



Mapping Green Philanthropy and Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Ford Foundation, 1960-2004



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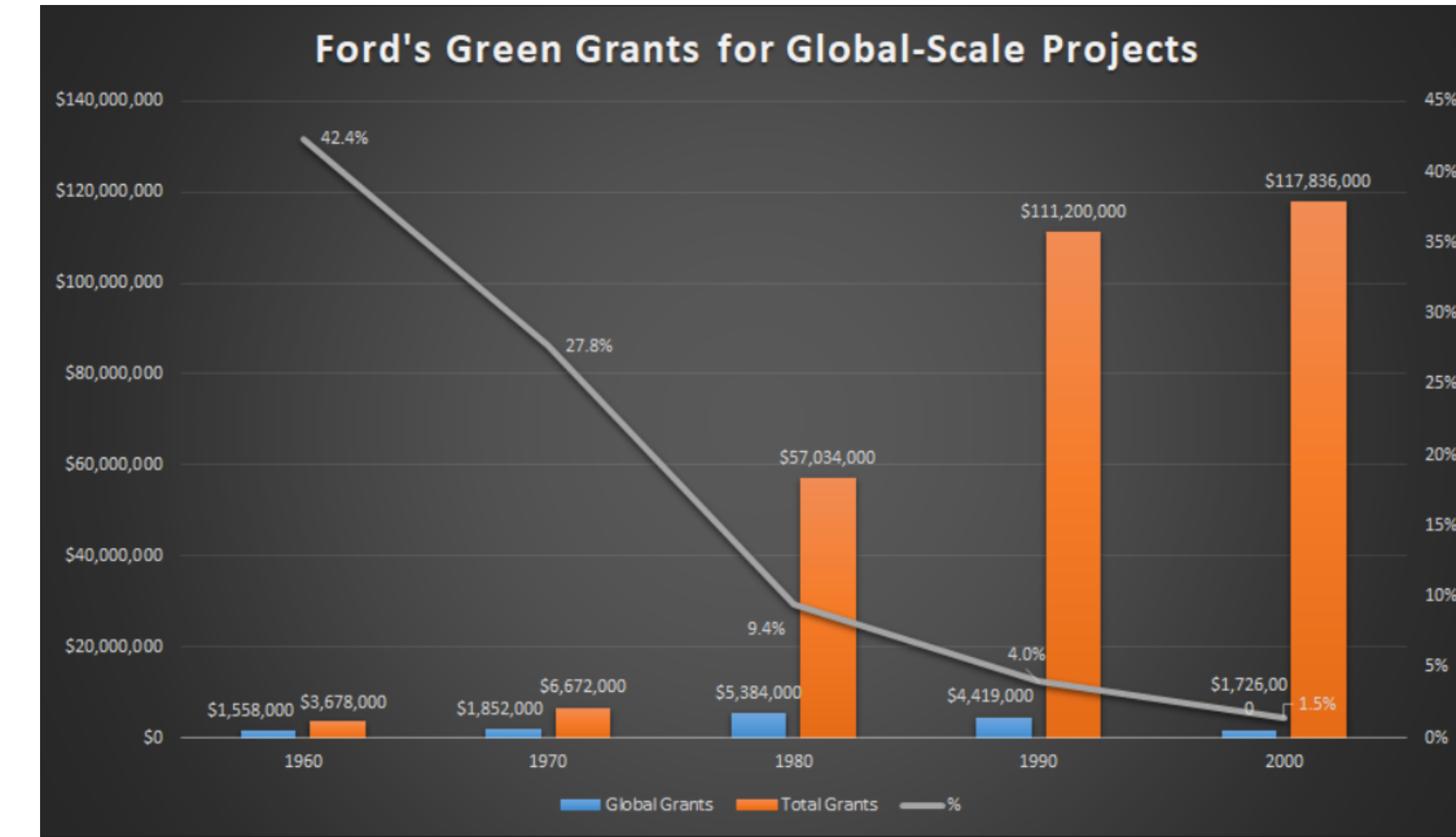
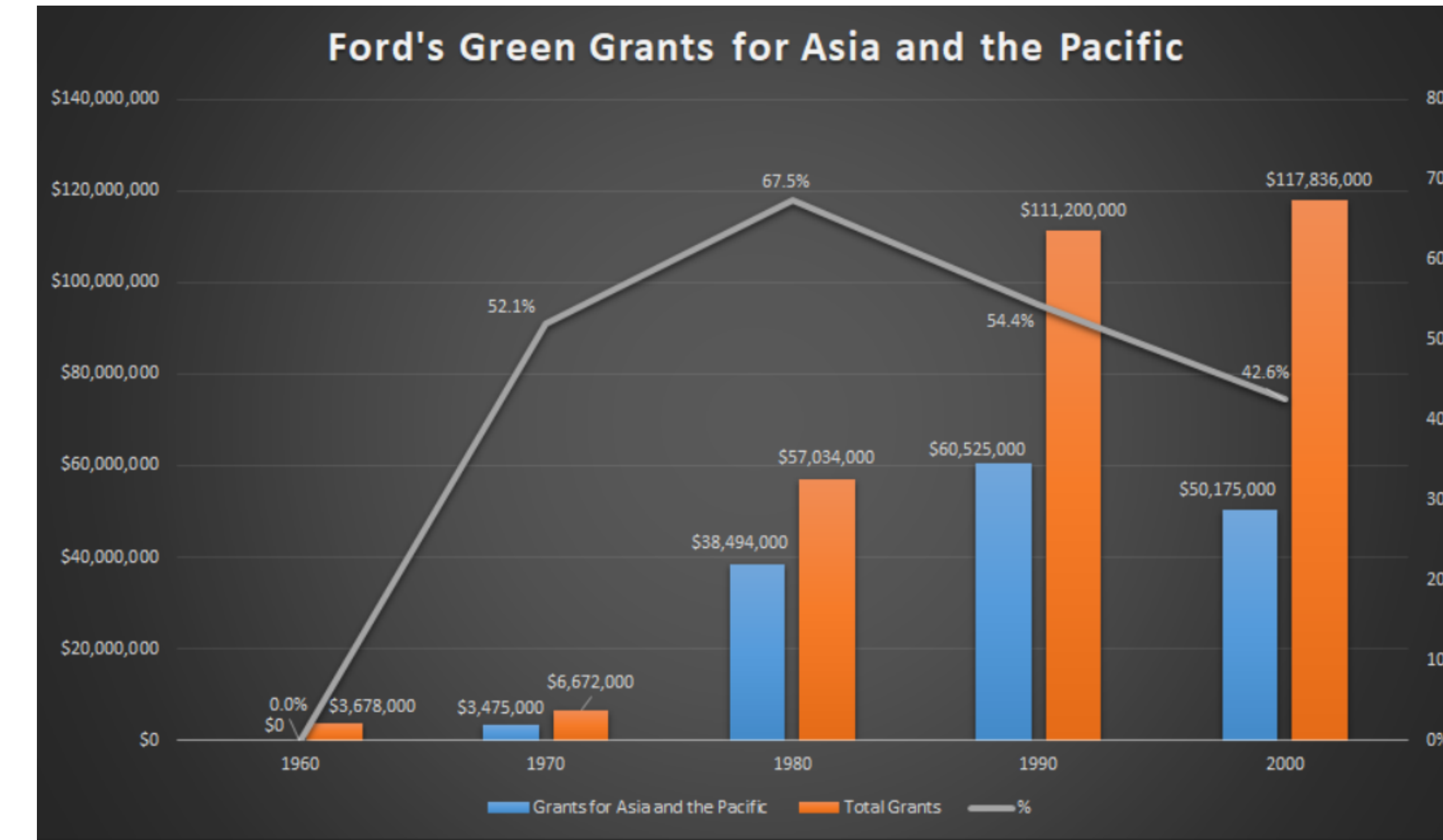
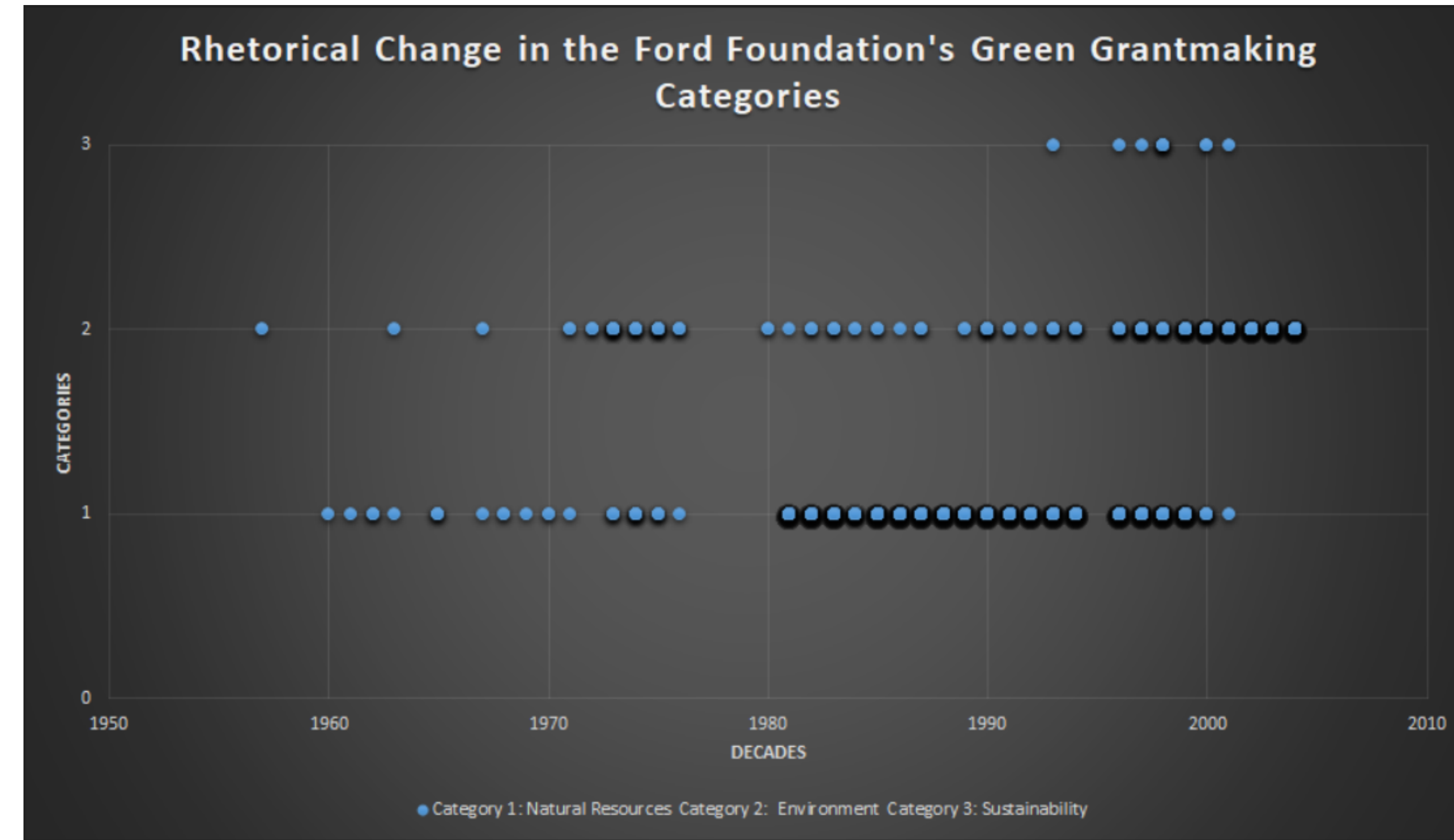
Introduction

The United States of America's increasingly wealthy, active, and innovative philanthropic organizations have had a growing impact on international development since World War II. The Ford Foundation, one of the leading American philanthropic organizations, has influenced international development and foreign relations since the early 1950s. Research shows that international development institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have increased their relative focus on environmental and sustainability concerns since their establishment after World War II (Goldman, 2005). This research tracks the Ford Foundation's overseas grants dedicated to natural resources, the environment, and sustainability to see if a leading U.S. philanthropic organization pursues particular trends across time and space. Georeferencing the Ford Foundation's green development projects provides the opportunity to better site the spatial and temporal context of green development initiatives within the foundation's philanthropic and development discourse and that of the leading international development organizations.

