Bat Conservation International
Granting Programs Request for Proposals (RFP)
October 2016

Title of the Opportunity: *Student Research Scholarships for Global Bat Conservation Priorities*

Bat Conservation International, in partnership with the Latin American Bat Conservation Network and the Bat Conservation Africa Network, requests proposals through BCI's online application system from exceptionally talented student researchers interested in seeking financial support for their bat conservation research projects.

PLEASE NOTE: you must be a student in good standing at a recognized academic institution to apply. The application system will begin accepting new submissions on October 26, 2016 and close November 30, 2016.

We will hold a Q&A Webinar about the RFP, including sharing tips for successful proposal writing, hosted by BCI's senior director of conservation science, Winifred Frick, and senior director of global conservation, Dave Waldien, and bat researcher Jon Flanders on Monday November 7th at 11am Eastern Standard Time (GMT -4). Hosted by Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/7203511177 ; US Dial: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 720 351 1177

We are seeking research proposals relevant to conservation on:

Category #1: The project contributes to the understanding of 1) the impact of climate change on bats or 2) the value of bats to human economies, such as through ecosystem services or ecotourism.

Category #2: The project contributes to the understanding of or directly resolves bat/human conflicts, such as bats and disease, wind energy development, pesticides, persecution, hunting or loss of critical habitat to mining, land conversion, or deforestation.

Category #3: The project will answer ecological or behavioral questions essential to the conservation of one or more bat species currently listed as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Data Deficient by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (http://www.iucnredlist.org/) or officially recognized on a national list of species of concern.

Specifically, we are seeking proposals for research in:

- **Latin America & the Caribbean** – in partnership with the Latin America Bat Conservation Network (RELCOM);
- **Africa and the surrounding islands** – in partnership with Bat Conservation Africa (BCA); and
- **Globally** – including research in developed countries.

From the awardees, we will recognize outstanding students for the following special awards:

- **Women in Conservation Science** – We anticipate awarding up to five (5) awards to students from a developing country (low-income and lower to middle income countries as defined by the World Bank; http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#). This recognition comes with an additional $1,000 to $2,000 in support of the student's professional development.
- **Merlin D. Tuttle Bat Conservation Scholarship** – an annual award to a student whose research addresses an important conservation issue. This recognition comes with an additional $1,000 in support of their research.
- **Verne & Marion Read Bat Conservation Award** – an annual award to a student who inspires education and community action to protect bats around the world and address critical conservation needs. This recognition comes with an additional $1,000 in support of their project.

We anticipate making 15-20 awards total, ranging from $1,000 to $2,500 for undergraduate and $2,500 to $5,000 for graduate students. These awards are not intended to cover the full cost of a project and BCI hopes these funds provide opportunities for matching grants from other funding sources.

NOTE: BCI requests that all sponsoring universities and institutions to NOT take overhead, administrative, or indirect costs from the awarded grant monies.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

BCI is bound by the laws of the United States of America, and therefore may not be able to make financial awards to nationals of certain countries or to persons or institutions specifically barred from receiving such financial support by the US government.

- Students must be registered and in good standing with a recognized academic institution.
- All proposals must be prepared by the applicant.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation are required. Any applications without two letters of recommendation will not be considered for funding under this RFP.
- While BCI will fund work that is part of a larger project, the applicant must personally write the proposal and conduct the proposed research.
- All funded projects must begin no later than six (6) months following the date of award, and final reports are generally expected within two (2) years following the date of award.
- Applicants may submit only one proposal per RFP and applicants who have previously submitted proposals are eligible to reapply ONLY if their final report has been accepted. NOTE: Unsuccessful applicants from previous RFPs may re-apply, but BCI encourages these applicants to refine their applications first.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Apply online at www.batcon.org/rfp
- The application system will begin accepting new registrations and proposal submissions on October 26, 2016 and the system will close to applicants on November 30, 2016 at 11:59pm (Eastern Standard Time GMT-4).

- Attend the optional webinar on November 7th at 11am EST (GMT-4) to learn more about the RFP and get advice on proposal writing from BCI. Hosted by Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/7203511177 ; US Dial: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 720 351 1177
- All submitted materials must be in English and only applications submitted through BCI's online system will be accepted; <u>email or paper submissions will not be considered.</u>
- **Applicants must also be able to affirm these five statements:**

  o *I affirm that I am an enrolled student (graduate or undergraduate) in good academic standing at a recognized academic institution.*
  o *I affirm that the applicant and all collaborators are aware of this proposal and their roles and responsibilities in the proposal.*
  o *I affirm that the applicant and all collaborators will meet all animal welfare needs, including IACUC approvals at their universities or institutions if animals are being used or handled.*
  o *I affirm that the applicant and all collaborators will follow accepted health and safety protocols for the type of work being conducted, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).*
  o *I affirm that required government permits will be in possession and current to carry out the field work.*

BCI is an equal opportunity organization and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, women, and LGBT applicants.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Application Preview Available online: www.batcon.org/rfp

Application – All sections of the application form are required and must be completed to the best of the applicant's ability and knowledge. Proposals elements must be completed within the online application system and **email or paper applications <u>WILL NOT be accepted</u>**.

