Purpose
Rutgers Global, the Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (EOAS), and the Rutgers Climate Institute (RCI) invite faculty and researchers to submit proposals for seed projects that leverage and enhance Rutgers’ global presence and cross-disciplinary expertise to advance the understanding and/or governance of global environmental change. These projects can include collaborative, interdisciplinary research, institutional development, and/or other capacity-building projects.

Faculty from all Rutgers campuses are invited to propose bold new ideas or innovative extensions of existing projects that align with EOAS’s scientific mission and impact issues of global importance. EOAS’s scientific mission encompasses both planetary exploration (advancing the scientific understanding of the past, present and future of the Earth system) and planetary stewardship (building the knowledge and perspective needed for equitable state, national and global stewardship of a healthy, sustainable and resilient planetary environment).

A seed grant proposal should outline a clear plan for substantive, sustained collaboration that explores new research areas or expands in innovative ways on existing research, and that derives clear and compelling benefit from exploration within an international, interdisciplinary context. In addition, preference will be given to proposals that show promise of generating substantial external funding and/or furthering Rutgers’ collaborations with international institutions.

Approximately seven proposals will be awarded up to $15,000 each. Funding will be available by June 30, 2021 for a one or two-year time period, as requested by the applicant(s) in the proposal.

This grant does not support short-term lecturing or attendance at international conferences or symposia.

Evaluation Criteria
The Review Committee appointed by Rutgers Global, EOAS, and RCI will review proposals and select awardees based on their intellectual merit and broader impacts. In selecting proposals to be funded, priority will be given to proposals that:

• Advance Rutgers’ engagement with the issues that are of global importance;
• Develop interconnections among departments, units, or schools and that will include faculty and graduate students from different disciplines;
• Result in a major outcome such as publication, major international conference, major external funding, establishment of new university international collaborative partnership;
• Explore new areas of research or build upon an existing strength and demonstrated faculty commitment;
• Will use the funds as seed money to develop a project or initiative with potential to have a long-term impact on one or more university units and/or to lead to external funding.

Application and Submission Requirements
1. All faculty (tenured, tenure-track, clinical, or NTT faculty) with Rutgers appointments that continue at least through December 31, 2022, who do not have current Rutgers Global Grants, are eligible to apply. (NTT faculty will need to provide a letter from their Dean, Chair, or Director stating support for the proposal, and that it is expected that the applicant is in a position which will be renewed for the duration of the grant period, 2021-2023).
2. Proposals may be individual—submitted by a faculty member—or institutional—submitted by programs, institutes, centers, departments, or schools.

Proposals Must Include:
1. Application cover sheet, including a summary/abstract of the proposed research (150 words maximum).
2. Project description (3 pages maximum) that includes a list of proposed activities, a timetable, and a brief description of project outcomes (i.e., publications; external sources of funding that will be sought upon completion of the pilot project including funding agency and specific programs, if available; conferences planned; and other outcomes).
3. Detailed budget and budget narrative. Please see attached budget guidelines for details regarding expenditures that may or may not be charged to the grant.

Compliance
Any research with human subjects, animals, biosafety, REHS, or hESCRO must undergo all necessary compliance reviews. No funds will be transferred until the PI has submitted an endorsement form (signed by the PI and department chair/school dean).

Deadline
Proposals are due by **5:00 PM on Friday, March 19, 2021.** Electronic submissions are required and should be sent to grants@global.rutgers.edu. Save your file as LastNameFirstName_GlobalEnvironmentalChangeGrant (i.e. SmithJohn_GlobalEnvironmentalChangeGrant). Awards are expected to be announced in May 2021.

Inquiries
Questions about the program may be directed to Dr. Rick H. Lee, Director of Global Programs and Partnerships, Rutgers Global at rick.lee@global.rutgers.edu or 848-932-3093.