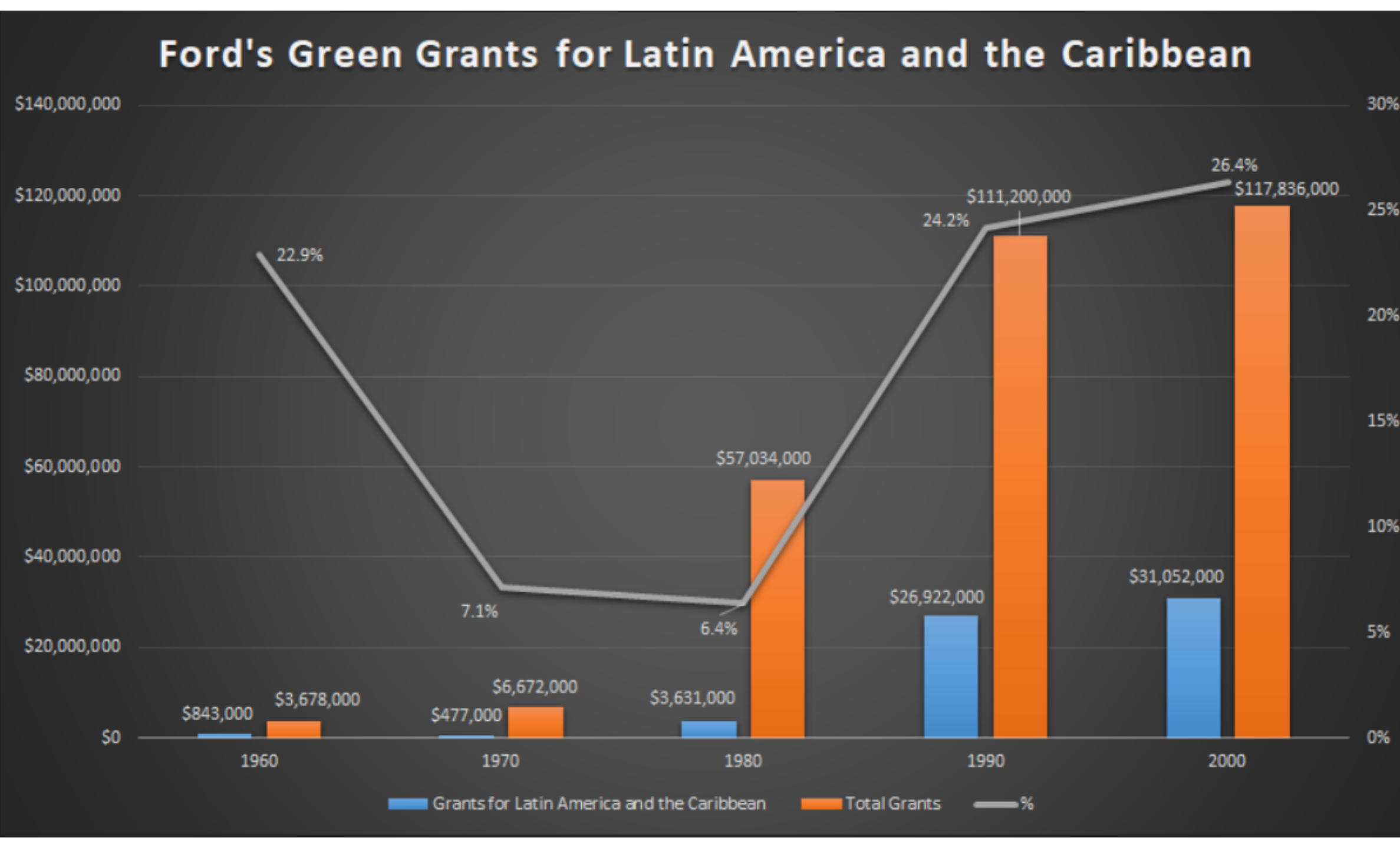
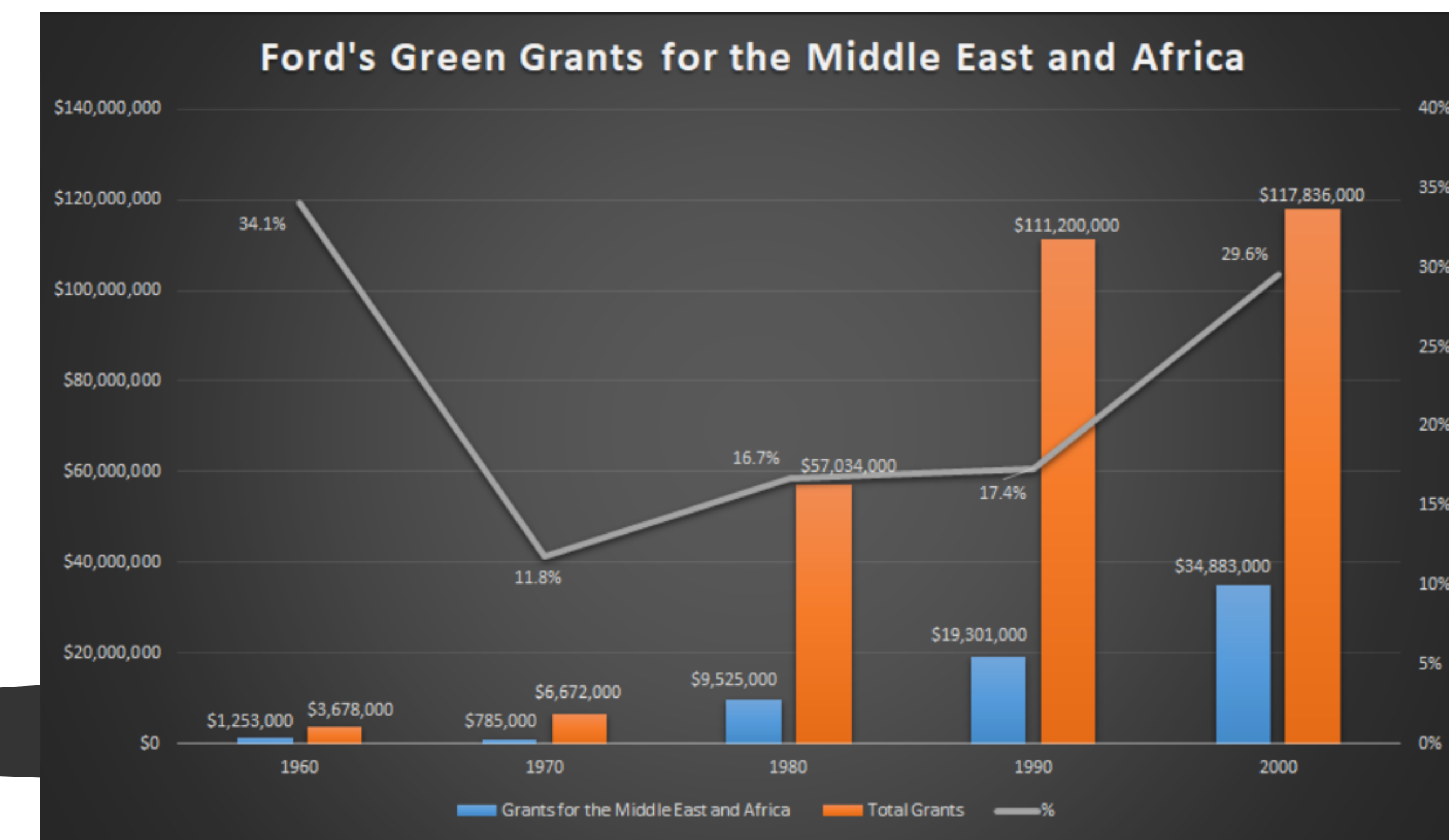
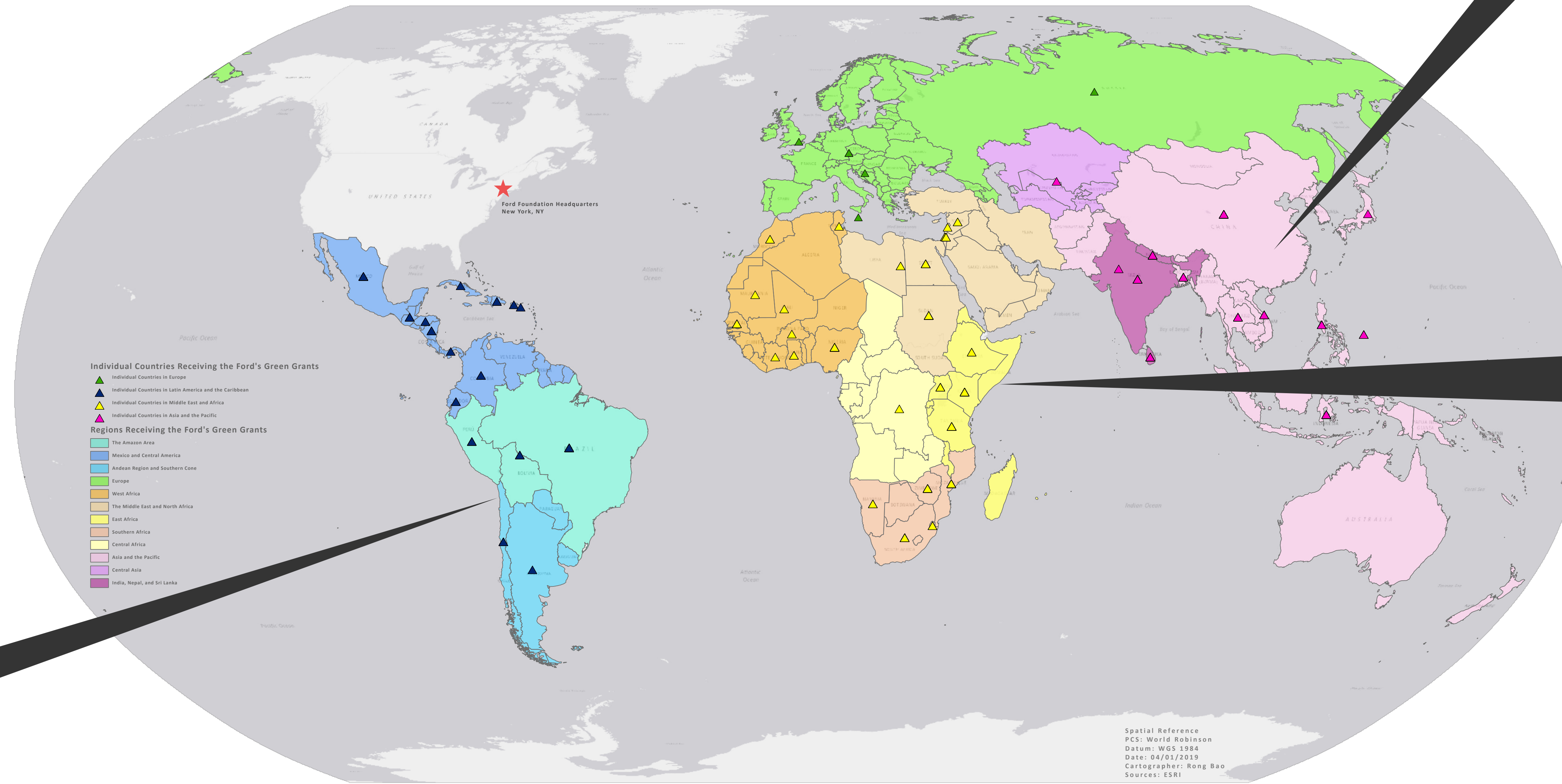
Methodology

This research analyzed 45 years of Ford Foundation's Annual Reports (1960 to 2004) to identify 2343 overseas green development grants dedicated to natural resources, environment, and sustainability. Bao recorded each one's program name, grant amount, funded organization, grantee location, and geographic focus; researchers also