

Resilience Fellowship 2022

Environmental crime

Call for applications

Deadline: 15 November 2021

Description:

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) is pleased to announce the third edition of the Resilience Fellowship (henceforth, 'the Fellowship'), which for 2022 will have environmental crime as its theme. The Fellowship builds a platform for cross-sectoral, global and interdisciplinary collaboration between civil society actors, human rights activists, journalists, artists, scholars, policymakers, grassroots community leaders and others working to counter the effects of organized crime.

The Fellowship is part of the GI-TOC's flagship Resilience Fund, which provides grants and support to civil society individuals and organizations working to counter the impacts of criminal governance and violence across the world. Established with a grant from the government of Norway, the Resilience Fund is also supported by the governments of Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand and works in partnership with international organizations and NGOs worldwide (more information may be found [here](#)).

The first edition of the Fellowship in 2020 provided support and networking opportunities to a cohort of 10 individuals from around the world on the chosen theme of disappearances related to organized crime. These Fellows collaborated with each other and attended workshops while working on projects in their communities. The virtual exchanges resulted in new projects, new narratives and new knowledge about disappearances related to organized crime around the world, culminating in a final collaborative project: [Disappeared is a place: The landscapes and stories of those who are #StillMissing](#).

For the 2021 Fellowship, the chosen theme was extortion, and our 2021 Fellows are currently building a global community of local leaders to prevent and counter extortion; developing new

ways to protect victims, organizing small businesses to resist criminal taxes, and investigating organized crime groups across borders.

The Resilience Fellowship is based on a three-pronged approach:

- **Sponsorship:** Providing financial support so that Fellows will have the time and resources to carry out their individual work and a collaborative project. Grants of US\$15 000 per Fellow will be awarded for one year.
- **Networking:** Offering mentorship opportunities with experts from the GI-TOC, as well as bringing Fellows together to begin a collaborative project to be undertaken during their Fellowship year.
- **Dissemination:** Creating opportunities for Fellows to publicly share their work and ideas – through platforms such as conferences, civil society forums and national and international publications, which will expand public discourse, deepen engagement with society, and invite the support and participation from the general public and, ultimately, policymakers.

The Fellowship is not designed to be a standalone grant-application procedure to develop individual projects, but a support mechanism for collaborative processes with other committed individuals who are already developing creative perspectives on community resilience and organized crime through dialogue, commitment and action. Thus, it will give preference to those applicants with the incentives and means to collaborate on sustainable projects that benefit their communities.

Theme for 2022: Environmental crime

In 2022, the Resilience Fellowship theme will focus on environmental crime. Fellows will use their diverse perspectives to collaborate on a range of outputs based around this theme. They will also raise awareness on the importance of countering environmental crime as Resilience Fund Ambassadors.

Across the world's variety of ecosystems, the role of organized crime in exploiting and damaging the environment is violent and omnipresent. Criminal networks profit from billions of dollars at enormous costs not only to the environment but also to peace and security. The links between environmental crime and other criminal activities have been reported globally, while new forms of exploitation and patterns of criminal behaviour continue to emerge.

At the local level, the impact of environmental crimes is often direct on people's livelihoods, their health, their human rights and their vulnerability to natural disasters. Despite the challenges they face,

communities use innovative solutions to address crimes against their environment. The Resilience Fund will support the Fellows in exploring this theme with a multicultural cohort and will provide a range of capacity-building opportunities to work on sustainable solutions. Local action is integral in the fight against transnational environmental crime. Encouraging resilient communities through this programme of support will further the Resilience Fund's objective of incubating resilience in communities affected by organized crime.

Here are a few examples of issues and projects that can be helpful in guiding your application. Environmental crime can include a broad range of specific topics and issues, and please note that the list below is non-exhaustive.

Environmental crime issues:

- Links between environmental crime and other serious crimes (financial crimes, cybercrime, drug trafficking).
- Illegal exploitation of resources (deforestation, illegal fishing, illegal logging, illegal mining, militarization).
- Environmental migration and its links to smuggling of people.
- Illegal waste dumping (soil and water contamination, dumping of e-waste and toxic chemicals).
- Environmental crime and corruption.
- Community responses to environmental crime.

Potential projects:

- Community-based natural resource-/organized crime-monitoring mechanisms.
- State-focused advocacy to recognize and respond to environmental crime.
- Advocacy for inter-institutional coordination (national, regional or global) to respond effectively to the threats of environmental crime.
- Community mobilization through capacity-building programmes that improve local agency against these crimes (stakeholder training, data collection, creating handbooks, toolkits or guidelines).
- Creating and/or fostering networks against environmental crime.
- Building capacities to investigate and report on environmental crimes.

Eligibility criteria

For the year 2022, a total of 10 Fellows will be selected.

Applicants should have a background in any of the following fields: journalism and media; activism; advocacy and community mobilization; the creative arts (artists, writers, filmmakers and others); community leaders (religious, cultural, youth leaders); academia (researchers and scholars), and the public sector (policymakers). Individuals from other disciplines will be considered if their work is relevant to the Fellowship's objectives and the annual theme.

