



**KEEPERS OF THE EARTH**  
*2024 Funding*

*Application Guidelines*

# BACKGROUND

**Cultural Survival** advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures, and political resilience since 1972. We work toward a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

**The Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEf)** seeks to respond to the local needs and solutions of Indigenous Peoples. **KOEf** supports Indigenous community projects of emerging and grassroots groups and is usually the first source of financing for organizations and communities. Our fund is led by Indigenous people, the projects are collectively approved by an internal committee also made up of Indigenous people.



# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

**Cultural Survival's** work is guided by our values of self-determination, Indigenous cosmovisions, trust, humility, interculturalism, and community, as well by our organizational principles of respect, equity, solidarity, and responsibility. At the project level, **Cultural Survival** values collective projects that are driven by and benefit the entire community. Projects must be designed and led by Indigenous members of the community that the project serves, and identify and put to use the Indigenous values of that community. We value strategic and innovative approaches to Indigenous values-based development; collaboration with others for the good of the larger community; and strategic capacity building with specific results. For example, if you are documenting traditional language, song, or dance, why is this valuable to your community, and what will be the use(s) of the documentation? The final objective should not be only the production of documentary material but to respond to how the documentation will be used to promote your community's continued traditions, practices, and development.



# THEMATIC INTEREST AREAS

Applicants should feel free to propose projects on any topic that is important to their community. However, of special interest for the 2024 call are projects focused on the following topics and their intersections: **revitalization of Indigenous languages; land and resource protection and solutions to impacts by mining for transition minerals (such as nickel, lithium, cobalt, copper, manganese, zinc); and Indigenous solutions, mitigation, and prevention of impacts of climate change.**

**NOTE:** for projects related to community radio and Indigenous communication, please contact the Indigenous Community Media Fund at [radio@cs.org](mailto:radio@cs.org).



## **SITE VISITS AND GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS**

As part of our grant-making process, **Cultural Survival** deeply values building long-term relationships with communities and organizations receiving our grants, that is, our partners. For this reason, we aim to personally visit most projects which receive funding. To facilitate these visits, we prefer proposals in countries that are within geographic proximity to our staff. **Keepers of the Earth Fund** is open to receiving projects from **any country** where there Indigenous communities reside; however, we will give a slight preference to:

- **The Americas**
- **Nepal and Northern India**
- **Asia: Bangladesh, Vietnam**
- **Africa: Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa**

# REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY

- **Be an Indigenous-led project.**
- **Be an Indigenous nonprofit, grassroots community, organization, or government, with a collective decision-making.**
- **Have a bank account which can receive international wire transfers.**
- **It is not necessary to have legal registration or to be recognized by the State government.**



# GRANTS AMOUNT

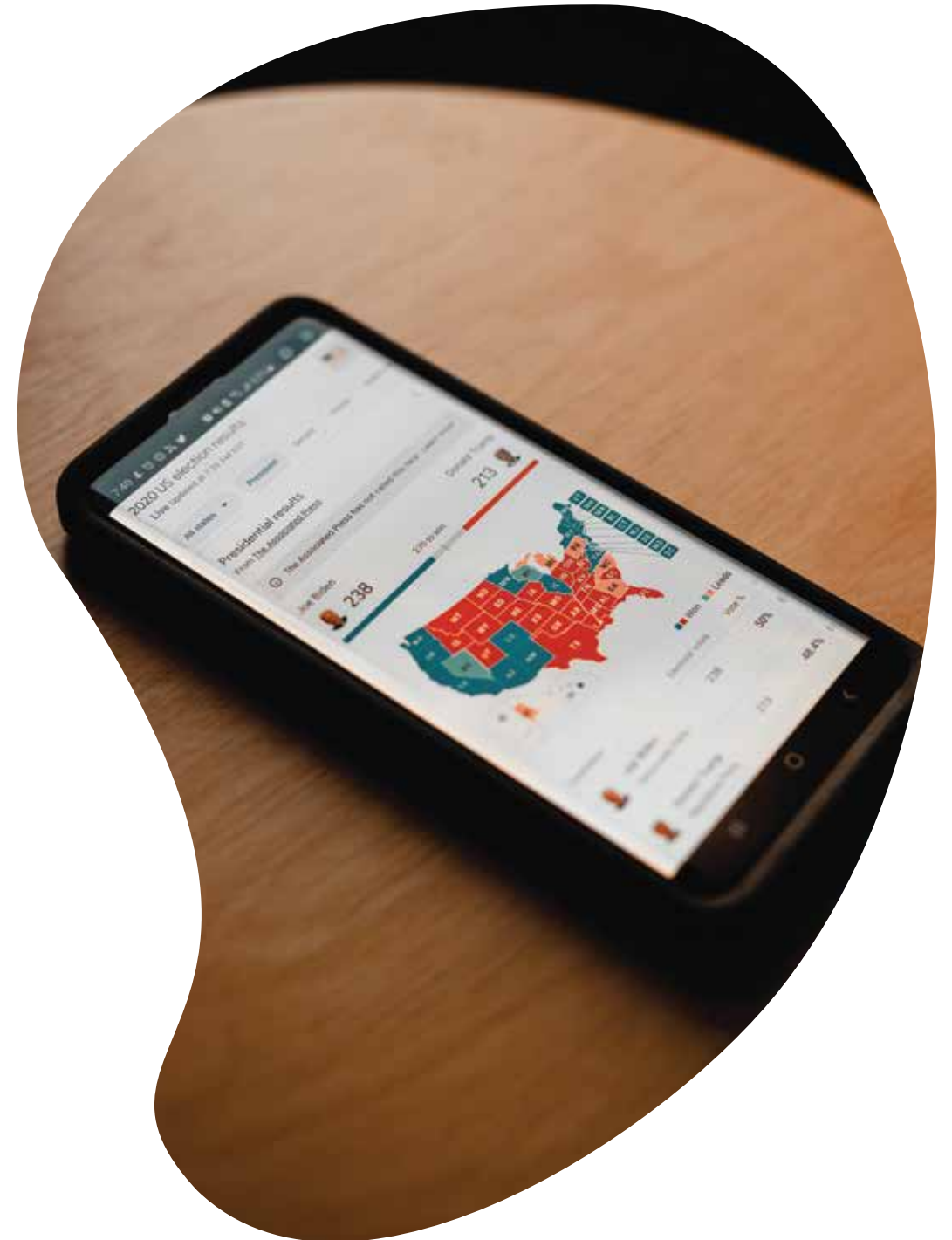
Grant amounts can be up to **\$7,000 (seven thousand) USD for organizations and communities funded by KOEF for the first time, and up to \$12,000 (twelve thousand) USD for organizations and communities previously financed by KOEF.** Our Fund is intended to be a springboard to enable start-up activities that can lead to sustainability and self-sufficiency.

