


THE SUMITOMO FOUNDATION
FISCAL 2025 GRANT FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS
Application Guide

The Sumitomo Foundation (“The Foundation”) offers this grant program to address the global environmental issues, one of the most critical issues facing humanity in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. Research Project to Grant

The global environmental issues are one of the most critical issues facing humanity, which include the problems such as global warming, ozone layer destruction, acid rain, decrease of species, food and population, desertification, and pollution as well as the challenges such as conservation of biodiversity, use of renewable resources and energy for the realization of carbon neutrality, and achievement of SDGs. We believe it is necessary to analyze and build countermeasures with a multifaceted approach in order to solve these problems and challenges, and seek for research projects from various perspectives of social sciences, humanities and natural science.

General Research	Research projects which fit the purpose of this grant program as described above for any field or theme
Special Subject Research	Research projects on the below subject (please refer to page 3 for detail) <FY2025 Research Subject> “Interdisciplinary or international research to realize Nature Positive of the planet.”

Notes) The following research projects are not eligible:

- 1) Research projects for profit making or those likely to lead to profit making.
- 2) Research projects entrusted by a third party.
- 3) Research projects which have been substantially completed.

2. Grant Amount & Grant Period

	General Research	Special Subject Research	
Budget total	¥70 mil	¥30 mil	Left over amount for Special Subject Research would be used for General Research.
Amount per project	Max ¥5 mil	Max ¥10 mil	These amounts are the upper limits of the applied amount, respectively.
Number of projects	App.40	App. 3	
Grant Period (to be selected)	1 year or 2 years	2 years or 3 years	If necessary during the grant period, Grant Period can be extended to a total of 3 years and 4 years respectively together with the initial period.

Notes)

- 1) Grant Period will start from the date of grant receipt (scheduled in November this year).
- 2) If there is an interruption of research due to maternity leave or childcare leave, the extension will be allowed separately from the above.

3. Qualifications of Applicant

Any applicant (sole researcher or representative of research group) who falls under either (1) or (2) described below is qualified to apply.

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| <p>(1) Regardless of the nationality, anyone who belongs to a university, a college or a research institution in Japan with an approval from an authorized person representing the affiliation to apply for this grant program.</p> <p>(2) Anyone other than (1) above who has Japanese nationality or a permission for permanent residence in Japan.</p> <p>Provided that anyone who belongs to a profit-making organization fully or even partially is not eligible to apply.</p> |
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Notes)

- 1) The Applicant should be responsible for carrying out proposed research project and managing the whole process including financials and reporting.
- 2) Anyone cannot apply for duplicates of our grant programs including this grant program, while the Applicant can be a collaborator of other applicants.
- 3) Any applicant under the grant by the Foundation is not eligible until its completion.

4. Applicable Expenses

Direct expenses for the proposed research project are applicable except the followings.

- (i) Remuneration for services rendered by the Applicant and the Collaborator(s).
- (ii) Administrative expenses incurred by research institutes to which the Applicant and the Collaborator(s) belong.
- (iii) Expenses to purchase any instrument, apparatus or equipment for general use such as PC, Server, Printer, Camera and so on.

5. Duties of Applicant (as Grantee)

The Grantee shall provide a consent letter to the Foundation and comply with the duties stipulated in the letter, which include reporting the research result and accounting result to the Foundation in the designated format when the grant period has expired, acknowledging the grant from the Foundation on the publishment of research results, and allowing the Foundation to reprint the reported research result (summary only) on its home page as well as post it on the data base of The Japan Foundation Center for publication. In addition, reported research results will be reviewed by the Selection Committee, and a research presentation meeting will be held based on the results (for grants after FY2022. 1st meeting was held in February 2025). Please take note invited grantee would be required to submit some materials for the meeting.

6. Selection Process

The Selection Committee of Foundation will review and assess the applications from the several perspectives such as Sociality, Feasibility, Originality, Interdisciplinary and Necessity, and propose its selection to the Board of Directors of Foundation, scheduled in October 2025 for final solutions, which will be immediately notified to the Applicants by email. Applied amount may be reduced as a result of the valuation by the Selection Committee. The Foundation shall not accept any questions about the reasons of selection/ rejection.

7. Procedure for Application

The Applicant should apply through the website of the Foundation in Japanese or English.

- 1) Please access to the website of the Foundation, and submit application in Japanese or English. Please take note the research subject of English application should be written in Japanese, and the contact person should be designated the person whom the Foundation can contact in Japanese language.
- 2) The Applicant should submit application document of (1) Application and (2) Approval from Affiliation (if applicable). For details, please refer to “Procedure & Instruction for Application”.
- 3) Neither the application documents nor other material submitted shall be returned to the Applicant.

<Personal Information>

The personal information provided in the application is to be used strictly for the purposes of selection as well as notification of the results of evaluation to the applicants. The Applicants will be asked to show their consent on the website to the Foundation’s policy of the protection of personal information. Please note, however, that the name of grantees (successful applicants), their affiliation, title, theme of research project and grant amount will be announced to the public in due course.

7. Application Term

Commencement Date: April 15, 2025 (Access to URL is available on the Commencement Date.)
Deadline: June 30, 2025 17:00pm (Japan Time)

After the receipt of application documents, the registration number will be notified to the Applicant by email. Unless the Applicant receives it within one day after the submission, please inquire to the Foundation by email, or the Applicant would fail in the registration. Please take note that the Foundation may cancel its registration of the application which does not comply with Application Guide and/or Procedure & Instruction for Application.

8. Contact for Inquiry

The Sumitomo Foundation/Environment Research Program Officer

1-12-16 Shibadaimon Minato-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 105 – 0012

Telephone: 81-3-5473-0161 Facsimile: 81-3-5473-8471

Email: environment@sumitomo.or.jp URL: <https://www.sumitomo.or.jp/e/>

FY2025 Special Subject

<Subject>

“Interdisciplinary or international research to realize Nature Positive of the planet”

<Explanation>

Planetary Boundary presents nine boundaries as the Earth’s sustainable limits, in which biosphere is reported to be in crisis. Its seriousness is also recognized at the Conference of the parties on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the concept of Nature Positive has been proposed and agreed as a global goal at the COP-15 and others. Nature Positive is highly expected also in the field of climate change and disasters, and expectations are focused on research and measures using nature for climate change adaptation/mitigation and disaster prevention/mitigation etc. as Nature Based Solution (NbS).

Nature Positive is defined as a goal to halt and reverse the loss of natural capital such as biodiversity which underpins our current lives and economic activities in order to bring it on an autonomously recovery track. Promoting Nature Positive is more complexed and uncertain than promoting carbon neutrality. A wide range of research from natural sciences to social sciences and humanities is required.

In this program, we are looking for interdisciplinary and/or international research in a wide range of fields to promote Nature Positive, such as research on situational understanding and quantification/indication methods for the current situation and future by natural science, research on biodiversity, climate change adaption/mitigation and disaster prevention utilizing nature, research on international rule formation, research on information disclosure and investment promotion mechanisms like TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures) and TNFD (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures), and research on policy frameworks conducive to nature-positive.