

The EPIC Air Quality Fund Application

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Date Mon 2024-09-09 12:22 AM

To Akila Jayasundara <akila@cea.lk>

Google Forms

Thanks for filling out [The EPIC Air Quality Fund Application](#)

Here's what was received.

The EPIC Air Quality Fund Application

Dear Applicant,

We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for awards from the EPIC Air Quality Fund.

Before you begin, please take note of the following:

1. **Review all guidelines, eligibility, and selection criteria at The EPIC Air Quality Fund website:** <https://epic.uchicago.edu/epic-air-quality-fund-applications/>
2. **Access a pdf of the application:** To assist you in preparing for the online submission, you can preview the application form [HERE](#)
3. **Seek Assistance if Needed:** If you encounter any difficulties or have questions while completing the application form, please write: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu
4. **Submit Before the Deadline:** Ensure that you submit your completed application form by **10 September 2024, 11:59pm in your local timezone**. Late submissions will not be considered, so be mindful of the timeline and plan accordingly. To note: Outstanding applications received before this deadline may be evaluated on a rolling basis.
5. **After submission:** You will receive a copy of your submission on email. If you do not receive it, please write: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu
6. **Additional note:** If your application is selected, you will be required to fill out one of the following forms below.
 - **For foreign (non-US) entities, W-8 BEN-E** - Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner (Entity): <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8bene.pdf>
 - **For US-based entities, W-9** - Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

We appreciate your interest and wish you the best of luck in your application!

Best Wishes,

The EPIC Air Quality Fund Team

For questions, please contact: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu

Email *

Akila@CEA.LK

Personal Information

First name of applicant *

Akila

Last name of applicant *

Jayasundara

Contact number of applicant (please include country code):

*

94752556370

Mailing address of applicant *

Please include Street Address, City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code, Country.

Central Environmental Authority, 104, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla (Zip 10120), Sri Lanka

Date of birth *

MM DD YYYY

03 / 30 / 1987

Select the country in which you plan to execute your project? *

Note: Preference will be given to projects conducted in ['high' and 'medium high' opportunity score countries](#).

Sri Lanka (High: 9.8) ▼

Which country are you presently residing in? If it is not the same as the country you plan to execute the project in, please provide a justification for why you still consider yourself a 'local actor'. Preference will be given to those who can reasonably be considered 'local actors' in the communities they seek to implement their project.

*

Sri Lanka

What language(s) is(are) spoken in the country in which you will execute your project?

*

Please state your response as primary language and additional languages

Sinhala (Primary / Local), Tamil (Additional / Local), English (Primary/Additional, International)

Are you fluent in the primary language spoken in the country in which you will execute your project?

*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Entity Information

Name of the entity *

(If you are currently working independently, please name the host organisation that has agreed to support your project)

Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka

Please select entity type

*

☐ Nonprofit

☐ For profit

☐ Academic institution

☒ Government entity

☐ Other: _____

Date of incorporation of entity, if entity has been incorporated for less than three years

Only if applicable

MM DD YYYY

12 / 08 / 1981

Please state country/ countries in which entity is registered/ incorporated

*

Sri Lanka

Please state entity's registration/ incorporation number

*

(If not applicable, please put 'NA')

NA

Share link to webpage, if available: (otherwise, put: 'NA')

*

https://www.cea.lk

Contact details of primary person *

Please acknowledge the following:



I affirm that as an applicant, I will serve as the principal point of contact for all communications related to this application.

Full name of secondary contact person *

This person will be contacted in the event we are unable to contact the applicant.

Vernika Ranawakaarachchi

Designation of secondary contact person *

Director, Air Quality Monitoring

Email of secondary contact person *

aq@cea.lk

Contact number of secondary contact person (please include country code):

*

94112124641

Compliance Checklist

Is your entity allowed to accept foreign grants/ funds, specifically from the United States?

