

# Impact Seed Fund (ISF) 2025

## Southeast Asia Guidelines

Regions: Countries in Southeast Asia  
Key Topics: Rainforest, Climate & Labor





## Introduction

The Pulitzer Center Impact Seed Fund (ISF) supports educational and engagement initiatives working with issues highlighted in the Pulitzer Center-supported journalism, addressing the most critical issues confronting our planet's ecosystems and communities. The 2025 Southeast Asia ISF focuses on a range of topics, including rainforests and climate change, with a particular emphasis on its interconnectedness with workers and vulnerable communities. Impact Seed Fund (ISF) is a microscale grant provided by the Pulitzer Center to support education, research, or scientific activities with the aim to enrich the perspectives and knowledge within the university community—specifically students and educators. ISF facilitates a deeper understanding of complex problems and encourages the exploration of solutions and innovations to address the impact of human activities on rainforests, oceans, and the climate crisis.

We aim to support projects that inspire changes in perspectives, narratives, and actions, fostering a more informed and empathetic community. By utilizing Pulitzer Center-supported stories, the ISF initiative aims to:

1. Improve the awareness and critical thinking of students and educators about complex issues related to tropical forests, oceans, climate crisis, including their impacts on vulnerable communities. It encourages members of the university community to explore innovative solutions to address these impacts.
2. Equip students and educators to take action and drive change to protect the environment, as well as the rights of those most affected by environmental destruction.

The ISF is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of educators and communities, enabling applicants to create activities related to pressing issues of climate and environment, relevant to the local context.

Launched in 2022 in Indonesia, the ISF expanded its scope to Latin America, Africa and beyond.

**Utilizing stories as the center of the proposed projects:** The Pulitzer Center's different programs have produced journalism stories that bring to light local perspectives, often from voices that are rarely heard. These reports focus on underreported stories and situations that are crucial to better understand the challenges around tropical forests, climate change and ocean. These reports produce high-quality visuals, in-depth analysis, and data resources capable of conveying complex issues in a powerful and digestible way, making them excellent educational and communications tools. As such, they can generate important inputs for ISF-funded projects. **All proposals must utilize at least one story reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists and explain how it will be relevant in the project.**



## ▶ Who can apply?

1. Applicants should be university professors or researchers based in an institution
2. Applicants are welcome to propose a project through a consortia of educators from universities in one or more regions of the country.

## ▶ Objective

We believe in the power of knowledge and the role of education and educators in addressing multidisciplinary issues in social and environmental topics. Therefore, the ISF is designed to provide seed funding to educators globally to raise awareness of key issues to their communities around the world and contribute to aspired positive changes. The ISF provides micro-scale support to:

- Initiate new collaborations or build on existing collaborations among professors, researchers, students, local universities, most affected local communities, and journalists
- Increase engagement between educational communities, journalists, and Indigenous and affected communities
- Encourage the use of creative materials (e.g., photographs, short videos, documentaries, podcasts), infographics, data visuals, and information from the reports in teaching materials, student activities, curricular and classroom materials, or scientific publications;
- Support the meaningful translation of key findings, datasets, and methodologies from journalism reporting into projects tailored to unique local contexts. This may include comparative studies across different geographical regions
- Facilitate the adoption of the results presented in the reports into relevant research and other scientific products.

## ▶ Grant Size

ISF Southeast Asia grants range from USD \$3,000 to \$4,000. We expect projects to be implemented within four months of approval.





Image by Nopri Ismi, Indonesia, 2022

## ► What we fund

- Collaborative projects with Pulitzer Center-supported journalists or multi-disciplinary educators;
- Collaborative projects with the most- affected local communities, such as: field surveys, knowledge exchange activities, student immersive learnings, biodiversity expeditions, and citizen journalism;
- Insertion of PC- supported journalism elements results into teaching materials, new modules, campus debates, hackathons on social issues, student-led debates, and dialogues;
- Support for multi-stakeholders dialogue, Focus Group Discussions with decision makers webinar series, seminars;
- Production and dissemination of visual content to support learning aids (short videos, documentaries, podcasts);
- Small exhibitions on campus, such as photo exhibits or film screenings;
- Journalism workshops for student press clubs;
- Communication activities to promote citizenship related to the proposed themes;
- Support for research activities: rapid studies, white papers, policy recommendation

## ► Requirements

Proposals need to utilize at least one story reported by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists. Please see below for reference:

1. For the topic of about rainforests, applicants need to explore stories from [Rainforest Investigations Network](#) and [Rainforest Reporting](#)
2. For the topic of Climate and Labor: [Our Work/Environment grants](#).

This list is also available in the annex.

Examples include: collaboration with Pulitzer Center network journalists in the activity design upon proposal approval; utilization of key data/information from the journalists' reporting in proposal outputs or activities.





- The activity must present intended impacts with audiences in the academic community (students or faculty/research fellows) and civil society that align with one or both of the following outcomes:
  1. Improve the awareness and critical thinking of students and educators about complex issues related to tropical forests, oceans and the climate crisis including their impacts on vulnerable communities, and encourage the exploration of solutions and innovations to address these impacts.
  2. Equip students and educators to take action and drive changes to foster protection of the social and environment discourse as well as the rights of those most affected by socio-environmental destruction.
- Projects will ideally collaborate with the most affected communities, e.g. co-conceiving ideas with Indigenous communities, community leaders, or local organizations working directly with disadvantaged communities; collaboration with smaller universities in local areas.
- The project must demonstrate a strong Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion approach. Please refer to [Pulitzer Center's DEI](#) statement for more information.

## How to Apply

- All applicants must apply through the [submittable](#), an online application platform for all of the opportunities
- For Southeast Asia applicants that needs to apply in local language, please make sure you send application in the appropriate links:
  - English
  - Bahasa Indonesia
- What you need to prepare for the application form:

◦ Name and other contact details	◦ Budget Details, defining the related deliverables or activities followed by the unit details and price
◦ Project Title	◦ Timeline
◦ Elaboration of the proposed project	◦ Consent from the local community if applicant plans to work with them
◦ Elaboration on working with pulitzer center supported stories or journalist	◦ Preliminary content production plan if applicant plans to produce contents including references and content distribution plan
◦ Target audience	◦ CV of the project leader including three referees
◦ Elaboration on impact	
◦ Strategy or methodology to ensure the success of the project	
◦ Proposed budget	

# Timeline

- **Proposal Submission**  
March 12 - April 30
- **Selection Process**  
May 13 - June 13
- **Announcement**  
June 20
- **Contracting Process**  
June 20 - 30
- **Project Implementation**  
July 1 - December 1
- **Reporting**  
December Week 2 - Week 4



Image by Tonggo Simangunsong, Indonesia, 2022

For more information, please contact the responsible managers:  
Grenti Paramitha (Southeast Asia region): [gparamitha@pulitzercenter.org](mailto:gparamitha@pulitzercenter.org)

Learn more about the ISF and view previously approved projects for inspiration in the regional guidelines.

