

Funding Guidelines

of Precious Forests Foundation

(Precious Forests Stiftung)

Precious Forests Foundation (PFF), a denominationally independent and non-partisan Swiss non-profit foundation registered in Zurich, aims to make a substantial and verifiable contribution to the protection of natural tropical forests. The aim of the Foundation is to generate new findings for the further development and improvement of sustainable forest management and thus innovative improvements in sustainable value creation through applied research and practice-oriented implementation. In addition to the sustainable, multiple use of forest products, research is to be conducted on the services of managed natural tropical forests as CO₂ sinks; these and other ecosystem services are to be contributed to national and global climate strategies. The following Funding Guidelines apply pursuant to the Foundation Charter.

1. Scope

- 1.1. These Funding Guidelines apply to all funding commitments of Precious Forests Foundation (PFF), unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing in individual cases.
- 1.2. The Funding Guidelines bind the PFF project partner directly. Moreover, the project partner is obliged to ensure compliance with the Funding Guidelines and other contractual arrangements when forwarding the funds to third parties.

2. Funding conditions

- 2.1. The PFF is an internationally active foundation. Funded projects must be located in international tropical forests.
- 2.2. Funding recipients must be legal persons – in exceptional cases, applications from natural persons are accepted.
- 2.3. Funding is project-related and limited in time. PFF usually finances between 1/3 and 2/3 of the project costs; third-party co-financing and own contributions of the project owners is envisaged. PFF prefers applied research projects with a clear innovative character.
- 2.4. The applicant guarantees that it is able to carry out the project in line with the application and on the basis of the existing structures. The application must provide information about the competencies of the team and overall financing.
- 2.5. Institutional funding and the assumption of long-term, running costs (rent, personnel, etc.) are not possible.

3. Application procedure and required documentation

- 3.1. Applications may be submitted year-round in writing, in German, French or English, with the necessary documents listed below, to the PFF Secretariat by e-mail (in common file formats, maximum file size of initial submissions 10 MB) to info@precious-forests.foundation. Applications by telephone are not accepted. The deadline for submission is at least 12 weeks before the next meeting of the Foundation Board. The Management is available to provide information. A decision is generally made 3 months after the submission deadline.
- 3.2. Applications should not exceed 5-6 pages. Documents to be submitted:
 - a) information on the applicant incl. 2 project-related letters of reference

- b) description of the project content (incl. a 1-page summary) with an overview of the current state of research and preliminary work
 - c) methods and objectives of the project, including information on the impact, relevance and long-term practical orientation of the project
 - d) information on cooperation partners
 - e) time and budget planning, overall cost plan (incl. information on own funds, contributions by other donors, follow-up financing)
 - f) confirmation of compliance with ethical guidelines (applicable rules on the part of the applicant)
- 3.3. In order to reduce the administrative workload for both parties, please limit documentation to what is necessary. The probability of approval does not increase with the volume of documents submitted.
- 3.4. The applicant is not entitled to receive a justification of any denial, and the applicant also has no legal right to funding. Even if the Funding Guidelines are met, the Foundation is under no obligation to provide funding. The Foundation Board of PFF decides at its own discretion and on the basis of the funds at its disposal.
- 3.5. Funding decisions are issued in writing by the PFF Secretariat.

4. Funding

Precious Forests Foundation supports projects that make a significant contribution

- to the protection of the integrity of the forest area, biodiversity and the balancing climate function of natural tropical forests and to their importance as a habitat for the local population (including social issues and biodiversity monitoring).
- to global awareness of the importance of natural tropical forests for sustainable global development by bringing experience and new knowledge to the global agenda and the awareness of decision-makers (including impact monitoring).

In particular, the Foundation's work should have the following concrete impact:

- promotion and application of the generated knowledge relating to tropical forest dynamics through sustainable management as well as relating to its functions in support of biodiversity, climate and quality of life (including silvicultural monitoring)
- promotion of sustainable and certified forest management as an effective strategy to protect tropical forests by increasing their ecological, social and economic value and as an important supplement to the comprehensive placement under protection of large forest areas
- maintenance of a functional habitat with an increasing quality of life for the local population
- promotion of innovative and practice-oriented research with a focus on implementable innovations in partnership with scientists from industrialized and emerging countries (North-South cooperation)
- promotion of innovative and practice-oriented research with a focus on implementable innovations in the field of landscape management and mixed forms of management in the context of or with the objective of sustainable forest management
- promotion of innovative and practice-oriented research with a focus on implementable innovations in the field of non-timber forest products and forest services in the context of or with the objective of sustainable forest management
- implementation of knowledge in sustainably managed forests
- creation of tangible impulses based on research and implementation results for national policies and the global debate on biodiversity, development and climate

Funding types

- time-limited innovative research and implementation projects
- contributions to practice-relevant publications of research results

- contributions to conferences: practice-oriented scientific conferences, communication events
- in justified cases, material costs or general costs

The following is not funded:

- funding purely for individuals
- basic research: the criteria for funding require applied research topics with good chances for implementation on a pilot basis
- research that does not have a direct implementation value
- implementation projects with little potential for upscaling

5. Award principles

- 5.1. Upon receipt of a funding decision, PFF must be presented with a budget including clear scheduling and allocation of costs. Changes in the schedule must be notified to PFF without delay. In the event of delays in the start/progress of the project, funding will be delayed accordingly. In exceptional cases, funding may be made available in advance. Funding is to be used within the agreed time, but at most two to three years after disbursement. PFF is entitled to reclaim funds not used within this period at its own discretion, and the funding recipient is obliged to return them. The Foundation may require the creation of a special account. A separate donation receipt must be issued immediately upon each distribution of funds. An economical and appropriate use of the funds must be guaranteed. Where the use of dispensed funds cannot be demonstrated, those funds must be returned to PFF immediately after the end of the funding period.
- 5.2. Funding is earmarked. The funding recipient undertakes to use the allocated funds exclusively for the purpose described in the application.
- 5.3. By accepting the funds, the funding recipient undertakes to report to PFF at appropriate and agreed intervals on the project status. Reporting of content and finances is set out in the contract; PFF has the right at any time to carry out an interim and final evaluation and to communicate the results worldwide upon completion of the project.
- 5.4. The Foundation reserves the right to revoke approval and to reclaim funds paid if these award principles or additional project-specific conditions are not observed, in particular if approval is based on inaccurate information, if funds are not used for their intended purpose, or if no evidence is provided of the use of the funds.

Zurich, 15 October 2018

Prof. Ernst A. Brugger
Chair of the Foundation Board

Daniel Heuer
Vice Chair of the Foundation Board