coded each grant according to three different categories (natural resource, environment, and sustainability) and six modes (education and training, research, institutional building, conference and knowledge exchange, publication and media production, and public policy). Bao used ArcPro to georeference each grant by grantee location to generate a series of interactive maps that visualize the trajectory of the Ford Foundation's financial support to international green development projects across five decades.

A literature review identified articles on the changing nature of Environmentalism and international development through the lenses of American philanthropy and international organizations, along with other materials that helped frame the 45 years of grants in their appropriate geopolitical and environmental context.

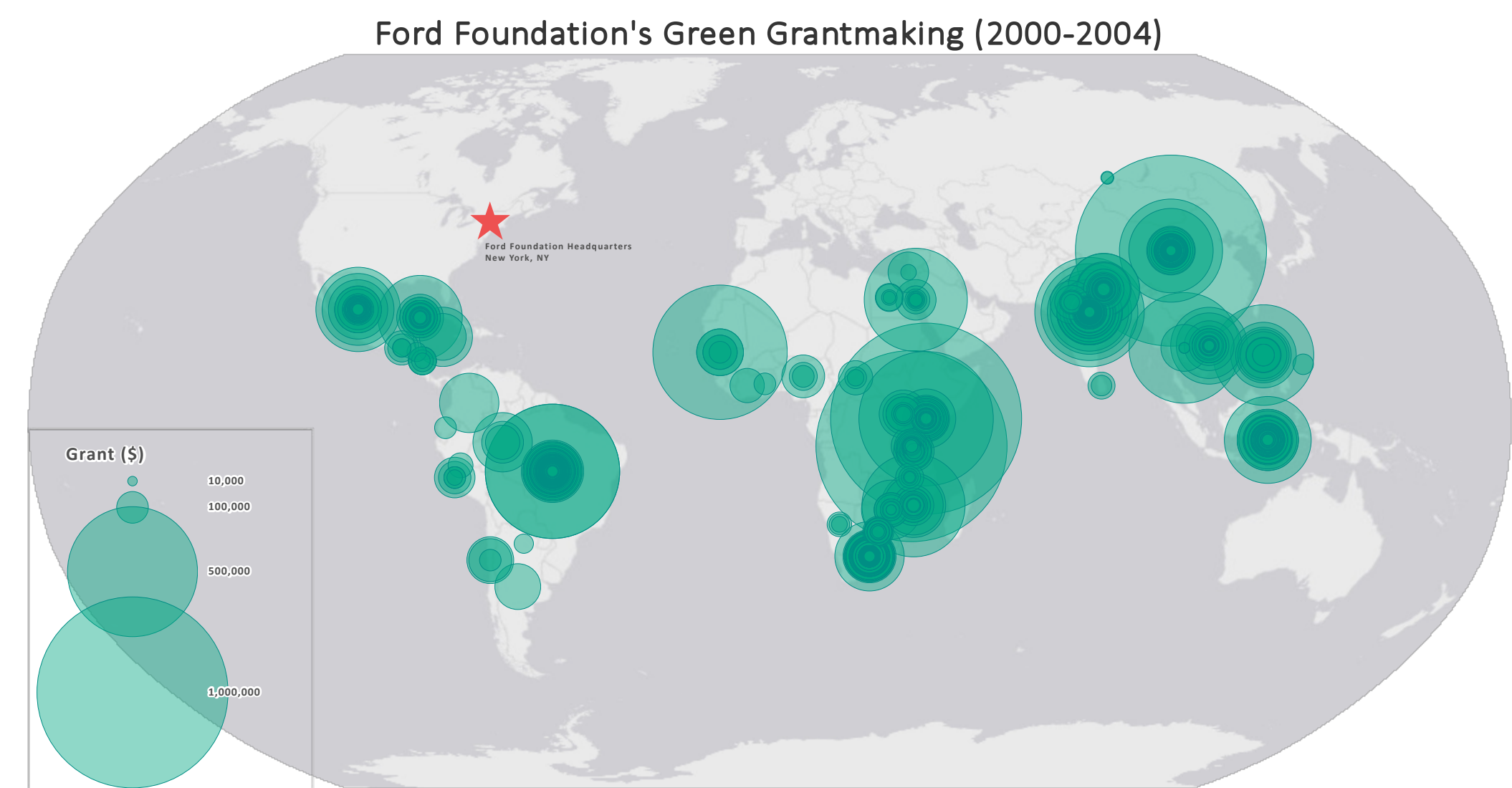
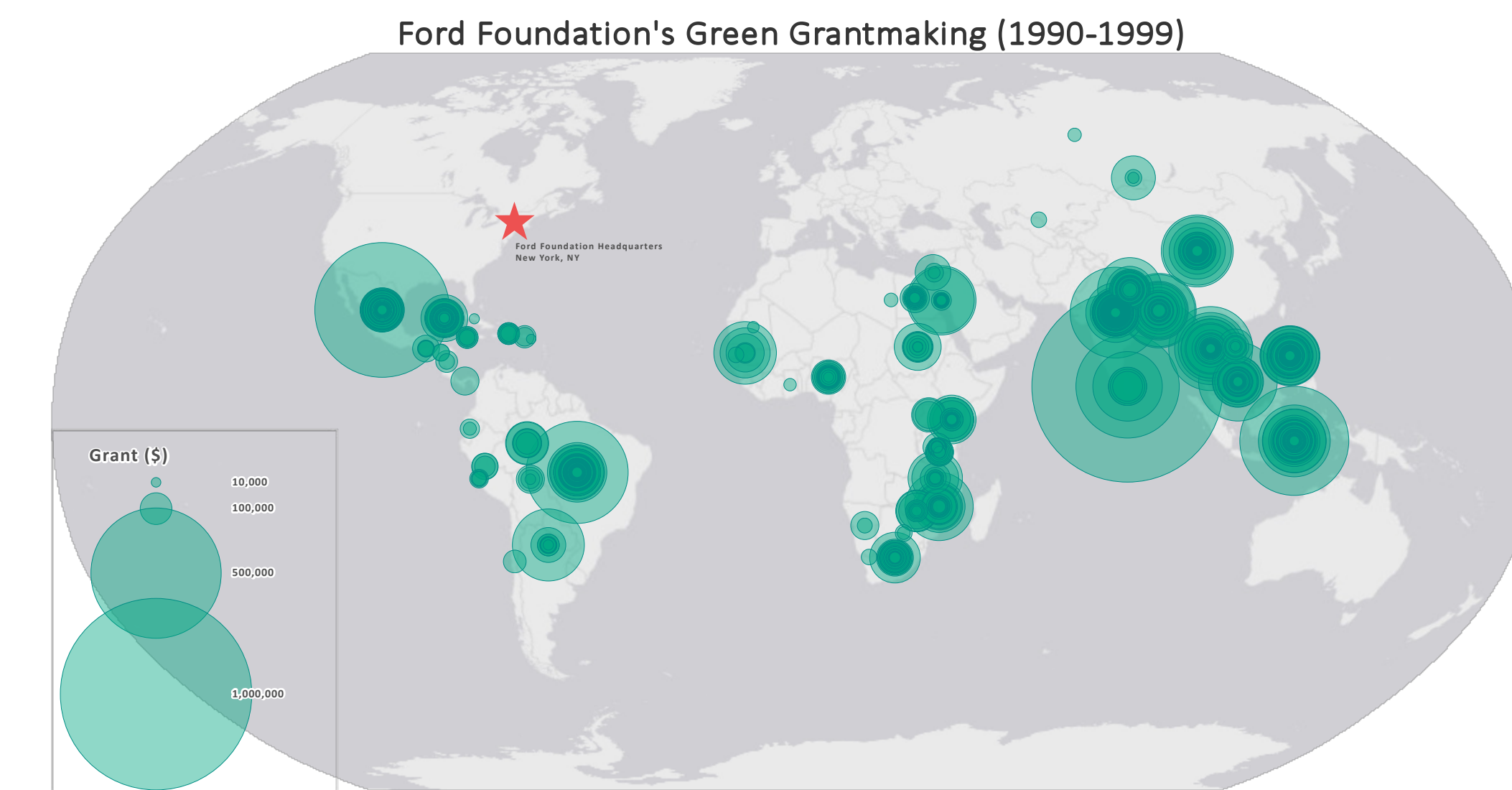
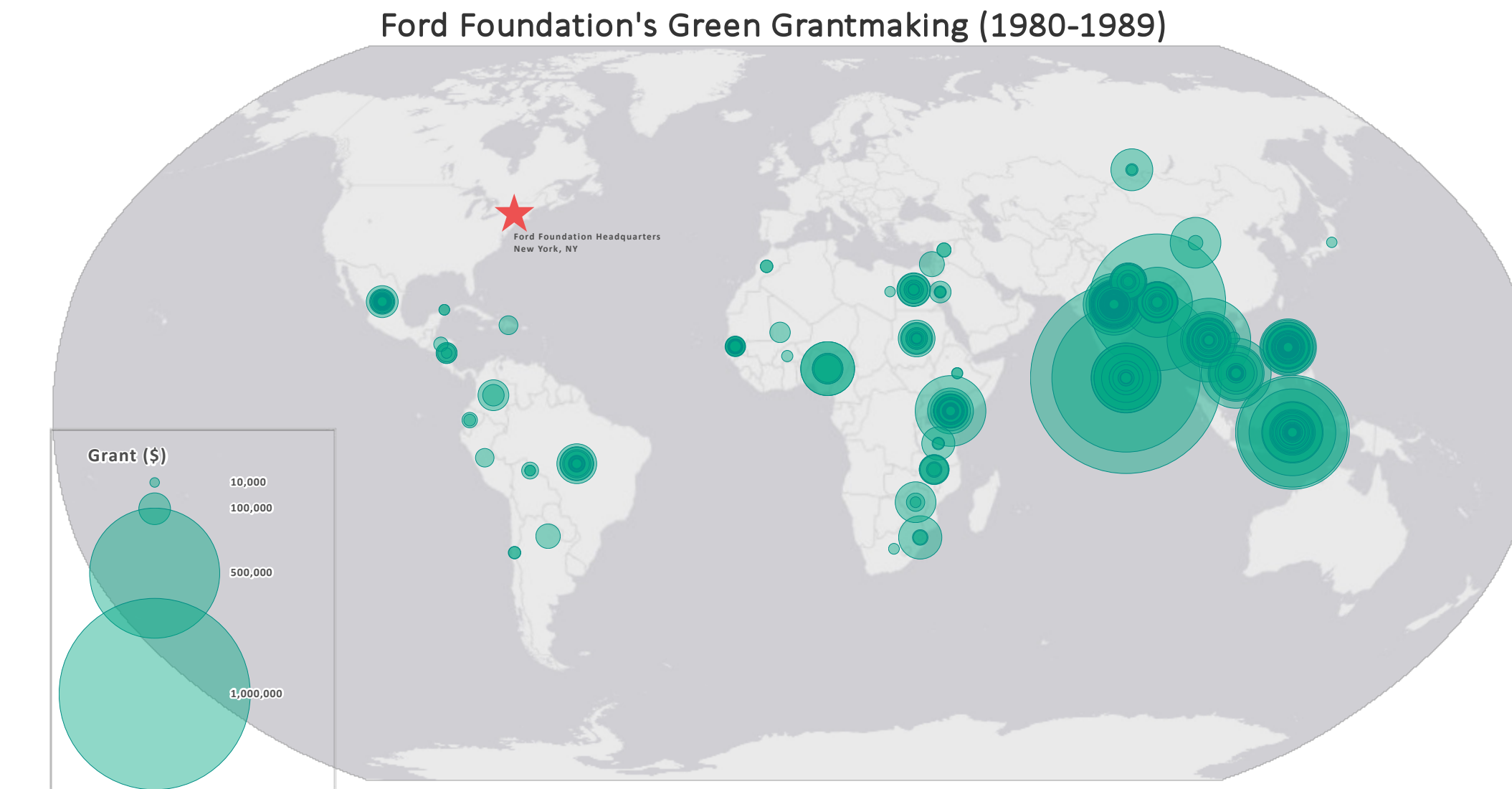