**Pulitzer Center Application Manager**  
([submittable.com](https://submittable.com))





# Annex 1. List of Pulitzer Center-Supported Stories by Topic:

## Rainforest Investigations Network

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Cambodia	Cambodian Forests Under Threats	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/cambodian-forests-under-threats">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/cambodian-forests-under-threats</a>	Anton Delgado	As a Rainforest Investigations Network Fellow, Anton Delgado is continuing his investigation into how macaques from Cambodia are being illegally traded. He is further expanding his previous coverage into environmental violations on the border with Vietnam and Laos and the role of Cambodia's biodiversity preservation policy.	Pictures, Map
	Power, Profits, and Patronage: Cambodian Elites Plunder the Cardamoms	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/power-profits-and-patronage-cambodian-elites-plunder-cardamoms">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/power-profits-and-patronage-cambodian-elites-plunder-cardamoms</a>	Gerald Flynn	<p>The Cardamom Mountains region remains one of the few intact ecosystems in Southeast Asia, but questionable development projects established by extractive patronage networks in Cambodia threaten to fracture the forest to feed economic development, and could be fueling an illicit wood trade.</p> <p>Working with Mongabay, freelance journalist Gerald Flynn uses extensive on-the-ground reporting, coupled with GIS mapping, financial relationship charting, and satellite imagery assessments to highlight the damage done by various economic sectors in Cambodia and the people seeking to plunder the country's last, best rainforest. While promising few positives for local communities, the projects slated to carve up the Cardamoms look set to benefit a network of powerful Cambodian and foreign nationals, at the cost of widespread environmental devastation.</p>	Pictures, Map, Graphic, Footage Video, Diagram


	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Cambodia	Deforestation and the Global Supply Chain	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/deforestation-and-global-supply-chain">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/deforestation-and-global-supply-chain</a>	Andrew Lehren	<p>Corporations and governments keep promising to combat losses of the planet's tropical rainforests, but forests continue to be cut down at alarming rates. A key driver is economics. Some products that come from rainforest regions are well known, like palm oil, gold and exotic hardwoods for homes and construction. Others might be surprising, like baby wipes, Adidas clothing, and Tesla car batteries.</p> <p>Working as a senior editor with the NBC News investigations team, Andy Lehren combines analysis of satellite imagery and large datasets with a team of on-the-ground reporters, examining whether corporate and government promises are being kept, and collaborating with journalists around the world, to document rainforest devastation and its links with supply chains and global markets.</p>	Pictures, Illustration, Courtesy Video
	Passing for Protection Country:	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/passing-protection">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/passing-protection</a>	Anton Delgado	<p>Large swaths of Cambodia are designated "protected areas," but while laws supposedly safeguard these national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, the reality of these landscapes often diverge far from their designation. Working as a staff reporter for the Southeast Asia Globe in Cambodia, Anton L. Delgado combines data trends, map analysis, and extensive boots-on-the-ground reporting across the kingdom to uncover the truth under the canopies. Delgado plans to show how the narratives and nuances of Cambodian forest management, with millions of dollars in international aid and a robust global market, affect the world.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Map, Graphic, Short Video, Footage Video, Social Media Post



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Malaysia	Unrecorded Forest Loss in Peninsular Malaysia: Locations, Actors, and Consequences	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/unrecorded-forest-loss-peninsular-malaysia-locations-actors-and-consequences">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/unrecorded-forest-loss-peninsular-malaysia-locations-actors-and-consequences</a>	Yao-Hua Law	Yao-Hua Law investigates the apparent gap between Peninsular Malaysia's officially reported forest area and the forest area measured by independent satellite analyses. In Peninsular Malaysia, the size of total forest area is calculated based on registered land use, rather than what is physically on the land. As long as a site is registered as forest land, one could clear it all and not cause a dent in the official forest area tally.	Pictures, Map, Graphic, Footage Video, Illustration, Powerpoint Slides, Official Document
	Malaysia's Deforestation Ecosystem		Low Choon Chyuan	In this project, journalist Low Choon Chyuan, of the independent portal Malaysiakini, uses public domain data, satellite images, and government reports to show the elaborate financial system that supports large-scale deforestation projects. He also examines the stakeholders who gain from such a system, how the network was established, and the social, economic, and environmental costs.	Pictures, Map, Infographics, Graphics, Short Video
Indonesia	Planned Deforestation in Indonesia	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/planned-deforestation-indonesia">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/planned-deforestation-indonesia</a>	Erwan Hermawan	<p>The Indonesian government claims that the rate of deforestation in Indonesia has fallen by 75 percent during 2019-2020. But the facts on the ground show that deforestation has continued, and has been going on for a long time.</p> <p>Oil palm plantations are the most reported on because they cause millions of hectares of deforestation. But often overlooked are the large swaths of mangrove forests that are being deforested by shrimp farming projects and paper mills.</p>	Pictures, Graphic, Map, Poster, Infographic, Short Documentary Video

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Corruption, Influence Trading, and Deforestation	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/corruption-influence-trading-and-deforestation">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/corruption-influence-trading-and-deforestation</a>	Margareth Aritonang	After four failed attempts, Prabowo Subianto secured victory in Indonesia's February presidential election, overcoming a controversial past that included his military dismissal over human rights allegations and years of self-exile in Jordan before rebranding as a politician and businessman. His rise to power has sparked concerns over Indonesia's democratic future and the resurgence of entrenched elites. Understanding his leadership requires examining his extensive business interests and their role in shaping political influence.	Pictures, Graphic, Maps
Vietnam	Vietnam's Forests Have Been Cleared To Supply the World's Timber Industry	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/vietnam-forests-have-been-cleared-supply-worlds-timber-industry">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/vietnam-forests-have-been-cleared-supply-worlds-timber-industry</a>	Bao-Uyen Vo-Kieu	<p>Vietnam is ranked the fifth-largest country in the world, second in Asia, and the largest in Southeast Asia in furniture exports. Vietnamese furniture has been directly exported to 120 countries and territories.</p> <p>However, behind this impressive figure is that series of natural forests that have been cut down and quickly. These forest land areas have been occupied for growing short-term timber trees.</p>	Pictures, Map, Footage video, Graphic
Laos	Fruits of Spoil: Laos' Forests Disappearing As Fruit Farms Flourish	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/fruits-spoil-laos-forests-disappearing-fruit-farms-flourish">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/fruits-spoil-laos-forests-disappearing-fruit-farms-flourish</a>		<p>The booming demand for bananas and durians in China has fueled large-scale agricultural investments in Southeast Asia, with Laos emerging as a key player by providing land and labor. Chinese and Vietnamese investors have capitalized on the country's low land-lease costs and fertile soil, establishing vast plantations that now threaten Laos' forests.</p> <p>Satellite imagery and investigative reports reveal that many plantations, owned by Chinese and Vietnamese</p>	Pictures, Maps, Graphic, Presentation





	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Laos				companies, are expanding into deforested areas near critical biodiversity zones like Dong Hua Sao and Xe Pian. This rapid land conversion, initially driven by banana cultivation and now durian farming, has intensified deforestation, raising concerns over environmental sustainability.	

