

Save Our Seas Foundation Small Grant Application

Stage 1 Form

The Save Our Seas Foundation invites applications for small projects starting March 2026 for up to 18 months. This grant is designed for short (12 to 18 months) and small projects dedicated to early career conservationists.

Applicants are considered early career and eligible for Small Grants if they are within five years of their most recent degree, or relevant professional qualification, by January of the project year. Small Grants may be up to 10,000 USD, but average 5,000 USD.

The Small Grant is aimed at projects with applied conservation value for sharks, rays and chimaeras. It targets local projects conducted by local project leaders. Whether or not the project is part of a broader initiative, Small Grants are for specific and finite projects.

Applicants may be awarded a maximum of two Small Grants, but are not eligible to receive two Small Grants in consecutive years. Nevertheless, they are not excluded from submitting a Keystone Grant application.

Grant applications must be submitted no later than: DEADLINE

Stage I: DEADLINE

Stage II: DEADLINE

We fully acknowledge the challenges of navigating a professional space that may not be in your first language and accordingly do not judge applications on the quality of their English. But we still wish the application to be in your own words. It is acceptable to use tools to check what you've written (e.g. Grammarly), but only if you feel the need - again, we will not judge applications on the quality of their English. However, we will not accept any applications where any generative tools (e.g. ChatGPT) have been used to create the text for you.

By checking the box below and continuing, you confirm that you will not use any generative AI tools to create the answers to any of the fields in this application.

I understand and agree to the AI statement

1. Applicant

1a. First name

1b. Last name

1c. Date of birth

1d. Nationality

1e. Country of residence

1f. Address

1g. Phone

1h. Email

2. Institution

2a. Are you applying through an institution?

You do not have to be part of an institution to apply or receive a grant, but we need to understand what entity the grant will be processed through if not an institution (e.g. NGO).

If yes:

2a.1 Name of institution

2a.2 Institution website

2a.3 Main mission

2a.4 Institution address

If no:

2a.5 Please explain who this work would be conducted through

3. Overview

3a. Project title

3b. Project summary

Explain why your project is needed, what you'll do, and what is the expected outcome. Make sure you provide a brief overview of the project, including goals, methods, geographical scope and target species. Please emphasise the intended conservation impact.

3c. Species

English name

Latin Name

IUCN Red List status

3d. Location

3e. More precise location (if relevant)

3f. Project region

What is the primary ISRA's region where the project activities will take place?

4. Team

4a. Who is the project leader?

4b. Who else is part of the team?

4c. Who will you collaborate with locally?

We promote projects that are collaborative and develop opportunities locally. Please specify who you will collaborate with locally on the project in any capacity.

4d. Experience of the project leader

Highlight relevant past projects or achievements.

4e. Referees

Please provide three referees and their contact details – ensure the persons you add as referees are informed about it as we might contact them.

4f. Supervisor

Please state the Project Supervisor, if appropriate. If you do not have a supervisor, please explain the reason why.

4g. Is this your first SOSF application?

5. Project

5a. Project duration (months)

5b. Planned start date

5c. Planned end date

5d. Is this a new project?

6. Budget

6a. Total amount requested from SOSF

What is the total amount (in USD) requested from SOSF for this project? Note that Small Grants may be up to 10,000 USD, but average 5,000 USD.

6b. Percentage of project budget requested from SOSF

What percentage of the full budget of your project does the amount being requested from SOSF constitute?

Budget FAQ

International travel

International travel costs should not exceed 10% of the total budget – this is to encourage locally-led projects and collaborations.

Are there any costs that are not accepted?

Costs for salaries, conference attendance and publications are not accepted. We support these through other means/grants.

Does the SOSF fund salaries?

The costs of short-term employees or the short-term extra costs of an individual's participation in a project may be eligible, if justified. Specialist services (e.g. film editing, laboratory testing, library facilities) may also be eligible. Applicants are permitted to include a modest stipend, as long as the need is fully justified in the application.

Would it be possible to receive additional or more thorough information regarding the fact that the Foundation is not able to pay overheads, administration and handling fees?
Indeed, SOSF will not support projects where an important portion is overhead or admin fees. We want to support the project leader and his/her work.

What if my institution admin fees will partly be used for my project?

SOSF will not agree to support overheads or admin fees for institutions. If these fees are to support the project, then they should be listed on separate lines and explain what it will be used for, so we know we are not supporting the institution's general administration fees.

Does boat time or renting count as travel?

