

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

SMALL GRANTS FUND

RESERVED FOR JOURNALISTS FROM
**UGANDA, DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

DEADLINE 10th June 2025

INITIATIVE FROM
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS



CALL FOR NEWS REPORTING GRANT PROPOSALS IN UGANDA

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM GRANTS 2025

Environmental Journalism for Forests, Biodiversity, and Communities in Crisis

Application Deadline: June 10, 2025 (midnight local time)

Grant amount: \$500

Environmental Defenders is pleased to launch a new call for news reporting grant proposals from journalists in Uganda. This initiative will support 10 original, in-depth, and investigative stories focused on critical environmental and human rights issues in the Albertine region.

This call comes at a time when forests, biodiversity, and frontline communities across the Albertine region are highly threatened by extractive industries, land grabbing, displacements and land degradation for industrial and social infrastructure development.

They happen amid shrinking civic space for media, environmental, and human rights defenders. The initiative seeks to empower local voices through journalism that educates, informs, investigates, and promotes environmental and human rights, holding duty bearers and perpetrators accountable.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Background and context

The Albertine region in Uganda covers ecologically sensitive areas of Lake Albert that include the districts of Nwoya, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Buliisa, Masindi, Hoima, Kikuube, Kagadi, and Ntoroko.

It hosts the Ramsar Site, located in Murchison Falls National Park, as one of the globally recognized biodiversity hotspots. The region is also facing escalating

pressures from large-scale agriculture and mega oil and gas development projects, including the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), the Tilenga, and Kingfisher.

Recently, reports of human-wildlife conflict, environmental degradation, and human rights violations have increased, affecting the most vulnerable indigenous and rural communities.

Meanwhile, the expansion of commercial agro-commodities and conservancy models is reshaping land governance, raising questions around their long-term impact on smallholder livelihoods, access to forests, and the resilience of natural ecosystems.

We aim to:

- Promote environmental reporting from rural and underreported forest-dependent communities.
- Expose economic practices harmful to the environment and highlight grassroots solutions.
- Promote the flow of credible (fact-based) information to the public and policymakers.

Themes of Interest

Story pitches must cover one or more of the following:

- The story pitches should address the impact of oil project developments on environmental and human rights.
- The effect of huge and ever-expanding agricultural businesses, like sugarcane growing, monoculture forestry plantations, biodiversity, and land rights.
- Rapid economic developments are leading to changes in wildlife movement patterns and habitats.
- The ecosystems of Lake Albert, fishing communities, and shoreline livelihoods are under threat.
- The impact of land use changes and extractive projects on women and youth is gendered.

Objectives of the Grant

Environmental Defenders will award \$500 to each of the 10 journalists qualifying for the grant.

The journalist should be able to gather news, report, and publish/broadcast on time, meeting all the journalistic news attributes.

Formats and Story Lengths:

- Written investigative articles: 800 to 2,500 words
- Radio programs, features, or podcast stories have a maximum length of 10 to 30 minutes.
- Radio documentaries or features should be between 5 and 15 minutes long.
- Multimedia storytelling or data-driven pieces

Stories must be original (previously unpublished).

Eligibility

- The opportunity is available to Ugandan journalists, whether freelance or staff, who are employed in radio, print, online, or multimedia platforms.
- Applicants must have demonstrated experience in environmental or human rights reporting.
- We especially encourage applications from rural-based journalists, international and national journalists working in the Albertine region, women reporters, and young journalists, among others.

Application Requirements

- Story pitch (max 2 pages): include focus, justification, methodology, and expected impact.
- Resume/CV
- At least 2 samples of similar previous publications/broadcasts in the form of URL links or MP4 video or MP3 audio.
- The editorial supervisor must provide a recommendation letter, guaranteeing editorial support throughout the publication or broadcast process.
- Submissions accepted in English or Swahili.

Deadline: June 10, 2025, 11:59 PM EAT

Submit to: warom@watetezi.org / CC: team@watetezi.org