# Rainforest Journalism Fund

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Is Social Forestry a Solution for Forest Conservation?	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/social-forestry-solution-forest-conservation">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/social-forestry-solution-forest-conservation</a>	Fendra Tryshanie, Titik Kartitiani	<p>Social forestry has existed in Indonesia since 1970, a hope for forest sustainability that also takes into account the welfare of the community. President Joko Widodo set a target of 12.4 million hectares of social forestry, with 5,087,754 hectares already achieved (October 2022).</p> <p>The mechanism for implementing social forestry is with the statuses of village forest, community forest, customary forest, community plantation forest, and forestry partnership.</p>	Picture
	Illegal Gold Mining in Kerinci Seblat National Park	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-kerinci-seblat-national-park">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-kerinci-seblat-national-park</a>	Suwandi Wendy	<p>This project reveals the actors of illegal gold mining: local businessmen in Merangin Regency and Merangin Regency DPRD members who are financiers of illegal gold mining.</p> <p>Villagers who have been controlled by illegal gold mining actors in Kerinci Seblat National Park have acted anarchically. They blocked the national road, the only access to Kerinci-Merangin, to undermine law enforcement. The police were forced to release a number of illegal gold miners who were arrested because the community's roadblocks had caused congestion and cut off access to land transportation.</p>	Pictures, Map



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The Dilemma of Indigenous Forest Status	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/dilemma-indigenous-forest-status">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/dilemma-indigenous-forest-status</a>	Irma Tambunan, Erika Kurnia, Sucipto Cipto, Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo)	<p>The recognition of customary forests in Indonesia still has many problems. As of December 2022, the Indigenous Territory Registration Agency has registered 1,167 maps of Indigenous territories with an area of 21.3 million hectares covering Indigenous territories in 29 provinces and 142 districts/cities. The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) noted that throughout 2022 the government had only succeeded in establishing 105 customary forests with an area of 148,488 hectares.</p> <p>However, Indigenous people also feel that their rights and requests have not been fully fulfilled because an area of 2,400 hectares of Indigenous territories is instead used by the government for a number of social forestry schemes, including village forests, community forests, community plantation forests, and partnerships.</p>	Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video, Infographic
	Protecting the Forest and Water Resources of Small Islands	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/protecting-forest-and-water-resources-small-islands">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/protecting-forest-and-water-resources-small-islands</a>	Palce Amalo	<p>Three small islands in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), namely Semau, Rote and Timor, have springs that never dry up throughout the year. The springs are Uiasa on Semau, Lelain and Oemau on Rote, and Adang, Kabola, and Nostalgia on Alor Island.</p> <p>The preservation of forests on these three islands has helped to maintain groundwater stocks so that the need for clean water for drinking, sanitation, and irrigation can be met. Information on the condition of forests and water sources on these three small islands was obtained from research and interviews with geology</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Infographic

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia				experts from Nusa Cendana University Kupang, the rector of Tribuana University Alor, and village officials.	
	Degradation of Mangrove Forests in Indonesia	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/degradation-mangrove-forests-indonesia">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/degradation-mangrove-forests-indonesia</a>	Tonggo Simangunson g, Dewantoro, Haryadi Klik, Suryadi M Nur	<p>This project is an in-depth report on the triggers, impacts, and solutions to mangrove degradation in Indonesia, using the provinces of West Kalimantan, South Sumatra, and Riau as case studies.</p> <p>Riau represents the province with the largest mangrove forest on the island of Sumatra, and the province of North Sumatra has extensive damage with complex problems ranging from land tenure for oil palm plantations and fish ponds. The third province, West Kalimantan, has the largest mangrove forest in Indonesia.</p>	Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video
	National Food Estate Program Destroying Indonesia's Small Islands	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/national-food-estate-program-destroying-indonesias-small-islands">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/national-food-estate-program-destroying-indonesias-small-islands</a>	Ahmad Arif, Saiful Rijal Yunus, Fransiskus Pati Herin, Yola Sastra	<p>Indonesia is an archipelagic country blessed with a diversity of biological resources, including food. For thousands of years, the islands have enjoyed a food culture that's adaptive to the local environment.</p> <p>However, the extraction of natural resources and centralized food policies have hurt this local food system. As a result, people on small islands are increasingly dependent on food shipments from outside, which has led to a decline in food security along with the destruction of the local ecosystem.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Graphic



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Illegal Logging Practices in the Southern Part of West Sumatra	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-logging-practices-southern-part-west-sumatra">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-logging-practices-southern-part-west-sumatra</a>	Vinolia Achmad, Mona Triana	<p>Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS) along with Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (TNBBS) were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2004. However, due to the high threat to the integrity of the national park areas, IUCN-UNESCO recommended TNKS, TNGL, and TNBBS be included in the World Heritage in Danger list in 2011.</p> <p>The decline in forest cover in this area, especially TNKS, is thought to be due to massive illegal activities in the form of illegal logging. In West Sumatra, this illegal activity is acute in the TNKS area in Pesisir Selatan Regency. As a result, the southernmost district of West Sumatra is subject to flooding.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
	Palm Oil in Senunsur Sembulu	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/palm-oil-senunsur-sembulu">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/palm-oil-senunsur-sembulu</a>	Dini Pramita, Abdus Somad, Alyaa Alhadjri	<p>Senunsur Sembulu II Protected Forest Area is located in East Belitung Regency, Bangka Belitung Islands. This protected forest area is a natural habitat for three important endemic animals, namely the binturong (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>), and pangolin (<i>Manis javanica</i>). It is also the remaining habitat for the Bangka tarsier or mentilin (<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>). These three endemic animals are designated as protected animals in the Indonesia's Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Map, Videographic, Illustration, Graphic

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia				All three are also endangered and on the radar of The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN Red List). Based on the latest IUCN assessment, February 6, 2016, the binturong is categorized as vulnerable due to its dwindling population in the wild. The Bangka tarsier is in the same position with a population of 19-20 individuals per square kilometer as of the last observation on 22 November 2015. Meanwhile, over the past 21 years, the rate of decline in the population of mackerel has continued to fall by 80 percent.	
	Indonesia's Indigenous Customary Forest	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/indonesia-as-indigenous-customary-forest">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/indonesia-as-indigenous-customary-forest</a>	Peter Yeung	<p>Indonesia is home to millions of hectares of forest, 12% of the world's mammals, and a dizzying array of Indigenous peoples. However, as the nation of 280 million develops, that forest—which plays a crucial role in keeping the earth's ecosystem in balance—is quickly being destroyed through mining, logging, plantations and infrastructure building.</p> <p>But at the start of 2017, more than 13,000 hectares of customary land was handed over to nine Indigenous communities across the country, recognizing their longstanding good stewardship and management of forests. This scheme could provide a sustainable solution to the country's future development.</p>	Pictures, Graphic



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Linking Paper Pulp Deforestation in Indonesia and Forced Labor in Xinjiang	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/linking-paper-pulp-deforestation-indonesia-and-forced-labor-xinjiang">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/linking-paper-pulp-deforestation-indonesia-and-forced-labor-xinjiang</a>	Tonggo Simangunson g, Nithin Coca	<p>It seems quite possible, if not likely, that wood fiber from conflict rainforests, or plantations on peatlands in Indonesia, is being sent to Xinjiang and, in facilities using forced labor, turned into viscose fiber that flows into garment supply chains, including to the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p>This investigation, published in English and Indonesian in Vice and Project Multatuli, will mix data, desk, and field work to link these supply chains. The goal: to connect deforestation and environmental degradation in Sumatra with labor and human rights abuses in Xinjiang and show how these tainted goods flow across the world.</p>	Pictures
	Planting Coffee, Maintaining Sustainability at Batang Gadis National Park	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/planting-coffee-maintainin-g-sustainability-batang-gadis-national-park">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/planting-coffee-maintainin-g-sustainability-batang-gadis-national-park</a>	Prayugo Utomo	<p>Batang Gadis National Park, which has an area of 72,150 hectares, is a habitat for the Sumatran tiger and other endangered species. Mitigation of damage is done by educating the public to look for economic alternatives.</p> <p>One example is what was carried out in Ulu Punngkut District, which is the buffer zone of the Batang Gadis National Park. The community formed the Mandailing Jaya Coffee Cooperative (Komanja).</p>	Pictures, Short Document ary Video, Podcast

