

Call for Research Grant Proposals Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe

*The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (hereinafter “RWI”), Lund, Sweden, in collaboration with its academic cooperation partners under the Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2024-2026 (see enclosed Programme summary below), is launching a call (hereinafter “Call”) for research grants proposals. Grants under the Call are awarded to research projects relevant to the theme “**Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe**”. Academic faculty members and researchers from Zimbabwean universities, independent research centres, independent commissions and civil society organisations are eligible to apply both individually and jointly. Research projects must be carried out during the period 16 July – 20 November 2024 and result in a paper and short policy brief for presentation and publication. Financial support to RWI for the research grants is provided by the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe.*

The closing date for submitting a research grant proposal is 8 July 2024.

Call Objectives and Priority Areas of Research

Human survival depends on the environment for direct and indirect wellbeing. As such, threats to the environment are threats to human rights, to peace, security and sustainable development. The multiple planetary crisis of this age which is made manifest through, inter alia, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change threaten human survival. This is exacerbated by growing multidimensional poverty, inequalities and fragility (UNDP, 2022). Thus, realizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including through strengthening positive environmental management and climate action is critical for addressing inequality and poverty, and enabling long term prosperity for all (UNEP, 2022; UNDP, 2022).

The recognition in 2022, of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the United Nations General Assembly is a step towards strengthening the global and domestic response to this crisis. This move buttresses the recognition of this right in domestic constitutions in many jurisdictions across the globe. Zimbabwe recognises this right in section 73 of the Constitution (Amendment 20) of 2013. Through this constitutional provision environmental protection (including climate action) has become a key consideration for the country’s ambitions to become a middle income economy by 2030. Yet, there is still much to be done to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks on human rights, environmental law and climate change.

Given the preceding context, this year’s Call is open for research grant proposals relevant to the theme, “*Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe*” whereby research related to the following areas is encouraged:

1. Environment and Human Rights: analyzing implications and interdependencies that the protection of the environment generates on the enjoyment of human rights, and the way potential conflicts of interests should be managed in order to achieve a fair balance in a democratic society.
 - a. The influence of international human rights law in environmental law and/or climate action: justifications and application.
 - b. The relationship between substantive and procedural environmental rights and other human rights.
 - c. Environmental issues affecting human rights e.g biodiversity loss, pollution, development projects, environmental degradation, etc.
 - d. The nexus between human rights and sustainable development.

2. Climate Change and Human Rights: focusing on the impacts of climate change on human rights, including the right to life, health, food, water, and sanitation. Climate change-induced environmental disasters are a key focus in this sub-theme. How can human rights provide a framework for addressing the impacts of climate change or climate change-induced disasters in Zimbabwe?
 - a. The relationship between climate change and the enjoyment of specific human rights such as the right to health, right to food, right to water and sanitation, right to adequate housing, among others in our jurisdiction.
 - b. The importance of regional and sub regional developments in Africa on human rights, environmental rights and climate change law, and its relevance to Zimbabwean domestic jurisdiction.

3. Climate change, environmental rights and institutional mechanisms: How can we ensure that environmental and climate policies and actions introduced by different governmental authorities (National, Provincial, Local) respect human rights?
 - a. Exploring human rights based approaches to climate change governance at national, provincial and local levels.
 - b. Exploring human rights based approaches to environmental governance at national, provincial and local levels.
 - c. Adopting human rights based approaches to climate change action (mitigation and adaptation) and environmental management at national, provincial and local levels.
 - d. Exploring sustainable financing for climate action and environmental protection in Zimbabwe.
 - e. Interrogating the role of institutional mechanisms in responding to climate change induced environmental problems.

4. Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development: investigating the manner in which sustainable development goals (SDGs) could be achieved at national and local levels through the protection of the environment and climate action.
 - a. Exploring the role of environmental rights in advancing climate change and biodiversity conservation in Zimbabwe.
 - b. Climate change, human rights and sustainable agricultural practices in Zimbabwe.
 - c. Poverty, climate change and human rights in Zimbabwe.
 - d. Environmental management and sustainable resource exploitation in Zimbabwe.

