

# Bezos Earth Fund Community Priority Fund



## Vision & Goal

Using BEF funding, provide grants to advance community-centered initiatives across the TNC BEF project areas (PRANA, Emerald Edge, NCS Science) to:

- build relationships and trust,
- share decision-making agency, and
- share resources in support of **self-identified community priorities** and community health and well-being.

Funded projects will:

- be community-led and strengthen the enabling conditions needed for TNC BEF climate change work to succeed,
- lead to improved conservation outcomes, and
- deepen TNC's community-centered conservation approaches.

## Vision & Goal

- This fund is intended to take steps to acknowledge and account for the power imbalance that happens when TNC receives very large multi-geography grants.
- TNC often has access to philanthropic resources that community partners do not, and our \$100 million USD, 3-year climate intensive has potential to shift local priorities due to the level of resources entering these communities.
- As part of this project, we are working through barriers to providing low burden grants to community partners through the BEF BU.
- To reduce burdens, a distinct part of the CPF is asking community partners to identify a project for funding ***after*** they have been selected as a finalist, removing competition for funding.



In FY23, the CPF allocated \$550,000 USD in \$50,000 USD grants to 11 organizations across TNC BEF project areas:

### Emerald Edge

1. Akala Society
2. Klawock Cooperative Association
3. Redd Fish Restoration Society
4. Spruce Root

### PRANA

1. Roundglass Foundation
2. Manav Vikas Sansthan

### Nature4Climate

1. Youth Bridge Foundation

### NCS Science

1. Associação para a Conservação e Desenvolvimento Integrado Rural (ACADIR)
2. Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno (CEBSE)
3. Ejido Noh Bec
4. Red Lake Nation





**The CPF has an additional \$650,000 USD to allocate in FY24.**

- \$450,000 USD will be allocated in \$50,000 USD grants focused on **self-identified community priorities** and community health and well-being, similar to round one funding (9 total grants)
- \$200,000 USD will be allocated in \$25,000 USD grants focused on **self-identified communications priorities**, including traditional communications work, trainings, and/or equipment (8 total grants)

We will be using the following process to nominate and select organizations to receive funding for FY24.

# Nomination & Selection Process Overview

**Step 1: Nomination** | Groups of nominators\* for each BEF project area will meet to brainstorm organizations to be invited to receive funding and submit their nominations [using this form](#) by **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**Step 2: Cross Program Learning** | A subset of nominators from each BEF project area attend *virtual* cross program learning discussions to review and provide feedback on nominated organizations from *other* BEF project areas.

**Step 3: Selection** | Groups of nominators for each BEF project area will reconvene to select the organizations they want to receive funding, incorporating feedback from cross program learning discussions.

*See more details about each of these steps on the following slides.*

## ***Step 1: Nomination***

Groups of nominators\* for each BEF project area will meet to brainstorm organizations to be invited to receive funding and submit their nominations [using this form](#) by ***Wednesday, July 19th***.

Please let the BEF CPF team know if you need help scheduling your brainstorm discussion. Nominators are also encouraged to talk to others within their project areas for suggestions of organizations to nominate.

Prior to submitting nominations, please review eligibility criteria on slide 8.

Emerald Edge  
Nominators

NCS Science/  
N4C Nominators

PRANA  
Nominators



# Nominated organizations must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- A small, community-based organization\*
- Located in a BEF project area, details [here](#)
- Organization purpose serves the following:
  - Self-identified community conservation priorities
  - Self-identified community health & well-being priorities, including physical, mental, spiritual, economic and ecological health
- Organization represents local communities, especially under-resourced and historically marginalized groups, and has an established presence in the community
- *Please note:* The organization's mission does *not* need to be conservation aligned.
  - If selected as a finalist, proposed project ideas from the organization must have a connection to conservation outcomes. We encourage teams to think broadly about what conservation impacts might be and the BEF CPF team is available to help.
- Additional legal and financial eligibility criteria [here](#)

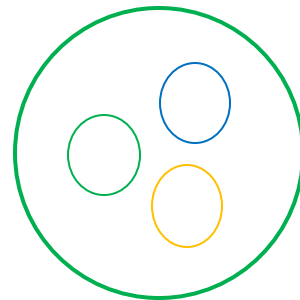




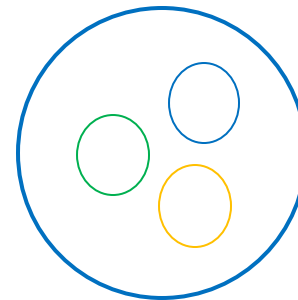
**Step 2:  
Cross  
Program  
Learning**