*



Yes



No

Is your organization in compliance with all relevant local, state, and national laws and regulations of your country with respect to accepting foreign (US) grants/funds, and you are able to accept funds in USD from us immediately, if successful in your proposal?

*

☒ Yes

☐ No

Does your entity have a bank account that can receive foreign grants or funds? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Does the entity's bank accept transfers in USD?

*

☒ Yes

☐ No

This proposal and communications with the EPIC Air Quality Award Team must be in English. Please acknowledge. *

☒ I acknowledge

Project Details

Project Title *

Empowering Air Quality Monitoring in Sri Lanka through EPIC Air Quality Fund

Project Summary and Impact Goals: Please provide an overview of your project and describe its goals. In your summary, please make sure impact goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). Please make sure the project directly addresses the core objectives of this funding call: (1) measure PM2.5 for a period of 12 months in a place with no or little air quality monitoring, (2) Share these data in a fully open manner, and (3) achieve systemic national-level impact in some manner. Please note when addressing item (3) we are looking for specific policy changes (e.g. create or increase ambition of an air quality standard, address a specific policy, achieve specific outcome X). *

Word limit: Up to 300 words

This project aims to establish a comprehensive PM2.5 air quality monitoring network in under-monitored regions of Sri Lanka over a 12-month period. By deploying 20 monitors in urban and rural areas with limited data, we will provide accurate, real-time PM2.5 information, enhancing the understanding of air pollution patterns nationwide. Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka (<https://www.cea.lk>), the regulatory body for air quality management, will implement this project. Due to current economic challenges, funding for air quality monitoring is limited,

making the 'EPIC Air Quality Fund' crucial for support. The data collected will be shared openly with the public (worldwide), researchers, and policymakers through our websites (1. CEA.LK website, 2. Air Quality website which is under development), on request (via email etc), and on the device manufacturer's cloud platform, if available. The project will achieve systemic national-level impact by informing evidence-based policy changes aimed at improving air quality standards. Specifically, we will produce a policy recommendation report, advocating for updated national air quality standards to address critical pollution levels and sources. Our SMART impact goals include: 1. Specific and Measurable: Install 20 PM2.5 monitors and collect data continuously for at least 12 months, with results shared in real-time on an open-access platforms. 2. Achievable and Relevant: Partner with government bodies, environmental organizations, research organizations and universities to ensure data is used for public health assessment and policy-making. 3. Time-Bound and Systemic Impact: Advocate for new or revised air quality standards related guidelines post-data collection, aiming to reduce PM2.5 levels and exposure. By aligning with the EPIC Air Quality Fund's objectives, this project will generate actionable data, promote transparency, and drive meaningful policy changes to improve air quality in Sri Lanka.

Data Generation Plan: How do you plan to generate PM2.5 data, at what time resolution, and for how long? Where and how many units will be deployed? Will they be reference or lower-cost sensing? Why do you think this is the correct configuration to advance specific, tangible, national-level impact of some kind? Please note: These awards will only support stationary monitoring of outdoor air quality. *

Word limit: Up to 300 words

The project will generate PM2.5 data at multiple time resolutions, including raw data, 5-minute or 15-minute short-term averages, hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly summaries. This approach ensures comprehensive data coverage that captures both immediate fluctuations and long-term trends in air quality. We will deploy a network of 20 stationary, low-cost PM2.5 micro-sensors across strategically selected urban and rural areas in Sri Lanka with little or no existing air quality monitoring. Where possible, data from regulatory-grade monitoring devices will also be integrated to enhance accuracy and provide reference points. The use of low-cost sensors allows for extensive spatial coverage and continuous monitoring over a 12-month period (at least), maximizing data collection while staying within budget constraints. The combination of high-frequency data collection from these micro-sensors and integration with available regulatory data will provide a robust dataset suitable for real-time analysis and public dissemination. This configuration is designed to advance national-level impact by providing policymakers with granular, reliable, and actionable data to inform updates to air quality standards and interventions. By covering diverse geographic areas, this approach captures regional variations in pollution, aiding in targeted policy responses and contributing to evidence-based air quality management in Sri Lanka.