5. Business, Climate change, Environmental Protection and Human Rights:
 - a. Climate change, human rights and the extractives industry in Zimbabwe.
 - b. The role of businesses in climate change action and the protection of human rights (corporate social accountability).
 - c. Climate change, human rights and natural resources governance, including forestry, fisheries, wildlife, land, etc.
 - d. Balancing potential conflict of interests between pursuing sustainable development, the exploitation of natural resources, the protection of the environment and the safeguards of the human rights of the local communities.
6. Transition to Green Energies and Human Rights:
 - a. Exploring human rights perspectives in the development of a carbon market legal framework.
 - b. Human rights, climate change and green trade.
 - c. Human rights, climate change and green procurement.
 - d. Human rights and green energy security especially in rural contexts.
7. Disaster risk reduction and management and Human Rights:
 - a. Human rights based approaches to disaster risk reduction - prevention, response and recovery mechanisms; early warning mechanisms and use of technology.
 - b. Human rights implications to sectoral approaches to disaster risk reduction, e.g agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, land, etc.
 - c. Disaster risk reduction governance and human rights.
8. Environmental Protection and vulnerabilities:
 - a. Balancing the protection of the environment with the rights of Indigenous and traditional communities, including the recognition of indigenous knowledge and management of natural resources.
 - b. The protection of the rights of future generations in the context of the environment and climate change.
 - c. Human rights based approaches to addressing the rights of those most vulnerable to climate change such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and climate migrants in Zimbabwe.
 - d. The exploration of the emergence of animal rights and the rights of nature, within the context of environmental protection and sustainable development, and their potential conflicts with the human rights of communities that depend on exploiting these resources for their sustainable survival.
9. Climate Change, Environment and Gender Equality:
 - a. Protection of the right of women and girls in the context of climate change.
 - b. Human rights based gender perspectives on climate action and environmental protection in Zimbabwe.
10. Environmental constitutionalism and climate change:

- a. The role of our courts in advancing environmental constitutionalism for climate action.
- b. The relationship between constitutional environmental rights and duties of state and non state actors.
- c. Exploring the influence of the growing (global) jurisprudence on climate litigation in our jurisdiction.
- d. Human rights, climate change and environmental governance, including measures to combat corruption, etc.

Eligibility

Academic faculty members and researchers from Zimbabwean universities, independent research centres, independent commissions and civil society organisations are eligible to apply both individually and jointly. Proposals must demonstrate necessary support by the applicant's dean/director (or equivalent).

Scope of Research Grants

Fifteen research grant proposals¹ will be awarded with grants. Grants will be offered to applicants wishing to conduct research and to engage in desk/field research within Zimbabwe.

Expected Outputs

Peer and mentorship support is offered to all research grant recipients throughout the research. Grant recipients are requested to participate in an *online* research methodology workshop expected to take place **22 July – 2 August 2024**.

As a final output of the conducted research, each grant recipient is required to produce and submit an advanced draft of the paper (6000 to 10,000 words), together with a short policy brief (1500 words), no later than 20 November 2024. Grantees are expected to present and discuss their papers at a two-day **National Symposium** on “*Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe*”, expected to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe **2-3 December 2024**. Grantees are also expected to present and discuss their policy brief in a workshop that will be held immediately after the symposium, that is, on **4 December 2024**. Grantees are expected to submit their **final** paper and short policy brief on or before **20 December 2024**.

Costs Covered by the Research Grant

The amount of the grant will be decided by the Selection Committee in light of the supplied simplified budget. In addition, the identified scope and needs of the research and other relevant factors of the project will be taken into consideration. As a point of reference, the budgets for individual research projects should not exceed USD 1000 and for a team of two on a research project USD 2000.

With regard to attendance at the National Symposium and Policy Brief Workshop expected to be held 2 - 4 December 2024 in Harare, all grant recipients who do not live in Harare or its vicinity will be provided with compensation for transportation costs, as well as accommodation and a fixed daily allowance, in accordance with standard rates applied by RWI.

¹ RWI reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of research grants awarded based on the scope and content of and costs associated with the selected proposals and in light of available budgetary resources.

Financial support to RWI for the research grants is provided by the Embassy of Sweden in Zimbabwe.

Application Procedure

Please attach and e-mail the following documents by **8 July 2024** to RWI on harare@rwi.lu.se

- 1. Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)**
- 2. Research proposal (800-1500 words)** – A short description of the research to be conducted so that it may be presented in the form of an advanced draft of a paper and short policy brief at the national symposium in Harare 2-4 December 2024. The research proposal should contain: (1) a brief description of the research problem addressed by the research proposal in relation to the theme of the Call; (2) a short account of the main research question(s) and method(s) that are planned to be used; (3) an explanation of how the research is relevant to the overall theme of the Call: “*Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights in Zimbabwe*”; (4) a description of the novelty and necessity of the research; (5) the practical relevance of the research in light of the overall objectives of the Call; and (6) an account of the feasibility of conducting and finalising the research and submitting an advanced draft of a paper and short policy brief for presentation at the national symposium.
- 3. Motivation letter (200-600 words)** – A personal statement explaining your interest to human rights (personally and/or professionally), why you should be chosen as a grant recipient and what you hope to achieve through this initiative.
- 4. Research plan** – Briefly outline when and where the different components of the research project shall be carried out in relation to desk study, field research, study visits, etc.
- 5. Simplified budget** – Please provide a budget outlining each cost associated with carrying out the research project and a rationale for each expenditure (e.g. travels and field research within Zimbabwe, relevant to the research project, study visits, materials, etc.).