No, the boat time for fieldwork is not considered a travel expense. The 10% limit on travel expenses is more for international travel.

When do I receive the funds, if my application is approved?

The funds will be transferred to the applicant or his/her institution in March/April the following year (if you apply in 2025 for a 2026 grant, you receive the grant in 2026).

[To watch our Small Grants information webinar held in June 2024 please click HERE](#). This provided an overview of the grant application process, gave insight to what the scientific committee is looking for with the questions, and discussed common pitfalls and how to avoid them. This was followed by a Q&A session.

6c. Budget sheet

Please use the comments column as much as possible. It's always better if the reviewers can understand how the budget line is relevant to the project without having to go back and search for relevant information in the previous sections. Please enter expenses in relevant categories in the same order that the categories appear in the dropdown list. You may add up to 50 expense rows.

Note: International travel costs should not exceed 10% of total budget.

Category	Description	SOSF amount (\$)	Other amount (\$)	Comments
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Calculated SOSF Budget Total: \$

Please enter your requested amount from SOSF to continue.

6d. Please share the [agreement template](#) with your institution for them to review as this document cannot be modified.

7. Uploads

7a. Recent CV for the Project Leader (and co-PL if relevant)

Ensure CVs are updated and dated.

Maximum 2 files.

25 MB limit.

Allowed types: pdf.

7b. Letter of recommendation

A letter of recommendation (with the header or the person's institution), from supervisor if appropriate, otherwise from another person from the institution, or if not someone who can vouch for you and the quality of your work.

One file only.

25 MB limit.

Allowed types: pdf.

Stage 2 Form

8. Additional details

8a. Detailed background

Provide the details on the threats and conservation issues of your specific study species and location. In addition, describe what motivated you to do this project.

8b. How will this project help?

How will this result in fewer dead sharks/rays/chimaeras? What in particular in this project could help shark population recover?

8c. SOSF Conservation Fellowship eligibility

*Successful grantees may later be eligible to receive an [SOSF Conservation Fellowship](#). These are aimed at supporting the livelihoods of conservationists in areas where there is the greatest need. **Please indicate if you are living and working in a developing country, as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**. This information is not used to evaluate your grant application - only to assess potential eligibility for the Conservation Fellowship.*
I live and work in a developing country.

9. Objectives and methods

9a. Key objectives

Objective

Describe a key objective for this project.

Methods

Describe the methods that you will use to achieve this objective.

Outcomes

Describe the anticipated outcome for this objective

Add more objectives more objectives

9b. Intended conservation outcomes

Summarise the intended conservation outcomes of this project (as perhaps some of the above may not be directly related to conservation).

10. Outreach

10a. Communication strategy

What is the communication strategy to reach decision-makers?

10b. Public communication

We strongly believe in the importance of sharing science with a broad audience, so how will your project activities and outcomes be communicated to the public beyond social media?

10c. Local engagement

How will your project engage the local community or stakeholders?

11. Contingency and indicators

11a. Problems and contingency

Describe the potential problems you may encounter and how you intend to deal with them.

11b. Measuring success

Describe how will you measure the success of your project.

11c. Project blog acknowledgement

In case your application is successful, please acknowledge that you will be asked to provide 3 blogs per year. [Here is an example](#).

I understand and agree.

12. File uploads

12a. Gantt chart

This is a chart to show the intended schedule of your project activities to help us understand the timeline.

One file only.

50 MB limit.

Allowed types: pdf.

12b. In case your application is successful, we'll need the below files to create your SOSF website pages to present yourself and your project to a larger audience, [like this](#). We would be grateful if you could provide the following materials:

12b.1 Portrait photos

2 portrait photos (min 1MB, photos of yourself that you like, without a hat and sunglasses). These will be used to illustrate your profile on our website.

Maximum 2 files.

25 MB limit.

Allowed types: gif, jpg, jpeg, png.

12b.2 Project images

2 project images (minimum resolution 2500px by 1500px, horizontal/landscape) that illustrate your project. These will be used to showcase your project on our website. The images can feature the studied species, habitat, or study area.

Maximum 2 files.

25 MB limit.

Allowed types: gif, jpg, jpeg, png.

12b.3 Short bio

Short biography of the project leader ([see template](#)).

One file only.

100 MB limit.

Allowed types: doc, docx.

12b.4 Project description

Project description that is adapted to the larger public ([see template](#)).

One file only.

100 MB limit.

Allowed types: doc, docx.