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The "Shaman" Spirit in the Remaining Forest of Bangka Island	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/shaman-spirit-remaining-forest-bangka-island">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/shaman-spirit-remaining-forest-bangka-island</a>	Nopri Ismi, Taufik Wijaya	<p>Hundreds of years of tin extraction on Bangka Island left only forest on 32 granite hills. Mount Maras [705 meters] is the highest hill on this 1.6 million hectare island.</p> <p>Based on information from a number of traditional leaders from three ethnic Malay communities, namely Mapur, Jerieng, and Maras, almost every hill on Bangka Island is a forbidden or sacred area. The main Mount Maras, designated as a national park, is the sacred, spiritual center.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
	Fueling Deforestation Through Fake Green Fuel	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fueling-deforestation-through-fake-green-fuel">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fueling-deforestation-through-fake-green-fuel</a>	Stefano Valentino, Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo), Dina Febriastuti	<p>Over 50% of palm oil, mostly imported in Europe from Indonesia, ends up in biodiesel. Palm oil is a major driver of both deforestation and carbon emissions which are released in the atmosphere as carbon sinks are cleared to make room for new plantations. This project will prove that European drivers unintentionally subsidize tropical forests destruction and global warming through purchasing fake clean diesel for their vehicles.</p> <p>The team will investigate the case of a large European energy company supplying gas stations in different countries. Journalists will track the company's dirty supply chain from my diesel car all the way back to the Indonesian plantations where palm oil fruits are harvested in areas where land has been cleared in breach of law.</p>	Illustration, Pictures

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Hungry People at Merauke Food Estate	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/hungry-people-merauke-food-estate">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/hungry-people-merauke-food-estate</a>	Ahmad Arif, Agus Susanto, Saiful Rijal Yunus	<p>On August 11, 2010, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono initiated the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) project.</p> <p>From its conception, the project has received criticism from the local community, because it is considered to prioritize biophysical aspects and land suitability for large-scale investment and does not consider cultural aspects and customary land ownership (Zakaria et al., 2011; Santosa, 2014).</p>	Pictures, Infographic , Map, Graphic
	The Threat of Extinction of Noken Raw Material Plants	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-extinction-noken-raw-material-plants-0">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-extinction-noken-raw-material-plants-0</a>	Yuda Yudistir, Titik Kartitiani	<p>Papua's Noken craft has been designated World Heritage since December 2012. Noken materials and colors are all taken from plants in the highland rainforests of Papua. The cultivation of noken materials, especially orchids, is difficult due to the high altitude. In addition, there is limited personnel and funds resulting in minimal patrols from officers in Region II of Manokwari Regency, which is where none resources grow and blossom.</p> <p>The main threat to Papua's Noken craft is the continuous exploitation while plant growth is slow. But that's not the only one: there's also forest narrowing due to infrastructure development for regional expansion, illegal logging, and gold mining.</p>	Pictures, Map

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The Lowland Tropical Rainforest of Nusakambangan Island: Threats and Conservation Efforts	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/lowland-tropical-rainforest-nusakambangan-island-threats-and-conservation-efforts">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/lowland-tropical-rainforest-nusakambangan-island-threats-and-conservation-efforts</a>	Lilik Darmawan	<p>This project features in-depth coverage of the existence of lowland tropical rainforests on Nusakambangan Island, Cilacap, Central Java. The management authority of Nusakambangan Island is the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, as the local island is used as a prison island.</p> <p>On Nusakambangan there are forests that are the habitat of various wildlife. Based on data from the Central Java Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA) there are still wild animals and various rare plants, especially in the Nature Reserve (CA) area. Among the wildlife that still exist are leopards, jungle cats, langurs and others. While the rare and typical plant of Nusakambangan Island is Plalar.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
	Kalimantan's "Food Estates" Drive Hunger for People and Disaster for Environment	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/kalimantans-food-estates-drive-hunger-people-and-disaster-environment">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/kalimantans-food-estates-drive-hunger-people-and-disaster-environment</a>	Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo (Aldo), Ahmad Arif	<p>The purpose of this report is to look into the wild food and medicine for local communities that have been lost or are at risk of being lost as a result of the Central Kalimantan Food Estates Program. This identification comprises identifying flora and fauna species by their local names, as well as nutritional composition and community use. Furthermore, the history of land use and ownership are investigated, as well as the potential losses and hazards posed by environmental disasters. As an example, a similar effort carried out by the New Order in the 1990s failed and became Indonesia's leading cause of forest and land fires.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Infographic



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia				The report's findings will be published in Kompas, an Indonesian national newspaper, and online at Kompas.id.	
	Orang Rimba, Guardians of Bukit Duabelas	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/orang-rimba-guardians-bukit-duabelas">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/orang-rimba-guardians-bukit-duabelas</a>	Irma Tambunan	In the midst of modern civilization, the Orang Rimba's belief in "Bedewo" lives on. The Orang Rimba not only worship their ancestors, but also trees with large crowns and charismatic animals. Every newborn is given a protective plant, a tenggeris tree (Scypha sp), to care for throughout its life. The baby's placenta is then buried under the sentubung tree (Gonocaryum gracile). Both types of protective trees must not be cut down. Violators are subject to the heaviest customary sanction, "nyawo replace nyawo." Through this belief, the Orang Rimba's bond with nature marks their important role in protecting the jungle.	Documentary Video, Pictures, Infographic, Map
	The Homeless Giants: Forest Loss and the Fate of Sumatran Elephants	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/homeless-giants-forest-loss-and-fate-sumatran-elephants">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/homeless-giants-forest-loss-and-fate-sumatran-elephants</a>	Dyna Rochmyaning sih, Fieni Aprilia	Poisoned. Hunted. Snared.  Much is known about the tragic fate of the Sumatran elephant, one of the critically endangered megafaunas in Sumatra. In the past two years, around 44 elephant deaths were reported across the island due to conflicts with industrial and smallholder plantations. But how imperiled is the species?	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Map

