

'PITCH YOUR FILM'

Call for Proposals for Commissioning Documentary Films

1. Background

Green Hub invites proposals from filmmakers from Northeast India under 'Pitch Your Film'. The commissioning of documentary films is part of the Green Hub Festival that is scheduled from 13th to 15th May, 2017 at Tezpur Assam. The Festival aims to raise awareness, celebrate, debate and examine wildlife, environment, biodiversity, gender and development issues specific to the Northeast region.

Green Hub has partnered with some leading organisations that are in the forefront of development work and promote visual documentation of the same. The Commissioning Agencies include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT).

Filmmakers from across the northeast of India are encouraged to submit inspiring ideas for documentary films that are fresh and creative. The call is open to both, first-time filmmakers and those with a body of experience in documentary filmmaking. Women, in particular, are encouraged to apply. There is tremendous work happening across the region in the field of conservation and development and 'Pitch Your Film' provides a great opportunity for filmmakers to tell their stories and to be influencers of change.

2. The Commissioning Process

The open call for commissioning of documentary films invites proposals on specific themes as outlined by our Commissioning Agencies (Details listed below). All proposals will be assessed by our partners and experts on the basis of the strength of the idea, its relevance and the ability of the filmmaker to turn the idea into a powerful film.

The short listed filmmakers will be invited to attend a three days 'Pitching Workshop' at Tezpur, Assam. The purpose of the workshop will be to help the shortlisted filmmakers to fine-tune their proposals and prepare their pitch to the Commissioning Agencies and the Jury during the Green Hub Festival.

Final commissioning of the films will be done based on the presentations of the short-listed proposals and discussions with the filmmakers. A total of two films will be selected (one per Commissioning Agency). On selection, the filmmaker will need to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Agency which will provide further details on payment and submission procedure for the final film.

Due to budgetary constraints, only a limited number of films can be commissioned, but at the same time, the Festival opens other opportunities for filmmakers to discuss and present their ideas to the many experts and filmmakers from across the northeast and other parts of India who will be attending the Festival.

3. Details on Themes for the Films

The themes/subjects for the documentary films proposals being specifically sought for by the Commissioning Agencies are listed below:

a) A 5 min film on *Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) in Shifting Cultivation (jhum) Areas of Nagaland*. Commissioned By: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Budget: Upto Rs. 4 Lakhs (Languages: English and a second version in a local language)

Shifting cultivation is the main form of agriculture in Nagaland. But in recent years, due to shortening of jhum cycles, there is little time for restoring soil fertility and yields are declining. Once self-sufficient in food grains, families are now unable to produce sustainable yields. Nagaland faces a challenge in adapting land use and production systems to meet the needs of its rising population, changing lifestyles as well as land uses, while also maintaining its ecological sustainability. The film will focus on the PLUP processes and approaches and the collective engagement of stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for sustainable land use and ecological management, and improved livelihoods. In particular, the film will explore the role of women in the PLUP process, their capacity to manage natural resources, and its impact on their social standing.

b) A 26 min film related to *Environment, Wildlife, Biodiversity Conservation, Gender, and Development issues specific to the Northeast region*. Commissioned By: Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT). Budget: Upto Rs. 4 Lakhs

Northeast India has numerous stories to tell. The region is not a homogenous entity but a highly diverse mosaic of ecological and social landscapes which are under tremendous pressure to pave the way for development. At another level, conflict in the region has been an all pervasive phenomena, contributing to people struggling with huge gaps in basic development. The northeast may be better off than the rest of India in terms of gender equality, yet women here still need to grapple with access to education, employment, health, social and political participation. The canvas for exploring ideas for an innovative documentary film that addresses any of the themes listed above is vast and we encourage out of the box creativity in translating the idea into an impactful film.

Note: All films to be made in Full High Definition. Language will be English, with subtitles provided for all non-English segments including interviews, any songs/ poetry used.

4. Proposal Submission Procedure

An applicant can submit only one proposal under each category mentioned above. Each proposal should clearly include the following in the order given:

a) First Page - Executive Summary of the Proposal

- Working Title/s
- Pitched to: (Name of the Commissioning Agency)
- Pitched By: (Name of Filmmaker/s, Production House)
- Brief Synopsis of the Film (3 to 5 sentences)
- Shooting Format (Full High Definition/ HD)
- Film Duration
- Shooting Location/s
- Language/s
- Required Time for Completion of Film (from time of signing of contract)
- Total Budget: (To be as specified under each category)
- Contact Details of Filmmaker

b) Rest of Proposal to include the following:

- Background to the proposed Documentary subject - Introduction to the subject, its context and relevance. The importance of the documentary and the need to make it.
(maximum 400 words)
- Proposed Treatment - How the film will flow visually in terms of its structure, narrative, use of any stylistic tools, visual segments and possible interviews/bytes of people (including any subject experts, stakeholders, case studies).
(maximum 400 words)
- Key messages from the film - envisioned impact on the audience
(upto 200 words)
- List of the Production Team - Names and 2-3 line brief write-up on main team members (cameraperson, sound, editor etc)
- CV/Profile of the filmmaker - (a showreel or samples of work may be required to be submitted during the workshop)
- Budget Details - All costs (research, pre and post production etc) towards the making of the film, including deliverables such as DVD's, pen drives etc. Budget should be within the specified amount under each category of the Commissioning Agency.

Note:

- The Commissioning process requires selection of the proposals based on an evaluation criteria. The initial short-listed filmmakers will be required to attend a three day workshop at Tezpur, Assam.
- The final two filmmakers selected for commissioning will be required to sign an agreement with the respective Commissioning Agency and fulfill any specific requirement that they may have.
- This call for proposals is open to Indian filmmakers from the Northeast of India.
- **All proposals to be emailed to pitchyourfilm2017@gmail.com**

Deadline for Proposal Submission: 25th April, 2017

5. Commissioning Timeline

1.	Call for entries	7th to 25th April
2.	Submission of Proposals	By 25th April
3.	Selection of Filmmakers for workshop	By 5th May
4.	Workshop, Tezpur Assam	10th to 12th May
5.	Final Pitch to Commissioning Agencies	13th May
6.	Final Selection &Announcement of Awardees	15th May

For any further information or clarification, kindly contact on 9401177688 / 9717991525