

Funding Guidelines



This document provides guidance for organisations and individuals seeking support through the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGL).

Within this document we provide:

- A background on The Thin Green Line Foundation
- Guidance on current funding opportunities and how to apply via Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Guidance on the type of activities we support
- Guidance on who is eligible to apply
- Guidance on project exclusions
- Details on our assessment and approval process

Please read these guidelines thoroughly before submitting an Expression of Interest form. If you require assistance with any part of the process or have additional questions, please contact our Programs Coordinator, Jennifer, by email at: projects@thingreenline.org.au

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About the Thin Green Line Foundation

Protecting Natures Protectors

We believe that rangers are the frontline defence for nature conservation. They protect our wildlife, wild places and cultural sites, often putting their own lives at risk to do so; yet their contributions often go unrecognised.

We work with ranger organisations, community enterprises and environmental NGOs to improve the livelihoods and working conditions of rangers and their families globally. Through this work we increase community engagement in conservation, promote Indigenous and local knowledge within land management, improve the rights and recognition of Rangers, and support underfunded conservation projects worldwide.

How We Operate

The Thin Green Line Foundation's operations are underpinned by four strategic pillars; to build Capacity and Capability amongst rangers, to Equip rangers, provide Emergency Support to rangers, and to Connect rangers.

Building Capacity and Capability: We believe that competent, motivated and well-trained rangers are crucial for effective nature conservation. We support rangers to attend training courses and assist partners to develop bespoke training initiatives for their teams.

Equipping Rangers: We want to ensure that all rangers have access to the critical gear they need – keeping them safe and allowing them to conduct their role to the highest standards. We fund vital equipment; from patrol essentials like uniforms, water bottles and shelter, to tools that increase their capacity, like vehicles and GPS devices.

Emergency Support: The role of a ranger is challenging and often dangerous – in the past ten years alone, over 1000 rangers have died in the line of duty. We offer financial assistance for families of rangers lost in the line of duty, and provide medical, food and accommodation costs for rangers affected by global environmental, social and health crises.

Connecting Rangers: We advocate for rangers as “nature’s protectors” and strive for rangers to be respected as conservation leaders at local, national, and international levels. We support projects that build positive relationships between communities and rangers, and we promote the ranger profession at international events, connecting rangers with decision makers and advocating for their role in nature conservation. Finally, we seek to connect rangers with one another, encouraging skills and knowledge exchange which strengthens the profession globally.

[Read more about our work in our Annual Reports here.](#)



Grant-Seeker Guidelines

The Thin Green Line Foundation accepts Expressions of Interest (EOI) from grant-seekers year-round. The following pages provide guidance on how to request funding through our EOI process.

We also manage the [Fallen Ranger Fund](#), and are co-founders of the [LEAD Ranger](#) training program. Information on these opportunities can be found at the end of this document.

EOI Process

So, you're looking for some funding to support your ranger team. Great, you're in the right place!

Step 1: Submit EOI

Simply complete one of our EOI forms, provided by a member of our Thin Green Line staff team, and return directly to projects@thingreenline.org.au.

Step 2: Assessment

Your EOI will be assessed by Thin Green Line staff within a two-month period of receipt. If you don't hear from us within this period, please follow up – just in case your EOI has gone into junk mail!

We will advise whether your EOI is suitable for funding. If we have additional questions, we may ask you to revise your EOI.

Step 3: Holding Period

If your EOI is suitable for funding we will keep it on file for a period of six months from date of approval, unless otherwise notified. We will advise you as soon as possible within this period if a funding opportunity arises.

Step 4: Funding Decision

If a funding opportunity arises, we will contact you and you will be asked to enter into a Project Funding Agreement (PFA) with us. This agreement outlines the financial and reporting requirements of receiving funding from Thin Green Line Foundation. Read this carefully and let us know if you have any questions or alterations that you would like to make to this contract.

If a funding opportunity does not arise within six months, we will contact you and advise of next steps. Depending on the volume of requests we may, unfortunately, be required to turn down your EOI. Alternatively, we may keep your EOI on file for an additional period of 3-6 months.

EOI Guidelines

Which Form Should I Use?

We have two EOI forms to choose from, these are:

- **Critical Equipment EOI:** Choose this form if you are requesting **equipment only**.
- **Small Grant EOI:** Choose this form if you are requesting funds for training, emergency support or connect projects. You may request some equipment with this EOI form, but it should not be the sole component of your request.

What is the maximum budget?

EOIs to the value of USD \$5,000.00 are encouraged. This allows us to be reactive to the immediate needs of more rangers throughout the year.

EOIs over USD \$5,000.00, and not exceeding USD \$10,000.00, may be considered in exceptional circumstances and where suitable evidence is provided. Please include as much information as you feel is necessary for our team to fully understand your needs.

