

# Innovation Grant Details



# Innovation Grant/Award for Members of the Ecological Restoration Alliance-India

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## Goal:

The Innovation Grant is intended to catalyse people to propose and develop new ideas in ecological restoration that would benefit the ecological restoration community in India.

## Objective:

The innovation grant is a mechanism to enable a larger involvement from the member community. The purpose of this grant is to encourage people to think for the larger good of the ecological restoration community, and thereby enhance their skills and expertise in the process, whilst creating useful resources for restoration in India.

## Grant amount:

Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees fifteen lakh rupees only)

## Grant Categories:

There will be only one grant of the whole amount in the year 2025-26.

## Grant period:

12 months for project fulfillment + 1 month for final report preparation

## Scope of the Grant:

1. The project must add value to the larger community involved in ecological restoration and practice
2. The project should have a unique perspective and fresh insight on a problem area that is informed by lived and/or professional experience

3. The project can be but is not limited to proposing and designing innovative pilot projects that:
  - a. Generate knowledge within a data deficient area, that qualitatively enhances our current understanding of the ecology, biodiversity or restorative practices in a particular habitat or landscape
  - b. Creates a tool, application or methodology that can be replicated or used across geographies/sites to help transition existing projects towards more effective ecological restoration and monitoring
  - c. Conserves threatened habitats or landscapes
  - d. Takes ecological restoration to private and public lands, including village commons, reserved and protected forests, revenue land, urban 'wasteland', etc
  - e. Creates opportunities for ecological restoration and livelihoods for communities, providing them unprecedented opportunities in decision making

## Eligibility Criteria

The applicant should:

1. Have a track record in Ecological Restoration work, or in a directly adjacent field
2. Have a track record of delivering meaningful change within their unique cultural context and region, and managing projects and finances of a similar scale.
3. Possess the courage to challenge the 'status quo'
4. Be careful to provide all requested documentation. Incomplete forms will not be considered
5. Be able to enter into a memorandum of understanding(MoU) with a Non-Government Organisation, if they are independent researchers/consultants/practitioners.(This is because the innovation grant can only be disbursed to or through a Non-Government Organisation working in the field of ecological restoration, environment, rural development, and allied fields.)
6. This grant is available only to Indian nationals

Note: the following documents will be required from the Non-Government Organization after selection

- Legal & Registration (Registration Certificate, PAN, 12A,80G)
- Financials (Audited financial statements - 3yrs; IT Return - 3yrs; Latest Annual Report)
- Governance (List and profile of Board Members/Executive Committee; Declaration of no political or religious affiliations)
- Compliance (NGO Darpan ID)

## What will not qualify:

1. Any proposal with limited scope such as setting up a new restoration project, setting up a nursery for a project, or other activities that would not benefit the larger ecological restoration community

2. Projects in which Steering Committee members, Partner institutes of the Ecological Restorations Alliance, and those working on the ERA desks, are part of the team
3. Support for academic research work

## Jury

1. The jury will be drawn from members of the Steering Committee(SC), representatives of partner institutes and desks, and select members of the larger ecological restoration community
2. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three reviewers and a subject matter expert identified by the SC/Jury.

## Terms and Conditions

1. The Jury reserves the right not to make any award if there are no suitable proposals. However, the jury may also, at its discretion, divide the total grant amount into smaller amounts for a maximum of three grantees
2. The project must be implementable within a year, with a two month extension period for submitting a final Project Report
3. The Grantee will be expected to participate and present the progress of the project in the following Restoring Natural Ecologies conference
4. The half-year progress of the project will be discussed with the ERA-India Steering Committee, Desks, and members
5. There needs to be full disclosure of any use of AI in developing the Project or its Presentation
6. The project outputs need to be shared via a creative commons license
7. Start date for the project will be assumed to be the day the grant amount is disbursed to the non-governmental organization hosting the project
8. Suggested disbursement schedule for budgeting and planning:
  - a. 50% upon signing of the agreement
  - b. 40% upon submission of a fund utilisation statement for the first tranche, once the full amount—or at least 80% of it—has been spent, whichever occurs earlier
  - c. 10% upon submission of the technical report and the audited fund utilisation certificate, within one month of the project's end.
9. This grant is only available to Non-Government Organisations based in India

## Timeline

1. Applications open 5th June 2025
2. Last date for submission 15th July 2025
3. Review of applications begins 16th July 2025
4. Awardee to be announced by or before 12th August (World Elephant Day)

# Innovation Grant Committee

Anita, Pradip, Arjun

# Proposal template

[GOOGLE FORM LINK](#)

## Questions for the project

Applicants are advised to use clear jargon-free language.