Project Proposal

Content – Proposals should clearly state project objectives and the significance of the work to bat conservation and give detailed descriptions of the methodology to be used. Proposals must show how projects support conservation needs and must demonstrate that the project in question is feasible within the planned time and financial limitations. It is very important to be clear in explaining the data collection and analysis techniques, as well as the conservation implications of the project.

Proposal Questions:

Project Category: Select the category within which your project fits from the list of choices. If your project meets the criteria of multiple categories, please select the option that best fits with your project.

Project Country: Where the project will take place.

Start Date: The date when you expect to begin the project.

End Date: The date when you expect to complete your project.

Project Title (15 words max): Provide a clear and concise title.

Project Summary (250 words max): Provide a brief abstract of your project.

Project Significance & Justification (250 words max): Provide a brief explanation of your project's significance to bat conservation and justification of how it relates to global bat conservation priorities (Categories 1-3 above)

Goals & Objectives (500 words max): Explain the major goals of your project, and provide the set of objectives that you have established to help you achieve your goals.

Activities & Methods (1,000 words max): Provide a comprehensive but concise explanation of the methods that you will employ toward achieving your project's goals and objectives.

Literature Cited (500 words max): Provide relevant and cited literature.

Timetable: A timetable for completion of the major objectives and activities of your project will need to be upload. Upload PDF.

Metrics & Evaluation of Success: A table summarizing your expected outcomes and how you will evaluate your results to determine project success will need to be uploaded. Upload PDF.

Plan for Sustainability (250 words max): Explain your plans for the sustainability of your project (or the results of your project) beyond its completion.

Conservation Impact (250 words max): Explain the conservation implications and/or impact of your project.

Applicant Qualifications (250 words max): Explain your relevant experience or level of education and training that have prepared you to successfully conduct this project.

Applicant CV: Applicants must submit a 2 page resume or curriculum vitae. Upload PDF

Other Partners, Collaborators, & Stakeholders (350 words max): List key partners, co-investigators, close collaborators, and important stakeholders for your project, and provide a brief explanation of their role in the project.

Budget: **BCI does not allow indirect expenses and requires sponsoring universities and institutions to NOT take any overhead, administrative, or indirect costs from the awarded monies.**

Amount Requested from BCI: The portion of costs that a BCI small grant would cover, from $1,000 - $2,00 (undergraduate projects) and $2,500-$5,000 (graduate projects).

Total Project Cost: Upload a budget table showing the complete cost of the overall project, not just the portion being proposed here. Include the following budget categories: 1) salary and benefits, 2) travel, 3) supplies, 4) equipment, 5) contractual, and 6) miscellaneous. Upload PDF

Budget Justification: An explanation to explain requested costs. Applicants are expected to include the amount of funds already secured for the project.

References: All applications must receive two (2) letters of recommendation. The names you submit should be from professionals who are familiar with you and your project and are sufficiently established in the profession to lend credibility to their recommendations.

Reference #1: Name and email address of someone who will provide a letter of recommendation for your project.

Reference #2: Name and email address of someone who will provide a letter of recommendation for your project.

The online system will send an email request and instructions to your reference for uploading a letter on your behalf. The letter should contain the following information: (1) how long and in what capacity they have known you; (2) their assessment of the quality of your proposal and your ability to carry out the proposed project; (3) their evaluation of your ability to make a meaningful contribution to bat conservation research. PDF and MS Word formats accepted.

REVIEW PROTOCOL

All conservation-relevant proposals that meet the minimum submission criteria will be forwarded to a review team comprised of external experts and BCI staff selected for their recognized expertise.

The highest-rated applications will be considered for funding at either the full requested amount or at a lower amount. Final decisions on funding awards will be made by BCI staff in consultation with external experts.

No preference will be shown for age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious, or institutional considerations. BCI is bound by the laws of the United States of America, and therefore may not be able to make financial awards to nationals of certain countries or to persons or institutions specifically barred from receiving such financial support by the US government.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL AWARDS

In all cases, BCI prefers to award funds to applicants associated with legally-recognized institutions, so that the transfer of funds from BCI can go directly to an institutional bank account. **BCI does not allow indirect expenses and requests sponsoring universities and institutions to NOT take any overhead, administrative, or indirect costs from the awarded monies.** Only for rare exceptions will BCI consider transferring funds to the privately-held bank account of an individual.

Please address all questions to: grants@batcon.org