An email confirmation that your application has been received will be sent to all applicants. If you have not received said confirmation within one or two business days, please resend your application until a confirmation is received.

Evaluation of Proposals

All research grant proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprised of RWI staff and Zimbabwean academic partners having relevant research, human rights and contextual expertise. The following factors, among others, will be taken into consideration when evaluating proposals: quality of the written proposal, i.e. clarity, organisation and design; relevance and benefit in relation to the objectives and theme of the Call; feasibility of the research project (scope, time, qualifications of applicant(s) and budget, etc.); and potential for broader dissemination and impact to different relevant audiences in Zimbabwe. Researchers/Scholars that did not previously benefit from these grants will be given priority in the selection process, together with the assurance of gender balance among the grantees. Decision of the Selection Committee is final.

Timeline

1. Closing date for submitting a research grant proposal: **8 July 2024²**
2. Notification to applicants of the Selection Committee's decision: on or before **16 July 2024**
3. Participation in the *online* research methodology workshop: **22 July- 2 August 2024**
4. Submission of an advanced draft of the short policy brief on or before **1 November 2024**
5. Presentation of a policy brief in the *online* policy brief workshop: **6-8 November 2024**
6. Submission of an advanced draft of the paper and policy brief: on or before **20 November 2024**
7. Presentation of an advanced draft of the paper at the national symposium: **2-3 December 2024**
8. Presentation of the short policy brief at the policy brief workshop: **4 December 2024**
9. Submission of the final paper and short policy brief: **20 December 2024**

² RWI reserves the right to extend the deadline if a sufficient number of applications has not been received. This will also entail an extension of the decision notification date. Should the just said be warranted all concerned parties will be duly notified via email and the Call updated.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ZIMBABWE

Introduction

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is an independent academic institution, founded in 1984 and affiliated with Lund University in Sweden. In legal terms, the Institute is a trust under Swedish private law, governed by a board of trustees.

The mission of the Institute is to contribute to a wider understanding of and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The vision of the Institute is just and inclusive societies with effective realisation of human rights for all. In light of this, the Institute contributes to strengthening structures, systems and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights at all levels in society through:

- Multi-disciplinary research and analysis to create new knowledge on core human rights issues to support relevant policy processes, education and the practical application of human rights law
- Implementation of and support to Human Rights in Higher Education, primarily in cooperation with academic institutions and human rights centres around the world
- Support and Advice, in the form of cooperation with organisations and institutions, including across sectors, to improve the practical application of human rights, through advice, professional training, curricula development, establishment of resource centers, exchange programmes, etc.
- Outreach, bringing together key stakeholders to share insights and information on human rights to build relationships and strengthen connections, including by means of roundtables, conferences and expert meetings.

RWI operates under four thematic and inter-connected priority areas which are: non-discrimination & inclusion, access to justice, human rights & business and human rights & environment. In addition to a special focus on these areas, anti-corruption and gender perspectives form an integrated part of all the Institute's programmes.

More general information about RWI and its activities can be found on its website: www.rwi.lu.se

International Cooperation

Since the early 1990s, RWI has been engaged in cooperation to further the promotion and protection of human rights with a wide number of institutions and organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The overall objective of these programmes is to advance the practical application of human rights and humanitarian law. By emphasising the implementation of international human rights standards as a means and goal for development, the programmes seek to contribute to an environment supportive of people living in poverty's own efforts to improve their quality of life.

The programmes, which primarily have been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), focus on building and developing knowledge, skills, tools, resources and

systems aimed at strengthening individual and institutional capacity to promote, respect, protect and fulfil human rights. All interventions are designed based on their contextual relevance and in relation to the particular challenges existing for the development of societies based on a human rights culture. By applying a human rights-based approach to development, the programmes seek to involve and promote participation of all relevant stakeholders without discrimination, from initiation to implementation and evaluation of activities, in a transparent manner seeking to strengthen means and mechanisms for accountability. The cooperation is characterised by being based on mutual trust, long-term commitments and achievement of common objectives.