Data-Sharing Plan: How do you plan to share the PM2.5 data in a fully open manner (e.g. in physical units (not as an AQI), in near real-time (e.g. not a month after the data are generated), in a manner that can be easily incorporated into open data platforms like OpenAQ (e.g. in a structured CSV file)?

Please note: The EPIC Air Quality Fund requires that all projects supported by it make their data fully open and in a format that is compatible with the [OpenAQ Platform data format](#), so that the data produced can be maximally utilized and the progress of our supported work can be measured publicly. Please see [this Guidelines document](#), which further outlines the open data requirements of these awards and an assessment of whether popular air quality monitoring companies' data policies meet our open data requirements.

*

Word limit: Up to 300 words

We will share the PM2.5 data in a fully open manner, ensuring it is accessible, timely, and compatible with established open data platforms like OpenAQ. Data will be reported in physical units ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM, ppm for gaseous pollutants) rather than as an Air Quality Index (AQI), providing accurate and direct measurements that are useful for researchers, policymakers, and

the public. The data will be uploaded in near real-time, with minimal delay (e.g., within minutes to a few hours of collection), ensuring its relevance for ongoing air quality assessment and quick decisions. We will provide the data in a structured CSV format, aligned with OpenAQ's requirements, to facilitate easy integration into their platform and other open data repositories. To maximize usability, our data-sharing infrastructure will include a publicly accessible online dashboard that visualizes the data in real-time. (Our Air Quality website is under development at the moment and hopefully, it will be up in couple of months. Meanwhile, the data will be accessed via our general website and the manufacturer's cloud, if it is possible). Additionally, we will make all raw and processed data files available for download through an open-access website, providing comprehensive documentation to ensure transparency and ease of use. By adhering to the guidelines set by the EPIC Air Quality Fund, our approach ensures full compliance with open data requirements, allowing for widespread use and impact measurement. This strategy will promote transparency, foster collaboration, and enable data-driven actions to improve air quality at the national level in Sri Lanka.

Positive National-level Impact Plan: Please describe the positive national, system impact you seek to achieve in this project and share your plan to achieve it.

Please note: By 'national-level' impact, we mean impacts that can have a *systemic* effect on how air pollution is viewed or addressed in the country, rather than nationwide mitigation measures (e.g. distribution or increased awareness of masks, filters, etc.). We expect funded local actors/organizations will have specific plans - and actual measurable impacts - that will vary from country to country. Examples of 'systemic national-level impact' could be work that spurs the creation or raises the ambition of an air quality standard, activates an influential group of leaders within the country toward advocating for a specific air pollution policy, etc. Whereas some groups may hold workshops with the data, others may invest in apps, specific policy objectives, or myriad of other activities, depending on what their judgment is on what activities will affect change in their national level environment. Please note: We are not interested in academic or technical impacts *unless* they somehow were to feed directly into national level impacts on air pollution.

*

Word limit: Up to 300 words

Our project seeks to achieve a positive national-level impact by driving systemic changes in how air pollution is monitored and addressed in the country. We aim to achieve this by providing reliable, high-resolution PM2.5 data from regions with little or no current air quality monitoring, which will serve as a foundation for informed policy decisions and public engagement. To create a systemic impact, we will develop a policy recommendation report based on the collected data, highlighting critical areas where air quality standards need to be established or strengthened. This report will be submitted to relevant government bodies, advocating for new or revised regulations or guidelines to address identified issues, pollution sources, etc. Simultaneously, we will engage with key stakeholders, including government officials, environmental NGOs, health experts, research bodies, universities and community leaders. These efforts will aim to build a coalition of influential voices that can advocate for improved air quality policies and standards, focusing on specific areas such as industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, and urban planning. We will also leverage digital platforms, including a real-time data visualization dashboard and social media, to raise public awareness and foster grassroots support for policy changes. By combining data-driven advocacy with targeted engagement strategies, our project aims to create a sustained, positive impact on national air quality management, ultimately contributing to a healthier environment and population.