***Step 2: Cross Program Learning***

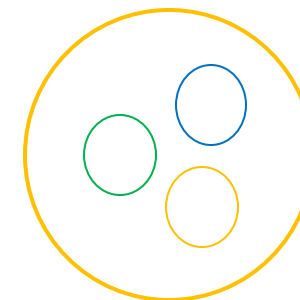
At least three nominators from each BEF project area attend *virtual* cross program learning discussions to review and provide feedback on nominated organizations from *other* BEF project areas.



Emerald Edge  
Discussion



NCS Science/  
N4C Discussion




PRANA  
Discussion

## Step 3: Selection

### *Step 3: Selection*

Groups of nominators for each BEF project area will reconvene to select the organizations they want to receive funding, incorporating feedback from cross program learning discussions.


Nominators can decide on an equitable and transparent selection process that works best for their team – the CPF team can share examples from round one.



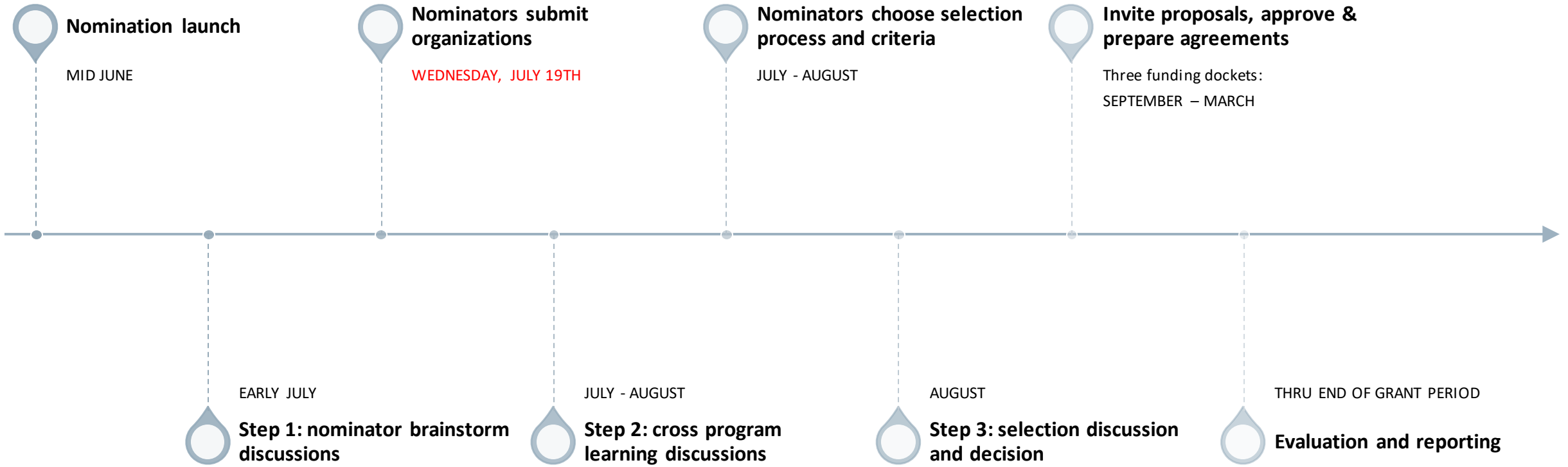
Emerald Edge  
Nominators



NCS Science/  
N4C Nominators



PRANA  
Nominators



## Nomination, Selection, and Grant Agreement Timeline





## Nominator Role

Nominators are staff from each BEF project area who work closely with local organizations and communities. They will participate in discussions to consider organizations to be invited to receive funding. Once organizations are identified, nominators will submit their nominations [via this form](#). A sub-group of nominators (at least 3 per BEF project area) will participate in the cross-program learning and selection process.