In addition to the headquarters in Lund, the Institute has offices in Harare, Jakarta, Nairobi, Phnom Penh, Stockholm and Yerevan, and maintains activities and cooperation in approximately 45 countries.

RWI maintains a presence in Zimbabwe since October 2019 and in October 2020 the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law – Harare Trust (RWI-Harare), was established to facilitate programme coordination, with backstopping from the head office in Sweden.

Zimbabwe

RWI has been supporting human rights initiatives in Zimbabwe since 1992, primarily with funding from Sweden, but since 2021 also with funding from the European Union. Cooperation in Zimbabwe has over the years included human rights capacity development for several sectors, including government departments, justice sector institutions, independent commissions, academic institutions and civil society organisations. The Institute has also with funding from Sida awarded scholarships to Zimbabweans for participation in the Master of International Human Rights Law Programme, organised by RWI in cooperation with the Faculty of Law at Lund University.

The Sida-funded Cooperation Programme

The Sida-funded RWI Zimbabwe Human Rights Capacity Development Programme 2024-2026 takes its starting point in the Sida-funded Zimbabwe programme for the period 2019-2023, building on efforts, results and partnerships under that programme, aiming to contribute to an increased enjoyment of constitutional rights in Zimbabwe. The Programme has been developed in consultation with partners³ and other stakeholders.

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to *a just and inclusive society in Zimbabwe*. To achieve its objective the Programme will seek to consolidate and deepen existing partnerships with a view that partner institutions will more effectively promote, protect and respect human rights in accordance with their respective mandates. This applies not only to continued institutionalisation of human rights education, research and outreach at academic institutions, but also to the institutionalisation of the practical application of human rights in the work of independent commissions and justice sector institutions; while structured dialogue and joint initiatives among and between partner institutions and other main stakeholders⁴ on human rights issues, including on human rights of women and gender equality, also would be enhanced.

To achieve its objective, the Programme has two high-level strategies of intervention, which are to:

- *Strengthen the capacities among main stakeholders to promote, respect, protect and fulfil human rights within their respective mandate*

³ The main implementing partners are, the College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance and the Faculty of Law at Africa University, Mutare; the Faculty of Law at Midlands State University, Gweru; Herbert Chitepo School of Law at Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo; the Faculty of Law at University of Zimbabwe, Harare; the Faculty of Law at Ezekiel Guti University, Bindura, the Centre for Applied Legal Research, Harare; the Council for Legal Education in Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission; Zimbabwe Gender Commission; Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service.

⁴ Other main stakeholder have broadly been defined as institutions within academia, the public sector, independent commissions and civil society organisations not being direct programme partners

- *Enhance the means and space for main stakeholders to constructively engage with each other on key human rights issues*

In pursuing these strategies, the Programme approaches human rights reform from a long-term perspective seeking to strengthen the institutional base for such change in a sustainable manner. The Programme also looks at the development and strengthening of platforms for more effective and structured collaboration on strategic human rights issues, primarily between main programme stakeholders.

To give effect to these strategies for intervention, the Programme primarily focuses on cooperation regarding:

- Development of human rights education at academic partner institutions, including on programme, course and curricula development and teaching methodologies, with a particular focus on clinical legal education.
- Scholarship opportunities for human rights studies at academic partner institutions.
- Development of human rights library resources at academic partner institutions and independent commissions.
- Support to strengthened human rights research capacity among main stakeholders
- Support to development and publication of textbooks and policy-oriented research in support of the overall Programme objective.
- Delivery of cross-sectoral thematic professional training programmes on various aspects on human rights, bringing together representatives from min stakeholders to discuss and share experiences particularly on reform relevant issues and how to apply human rights standards in practice.
- Individual professional training and capacity development programmes, primarily for Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service
- Roundtables and expert meetings in support of the overall programme objective.

The Programme is underpinned by a theory of change providing also for a strong results-orientation in terms of expected change, whereby it is expected that the Programme will contribute to participating institutions being better equipped to contribute to reforms and related initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights and to an increased structured dialogue and joint initiatives on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe.

Gender equality aspects and human rights of women is given specific attention as a cross-cutting priority issue in the Programme, reinforcing the clear human rights-based approach embraced by the Programme. The Programme moreover maintains a focus on university-going youth and is designed to inherently preclude the influence of corruption by operating within the framework of international human rights standards in terms of both processes and expected results.

www.rwi.lu.se