



## ENVIRONMENTAL SMALL GRANTS CALL FOR APPLICATION

**Under this call notice, the Environmental Equity and Justice Partnership (EEJP) is inviting applications from eligible grassroots organizations working on issues of Toxicity, Waste and Pollution in India to apply for Environmental Small Grants.**

### **About EEJP**

Environmental Equity and Justice Partnership (EEJP), an initiative of the Just Environment Charitable Trust was set up in 2004 with the goal of '**securing environmental justice especially for the poor and the marginalized that are often expected to bear more than their share of environmental burdens**'. This it seeks to realise by helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the area of environmental justice by catalysing grassroots initiatives; triggering new imagination and perspectives; encouraging crossover linkages; and providing greater opportunities to connect to the environmental thinking.

Taking the goal further, the second phase of EEJP has been launched in 2009 for a period of three-years, primarily focussing on:

- Promotion of environmental justice at grassroots level;
- Integration of local work into mainstream policy;
- Organizational development to raise confidence to take up broader issues;
- Creation of a better -informed community

More specifically, EEJP strives for:

- Up-scaling existing and catalysing new, innovative interventions;
- Generating new research data especially on new emerging issues;
- Up-scaling community understanding on environmental issues and enhancing their participation in environmental decision making;
- Establishing linkages between the local institutions and environmental issues;
- Pooling resources of local level expertise

The program has two components: **Environmental Small Grants** (for grassroots organisations) and **Environmental Fellowships** (for young individuals).

### **About Environmental Small Grants**

The Environmental Small Grants allows Environmental Equity and Justice Partnership program to assist worthy grassroots organizations engaged in environmental work through support of small projects that are of special importance to those applicants and their communities. The focus is on supporting organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. The programs should have a clear agenda for change and a strategic plan for achieving the organization's goals.



### **Focus Areas**

All activities should fall within the broad areas of **Toxicity, Waste and Pollution** (elaborated below). The actions listed below are only indicative and not meant to be an exhaustive list. Projects should relate to one or more of the broad areas mentioned.

**WASTE** including municipal waste, bio medical waste, hazardous waste and electronic waste. The targeted activities may have an urban or a semi urban/ rural perspective but most important is for all the interventions to be solution based. Some suggestive activities that could be supported under EEJP may include those that:

- Demonstrate environmentally sustainable model on waste management especially in rural and semi urban areas
- Generate awareness among well-defined target groups with clear indicators
- Involve base line studies with a solution-based approach
- Draw linkages between waste management and climate change
- Involve training and capacity building of waste pickers, recyclers and others.
- Focus on bringing transparency in the waste management practice

**TOXICITY** issues including heavy metals, mercury, pesticides, and persistent organic pollutants among others. EEJP encourages the following type of activities on the issue:

- Research community impacts of heavy metals and/ or other toxic chemicals, including bio-monitoring
- Innovate methodologies to conduct research on toxicity in products
- Testing of products for toxicity to establish facts
- Generate new data on pesticides usages, persistent organic pollutants and other toxic chemicals
- Identify and promote safer alternatives - chemical as well as non-chemical - to toxic chemicals.
- Draw linkages between toxicity and climate change.
- Generate awareness among well-defined target groups with clear outcome
- Targeted interventions that strengthens the regulatory and implementation mechanism and promote transparency

**POLLUTION** issues are wide ranging. EEJP however will focus on interventions that links to other two areas and seek to demonstrate impact and catalyzes larger issues. These may include, among others:

- New baseline studies/research on emerging pollution issues
- Promote new methodology in conducting research
- Identify new pollution hotspots and plan specific interventions
- Targeted interventions on specific pollution issues with the objective of bringing concrete change
- Environmental monitoring and testing
- Pollution and climate change

### **Grant Size**

There is no fixed grant size. Keeping up the spirit of small grants, EEJP gives preference to smaller budgets. An average grant size foreseen is in the range of Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 300,000, or even less. The outer most limit for small grants for any activity is Rs, 500,000 (Rupees Five Lac) and no support shall exceed this amount.



### **Duration**

There is no minimum duration for activities supported under Environmental Small Grants. On the outer side, activities should not exceed **15 months** (*applicable only to the current grant cycle. The duration may vary under each grant cycle*).

### **Who Can Apply**

The Environmental Small Grants is limited to applicants within India. To be eligible, the applicant **MUST** meet the following requirements:

- Should be legally established grassroots non-governmental organizations;
- Have the requisite approval under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976;
- Have Environment as one of the primary focus;
- Should be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action and not acting as an intermediary;
- Have an annual organisational budget (from all sources) averaging less than Rs. 40 Lac over last three years.

