



## **ISTS Community Grants Program: Turtles and Communities Call 2025**

### **Objective of the grant**

The ISTS Community Grants Program helps **ISTS members involved with local communities** achieve their sea turtle related research, conservation, and education goals.

The program has a total of US \$ 6,000 for grants of up to US \$ 1,500 each to support projects aimed at generating knowledge, applying and/or assessing conservation measures, and supporting community outreach, awareness and education initiatives. Building capacity for local leadership and community-based conservation relevant to sea turtles and their habitats are also major aims of the program.

The program finances a wide range of sea turtle related activities, such as:

- Community-based collaborative cultural activities and events (e.g., turtle festivals, wall paintings, beach cleanups, educational activities, etc.)
- Construction and maintenance of small to medium-scale infrastructure for research and conservation of turtles with community participation, such as protected hatcheries, educational trails, signage at nesting beaches, etc.
- Restoration of nesting beaches, including the reconstruction of dunes, planting of native species, and control of invasive and/or introduced exotic species.
- Creation or expansion of educational displays, materials, and turtle exhibits in the communities.
- Other innovative initiatives that promote education and activities aimed at protecting sea turtles.
- Community empowerment activities to improve local livelihood through sea turtle conservation.
- Capacity building of local community educators.

The program does NOT finance:

- Salaries, bureaucratic paperwork, permits, licenses, and ongoing expenses of the applicant's organization
- Purchase of real estate and/or land or property rentals
- Attendance at technical meetings, workshops, conferences, or Symposia.

- Membership fees
- Computers, laptops, tablets, phones, printers, cameras, any electronic equipment, or office materials

## 2. Who can apply

All **active members of the ISTS** who have paid the **annual membership fee**.

Individuals or groups (communities, school groups, fishermen's associations, cooperatives, NGOs, etc.) who are **citizens, residents and/or belong to a registered organization of the project country** can apply as long as the proposal is submitted by an active member of the ISTS, who will be responsible for the project.

Priority will be given to applicants from **low-income countries** (according to current World Bank listing).

## 3. What is the application procedure?

- Complete the application form (Word doc) and email it to [communitygrant@internationalseaturtlesociety.org](mailto:communitygrant@internationalseaturtlesociety.org) by **September 10, 2025**
- Only applications **in English** will be accepted
- Please provide three **references**, including their name, affiliation, and a brief sentence describing how they are familiar with your work. At least two of the references should be from individuals based in the **project country**.

## 4. What are the criteria for selection?

- *Feasibility*: The project and personnel are likely to achieve the proposed objectives.
- *Relevance*: Project objectives complement the ISTS Mission and Vision and contribute to meeting a specific conservation need.
- *Sustainability*: The project will have a long-term impact.
- *Visibility*: Outcomes of funded projects should be visible to the wider community and positively enhance the interaction of the local community with sea turtles.

## 5. Who will evaluate?

Five Board Members

## 6. Communication timeline for participants and grant delivery

- Program launch and call for proposals - **July 2025**.
- Proposal deadline – **10 September 2025**.
- Internal evaluation period for proposals - one month
- Acceptance announcement – **15 October 2025**
- Project period of 12 months- Presentation of the final technical and financial report - **15 December 2026**.
- Applicants will be asked to submit a final report before applying again.

**7. Obligations of the applicant.**

- Spend the money according to the approved budget.
- Final report of activities and expenses.
- Photos and additional materials produced by the project.
- Acknowledgement of the ISTS support received on social media, websites, publications, reports, signage, educational materials, presentations at meetings, etc.

**8. Presentation format for technical and financial report**

Use published template.