Who can apply?

TGL aims to fund small to medium sized organisations working in land management, nature conservation, and community development. We aim to work with field-based partners that operate in close collaboration with communities. We seek out partners that recognise the importance of the rangers in their service, and actively champion their environmental heroes. We are particularly interested in organisations that support Indigenous and First Nations peoples to care for their traditional lands, and those who provide opportunities to women and other minority groups within their region.

Please [see our definition of a "Ranger" here](#).

We may consider funding large, multi-national NGO's; however, the organisation must be directly involved in the management of the protected area and/or project activities. The relationship between your organisation and beneficiaries must be clearly outlined. Suitable evidence should also be provided to show that local communities have been consulted and that your organisation actively involves local people in your activities. We will not fund administration fees for third-party organisations.

We do not fund individuals.

Are there any geographic requirements?

TGL aims to fund projects in areas where conservation values are high, and where local capacities to protect threatened habitats and species are low. Activities can be focussed on marine or terrestrial habitats.

There are no constraints on the size of the area that you operate within, and activities may be based in more than one country (e.g. cross border initiatives).



We will prioritise requests from organisations working in locations with one or more of the following characteristics:

- Conservation activities in this region receive little or no support from other sources.
- Support would reduce the rate of Ranger injury and or death in this region.
- Support would demonstrate a major tactical advantage and/or morale boost for the work of rangers in this region.
- Support would help to prevent the loss of species and/or ecosystem functions caused by illegal activities or other destructive processes.
- Support would strengthen the local communities in this region.

What Activities Are Eligible?

To be eligible for TGL funding, your request must provide operational support for rangers or community conservation projects and demonstrate activities in at least one of TGL's key focus areas. Examples of eligible activities include:

Building Capacity and Capability – Requests that support the training, upskilling, and education of rangers to improve the effectiveness and safety of their work.

Examples of requests that we will consider include:

- Requests that provide training for rangers in first-aid skills, anti-poaching, law enforcement, survey and tracking skills, community engagement, conflict management, wildlife management, swimming lessons etc.

Emergency Support – Requests to provide emergency support for rangers injured at work or involved in other emergency situations while at work, such as environmental or social crises.

Examples of projects that we will consider include:

- Requests to provide food, accommodation, medical support, or other emergency assistance to rangers affected by environmental and social crises.

Equipping Rangers – Requests to provide rangers with the equipment they need to conduct their role safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

Examples of requests that we will consider include:

- Requests that will improve ranger working conditions or effectiveness through the purchase of equipment.
 - Examples of equipment that we have provided in the past includes, quality outdoor clothing and uniforms, boots, backpacks, torches, hygiene products, water purification, tents, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, first aid supplies, radios, GPS, camera traps, bicycles and vehicles
- Requests that support the construction of ranger accommodation or operational camps
- Requests to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, cleaning products, soaps and sanitisers to ensure that Rangers remain safe from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases while on patrol and in communities.



Connecting Rangers – Projects that help to build networks amongst Ranger groups or strengthen relationships between rangers and communities.

Examples of requests that we will consider include:

- Ranger-led workshops and alternative-livelihood schemes for the local community
- Ranger-led education programs, groups or activity sessions to increase awareness of local nature, environmental issues and the role of Rangers. (e.g. Junior Ranger, tree planting, wildlife surveys, guided walks)
- Career sessions for new Ranger or volunteer recruitment
- Knowledge and skills exchange sessions between neighbouring Ranger teams

Are there any Project Exclusions?

Thin Green Line Foundation is a small and agile not-for-profit that works to provide direct aid to rangers in the field. As such, we have certain funding exclusions that help us to make maximum impact for rangers in the field and support our long-term vision for Rangers.

Projects with the following characteristics are currently excluded from our EOI process:

- Requests that are focused on conservation actions that DO NOT directly involve rangers will not qualify for funding. [Please refer to our definition of a Ranger here.](#)
- Requests for ranger salaries and core operating costs.
- Support for individuals to undertake training or receive equipment.
- Requests to purchase firearms or armaments. However, requests to train rangers in the safe and proper use of such items are considered.
- Support for individuals to attend international or regional conferences, unless invited. TGL will work directly with the International Ranger Federation and other regional Ranger Associations to support ranger attendance at conferences.
- Support for the families of rangers who have died in the line of duty. This funding will be considered separately under our Fallen Ranger Fund which accepts applications year-round. Please [see here for further details.](#)
- Support for training activities in East Africa. Due to our ongoing investment in the LEAD Ranger training course, we do not accept requests to support ranger training activities in Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia or Zimbabwe. Please [see here for further details.](#)
- Seed funding for new organisations. However, we may consider financial support for the establishment of new ranger teams within existing organisations.