**Cultural Survival** seeks to establish long-term relationships with our partners, therefore, there is the possibility of financing projects for a second or third year. However, we look forward to progressive growth towards self-sufficiency and financing diverse, far-reaching and non-repetitive projects for your community. If your proposal involves a next phase of previous work funded by us, it is very important to clarify why this new proposal is different. We won't consider proposals for a fourth grant.



# WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

- **Projects that do not originate from or are not led by Indigenous Peoples**
- **Electoral campaign activities**
- **Missionary or proselytizing projects**
- **Conference registration fees**
- **Work being done by an individual**
- **Academic research**
- **Projects based on government programs**





# HOW TO REQUEST FUNDS

This is your opportunity to imagine and design a project that only you could think of, only your group with the knowledge about your community, culture, and values could propose this solution to a specific problem. To make the request, you must answer the 5 questions below with summarized information (concept note) in video, text, or audio format, and send it to our email **koef@cs.org**.

Please, limit your request to a **maximum of 2 written pages or 3 minutes of audio or video**. The concept note for your project must respond all questions listed below.

We accept project proposals in Afrikaans, Ayuujk, Diidxazá, English, French, Guarani, K'iche, Kaqchikel, Nepali, Poqomam, Portuguese, Q'eqchi, Quechua, Russian, Sa'an Savi, Spanish, Sunuwar or Tzutujil. **Deadline: February 10 th , 2024.**

# CONCEPT NOTE QUESTIONS

1. Who are you and what is your role in the project?
2. Which Indigenous Peoples, nation, ethnic group, Tribe or culture will be served by the project? Where will it be implemented?
3. What do you want to do? For how long? How much will it cost?
4. Who will support the work? Describe any support by community members, foundations, volunteers, etc.
5. Is your community facing any threats? Specify the type of threat. For example, if it is monoculture specify the type of crop, or if mining, specify which minerals are being extracted.



# PROCESS AND TIMING

All complete proposals will be evaluated by our internal Indigenous-led committee. Selected proposals will have the opportunity to proceed to the next stage, where applicants will fill out a written, more detailed form. With it, your proposal will be evaluated again.

**Please consider the next steps while developing your initial proposal:**

- **Submission of concept note (5 questions)**
- **Evaluation of proposal by the internal committee**
- **Invitation to fill out the detailed proposal form**
- **Evaluation of detailed proposals by the internal committee**
- **Confirmation sent to projects which will be financed**
- **Paperwork and signing of agreements**
- **Transfer of funds**

*This process can take around three months, depending on the flow of communication with the partners. To non-Indigenous allies: At Cultural Survival, we know that our partners experience different processes on the path to autonomy and self-management, so we understand that some rely on non-Indigenous allies to submit an application. However, in these cases, we prioritize projects that are initiated collectively and in the Indigenous community that will benefit from the funds, and we hope that, during implementation, decision-making will be collective and Indigenous.*

For questions contact us at our email: **koef@cs.org** Or with the following people:

- **Cliver Ccahuanihancco, Keepers of the Earth Fund Program Assistant: [cliver@cs.org](mailto:cliver@cs.org)**
- **Verónica Aguilar, Keepers of the Earth Fund Program Associate, [veronica.aguilar@cs.org](mailto:veronica.aguilar@cs.org)**



# Cultural Survival

[WWW.CS.ORG/KOEF](http://WWW.CS.ORG/KOEF)

