



Call for Applications: Climate Beacons Newsroom Initiative

Date of announcement: July 8, 2026

Submission deadline: July 31, 2026

Applications should be emailed to info@meshascience.org

1. Background

The Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA), a nonprofit organization founded November 2005 in Nairobi. It supports science journalists covering climate change, health, development, technology, agriculture and the environment by offering training workshops, consultancies and networking opportunities through meetings and conferences among journalists, scientists and other stakeholders in eastern and southern Africa. The association emphasises on rural journalism and communication.

MESHA believes that in a democratic society where science must be answerable to the public, there is need to find new and innovative ways of effective mass communication on the benefits of science, and other areas of concern to the general public.

Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) and MESHA have partnered to empower local partners and newsrooms to focus on how climate change is specifically impacting their regions and what can be learned from adaptive responses. MESHA is therefore pleased to announce the plan to enroll 6 newsrooms or media houses from English-speaking Africa to participate in a seven-month-long climate solutions journalism engagement from August 2026 to March 2027.

Through the collaboration, SJN and MESHA will support partners and newsrooms through assessments, peer connections, and assistance with developing targeted initiatives and tools such as specialized training and toolkits to meet local needs. We will work with newsrooms and journalists across different mediums such as radio, print, digital, TV, Sub stack, etc.

2. Goals and core objectives

- Amplify solutions reporting:** Shift newsroom focus from problem - only reporting to evidence-backed climate responses.
- Enhance technical capacity:** Equip journalists with deep climate literacy and rigorous acumen of telling climate stories.
- Boost audience engagement:** Help newsrooms reach local communities with impactful and relevant climate information.
- Foster collaboration:** Encourage cross-border or regional co-productions on shared climate change issues.

3. Scope of support to be provided

Selected newsrooms will receive a comprehensive package of assistance, including:

- Solutions journalism introduction training
- Regular coaching from experienced climate and solutions journalism experts.
- Audience and community engagement training
- Impact tracking training
- Workshop on deepening solutions to climate storytelling
- Monthly engagements and coaching that will include MESHA and SJN staff

4. Expected deliverables from newsrooms

Participating newsrooms will be required to submit:

- i. **Inception work plan:** A detailed roadmap outlining proposed climate story series, timelines, and staff.
- ii. **Published content:** A minimum of eight deep-dive climate solutions stories (print, digital, broadcast, multi-media or podcast).
- iii. **Impact and Audience Report:** A progress and final evaluation report showing reach and other engagement metrics.
- iv. **Financial Management:** Transparent reporting on how project grant funds were utilized.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Applying newsrooms must meet the following baseline requirements:

Status: Must be an established independent media outlet (digital, print, radio, or TV).

Track Record: Demonstrated interest or existing baseline coverage of climate change issues through a solutions journalism lens.

Commitment: Explicit written sign-off from editorial leadership to dedicate staff time and airtime/web space to the project.

Compliance: Registered legal entity capable of receiving and managing grant funds.

6. Application process and requirements

Interested newsrooms must submit an application with the following details;

Project Proposal: 1 to 2 pages concept note detailing your editorial strategy for climate solutions stories.

Story Pitch: Share 4 possible topics you could be covering with a solutions lens.

Team Profiles: Details of the editorial lead(s) and reporter(s) dedicated to the project.

Budget: A budget of not more than US\$8000 (US dollars eight thousand only) in an excel document detailing specific allocation of activities/items that you will spend on.

Language: Newsrooms from English-speaking countries in Africa are eligible for this grant.

Timeline: Applicants must indicate readiness to start from mid August 2026.

7. How to apply for this grant

- Applications should be addressed to the MESHA Secretariat, clearly indicating the subject line as MESHA_ Africa Climate Beacons Newsroom Initiative Grant Application and emailed to info@meshascience.org
- Submission deadline: July 31, 2026.
- Late applications will not be considered.