Thank you for your understanding.

If you are still unsure if your request is eligible, please contact us at projects@thingreenline.org.au.

EOI Approval

Returned EOI's will be assessed and approved against the following criteria. Projects will be approved if they meet all of the Key Criteria and demonstrate alignment with the Important Criteria.

Key Criteria
<p>Ranger Morale – The request is focused on the welfare and wellbeing of rangers and the grant-seeker can clearly explain what the Rangers will gain from these activities.</p>
<p>Partner Impact – The grant-seeker is directly connected to the on-the-ground operations OR has a strong collaborative relationship with the field organisation.</p>
<p>Critical Nature of Request – We will assess how urgent the request is and how likely it is to receive support from other sources.</p> <p>Note: the health and safety of rangers is always our immediate priority. All requests for 'Emergency Support' will receive expedited assessment and, if approved, will receive funding preference over other requests.</p>
<p>Community Involvement – The grant-seeker works with or positively impacts local communities through their work. The grant-seeker can clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities will positively impact the local community.</p> <p>Note: for Critical Equipment EOI's this will not be assessed unless directly relevant.</p>
Important Criteria
<p>Applicant Values – The grant-seeker displays sound financial and operational ethics. They value diversity in their workforce actively consider the longevity or regenerative nature of their activities.</p>
<p>Credentials – The grant-seeker has a good track record / is impactful in their area of work.</p> <p>Note: Thin Green Line reserves the right to discuss a grant-seeker's suitability with our colleagues within our global network.</p>
<p>Natural Values – The area is a biodiversity hotspot OR has endangered species OR provides significant ecosystem services; that require protection. The grant-seeker can clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities will contribute to the conservation of these natural values.</p>
<p>Project Monitoring and Management – The grant-seeker displays a sound understanding of how they will manage and monitor their project activities and outcomes.</p>



How We Define 'Ranger'

At Thin Green Line, we view a 'ranger' as any person involved in the practical management, maintenance, and conservation of natural, cultural, and historical heritage, while protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations.

Our view of a 'ranger' encompasses people working in a range of sites, from legally protected landscapes like national parks and Indigenous Protected Areas, to public or private landscapes like community conservancies, wilderness areas, urban parks, and sites of cultural or historic importance. Rangers can be employees or volunteers, who operate within an organisation, community group or government.

Rangers also provide recreational opportunities, law enforcement, and interpretation of sites while acting as a link between local communities, protected areas, and area administration. They are nature's frontline workers.

Thin Green Line views 'rangers' as the critical frontline of conservation. Your efforts tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time, from biodiversity loss and climate change to natural disasters and community health. Your work reaches into remote landscapes, vast oceans and right into the heart of communities.

Other Funding and Support Opportunities

Fallen Ranger Fund

The Thin Green Line Foundation opened our flagship support program, the Fallen Ranger Fund in 2012. This fund provides a grant to the families of rangers whose lives have been lost in the line of duty. While this support cannot compensate for the loss of a loved one, it can provide a financial lifeline to families through unforeseen circumstances.

Since its inception, the Fallen Ranger Fund has supported over 320 families of rangers whose lives have been lost in the service of conservation.

Thin Green Line works with a global network of partners to identify Fallen Ranger cases and have them recognised on the International Ranger Federation's annual Roll of Honour. We work with the same partners to deliver support to these Rangers' families where required.

If you would like to learn more about the Fallen Ranger Fund or know a family that has been affected by the loss of a Fallen Ranger, please contact us at info@thinggreenline.org.au.

LEAD Ranger Training

Thin Green Line Foundation is a co-founder of the LEAD Ranger training program (<https://leadranger.org/>). Working alongside Ranger Campus and The International Anti-Poaching Foundation, we have developed an excellence training model for Rangers that develops future conservation leaders.

LEAD Ranger is currently operational in East and Southern Africa, with plans to embed training hubs throughout the continent, and further afield, in coming years. If you believe your Ranger team could benefit from LEAD Ranger training, please contact Jennifer at projects@thinggreenline.org.au and we will connect you with our in-country trainers.



Ranger Support Grants

The Thin Green Line Foundation will periodically run an open call for project grants known as Ranger Support Grants. The Ranger Support Grants are expected every 2-3 years and are entirely funding dependant.

These grants will seek requests for larger projects of up to USD \$40,000.00 that can provide transformational change for ranger teams.

The guidelines and application process for these grants will be released separately from this document and will be advertised on our website and through our Ranger Network mailing list.

If you have submitted an EOI from January 2021 onwards you will automatically be included in our Ranger Network mailing list.

If you would like to be added to our Ranger Network mailing list, please contact Jennifer via email at projects@thingreenline.org.au.