

Application Guidelines: Keystone Grant - Stage 2 Form

Additional details

Stage 2 Deadline: August 7th 2026 at 18:00 CET (Central European Time)

8a. Detailed background (required)

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.

Long text · max 500 words

8b. How will this project help? (required)

How could this result in fewer dead sharks/rays/chimaeras? What in particular in this project could help shark population recover? Please summarise any intended conservation impact, and highlight any planned pathways to these outcomes.

Long text · max 300 words

8c. Project location (required)

Successful grantees will have their project listed on the SOSF website, please think of where you want your project to appear (choose only 1 location; this is usually the centre of your main research area but it could be the source of most samples, or your lab, or where you will spend most of your time conducting field research, etc.)

Map location picker

8d. 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 in a developing country.

Checkbox

I work in a developing country.

Checkbox

8e. Ethical considerations (required)

Please describe what animal and human welfare issues you need to consider as part of your project and what guidelines you plan to follow to ensure minimal impact.

Long text · max 150 words

8f. Ethical approval (required)

Please indicate if you have applied for ethical approval from your/another institution, or if you already have approval.

Dropdown

Options: Yes, No, Have approval

When do you expect to receive approval? (required)

Long text · max 50 words · conditional

When will you apply? (required)

Please indicate when you would apply and how long the application process takes.

Long text · max 50 words · conditional

Details on existing approval (required)

If you already have ethical approval, please provide details.

Long text · max 100 words · conditional

Objectives and methods

9a. Key objectives (required)

Repeating fields

Up to 5 entries

- Objective — Long text
- Methods — Long text
- Outcomes — Long text

Outreach

10a. Communication strategy (required)

What is the communication strategy to reach decision-makers?

Long text · max 200 words

10b. Public communication (required)

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?

Long text · max 200 words

10c. Local engagement (required)

How will your project engage the local community or stakeholders?

Long text · max 200 words

Risk and evaluation

11a. Problems and contingency (required)

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

Long text · max 200 words

11b. Measuring success (required)

Describe how will you measure the success of your project.

Long text · max 200 words

11c. Project blog acknowledgement

In case your application is successful, please acknowledge that you will be asked to provide 2 blog posts per year. [Here is an example](#).

I understand and agree. (required)

Checkbox

11d. Exit strategy (required)

Detail a comprehensive exit strategy for your project. SOSF funding will not exceed three years — please explain how the project will either reach a conclusion or how you plan to ensure its longevity so that any intended impact continues.

Long text · max 300 words

File uploads

12a. Gantt chart (required)

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

Document upload

Accepted formats: pdf

12b. Additional files

If you wish to include additional files to support your application, please add them here (avoid adding large files such as reports or complete publications).

File upload

Accepted formats: gif jpg jpeg png pdf doc docx xls xlsx

12c. 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:

12c.1 Portrait photos (required)

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.

Image upload

12c.2 Project images (required)

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.

Image upload

12c.3 Short bio (required)

Short biography of the project leader (see template).

File upload

Accepted formats: doc docx

12c.4 Project description (required)

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

File upload

Accepted formats: doc docx