The Fellowship welcomes applications from people of any gender, ethnicity, age, religion or any other defining factor, who work in communities affected by organized crime. The overall make-up of the 10 Fellows will be diverse and will reflect an equitable geographic and gender balance.

Selection criteria:

- Participants should be from countries disproportionately affected by organized crime and/or from least developed countries.
- Participants should ideally work closely within communities severely affected by environmental crime, or have strong ties within them, and should have ongoing or established projects or engagement. The cross-border nature of issues relating to organized crime allows applicants working within a wider, non-geographic community to be considered on a case-by-case basis. There is no requirement that the Fellow live in the community concerned.
- Participants should be able to demonstrate how the funding and support will be used.
- Participants who have direct experience in their communities' issues, related to the annual theme, are particularly encouraged to apply.
- Participants must be fluent in at least one of these three languages: Spanish, English or French.
- Participants' prior work should demonstrate a commitment to the ethics and values of the Resilience Fund.

Grant information

Each fellow will receive US\$15 000 (divided in three payments of US\$5 000) to be executed with no other limitation than the principles of professionalism, integrity and transparency; the proposal presented in the application form; the terms and conditions of the Fellowship agreement, and the implementation of collaborative actions with other fellows.

Expectations:

- To participate in at least one monthly e-learning session or virtual meeting, as well as in the culminating Resilience Dialogue event in the last quarter of the year.
- To serve, to the best of their abilities, as a Resilience Fund Ambassador, advocating for the shared principles and objectives of the Resilience Fund, the Fellowship and the fight against organized crime.
- To implement an individual project and use the Resilience Fund's in-house communication tool to post updates and testimonials at least once a month.
- To implement a collaborative project with other Fellows.

The grant will be formalized by the signing of a Fellowship agreement between the GI-TOC and the grantee.

Pre-scheduled activities:

The Fellowship will start on 30 January 2022 and end on 31 December 2022. Due to the risks of COVID-19, all activities planned will be held virtually. Depending on the pandemic's future trajectory, the Fellowship will assess the possibility of supporting in-person events.

Fellows are expected to participate in the following activities to fulfil the Fellowship programme:

Fellowship induction meetings

The Fellowship will begin with a one-to-one induction to the programme. Based on the Fellows' geographic area, focus and discipline, the GI-TOC will assign an individual mentor. The mentorship will provide additional support to the Fellows with their projects and skills. The relationship and expectations of the mentor, including mode of communication, will be decided by both parties at the beginning.

Attend capacity-building e-learning sessions

Fellows will be invited to participate in online capacity-building sessions hosted at least once a month. The sessions will be on a variety of topics, from cyber security or criminal economies linked to environmental crime to advocacy and communication tools.

Individualized support on communications and advocacy

During the course of the Fellowship, each participant will receive training and support to develop their own communication strategies and materials. The GI-TOC's communications team will advise and provide technical expertise to increase the Fellow's outreach and advocacy capacities.

Resilience Dialogues

During the course of the Fellowship, all Fellows will come together to share their ideas, work and experiences and identify ways to collaborate on the annual theme. The Resilience Fund will facilitate collaborations through specialized workshops and will encourage joint projects among fellows.

How to apply (ONLINE FORM)

Interested parties must submit an application through the online form provided in the Resilience Fund webpage (also available at the end of this section). This form contains a set of questions where you should highlight the following information:

- A description of who you are: your personal details (such as name, nationality, date of birth, etc.) and your work linked to the Fellowship's theme, environmental crime.
- Your motivation:
 - How has organized crime affected your community? (With emphasis on this year's theme.)
 - What does resilience mean to you?
 - What have you done to encourage resilience in your community or the community you have been working with?
 - What specific problem would you like to help solve in relation to the theme of this Fellowship?
 - What actions would you implement with the Fellowship? Identify clear specifications. If you have received other grants or fellowships, please specify which ones and explain the coordination mechanisms you will use to comply with all of them.
 - Why do you believe you are a good candidate for this Fellowship?
- An outline of the work you have done so far, including links mentioning your work (such as news clippings, videos, documents, publications, etc.).

You will not be able to attach any documents to your application. Please make sure that you have included all relevant information in the online form. It will not be possible to edit it once it has been submitted.

Applications will not be received by email. They must all be submitted via the online form.

<https://forms.gle/XYUm9uh4Hcr11bbJ7>

If you have technical issues uploading your application or if you have any questions, please contact: fellowship@globalinitiative.net

Key dates

15 October 2021: Call for applications opens.

15 November 2021: End of the call for applications. The Resilience Fund Grants Committee will start reviewing applications.

15 December 2021: Decisions on the status of applications will be communicated to applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to request further information and/or be interviewed.

15 January 2022: Accepted candidates will be contacted directly about their successful application, with further information about next steps.

1 February 2022: Upon confirmation from all candidates, the cohort of 10 Fellows will be announced publicly. The Fellowship will begin with a virtual introductory event for all fellows.