Project Activities: List and provide a brief description of each of the project activities that you plan to implement to achieve your objectives over an 18 month period. *

The brief description of each activity must contain name of activity, tentative timeline (eg: Mar 2025) and its importance in achieving the national-level impact that you are seeking to achieve. Word limit: Up to 500 words

Project Activities. To achieve our objective of creating a positive national-level impact on air quality management, we will implement the following activities over an 18-month period, beginning on January 1, 2025: 1. Planning and Stakeholder Engagement (Jan - Feb 2025): During the initial phase, we will establish partnerships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, environmental organizations, and local communities. We will also finalize the selection of monitoring sites in under-monitored areas. This activity is crucial for aligning our objectives with national priorities and securing stakeholder buy-in for the project. 2. Deployment of Monitoring Stations (Mar - Apr 2025): Co-locating the microsensors with a reference PM device (BAM) for 2–4 weeks will allow for the assessment of their inter-correlation and their correlation with the reference device. Then, we will deploy 10-15 stationary PM2.5 monitoring units in selected urban and rural areas with little or no existing monitoring. This activity ensures comprehensive data collection over the 12-month period (at least), providing the foundation for all subsequent actions and enabling us to capture variations in air quality across different regions. 3. Data Collection and Management (Apr 2025 - Apr 2026): Continuous PM2.5 data collection will begin immediately after deployment and will be managed in real-time. Data will be processed and formatted according to open data standards to ensure compatibility with platforms like OpenAQ. The data will be shared in near real-time, contributing to transparency and public accessibility, which is essential for driving policy advocacy and public awareness. 4. Community Awareness and Capacity Building (Jul 2025 - Mar 2026): We will conduct workshops, and community engagement sessions to raise awareness about air pollution and its health impacts. These activities aim to empower local communities, build public support for policy changes, and encourage citizen participation in air quality monitoring efforts, creating a broader base for systemic change. 5. Data Analysis and Reporting (Oct 2025 - May 2026): A detailed analysis of the collected data will be conducted to identify pollution hotspots, trends, and critical areas for intervention. A policy recommendation report will be developed and submitted to government bodies by May 2026, advocating for new or revised air quality standards based on the findings. This activity directly supports our goal of achieving national-level policy impact. 6. Policy Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement (Jun - Jul 2026): We will engage with key stakeholders, including policymakers, industry leaders, and environmental advocates, through targeted meetings, presentations, and media outreach. This phase aims to build a coalition of influential voices advocating for air quality improvements, reinforcing the project's systemic impact. 7. Project Review and Next Steps (Aug - Jun 2026): A comprehensive review of project outcomes will be conducted to evaluate progress toward achieving national-level impact. The final phase will focus on consolidating gains, sharing lessons learned, and planning for further actions beyond the initial 18-month period to ensure sustained impact. By following this timeline, we aim to build momentum toward a systemic, national-level impact on air quality management.

Project Team: Please describe the team with whom you will be working on this project and each of their expected roles. *

Word limit: Up to 150 words

Our team will consist of five members from the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and two external members from the Ministry of Environment. (Subject to revisions) Project Leader: Oversees project activities, coordinates with stakeholders, and ensures adherence to schedule and budget. Technical Specialist: Manages deployment and maintenance of equipment, ensuring data quality and system functionality. Communications Officer: Handles communication strategies, disseminates data, and engages with media to promote project findings. Data Analyst: Manages, analyzes, and interprets PM2.5 data to generate actionable insights and reports. Community Engagement Coordinator: Leads outreach efforts, including workshops and public campaigns, to support air quality initiatives. Other/Misc. The members of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) will be responsible for the implementation and technical aspects, while two external members from the Ministry of Environment will provide policy guidance and facilitate collaboration with government agencies.