Since EEJP has limited funds and cannot offer funding to all the groups that meet the above criteria, **priority is given** to groups that:

- Have democratic decision making structures and strong leadership.
- Have well defined strategic goals and objectives.
- Have prior experience of similar work, preferably with crossover linkages
- Are locally active in demonstrating clear commitment to addressing threats to environment.
- Are working on challenging issues that are critical to the realization of environment justice;
- Are geographically located in a region that has limited access to funding resources;
- Are planning to take up activities that would be significantly enhanced by a small grant.
- Coordinate or participate in local and regional networks of like-minded organizations.
- Actively seek to include the perspectives of those served by or benefiting from its activities.
- Have a well-stated follow up/ sustainability plan.

### **Kind of Projects Supported**

Grant decisions are based on many factors and are affected by competition for limited funds. Therefore, it is not possible to specify the types of projects that will be funded, and applicants should not interpret previous grants as precedents for what will subsequently be funded.

In brief, EEJP is looking for projects that are **action-oriented; builds public involvement and support; are strategic; focuses on root causes; accomplishes specific goals and objectives; and takes place in communities.**

Interventions should seek to evolve innovative approaches, action and/or research initiatives in the areas of toxicity, waste and pollution within the environmental justice framework. In



addition, support may be provided for policy advocacy and information dissemination strategies that broaden public understanding of the issues.

The projects should be in line with broad EEJP Principles and focus on:

- challenging the status quo by re-imagining existing solutions;
- promoting new environmental thinking, perspectives and research;
- producing and disseminating knowledge products that brings change on the ground;
- raising cross over awareness about issues and concepts of environmental justice.
- promoting public participation in environmental decision making;
- building capacity, advocating policy change, raising public education, among others.

EEJP must be highly selective in making grants, since there are far more requests than can possibly be funded. Applicants should understand that a decision to decline funding does not necessarily mean that EEJP disapproves of the proposed project or fails to appreciate its merits.

### **Projects That Are Not Promoted**

EEJP is designed to support small projects and not to contribute small amounts for much larger budgets. Therefore, EEJP does not encourage projects that require significantly more money than the amount requested for the grant.

Likewise, projects that can occur only after certain "contingencies" are met are not considered. If a project cannot be carried out promptly after a grant is made -- because additional funds must be raised or for other reasons -- the grant request will not be considered. If the proposed project costs more than the amount requested, other funds must have been raised or formally pledged at the time the proposal is submitted.

This program is also not intended to provide partial support for ongoing activities that will not change in any significant way.

In terms of specific activities, Environmental Small Grants cannot support formal academic training programs, operational projects, ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment), fellowships, study programs, individuals applying on their own behalf, profit making activities, or non-legal entities.

### **How To Apply**

At this stage EEJP expects the applicants to submit only the **Concept Note** (in the prescribed format). Do not send any supporting documents or the detailed proposal to EEJP unless requested. Complete detailed proposals (in prescribed format) will be invited from only the short listed applicants at a late stage during the process.

The application for Environmental Small Grants may be submitted by e-mail, courier, or post (applications sent by Fax will not be accepted) not later than **28 Feb 2010**. Application received after the deadline will be reviewed in the next grant cycle.



Before submitting the request, applicants should determine that the organization and the activity, both are eligible for consideration under the program.

Please note that the review may take up to **four months** to complete and applicants should keep the same in mind while conceptualising the Activity Plan. Because of the large number of submissions, it may not be possible for applicants to discuss potential or pending proposals with EEJP staff, nor will the staff be able to discuss reasons why a request was not funded. Board's decision is final.

### **Application Format**

Please follow the prescribed format for Concept Note (can be downloaded at [www.eejp.org](http://www.eejp.org)) providing concise responses and limiting it to 3-pages. Submissions made in any other format will not be considered. Please do not send any documents along with the Concept Note.

Application can be submitted in English or in Hindi.

Only **one application** per applicant is acceptable during the current grant cycle. In case more applications are received from an individual, EEJP will randomly select one and disqualify the other/s. Applicants should not expect EEJP to select the 'more worthy' proposals from among the several submissions made. EEJP may even decide to disqualify all the applications linked to a single applicant.

### **Other Important Information**

Applicants should carefully go through the EEJP website ([www.eejp.org](http://www.eejp.org)) to understand the basic purpose and objective of the program. There is also useful information such as about the decision making process; key elements of the program; formats and guidelines; future grant cycles; and most important, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The FAQ section includes answers to some of the common questions received on regular basis and may help answer your queries. For other queries, please email at: ***info@eejp.org***

### **Where To Send Your Application:**

Concept Note should be submitted to:

**By courier/ post/ hand:**

**Coordinator**

**Environmental Small Grants – EEJP**

**H 2 (Ground Floor), Jungpura Extension;**

**New Delhi 110014**

**By email at:**

**[smallgrant@eejp.org](mailto:smallgrant@eejp.org)** (This is not a general email and should be used only for submitting applications)

***Thanks for your interest in Environmental Small Grants of EEJP!!!***