate to the environment or to addressing environmental issues that Indigenous peoples face

Environmental professionals have many different degrees and a wide range of experience. Global grant scholars do, too. Each scholar is considered on a case-by-case basis. Career plans are a major consideration when the Foundation determines the eligibility of a global grant scholar. Environmental scholars do not need to work locally to be considered for a scholarship—working in the environmental or conservation sector at the national or international level is acceptable.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

One of the best resources available to grant applicants is the Rotary grants staff. In addition to their professional expertise and education, grants staff members draw on the Foundation's long experience in funding effective projects to make sure your global grant projects are eligible for funding.

Rotary has an array of other project planning resources to help members find answers at various steps of the process. These resources can help you plan a successful project, find support for your efforts, promote your work, and evaluate its impact.

Other resources for technical expertise, guidance, and experience are the Cadre of Technical Advisers and the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group. Cadre members are trained to help clubs and districts plan and evaluate global grant projects. Rotary Action Groups include experienced Rotary members and nonmembers around the world who are dedicated to helping clubs and districts develop sustainable environmental projects.

Consider contacting your district international service chair as well. They serve as the coordinators of local technical resources, partnerships, and expertise in your district.

You can also find information to help you plan for your environmental global grant in:

A Guide to Global Grants

Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation Global Grants

Areas of Focus Policy Statements

Six Steps to Sustainability

Global Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Supplement

Global Grant Lifecycle

Environmental experts in the Cadre of Technical Advisers

Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group