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Indonesia				The report's findings will be published in Kompas, an Indonesian national newspaper, and online at Kompas.id.	
	Orang Rimba, Guardians of Bukit Duabelas	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/orang-rimba-guardians-bukit-duabelas">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/orang-rimba-guardians-bukit-duabelas</a>	Irma Tambunan	In the midst of modern civilization, the Orang Rimba's belief in "Bedewo" lives on. The Orang Rimba not only worship their ancestors, but also trees with large crowns and charismatic animals. Every newborn is given a protective plant, a tenggeris tree ( <i>Scypha</i> sp), to care for throughout its life. The baby's placenta is then buried under the sentubung tree ( <i>Gonocaryum gracile</i> ). Both types of protective trees must not be cut down. Violators are subject to the heaviest customary sanction, "nyawo replace nyawo." Through this belief, the Orang Rimba's bond with nature marks their important role in protecting the jungle.	Documentary Video, Pictures, Infographic, Map
	The Homeless Giants: Forest Loss and the Fate of Sumatran Elephants	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/homeless-giants-forest-loss-and-fate-sumatran-elephants">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/homeless-giants-forest-loss-and-fate-sumatran-elephants</a>	Dyna Rochmyaning Sih, Fieni Aprilia	Poisoned. Hunted. Snared.  Much is known about the tragic fate of the Sumatran elephant, one of the critically endangered megafaunas in Sumatra. In the past two years, around 44 elephant deaths were reported across the island due to conflicts with industrial and smallholder plantations. But how imperiled is the species?	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Map

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Preserving Herman Johannes Forest Park Area	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/preserving-herman-johannes-forest-park-area">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/preserving-herman-johannes-forest-park-area</a>	Palce Amalo	<p>The Herman Johannes Forest Park has an area of 1,900 hectares. It is located in 12 villages and four sub-districts in Kupang District, East Nusa Tenggara Province. Herman Johannes Forest Park is an important forest area in the southern part of Timor Island as it is host to an enormous diversity of animals and plants.</p> <p>Research in Herman Johannes Forest Park in 2015 by Wim Bureni – a student of the Department of Biology, Nusa Cendana University – found teak, ampupu, sandalwood, mahogany, haubesi, and mountain cypress trees. There are Timor deer, wild boars, Timor monitor lizards, jungle fowls, cuscus, and yellow-breasted lorikeets. No less important are the site's 60 springs.</p>	Pictures, Infographic
	The Threat to Four Endemic Primates and the Biodiversity of Sipora Island	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-four-endemic-primates-and-biodiversity-sipora-island">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/threat-four-endemic-primates-and-biodiversity-sipora-island</a>	Febrianti, Gerson Saleleubaja, Rus Akbar	<p>Sipora Island, part of the Mentawai Islands located on the west coast of Sumatra, has a unique flora and fauna because it has been geologically separated from the Sunda mainland plate since the Mid-Pleistocene period, 500,000 to a million years ago. Separateness makes the local evolutionary process produce high endemism for species that live there.</p> <p>Sipora Forest is an important habitat for four endemic primates of Mentawai, namely bokkoi (<i>Macaca pagensis</i>), joja (<i>Presbytis potenziani</i>), bilou (<i>Hylobates klossii</i>), and simakobu (<i>Nasalis concolor siberu</i>). There are also endemic flying squirrels, different types of birds, reptiles, and various types of plants.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Map, Infographic

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Company's Profit, Society's Loss	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/companys-profit-societys-loss">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/companys-profit-societys-loss</a>	Didit Hariyadi	<p>The Environmental Organization Forum (Walhi) of South Sulawesi noted that currently East Luwu Regency is losing about 41,000 hectares of forest cover. The cause is nickel mining activity. In 2009, the area of forest cover in the district still reached 428,000 hectares. Then in 2014 it was reduced to an area of 412,000 hectares and until now an area of 387,000 hectares. Tropical forests in South Sulawesi are indeed undergoing nickel mining expansion.</p> <p>As a result, it is bad for the environment and local communities/local customs. The seizure of community management territory makes them suffer. Human rights violations occur until their incomes are declining. Meanwhile, PT Vale is getting richer because mining and nickel management continue to expand.</p>	Pictures, Graphic, Short Documentary Video
	The Impact of Deforestation on Apis Dorsata Habitat in Nagari Latang	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/impact-deforestation-on-apis-dorsata-habitat-nagari-latang">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/impact-deforestation-on-apis-dorsata-habitat-nagari-latang</a>	Yethendra Bima Putra	<p>New land clearing and illegal logging have made a lasting impact on wild bee habitats and the production of Sialang Honey managed by the Forest Farmers Group (KTH) Ingin Maju in Nagari Latang, Lubuk Tarok District, Sijunjung Regency, West Sumatra, Indonesia. In 2017, the Sialang KTH Ingin Maju annual honey production reached 4000 kilograms; in 2020, production decreased by 1000 kilograms.</p> <p>KTH Ingin Maju is a place for dozens of traditional farmers of Sialang Honey that formed in 2015. The business uses wild bee varieties (Apis dorsata) that nest in Sialang rocks</p>	Pictures, Map



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Indonesia				and Sialang trees ( <i>Koompassia excelsa</i> ) in the forest, covering an area of 13.5 hectares, and is situated away from settlements in Nagari Latang. Apis dorsata eat flowers from the forest trees.	
	Illegal Gold Mining as the Main Cause of Deforestation in West Sumatra	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-main-cause-deforestation-west-sumatra">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/illegal-gold-mining-main-cause-deforestation-west-sumatra</a>	Afrimen MN	<p>The rise of gold mining activities without permits or illegal gold mining is a problem for West Sumatra. In this area hundreds of illegal gold mines operate and there are no legal mines.</p> <p>Illegal gold mining activities have an impact on environmental damage and a decrease in the quality of the carrying capacity of the soil. This then contributes greatly to forest destruction. Throughout 2021, at least 6,968 hectares of forest were found in West Sumatra damaged by illegal gold mining. The biggest damage occurred to the forest in South Solok Regency, which covered an area of 2,559 hectares. Most illegal gold mines are in the area.</p>	Pictures
	Expansion of Tripe Palm Oil Conservation Area in Banggai	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/expansion-tripe-palm-oil-conservation-area-banggai">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/expansion-tripe-palm-oil-conservation-area-banggai</a>	Sarjan Lahay	<p>The Bangkiriang Wildlife Reserve (SM) Conservation Area in Banggai Regency, Sulawesi, Indonesia, has become a victim of the expansion of the palm oil company PT. Kurnia Luwuk Sejati (KLS).</p> <p>The company is using residents to clear the Bangkiriang forest and plant oil palm trees. The method is people cut down trees and then get paid.</p>	Pictures, Documentary Video, Graphic, Map