As part of the nomination process, nominators will identify a TNC point of contact for each selected organization who will:

- Serve as main point of contact with the grantee, if desired (optional)
- **Support communications with local TNC grants, finance, and legal teams to complete due diligence**
- **Support requesting due diligence materials needed from local grantee**
- Invite proposal from grantee, if desired (optional)
- Review the submitted project proposal (optional)
- Review the scope of work and draft grant agreement before it is sent to the grantee
- Complete one 1-hour co-development call required for the grant process



## Grantee Role

Grantees will be required to:

- Submit required due diligence materials, details of information needed [here](#)
- Submit project proposal (no budget required)
- Review and sign the final grant agreement
- Complete one 1-hour co-development call required for the grant process
  - 1-2 months after grant agreement is signed
  - Completion of this call triggers the final grant payment
- Submit *optional*, self-defined final project summary at the end of the one-year grant period (can be materials prepared for other grants or communications, photos, videos, etc.)



## CPF Team Role

### CPF Project Manager will:

- Lead due diligence with nominator support
- Directly communicate with grantees or provide communications templates to nominators
- Support approval of project proposals from the grantees
- Support development of work scopes for grant agreements
- Manage completion of grant agreement process
- Work with grantees to issue payments
- Request and schedule required reporting calls with grantees and nominators
- Facilitate reporting check-in calls with TNC and grantee teams (if available)
- Be available to nominators and grantees for troubleshooting/questions

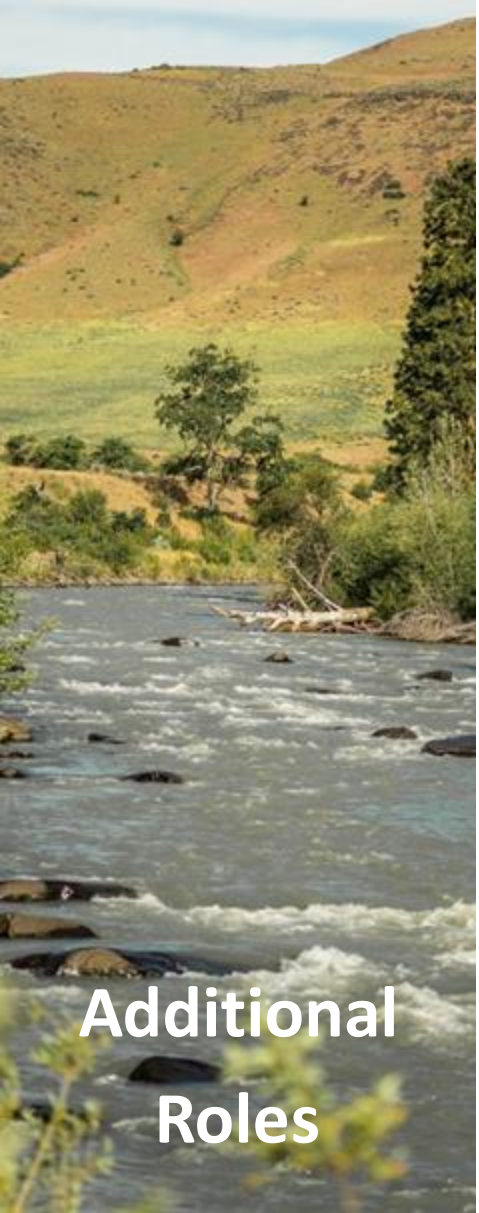




## CPF Team Role

Equitable Conservation Grants & Contracts Specialist will:

- Complete due diligence including:
  - Work with nominators and local TNC team to determine needed due diligence for grantee type and location
  - Review risk and due diligence materials
  - Seek all necessary approvals
- Support approval of proposals from grantees
- Support development of the work scope of grant agreements
- Draft grant agreement
- Seek all necessary approvals for grant agreement:
  - Nominator
  - Local TNC team – local leadership, finance, legal, and grants and contracts
  - BEF team - leadership, finance, legal, and grants and contracts
  - Grantee
- Track and monitor payments and reporting



## Additional Roles

### BEF Project Directors:

- Will not be involved in nomination or selection process, but will have the opportunity to approve final selected organizations, if desired

### Local TNC Grants, Legal, Finance, and BU Leadership:

- Advise on country or organization specific requirements during due diligence and grant agreement process

### BEF Director:

- Final approval of project proposals

### CPF Advisory Group:

- Advise CPF team as needed regarding fund vision and goal
- Support CPF team in addressing unforeseen challenges
- Review the submitted project proposals (optional)
- Explore transformative funding practices
- Contribute to workflow when possible