Previous or ongoing work: Do you have any previous or ongoing work that this project directly or indirectly ties into? Please describe and provide any references/links to your previous work (can include data, studies, academic papers, press releases).

*

Word limit: Up to 150 words

There is no exactly similar program that is in this level. Recently, 12 microsensors were

donated by UNEP. (IQAir outdoor, with PM and CO2). The data from these sensors will also be publicly available. Using the data from two existing regulatory monitoring stations, several publications has done. Some are in local journals. Indirectly related. A Link in Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=5oNhc9wAAAAJ>

Partnerships and Collaborations: Mention any existing or potential partnerships and collaborations outside of your core team that will support the project's implementation or enhance its impact. *

Word limit: Up to 150 words

Core Team: Central Environmental Authority (CEA). Secondary Team: Ministry of Environment. Our project will be supported by key partnerships and collaborations beyond our core teams. National Building Research Organisation (NBRO): Provides expertise in air quality monitoring, particularly related to disaster management and public alerts. Ministry of Health: Collaborates on health-related policies, using air quality & health data to inform public health strategies. University of Peradeniya: Supports research activities, including data analysis and academic studies to enhance the project's scientific impact. Department of Motor Traffic: Engages in air pollution management, particularly concerning emissions from vehicles, and contributes to policy decisions. Ministry of Industries: Focuses on managing industrial air pollution and shaping relevant policy decisions. Other Collaborations: Additional partnerships may be formed with various stakeholders to broaden the project's impact and reach.

Are there country-specific opportunities coming up in the near future that make it especially compelling to launch an AQ program right now? (e.g. election in a year, revamping AQ standards in the next 3 years, etc.)

*

Yes. There is a presidential election on September 21st, followed by parliamentary elections. All the political parties have promised improvements in environmental management in their policy documents. Additionally, several action plans and policy documents related, such as CleanAir etc. are already in effect.

Anything else you want to share?

This project and your funding would greatly benefit the world and the environment in many ways. Thank you for your efforts!

Project Budget

Total project amount (in USD)

Please Note: We expect award amounts to be roughly 50,000 USD for groups proposing to deploy lower cost sensors and 75,000 USD or more for groups using regulatory grade equipment.

*

40000

Please follow the steps given below to submit your budget:

1. Make a copy: Click on the budget template <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wLGkp4dhJ1FIRUmhd-bNtjelQNXuX3BIslONlhKoKok/edit?usp=sharing>, click on **File > Download > Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)** and rename the downloaded file to include the applicant's name and the entity's name (e.g., 'Jane

Doe - XYZ Foundation').

2.Fill Out the Template: Complete all required fields in the budget template.

3. Share the File: Upload the file onto a drive and share a link to the completed budget sheet in the response box below.

*

*Ensure that you have enabled access to your sheet by selecting the '**Anyone with the link can view**' option. If we do not have access to your budget sheet, your submission would be considered as incomplete. If you have any questions, please write: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu.*

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TiOG9AQ1VPMejMEt-z--Hq11cgOlFV8O/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=116427319103805197193&rtpof=true&sd=true

Attachments

Share a PDF of your CV/Resume

*

*Upload a PDF of your resume to a drive and paste a shareable link of the document in the response box below. Please ensure that you have enabled access to your PDF by selecting the '**Anyone with the link can view**' option. If we do not have access to your PDF, your submission would be considered as incomplete.*

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e2RBNk1EfiOVaVPaZT9x_KJad8nY_OGI/view?usp=sharing

Consent

Please carefully read and acknowledge each of the following statements by marking the checkbox next to each item: *

- ☒ I understand only one application per team at an organization is accepted.
- ☒ I certify that the information provided in this award application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☒ I agree to comply with all terms and conditions associated with this award if awarded.
- ☒ If granted an award, our org has the capacity to invoice within the first 30 days of a signed agreement

Do we have your permission to share your application with other funders? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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