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Villages in the Buffer Zone Area of Kerinci Seblat National Park Maintain Conservation Area	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/villages-buffer-zone-area-kerinci-seblat-national-park-maintain-conservation-area">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/villages-buffer-zone-area-kerinci-seblat-national-park-maintain-conservation-area</a>	Joni Aswira Putra	<p>Of the 371 villages around the national park or buffer zone, 270 villages in four provinces have settlements close to the boundary of Kerinci Seblat National Park (TNKS). Residents of these villages often work on land within the national park area and take their forest products. The amount of land that has been opened in TNKS reaches 105,000 hectares, some of which has been opened before the boundary fishing.</p> <p>For most of them, their lives depend on forest sources. But at the same time, there are also those who guard and defend the TNKS area from encroachment and illegal logging.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Documentary Video
	The Struggle To Protect the Last Forest on Pagai Island	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/struggle-protect-last-forest-pagai-island">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/struggle-protect-last-forest-pagai-island</a>	Rus Akbar, Febrianti	<p>Indigenous Mentawai people are struggling to defend their last forest in North Pagai Island, Mentawai Islands Regency, West Sumatra.</p> <p>They stopped heavy equipment belonging to the Essential Oil Cooperative, which began cutting down large tropical forest trees in Silabu Village to make 1,500 hectares of lemongrass plantations and cinnamon bark plants. The clearing of forests by the Essential Oil Cooperative received permission from the West Sumatra Forest Service.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Illegal Oil Palm Land Bleaching in Forest Areas in Indonesia	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/illegal-oil-palm-land-bleaching-forest-areas-indonesia">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/illegal-oil-palm-land-bleaching-forest-areas-indonesia</a>	Aditya Budiman, Aseanty Pahlevi, Cantya Zamzabella, Riani Sanusi Putri, Agung Sedayu	This coverage of illegal oil palm land bleaching in forest areas will involve four online media outlets (Tempo.co, RiauTerkini.com, IniBorneo.com, and BanjarHits.co) and one media aggregator (Teras.id), with a total of seven reporters/editors. The four outlets will collaborate to report on the latest situation in forest areas in Riau, West Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, and Jakarta. This collaboration-based coverage will be carried out with in-depth field reporting and investigations to reveal the main actors behind the policy of bleaching oil palm land in the forest. Reporting will also look at who benefits from the policy. The coverage, which will be supported by data and visuals, will provide an overview of forest damage caused by illegal oil palm plantations.	Pictures, Map, Graphics, Short Documentary Video, Infographics
	Female Oil Palm Laborers and the Climate Crisis	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/female-oil-palm-laborers-and-climate-crisis">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/female-oil-palm-laborers-and-climate-crisis</a>	Suwandi Wendy	Female laborers on oil palm plantations face severe exploitation amid the climate crisis, with companies neglecting labor rights and lacking protections for women. Many suffer miscarriages, premature births, and toxic chemical exposure, while extreme heat and haze from fires worsen their health risks. Despite demanding better conditions, these workers endure harsh environments, threats of dismissal, and escalating workloads. Meanwhile, plantation companies continue profiting from global palm oil exports while disregarding the well-being of their female workforce.	Pictures

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The Disappearance of Indigenous Religion Guarding the Environment in Indonesia	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/disappearance-indigenous-religion-guarding-environment-indonesia">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/disappearance-indigenous-religion-guarding-environment-indonesia</a>	Eko Rusdianto, Iqbal Lubis	<p>Religious discrimination in Indonesia reached its peak in 1967, when President Suharto issued a Presidential Instruction regarding the prohibition of Chinese religion, beliefs, and customs. Now, there are only six state-approved religions, including Islam, Protestantism, and Catholicism.</p> <p>Among those banned were local religions that are closely interconnected with nature, feeding into the rise of environmental destruction. Forests, which were regarded as the home of the gods protecting the water and food resources, have turned into residential and tourism business areas.</p>	Pictures, Graphics
	The Threatened Delicate Guardian of Eastern Indonesia	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/threatened-delicate-guardian-eastern-indonesia">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/threatened-delicate-guardian-eastern-indonesia</a>	Titah AW, Kurniadi Widodo	The endemic Ornithoptera birdwing butterflies of Maluku and Papua face severe threats from poaching, deforestation, and illegal trade, despite their crucial ecological role as pollinators. Amidst weak conservation efforts and insufficient data, a lepidoptera expert in Papua has taken personal steps to protect these butterflies, highlighting the often-overlooked illegal trade of small but vital species.	Pictures



	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Thailand	Our World Heritage in Danger?: A Close Look Into Thailand's Natural World Heritage Sites and Challenges	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/our-world-heritage-danger-close-look-thailands-natural-world-heritage-sites-and-challenges">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/our-world-heritage-danger-close-look-thailands-natural-world-heritage-sites-and-challenges</a>	Piyaporn Wongruang, Pattaraporn Sritongtae	<p>Having been designated as Natural World Heritage Sites, Thailand's most valued forests are highly expected from the public that they can retain their ecological values that meet global recognition and the context of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>However, the three sites—Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries, Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex—have been facing pressure from highly charged threats, from sophisticated poaching to unsound state development, to a decades-long land rights conflict, prompting their world heritage statuses and conservation work to be critically challenged.</p>	Pictures, Infographic, Film Documentary
	The Complexity of Thailand's Northern Wildfire Crisis	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/complexity-thailands-northern-wildfire-crisis">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/complexity-thailands-northern-wildfire-crisis</a>	Molecule Jongwilai, Patchar Duangklad, Pitshaya Chonato, Pimpatipang Angkharuengrattana, Ploythida Ketkaew, Paris Jitpentom	<p>The wildfire is one of the most severe environmental issues Thailand has faced, especially in the northern region. Many specialists have suggested that this crisis is a main contributor to the haze pollution issue, including the high concentration levels of PM2.5. It has been acknowledged that every type of wildfire and burning in agricultural areas mostly situated next to the forest is a critical problem that needs to be handled or prevented from happening.</p> <p>There are numerous factors that influence wildfires. This leads to significant questions: What are the actual problems causing the haze pollution? Which regulations or policies can handle this complicated issue effectively?</p>	Infographic, Pictures, Map, Short Documentary Video

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Thailand	A Fragile Coexistence	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fragile-coexistence">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/fragile-coexistence</a>	Luke Duggleby, Maria Stöhr	<p>During the latter half of 2022, over 10 people were killed by wild elephants in provinces just hours east of Bangkok. Mostly villagers in the wrong place at the wrong time, these deaths tell of what has become Thailand's worst human-elephant conflict.</p> <p>With the highest concentration of wild elephants per square kilometre of natural forest in the country, the area known as Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) has become an unlikely battleground between farmers trying to protect their livelihoods and wild elephants who can't resist the food they grow.</p>	Pictures, Map
Cambodia	When a Flooded Forest Is Drowning	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-flooded-forest-drowning">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-flooded-forest-drowning</a>	Marta Kasztelan, Andy Ball	<p>This reporting project highlights the cumulative impacts of upstream Mekong River dams in China and Laos on Cambodia's Stung Treng flooded forest. Designated as a Ramsar site because of its exceptional biodiversity and uniqueness, it is home to endangered bird and fish species. But the forest is dying, and its demise will affect fisheries in all of Cambodia as it offers critical food supplies and a breeding site for migratory fish.</p> <p>Located in northeastern Cambodia, the sprawling Stung Treng flooded forest once could dry out and replenish once the monsoon rains stopped. The cyclical release of water from upstream dams during the dry season—allegedly without consultation with downstream nations—has rendered that</p>	Pictures, Map

