



2021 SFI CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How much money is available for my project? How much can I apply for?

Projects are typically funded in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 per year range. Projects requiring more funding may be considered, based on the merits of the application.

What are the reporting requirements for SFI Conservation Grant projects?

Reporting will be required twice annually. The precise scheduling of reporting and billing will be stipulated by the Grant Agreement. Reports should specify interim results that effectively convey progress toward the intended goal.

What is the maximum allowable time frame for a project?

Conservation grants have a maximum allowable SFI funding period of three years, but funding could contribute to projects with a longer timeframe, provided that specific outcomes relative to SFI funding are clearly identified and reported. Past SFI conservation grantees may seek to continue and build on previous outcomes, provided that they clearly expand scale, impact and opportunity to communicate outcomes.

Are matching funds required?

SFI Conservation Grants do not specifically require matching funds, but an important aspect of the SFI mission is to [advance sustainability through forest-focused collaboration](#), so matching funds and partnerships are desirable to demonstrate collaboration. Nonetheless, we welcome creative project submissions that speak to our hypotheses, regardless of matching funds.

Can I use state, provincial, or federal agency dollars to show as matching funds?

Yes.

Should I mention pending matching funds from another organization?

You may indicate if matching funds are pending, but matching funds that are **secured** at the time of application will be considered more favorably. Please indicate which matching funds are speculative, versus those that are **secured** at the time of the application.

Can grant funds be applied to projects outside of North America?

Since projects must be informative to the impacts, outcomes and best management practices related to the SFI standards, most projects will have a clear foothold in the U.S. or Canada, where these standards are applied. However, funding of projects beyond North America may be possible, if the project is informative to implementation and/or outcomes of the SFI standards. For example, SFI may consider projects that relate to migration patterns or habitat needs of species at risk that extend beyond North America, or that may inform best management practices for species at risk in boreal forests globally, etc.

Am I allowed to charge overhead for a project?

SFI will not grant funds to cover overhead costs, but such overhead costs could be used to describe matching dollars considered essential to the project.



BIODIVERSITY



2021 SFI CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Does our project require the involvement of an SFI-certified organization or SFI Implementation Committee to be funded?

Yes, projects must involve either an SFI-certified organization or an SFI Implementation Committee. SFI Implementation Committees may serve as the Lead Organization. Since SFI's mission is to advance sustainability through forest focused collaboration, our community should be involved to facilitate learning and continual improvement.

What if my project will deliver on more than one of the hypotheses listed?

All projects must meet at least one of our six criteria hypotheses as stated in the RFP Criteria section of this document (above), or seek to expand or build upon past conservation projects and SFI Conservation Impact research as described in the criteria. Applicants are encouraged to indicate, numerically (i.e., 1-6), all hypotheses that would be addressed through the project. However, a proposal will not be considered more favorably simply on the basis of addressing multiple hypotheses; rather we value clarity, efficiency, and opportunities to communicate significant outcomes.

What are SFI's expectations for communications about my project?

Successful applicants will be expected to express enthusiasm for partnering with SFI to develop messaging around both interim and ultimate outcomes. Project managers should consider the headline message that would convey the outcomes of this project, if successful. SFI wants to make a difference; we expect project managers to help us do so with clear outcomes and messaging.

What if I am not ready to apply this year, but want to be considered for a future grant?

SFI only accepts applications during the open RFP period. However, prospective applicants are welcome to contact Leo Viana, Senior Director, Conservation Impact (leonardo.viana@forests.org) regarding a potential submission at any time. SFI can help you align your project with the criteria, connect with SFI-certified organizations and/or SFI Implementation Committees and other experts, and provide guidance as requested. If you would like to ensure that your organization is on SFI's distribution list, please email Rachel Hamilton, Senior Coordinator, Conservation Partnerships (rachel.hamilton@forests.org).

What happens after grants are awarded?

- Successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement with SFI Inc. specifying reporting timelines, project deliverables, payment schedules, significant milestones and other specifics surrounding the project. Successful applicants will be expected to work closely with SFI Inc. to complete such agreement as expeditiously as possible following notification of acceptance. An agreement template will be provided to successful applicants.
- The Lead Organization will be expected to attend a webinar with other successful Lead Organizations for an overview of SFI Conservation Grant timelines, expectations, and processes.
- Lead Organizations will be required to submit progress reports twice annually, to SFI as stipulated in the Grant Agreement, and to hold briefing calls with SFI staff grant manager(s) during reporting periods, as deemed necessary. SFI will seek interim results that effectively convey progress toward the intended goal.



BIODIVERSITY



2021 SFI CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- Grant Agreements will include timelines/schedules for progress reports and payment. Payments to grantees will be linked to receipt of scheduled progress reports demonstrating fulfillment of deliverables and timelines.
- SFI appreciates the opportunity to collaborate in the planning, development, and implementation of the proposed work, as appropriate based on the complexity of the project and staff availability.
- Project lead and project partners are expected to work closely and collaboratively with SFI to identify ways to communicate key findings, develop messaging, and communications opportunities outreach strategies appropriate to the project.
- All Project Partners involved in the Project must agree to authorize SFI Inc. to publicize the Project and to use their names, images, logos, and information about the Project in such publicity.