	Question	Description	Purpose	Criteria for selection
1.	Provide a short but descriptive title for your project which conveys what your project is about  (20 words max.)		aim	
2.	Describe the primary question your project seeks to answer  (50 words max.)	We are looking for innovative projects that align strongly with the ecological restoration goals of the alliance	Quick review to see fit	Does the proposed project have an impact on on-ground implementation?
3.	Describe the nature and ambit of your project, and the key activities you propose to undertake  (300 words max.)	We are interested in learning about your project idea, and what is new or unique in your approach	Gauge the innovativeness	Is it something novel and interesting that we have not thought about?  Does the proposed project have an impact on on-ground implementation?
4.	Why do you feel this project is relevant today, and what kind of new	The innovation grant is intended to spur long-term	Gauging relevance and scalability	Does it address a pressing need

	<p>ecological restoration initiatives do you see being built upon this work in the next 5 years?</p> <p>(200 words max.)</p>	<p>change in ecologically sensitive restoration practice in India</p>		<p>for the ecological restoration sector in India?</p> <p>Is it useful for the larger ecological restoration community?</p> <p>Is the proposed project scalable/replicable and be used in different contexts?</p>
5.	<p>What motivated you to propose this project and in what way do you consider it to be important and innovative?</p> <p>(200 words max.)</p>	<p>Please tell us how you came upon this idea, and what it was that you saw or learnt that made you think this idea was worth pursuing</p>	Understanding motivation	
6.	<p>Have you worked on a project of this scale before? If not, what kind of collaborative support do you think you might need in order to achieve the goals of your project?</p> <p>(200 words max.)</p>	<p>We would like to know more about you, your work so far, and how you envisage completing your project</p>	Experience. And support needed in handling the project	<p>Is the project technically/practically sound and executable within the 1-year time period?</p> <p>Participant Have a track record of delivering meaningful change within their unique cultural context and region, and</p>

				managing projects and finances of a similar scale.
7.	What are the major challenges you foresee in achieving your project goals?  (200 words max.)	Are the methods tried and tested / best practice in the field, or are they new, innovative or experimental?	Whether it is technically sound or how feasible it is	Is the project technically/practically sound and executable within the 1-year time period?
8.	Have you used AI to develop the project or in its presentation? If so please specify  (100 words max.)	We just need to know to what extent AI has been used		(optional field)

## Team and Organisation

1.	Lead applicant name		
2.	Email id of the lead applicant		
3.	Mobile number of the lead applicant		
4.	About you (100 words max.)		
5.	Names of team members and collaborators		Optional field
6.	Affiliated organisations		
7.	Social media links (if any)	LinkedIn, Instagram, X	Optional field
8.	Website (if any)		Optional field
9.	Location of the lead applicant		
10.	ERA-India member profile page		This might create pressure on uploading profiles on



			Mandeep
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## Documents requested

1.	Please share a single PDF containing, an implementation timeline for your project, Budget Utilisation plan, CVs- Lead applicant and collaborators, Portfolio of work (if applicable), Lead Applicant's ID Proof		<p>Feasibility to execute</p> <p>Is the project technically/practically sound and executable within the 1-year time period?</p> <p><b>Participant</b> Have a track record in Ecological Restoration work, or in a directly adjacent field</p>
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## TO BE REQUESTED POST SELECTION

Post selection, the following documentation pertaining to the Non-Government Organisation will be required:

- A. Legal & Registration
  - a. Registration Certificate
  - b. PAN card
  - c. 12A certificate
  - d. 80G certificate
- B. Financials
  - a. Audited financial statements - 3yrs;
  - b. IT Return - 3yrs;
  - c. Latest Annual Report
- C. Governance
  - a. List and profile of Board Members/Executive Committee;
  - b. Declaration of no political or religious affiliations
- D. Compliance (NGO Darpan ID)

Lead applicant ID Proof:

In Phase 3

A profile picture that we could use on social media, website or other avenues to promote your project	If you are applying as a team, a team photo will also work, we need a picture where you or the team is clearly visible.	
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## Internal Notes:

1. An additional set of reviewers may be called upon in case there is a large pool of applicants
2. If needed, the composition of the Shortlisting and Screening Committee will be decided post the receipt of applications
3. Jury will be decided alongside the opening of the application
4. Suggested Disbursement Schedule:
  - a. 50% upon signing of the agreement
  - b. 40% upon submission of a fund utilisation statement for the first tranche, once the full amount—or at least 80% of it—has been spent, whichever occurs earlier
  - c. 10% upon submission of the technical report and the audited fund utilisation certificate, within one month of the project's end.
5. This disbursement schedule will be part of the grant agreement and should not be included in the Call for Proposals. The Call for Proposals should only mention the maximum grant amount available and the grant period.

## Criteria for Selection

1. Is it something novel and interesting that we have not thought about?
2. Does it address a pressing need for the ecological restoration sector in India?
3. Is it useful for the larger ecological restoration community?
4. Does the proposed project have an impact on on-ground implementation?
5. Is the project technically/practically sound and executable within the 1-year time period?
6. Is the proposed project scalable/replicable and be used in different contexts?