

# THT Annual Grants FAQs

## 1. Is there any focus geography(s) for The Habitats Trust Grants?

Proposals for the conservation of India's natural habitats and native species of flora and fauna are accepted by THT Grants, and no particular geography is focused on. It is required that the proposed projects provide direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats and/or species.

## 2. Can more than one grant be applied for?

No, only one application is permitted to be submitted by an organisation or individual each year.

## 3. Can the same project, applied for in the previous grants cycle, be applied for again?

Yes, it can be applied for again.

## 4. Can an organisation associated with The Habitats Trust currently apply?

Yes, applications are allowed, but preference is given to new applicants.

## 5. Can the application be emailed or posted?

No, proposals are accepted only through the THT Grants online portal. Incomplete applications are not accepted after the submission deadline. In case of a technical glitch, exceptions are considered only within 24 hours after the portal closes, provided the THT Grants team is informed via email or call. No considerations are made 24 hours after the deadline.

## 6. What documents are required to apply?

Below is the list of mandatory documents that need to be uploaded as part of the application:

### THT Conservation Grant:

- PAN Card
- Registration document: Certificate of Incorporation/Registered Trust Deed/Society Registration Certificate
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association/Bye-Laws
- Certificate of exemption under Section 80G/Section 35(1)(ii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961
- Certificate of registration under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- CSR – 1 certificate
- Income Tax Returns for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24
- Audited Financials for FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, and FY 2023-24
- CV of key personnel
- FCRA registration certificate (if registered)
- Compliance checklist
- Signed and stamped declaration form (as per format).

### **THT Research Grant:**

- PAN Card
- Registration document: Certificate of Incorporation/Registered Trust Deed/Society Registration Certificate
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association/Bye-Laws
- Certificate of exemption under Section 80G/Section 35(1)(ii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961
- Certificate of registration under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961
- CSR – 1 certificate
- Income Tax Returns for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24
- Audited Financials for FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, and FY 2023-24
- CV of key personnel
- FCRA registration certificate (if registered)
- Compliance checklist
- Signed and stamped declaration form (as per format).

### **THT Action Grant (Organisations):**

- PAN Card
- Registration document: Certificate of Incorporation/Registered Trust Deed/Society Registration Certificate
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association/Bye-Laws
- Certificate of exemption under Section 80G/Section 35(1)(ii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, Certificate of registration under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act,1961
- CSR – 1 certificate
- Income Tax Returns for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24
- Audited Financials for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24
- CV of key personnel
- FCRA registration certificate (if registered)
- Compliance checklist
- Signed and stamped declaration form (as per format).

### **THT Action Grant (Individuals):**

- Resume/CV of applicant with image
- PAN Card
- Aadhaar Card
- Income Tax Returns for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24
- Letters of recommendation
- Signed declaration form.

### **7. Can modifications be made to the application once submitted?**

No, modifications are not allowed once the application has been submitted. Reviewing the application before submission is recommended.

### **8. Is an application/registration fee charged for the THT Grants?**

No, no fee is charged for applying for THT Grants.

**9. What is the deadline for submission of the application?**

Applications for the THT Conservation Grant, THT Action Grant, and THT Research Grant are being accepted from TBD February 2025 to TBD March 2025.

**10. Will a copy of the application be provided after submission?**

Yes, a PDF of the application is generated upon submission, which can be downloaded from the top right corner of the application portal.

**11. How is confirmation of application submission provided?**

A confirmation/acknowledgment email is automatically sent to the registered email ID by the backend server after submission. If the email is not received within 24 hours, the THT Grants team should be contacted at [grants@thehabitatstrust.org](mailto:grants@thehabitatstrust.org).

**12. Is the THT Grant amount given in cash or kind?**

The grant amount is transferred to the recipients' bank account after due diligence.

**13. Is it mandatory for THT Conservation Grant recipients to open a dedicated bank account for the grant funds received?**

Yes, it is mandatory for a dedicated bank account to be opened by THT Conservation Grant recipients for the grant funds received.

**14. When will the results be announced?**

The results for THT Grants 2025 are expected to be announced around September-October 2025. Specific dates will be announced later on the website and social media platforms.

**15. When will the project begin for the recipients?**

The THT Grants 2025 recipients will be required to commence their projects by January 2026.

**16. I have applied for my not-for-profit's registration certificates but have not received them yet. Am I eligible to apply?**

Any organisation applying for the THT Conservation Grant, THT Research Grant, or THT Action Grant must have completed 3 years of functional existence (as per the registration certificate) in India on or before March 31, 2025.

