



**Environmental
Justice Fund**
BY ACTIVISTS • FOR ACTIVISTS

Call for proposals: February 2024

About EJF

The Environmental Justice Fund (EJF) is an activist-driven organisation working to strengthen the environmental justice movement in South Africa by providing financial, capacity-strengthening and networking support to community-based organisations and networks.

Who EJF supports

To be eligible for support from EJF, you must be:

1. An organisation or network (not an individual) based in, and part of, the community it serves;
2. Working on environmental justice;
3. In South Africa.

In relation to the first of the eligibility criteria outlined above, please note that EJF does not consider applications from established NGOs. This is because EJF was set up precisely to address the problem that most funding typically goes to established NGOs, whereas community-based organisations (CBOs) struggle to access funding directly. This is why we focus *specifically* on CBOs. There are many NGOs doing important environmental justice work in South Africa, but they are not eligible for EJF grants because there is other funding that they are potentially eligible for. We also don't consider proposals from private companies and other profit-making entities, or from state entities (like municipalities).

EJF supports established and new CBOs. You do not need to be formally registered to be eligible for support from us.

What EJF supports

We support environmental justice activism. We take a broad approach to what constitutes environmental justice, but your proposal needs to make the link between the activities you propose to do and environmental justice. For example, a proposal to distribute food parcels to ensure food security might not be eligible, but a proposal to establish a community food garden and train community members on organic farming and permaculture principles, would be eligible. The important thing is to explain the link between your project/campaign and environmental justice.

EJF may support work on, amongst other things: Climate justice and the Just Transition; Air pollution; Mining; Food sovereignty; Water; Waste; Ecofeminism; Eco socialism; Land rights; Promotion of indigenous knowledge; Alternative sustainable livelihoods; Environmental health; Access to environmental information; and Community participation in decision-making around natural resources. This is not a closed list, and we will consider applications outside of these areas if they still fall within the ambit of environmental justice.



The activities which EJF might support include:

- A specific event (like a protest, meeting or workshop);
- Organising, campaigns and advocacy work;
- Community-led research;
- Litigation by community-based organisations;
- Community environmental education initiatives; and
- Organisational strengthening initiatives.

How support from EJF works

We give 1-year grants of R50 000 – R100 000. We also provide accompaniment alongside financial support in the form of capacity-strengthening and networking support. If your application is successful, we will discuss this with you further.

How to apply

There are two ways you can apply:

1. Complete the application online on our website at <https://ejfunds.org.za/apply-for-support/>.
2. Download the form available at <https://ejfunds.org.za/apply-for-support/> and email the completed form to proposals@ejfunds.org.za. If that is not possible, you can also WhatsApp photos of the completed form to 0782910014, although we encourage you to email the form if you can.

You are welcome to apply in any official South African language.

The deadline for applications is **01 March 2024**. Please note that no late applications will be considered.

Who decides on your application

EJF's Grants Committee reads all proposals and makes decisions on who gets support. The Grants Committee is made up of activists with experience in the environmental justice sector. You can read more about them here <https://ejfunds.org.za/the-team/>.

What we look for in a proposal

- How your organisation's proposed activities will advance environmental justice and benefit the community you are part of or that you serve.
- How well thought-out the proposal is – your proposal is more likely to be successful if your proposed activities are clearly explained (rather than vaguely listed) and if there is a clear link between the activities you want to do and the objectives you want to achieve.
- We also want to see that you have thought through the budget – your proposal is more likely to be successful if what is in the budget links logically to the activities you are proposing to do, and if you have done your homework about what things cost.
- The degree of organisation and democratic accountability that is present in your organisation - how is your organisation structured, how do you take decisions, and how do you report back to the community?
- EJF is a feminist organisation. This means that we have a preference for supporting organisations that are led by women, and/or organisations whose programmes show an appreciation for the unique ways in which women are impacted by environmental injustice and who seek to benefit women with their activities and programmes. We take a similar approach with respect to young people.



- We are also interested in whether you have collaborated with other organisations in the past (and if so, what your partners have to say about you) and if you plan to collaborate in the proposed project/event/campaign.

We also take into account several other considerations related to the proposals we receive as a group. These are that:

- EJF seeks to support a combination of established and new organisations. This is because we believe that building the environmental justice movement involves both strengthening what already exists, and supporting new organisations to enter into this field of activism.
- EJF would like to support organisations working on a range of different environmental justice issues, rather than concentrating on just one area e.g. mining.
- When the Grants Committee is considering all the proposals, they are also looking at what EJF's grantees look like collectively. This is because we have committed to making sure that we try to support a spread of organisations across the country, including in remote areas that often get overlooked. Sometimes we might be guided by the fact that environmental problems are particularly bad in certain parts of the country, but we are trying hard to make sure that our grantees reflect the geographic diversity of South Africa. This might mean that we have to say no to a good proposal if there were lots of good proposals from the same province to give a chance to an organisation from another province, so that we ensure provincial representivity.
- We can only make a limited number of grants. This is because our financial resources are limited. It is also because we believe in providing accompaniment beyond money, so when we commit to supporting an organisation, we want to make sure that we can properly fulfil that commitment.

Where to get further information

For more information, please read the Granting Framework available at <https://ejfunds.org.za/apply-for-support/>. The application process is also summarised in the infographic available (in multiple languages) at <https://ejfunds.org.za/apply-for-support/>.

EJF will be offering a **virtual workshop** for prospective applicants on **15 February 2024 at 16h00**. To attend this, please use the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/95800923574>

Meeting ID: 958 0092 3574

If you still have any questions or need any assistance, please contact us at info@ejfunds.org.za or 078 291 0014.