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Cambodia				impossible and will likely lead to the complete eradication of the region's biodiversity.	
	Conflicted Conservation for Cambodia's Indigenous Peoples	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/conflicted-conservation-cambodias-indigenous-peoples">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/conflicted-conservation-cambodias-indigenous-peoples</a>	Jack Brook, Choulay Mech	Cambodia's Indigenous communities have legal rights to collective land ownership, but in practice, government policies and exclusionary conservation efforts have hindered their ability to secure communal forests. Many communities face land disputes, restrictive law enforcement, and a growing debt crisis fueled by World Bank-funded microfinance, which pressures them to seek private land titles instead of communal ownership. As Indigenous lands are increasingly used as collateral for risky loans, collective conservation efforts weaken, accelerating land loss and deforestation in provinces like Mondul Kiri, Ratanak Kiri, and Kratie. This investigation will uncover how conflicting development agendas and restrictive policies undermine Indigenous land security while also highlighting grassroots efforts to preserve cultural and environmental heritage.	Pictures, Graphics, Map
	Unwilling To Be Silenced, a Cambodian Environmental Activist Readies for Prison	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/unwilling-be-silenced-cambodian-environmental-activist-readies-prison">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/unwilling-be-silenced-cambodian-environmental-activist-readies-prison</a>	Andy Ball, Marta Kasztelan	Cambodian environmental activist Ly Chandaravuth, a 24-year-old law student and member of Mother Nature Cambodia, was arrested while testing river pollution in Phnom Penh and charged with plotting against the government. Facing up to a decade in prison, he has endured state surveillance and growing repression against activists exposing environmental destruction and corruption. Despite the risks, Chandaravuth continues his	Documentary Video ,

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Cambodia				investigations into illegal logging and rainforest destruction while preparing for possible incarceration. His group recently won the Right Livelihood Award, but uncertainty looms over whether he and his colleagues can travel to Sweden to accept it without facing government retaliation.	
Malaysia	Undrinkable: The Story of Tasik Chini Pollution	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/undrinkable-story-tasik-chini-pollution">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/undrinkable-story-tasik-chini-pollution</a>	Hariz Mohd, Aznael Ishak	<p>Tasik Chini is one of Unesco's Biosphere Reserves (BR), and the second largest natural freshwater lake in Peninsular Malaysia. However, since it was designated as reserve in 2009, the lake reportedly started to endure pollution as the byproduct of deforestation, mining, and plantation activities.</p> <p>The Malaysiakini news portal visited the lake in June 2022, where it learned from Tasik Chini locals that they no longer will be able to depend on it as a water source due to alleged heavy contamination. It has come to the extent that villagers face water shortage problems despite living right beside a massive lake basin.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Table
	Sabah's Mangrove Defenders	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sabahs-mangrove-defenders">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sabahs-mangrove-defenders</a>	Emily Ding, Yih Wen Chen	<p>Southeast Asia is home to a third and most of the world's mangroves; it is also the region that has experienced the most extensive mangrove loss.</p> <p>In Malaysia, which has nearly 5 percent of the world's total mangroves, about 60 percent are located in Sabah, mostly along its east coast. Most mangroves in Sabah are formally protected as forest reserves, though there remain difficulties of enforcement in more</p>	Pictures, Footage Video, Short Documentary Video, Map



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Malaysia				remote areas. Moreover, some mangroves, such as on Sabah's west coast, are unprotected. A 2020 study shows that the annual average rate of mangrove loss in Sabah—0.58% or 1,705 hectares a year—between 2000 and 2015 is higher than global average estimates of 0.16% to 0.39%. This is especially worrying amid our climate crisis, as mangroves can store up to five times more carbon than other forest ecosystems.	
	Forest Clearing and Floods at Baling, Kedah Malaysia	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/forest-clearing-and-floods-baling-kedah-malaysia">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/forest-clearing-and-floods-baling-kedah-malaysia</a>	Si Err Yap, Mukhriz Hazim	<p>On July 4, 2022, three people died and more than 3,000 people were displaced when sludge, debris and flood waters buried several villages near Baling, Kedah, in the north of Peninsular Malaysia. On September 6, 2022, water came gushing down Gunung Inas to flood the village again after a 30-minute heavy downpour, forcing more than 100 residents to evacuate. Faced with a third round of flooding in two months, residents of Kampung Iboi near Baling are now asking how much longer they need to live in fear each time it rains.</p> <p>Crucially, they said the series of flooding started when works started on a mega durian plantation in a water catchment area in the mountainous Gunung Inas Forest Reserve.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures, Footage Video, Map

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Malaysia	EUDR's Effect on Smallholding Oil Palm in Malaysia	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/eudrs-effect-smallholding-oil-palm-malaysia">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/eudrs-effect-smallholding-oil-palm-malaysia</a>	James Whitlow Delano	By the end of 2024, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will require palm oil producers to provide GPS coordinates proving their crops did not contribute to deforestation since 2020, or they will be barred from exporting to the EU. This regulation threatens Malaysia's palm oil industry, where 40% of production comes from smallholders, prompting sustainability group Wild Asia to assist farmers in meeting compliance standards.	Pictures, Map
	Red Rivers and Death: Natives' Fight Against Iron Mining in Deep Rainforest	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/red-rivers-and-death-natives-fight-against-iron-mining-deep-rainforest">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/red-rivers-and-death-natives-fight-against-iron-mining-deep-rainforest</a>	Aidila Razak, S Vinothaa	In 2012, Malaysiakini reported on severe water pollution from an iron ore mine in Kampung Kelaik, Kelantan, which turned the river red and contaminated the village's water supply. The situation worsened over the years, culminating in the tragic death of a village elder, prompting the community to take legal action against the government and 10 firms for encroaching on their land.	Pictures, Short Video, Graphics, Infographics, Map, Documentary Video
	Pahang Deforestation Aided by RM52m Financing From Bank Islam	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/pahang-deforestation-aided-rm52m-financing-bank-islam">https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/pahang-deforestation-aided-rm52m-financing-bank-islam</a>	Low Choon Chyuan	In this project, journalist Low Choon Chyuan, of the independent portal Malaysiakini, uses public domain data, satellite images, and government reports to show the elaborate financial system that supports large-scale deforestation projects. He also examines the stakeholders who gain from such a system, how the network was established, and the social, economic, and environmental costs.	Map, Pictures, Graphic, Infographics

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Vietnam	The Human Stories Behind the Mekong's Ecological Collapse	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/human-stories-behind-mekongs-ecological-collapse">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/human-stories-behind-mekongs-ecological-collapse</a>	Nhung Nguyen	<p>Vietnam's southern plain, one of the most significant wetlands on earth, has been almost drained. According to the WWF, the Greater Mekong subregion risks losing over a third of its remaining forest within the next two decades.</p> <p>The area has been transformed into an agriculture and aquaculture hub that is now feeding a growing population of 100 million people while producing 13 percent of the world's rice.</p>	Pictures, Short Video, Graphics, Infographics, Map, Documentary Video
	Sacrificing Forests for Economic Development	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sacrificing-forests-economic-development">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/sacrificing-forests-economic-development</a>	Le Quynh	<p>Almost 90% of the forest area in Dak Doa township and two communes, Glar and Tan Binh of Dak Doa district in Gia Lai province in Vietnam's Central Highlands, will be obliterated to give way to the 517-hectare Dak Doa Complex, which will include a golf course and residential and resort facilities. The Vietnamese government has approved this project, which is owned by FLC Corporation, one of Vietnam's largest conglomerates. However, FLC has been facing a financial crisis since its president, Trinh Van Quyet, was arrested for manipulating the stock market.</p>	Pictures, Map
	When the Forests Fall Silent	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-forests-fall-silent">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/when-forests-fall-silent</a>	Audrey Tan, Anton Delgado, Mark Cheong	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic, which likely spawned from a wildlife market, has highlighted how human and planetary health intertwine. The outbreak prompted some countries to re-evaluate their relationship with nature. But in Southeast Asia, forests are still being emptied of birds, reptiles and small mammals. Some of these animals are sold in local</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video, Footage Video, Map, Videographic