**17. Should an organisation be a registered entity having 80G or 35(1)(ii) and 12AB/Audited Accounts to apply?**

Yes, it is required for an organisation to be a registered not-for-profit entity in India [Society, Trust, Section 8 (earlier Section 25) company, or an approved scientific research association under Section 35(1)(ii)]. Registration under Section 12AB, 80G, or 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is mandatory for application.

**18. Is renewal of 12AB & 80G under the New Registration Procedure mandatory for applying for The Habitats Trust Grants?**

The new registration procedure prescribed under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act requires all existing trusts and institutions to be re-registered under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act from April 1, 2021. As per the compliance with Section 12A and Section 12AA, all NGOs with exemptions under Section 12AA must have reapplied for the same by March 31, 2022 (as extended) and obtained new registration under Section 12AB.

**19. What can an organisation do if their 12AB and/or 80G is under renewal?**

Provisional proof of renewal must be provided by the applicant, and the originals must be submitted (if shortlisted) before the final round of the grant process.

**20. I am a professor or research scholar from an academic institution. Can I apply for the grant?**

Yes, the THT Action Grant can be applied for by a professor or research scholar as long as an NOC is obtained from their employer.

**21. I am a faculty member from a Government College (Govt. Institute). Am I eligible to apply for the grant at an institutional level?**

Institutes or associations with valid registration under Section 35(1)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, are eligible to apply for the grants. Faculty members may also apply as individuals provided an NOC is obtained from their employer.

**22. Is an FCRA registration mandatory for applying in the Organisations category?**

No, since this is a domestic grant, FCRA registration is not mandatory for receiving the grant. However, organisations with an FCRA registration are encouraged to provide it during the application process.

**23. Is a CSR – 1 certificate mandatory for applying in the Organisations category?**

Yes, a CSR – 1 certificate is mandatory.

**24. Expenditure of more than INR 30 Lacs for Conservation Grant should be pertaining to which financial year?**

An applicant organisation should have an average expenditure of INR 30 lakhs across the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. The average expenditure is examined and computed for the Conservation Grant application using the formula:

$$[Total\ Expenditure\ (2021-22) + Total\ Expenditure\ (2022-23) + Total\ Expenditure\ (2023-24)]/3$$

Herein, Total Expenditure refers to the Net Expenditure (Gross Expenditure – Surplus/Unspent expenditure) as recorded in the Income & Expenditure table of Annual Audited Financials.

Audited financials for the last three financial years (FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, and FY 2023-24) are taken into consideration during evaluation.

**25. Expenditure of more than INR 15 Lacs for the Research Grant should pertain to which financial years?**

An applicant organisation should have an average expenditure of INR 15 lakhs across the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. The average expenditure is computed as follows:

$$[\text{Total Expenditure (2021-22)} + \text{Total Expenditure (2022-23)} + \text{Total Expenditure (2023-24)}] / 3$$

Herein, Total Expenditure is the Net Expenditure (Gross Expenditure – Surplus/Unspent expenditure) incurred by the organisation, as captured in the Income & Expenditure table of Annual Audited Financials.

Audited financials of the last 3 financial years, FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, and FY 2023-24 are taken into consideration for the evaluation.

**26. What are the criteria for evaluation of proposed projects?**

Proposed projects are evaluated based on the applicant's background, problem statement, clarity of ideas (delivered through the logframe approach), proposed activities and methodologies, relevance, and potential impact.

**27. Can an organisation apply for the grant if its primary objective is employment generation, education, healthcare, etc.?**

The Habitats Trust Grants are aimed at recognising and supporting holistic and innovative projects that conserve India's natural habitats and biodiversity through on-ground action and interdisciplinary research. The object clause in the MoA/Trust Deed of the organisation must align with the requirements of the grants.

**28. Do THT Grants support projects for filming documentaries on habitats and their rare and unique wildlife?**

No, the grants do not support documentary films. Proposed projects must provide direct conservation benefits to threatened habitats or species.

**29. Can I apply for the conservation of flora?**

Yes, projects focused on flora conservation are eligible.

**30. Can equipment, including fixed assets, be purchased under the grant?**

Yes, equipment purchases are supported under the grant. Justification for the purchase and its use during the project, as well as post-completion, is required.

**31. What is the difference between Recommendations and References?**

Recommendations are formal letters from a recommender on official letterhead or signed, explaining why the grant should be awarded to the applicant.

References can be provided by anyone familiar with the applicant's work in the field. References are contacted during the later stages of the process.

**32. Do THT Grants support travel to attend conferences, seminars, or expeditions?**

No, travel for such purposes is not supported.

**33. What does THT Grant not support?**

THT Grants do not support the following activities:

- Farming/Agriculture
- Rural development
- Women/Child welfare
- Plantation drives
- Private Ltd companies
- Postgraduate/PhD/Postdoctoral studies
- Animal welfare/domestic animal welfare