



WWF-PAKISTAN SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Projects should go beyond lab-based work and use innovative technologies, field monitoring, methods, or approaches to address conservation challenges. Documentaries may also be included to engage wider audiences.
2. Projects should be applied in nature and demonstrate clear, practical impact by addressing real or anticipated environmental challenges (forests, wildlife, water, climate, energy), with defined objectives, activities, methods, timelines, and measurable outcomes.
3. Projects exceeding the specified grant amount will not be considered.
4. Collaborations with organizations, researchers, or local communities that strengthen project impact and sustainability should be highlighted.
5. Projects that build on work supported by other funding sources are encouraged, provided this is clearly disclosed and aligned with the proposed activities.

Legal, Ethical and Sampling Compliance for Responsible Biodiversity Research

WWF-Pakistan is committed to conserving biodiversity and ecological processes by safeguarding genetic diversity, species integrity, and ecosystem health. We promote the sustainable use of natural resources and advocate for reducing pollution, waste, and inefficient energy use. Projects involving the handling or sampling of plant and animal species must adhere to strict ethical standards and fully comply with relevant federal and provincial wildlife laws and regulations.

Here are the essential guidelines for project proposal developers focusing on using plants and animal species in conservation research:



1. Compliance with Legal Framework:

1.1. Familiarize yourself with the specific federal and provincial wildlife laws, rules, and regulations applicable to your area of study. Each province may have its own set of laws protecting wildlife. Ensure that your project fully complies with these legal requirements.

1.2. Secure all necessary permits and permissions required to conduct research on threatened species and to use technologies such as camera traps and drones from the relevant governmental departments and authorities. The permitting process may be time-consuming, so meticulous planning is essential.

2. Ethical Considerations

2.1. Your proposal should underscore your commitment to prioritize the welfare of the species under study. Thus, research methods should be designed to minimize stress and harm to the animals involved.

2.2. Develop and implement research methods that minimize the impact on both the species and their habitats. Use non-invasive and non-destructive techniques whenever feasible.

2.3. Recognize and respect the cultural practices and beliefs of local communities in the project area. Engage with local stakeholders and seek their input and approval when necessary.

Projects must align with WWF and IUCN ethical standards:

1. [Principles and Safeguards | WWF](#)
2. [CITES Appendices I, II and III valid from 21.05.2023](#)
3. [2025-017-En.pdf](#)

3. Sample Collection

3.1. Collect samples only when it is essential for your research. Oversampling can harm populations and ecosystems and should be avoided.

3.2. Utilize non-lethal and non-invasive sampling techniques whenever they are applicable. If sample collection requires handling, ensure that it is conducted by trained professionals to minimize stress, harm, and disease transmission to the animals.

3.3. If handling is necessary, ensure that you and your team are well-trained in animal handling techniques to minimize stress, injury, and/or disease transmission.