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Vietnam				markets for consumption, while some are taken for other industries, such as to feed the exotic pet trade or for civet coffee. This not only has implications for future disease outbreaks, but also for the health of the rainforest—a habitat increasingly valued for its ability to soak up planet-warming carbon dioxide.	
	Lâm Đồng Plans To Remove Hectares From Forest Master Plan	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/lam-dong-plans-remove-hectares-forest-master-plan">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/lam-dong-plans-remove-hectares-forest-master-plan</a>	Le Quynh	Lâm Đồng, one of Vietnam’s most forested provinces with 54.6% forest cover, is experiencing a steady decline in forested areas due to government decisions to remove land from protection. Landslides, flooding, and land subsidence are worsening as authorities revise forest management plans, allocating tens of thousands of hectares for economic development. Over the past 18 years, nearly 107,000 hectares of forested land have been removed or are planned for removal, raising concerns about environmental degradation and the displacement of ethnic minority communities. This investigation examines the justifications behind these policy decisions and their broader impact on ecosystems and local livelihoods.	Pictures, Map, Graphics
Laos	China’s Appetite and the Decimation of Laos’ Forest	<a href="https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/chinas-appetite-and-decimation-laos-forest">https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/projects/chinas-appetite-and-decimation-laos-forest</a>	Aidan Jones	Laos holds the keys to China’s grand plans to connect Southeast Asia.  Poor, landlocked and dwarfed by its giant neighbour, the Communist nation has been carved apart by train lines, roads and dams. Many are funded—or debt-funded—by Beijing which trumpets its Laos’ investments as an unequivocal Belt and Road success story.	Short Documentary Video, Pictures

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Laos	China's Billion-Dollar Craze for Durian Is Transforming Laos Forests	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/chinas-billion-dollar-craze-durian-transforming-laos-forests">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/chinas-billion-dollar-craze-durian-transforming-laos-forests</a>	Zhaoyin Feng, Beimeng Fu	China's surging demand for durian has led to large-scale investments in Laos, with Chinese firms like Jiarun Agriculture securing thousands of hectares of land in Attapeu's primary rainforests for durian plantations. Fueled by the Belt and Road Initiative's Laos-China Railway, this expansion raises concerns over deforestation, biodiversity loss, and its economic and social impact on local communities.	Map, Pictures, Graphic



# Ocean Research Network

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Thailand	Thailand's Favorite Fish Is Vanishing; Our Appetite is To Blame	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/thailand-s-favorite-fish-vanishing-our-appetite-blame">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/thailand-s-favorite-fish-vanishing-our-appetite-blame</a>	Aidan Jones	<p>"Pla Tu" (mackerel) is Thailand's favorite fish; a once plentiful source of protein for millions who seek out the freshest, fattiest fish for hot oily curries, a cheap meal smoked and flaked into fried rice. But the nation's favorite fish is running out, thanks to trawlers scraping the shallows where the fish uniquely breed in the Gulf of Thailand.</p> <p>At dawn outside a temple on the Mae Khlong River, fishermen return from the Gulf with their catch each morning, complaining it's diminishing. Yet 11 tonnes of fish were caught on average each day in the Gulf of Thailand in 2022. up from 8 tonnes the year before.</p>	Short Documentary Video, Pictures
Philippines	The Ocean's Invisible Pollutants	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/oceans-invisible-pollutants">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/oceans-invisible-pollutants</a>	Aryn Baker	<p>We've seen the photos: the Pacific garbage patch, turtles choking on straws, oil spills visible from space. But it is the invisible forms of ocean pollution—microscopic plastic particles, sound, toxic forever chemicals, and insidious viruses and bacteria that hitchhike along the world's shipping lanes—that most threaten marine life, with consequences for human health. And the most pernicious form of plastic pollution isn't found in the ocean at all. It is located in the corridors of power in global capitals, as the fossil fuel industry, threatened by the rise of renewable energies, seeks to reinvent itself with increased plastic production.</p>	Map, Infographic, Graphic, Short Video, Short Documentary Video

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The Dark Side of the Natuna and Arafura Seas	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/dark-side-natuna-and-arafura-seas">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/dark-side-natuna-and-arafura-seas</a>	Abdus Somad, Yosea Arga Pramudita	Indonesia, one of the world's top fishery producers, is facing accusations of illegal fishing by major companies that exceed quotas without consequences. Satellite images show vessels from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia, and China fishing in Papua New Guinea's waters and the Arafura Sea, while Vietnamese, Chinese, and Thai vessels operate illegally in the Natuna Sea. Among them, Antesena 827 and Naga Mas Perkasa, linked to PT Pusaka Bejina Resource—despite its revoked license—are still fishing and reportedly docking at a port owned by businessman Tommy Winata. Other companies, including PT Bandar Nelayan, PT Dua Putra Perkasa Pratama, and PT Insan Gemilang Pualam, linked to politicians, are also involved, raising concerns over who truly benefits from these illegal activities.	Pictures, Infographics

## Our Work & Environment

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	The Archipelago: Resilience in the Face of Climate Change	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/archipelago-resilience-face-climate-change">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/archipelago-resilience-face-climate-change</a>	Adi Renaldi	<p>Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, has been facing the devastating consequences of climate change. From rising sea levels to longer droughts, Indonesia is predicted to lose more than \$36 billion between 2020-2024, according to the Ministry of National Planning Development.</p> <p>Major cities, including the capital city of Jakarta, along the northern coast have been frequently hit by tidal floods due to sinking land and rising sea levels, causing more than \$27 billion in losses. Meanwhile, crop failures across the archipelago have been a common phenomenon in the past few years due to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and longer drought. Rice production has been declining in the past five years, and it's estimated that the total loss amounted to \$5.2 billion.</p>	Pictures, Short Documentary Video
	Climate Change Impacts Workers in Java's Coastal Areas	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/climate-change-impacts-workers-javas-coastal-areas">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/climate-change-impacts-workers-javas-coastal-areas</a>	Asnil Bambani, Adi Wikanto	<p>Climate change in Indonesia is hitting the operations of businesses in industrial areas along the north coast of Java. Many businesses are losing money because frequent flooding has forced factories to stop their operations.</p> <p>Workers are being laid off, and bonuses are being canceled. Some laborers have to spend extra money just to go to work. Conditions have worsened when flood control wasn't carried out.</p>	Tabloid, Pictures, Documentary Video

	Project Title	Project Link	Grantees	Project Synopsis	Media
Indonesia	Wave of Change: The Fate of Indonesia's Workers Amid Marine Heatwaves and Extractivism	<a href="https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/wave-change-fate-indonesias-workers-amid-marine-heatwaves-and-extractivism">https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/wave-change-fate-indonesias-workers-amid-marine-heatwaves-and-extractivism</a>	Adi Renaldi, Asad Asnawi	<p>Indonesia ranks among the top producers and suppliers of fisheries products worldwide. But Indonesia is facing challenges ahead, from marine heatwaves due to the climate crisis to over-fishing.</p> <p>This project aims to show how marine heatwaves and the climate crisis impact fishery industries and the workers.</p>	Pictures



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