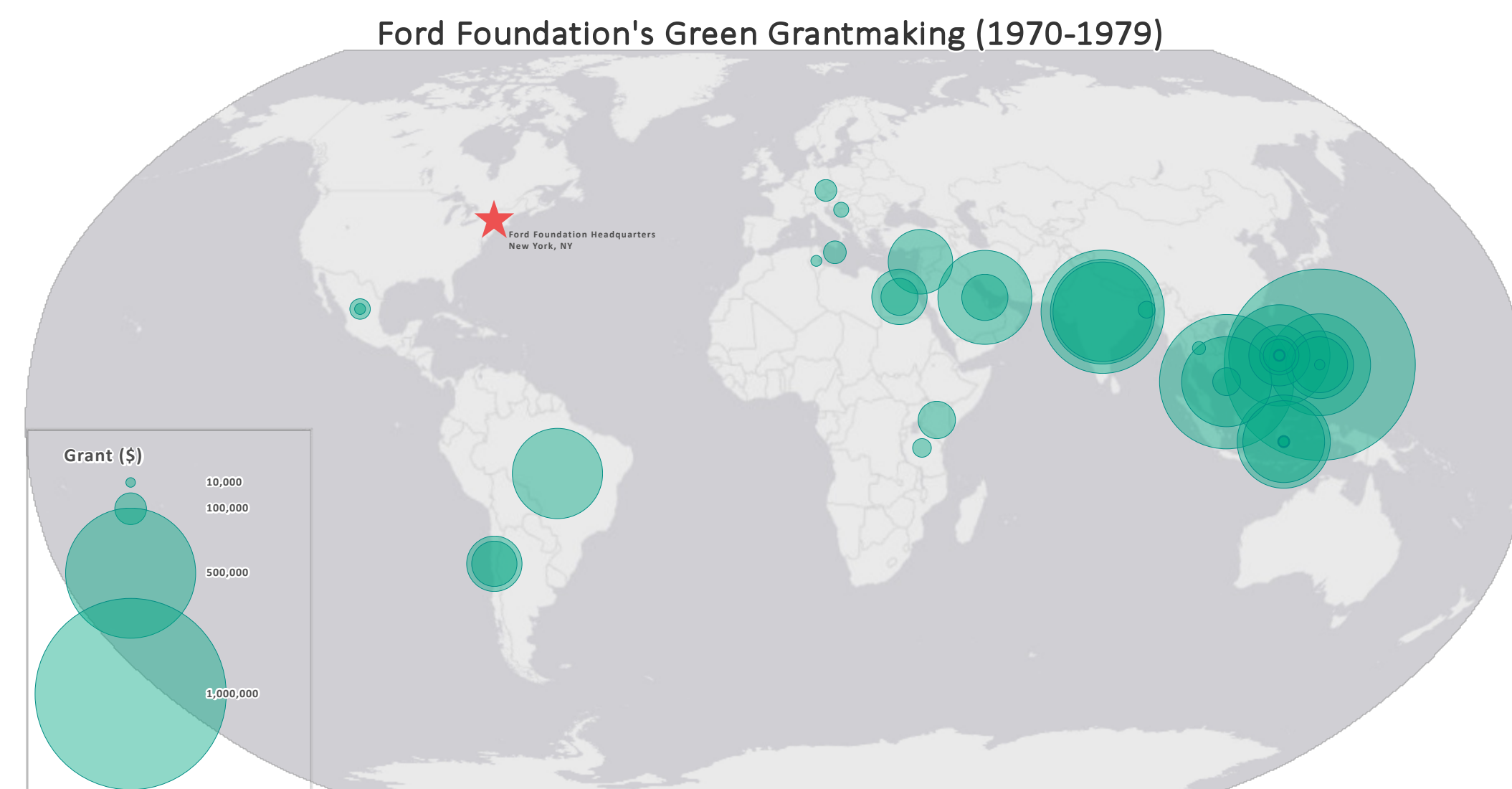
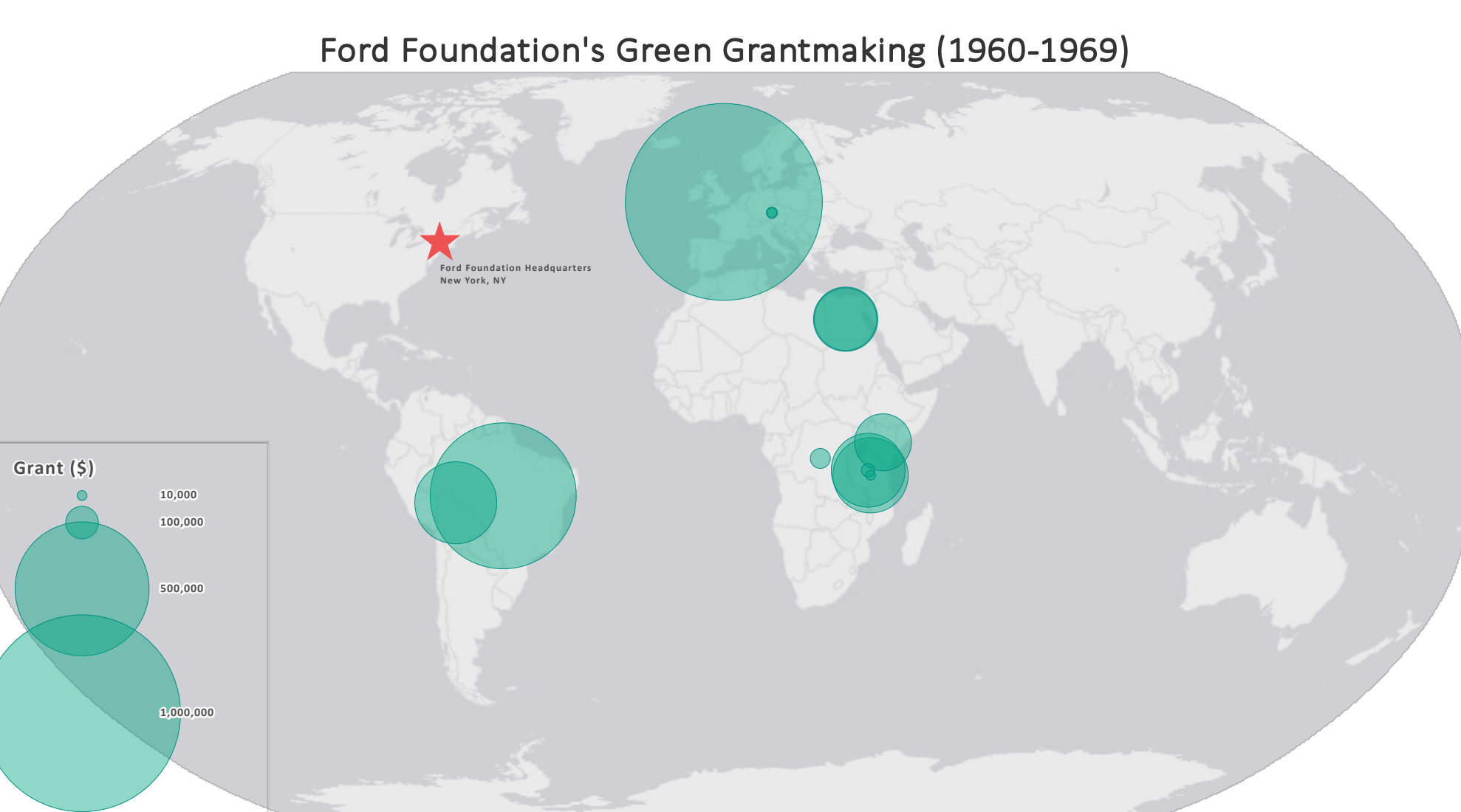


Geographic Foci of Each Green Grant from the Ford Foundation 1960-2004



Conclusion

Researchers fully analyzed the Ford Foundation's annual reports from 1960 to 2004 and created a digital map showing the trajectory of its financial supports to the international green development based on their geographic foci. This research produced an interactive platform that allowed viewers to either click on the locations to learn about the details of each grant dedicated to green development or zoom to a scale that mapped out the historic timeline and spatial perspective of the "green concept". It also indicated that as a model of American philanthropy, the Ford Foundation gradually expanded its knowledge and support of the green development on a global scale. This preliminary research is a useful resource for future academic research and public knowledge on understanding the political ecology of American green philanthropy, the changing rhetoric of green development, and the economic and political geography of the Ford Foundation's green philanthropy.



Reference:
Ford Foundation. (2004). Annual Report. Retrieved from www.fordfoundation.org/annual-report
Goldman, D. (2005). *World Bank and the Environment: A History of Environmental Policy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.