



RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

The Research Grants Program of the Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute supports research associated with the CTFS network of Forest Dynamics Plots. This grants program is intended to provide opportunities for senior researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students to utilize existing forest dynamics plots and to conduct research with scientists associated with them.



What is the Center for Tropical Forest Science?

The Center for Tropical Forest Science is a program within the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University that coordinates a network of large-scale forest research plots using a standardized protocol. Within each census plot (typically 25 to 50 hectares), all trees with a diameter ≥ 1 cm at breast height are measured, tagged, identified, and monitored through time. Since the first plot was established on Panama's Barro Colorado Island in 1980, the network has grown to include 34 sites across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe and is currently monitoring 3.5 million trees of more than 7,500 species. For more information on the CTFS network and methodology, visit www.ctfs.si.edu.

What types of projects will the CTFS Grants Program support?

Anyone working directly in a CTFS plot, analyzing data from a plot, identifying plants or animals in a plot, or generating complementary data that strengthens CTFS plot programs is eligible to apply. Projects can be field-oriented,

herbarium- or laboratory-based, or analytical. Research projects can be either basic or applied in nature. Social scientists as well as natural scientists are encouraged to apply.

Who is eligible to apply?

The CTFS Grants Program is open to all researchers, from graduate students to senior scientists. In some cases, advanced undergraduates will also be considered. Preference will be given to scientists in the countries with CTFS sites and to all graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Applicants are welcome from all nationalities.

How much funding can one request and for how long?

The majority of the CTFS Research Grants will be in the \$3,000-\$30,000 range. The CTFS Grants Program will make awards for projects three months to three years in length.

What expenses can be included in the grant proposal?

Funding is restricted to expenses directly related to field research, laboratory research, and data analysis. Examples of eligible expenses include travel, living expenses during fieldwork, supplies, research assistance, and resulting publications. Funds are not available for salary or fringe benefits of applicant, tuition, non-project personnel, or travel to meetings. In addition, the grants program **will NOT support indirect costs** for institutional support.

Does the CTFS Grants Program support undergraduate and graduate study costs?

No, funding cannot be applied to undergraduate and graduate expenses such as tuition, books, and fees.

What should be included in the application?

- ◇ *Cover sheet.* Include project title, name, contact information and nationality of principal investigator(s), duration of project, and status of PI(s). Please indicate study site(s) and whether this proposal is a repeat submission.
- ◇ *Research proposal* (not to exceed 1500 words; strictly enforced). The proposal must describe the proposed research, indicate its relevance to one or more CTFS plots, and explain the significance of the work to a broader discipline. The general format of the proposal should include: introduction, description of research project with clearly stated hypotheses, significance of research, detailed methods, anticipated outcomes, and references.
NOTE: The bibliography should not be counted as part of the word limit for the proposal.
- ◇ *List of collaborators.* Provide a list of collaborators on the project. For graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, an advisor is also necessary. Host-country collaborators are strongly recommended. In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to contact plot directors BEFORE submitting a proposal.
- ◇ *Curriculum vitae.* A CV of the applicant should include contact information, educational background, current and previous fellowships and grants, and research interests.
NOTE: The CV should not exceed two pages.
- ◇ *Proposed referees.* Please provide a list of three people that could review the proposed research but who are not current collaborators or advisors.
- ◇ *Detailed budget and timeline.* A budget should include all costs related to carrying out proposed research. Please see above for expenses that can be included in the proposal. A budget justification is also suggested. A chronogram with the schedule for all research activities proposed should be included.

How will applications be evaluated?

Applicants are pre-evaluated by plot directors of proposed study sites and then evaluated by a panel of

scientists associated with the CTFS network. Larger grant proposals will also be reviewed by outside scholars. Awards are made on the basis of the proposal's merit, the applicant's ability to carry out the proposed research, the likelihood that the research can be carried out in the proposed time frame, and the extent to which CTFS plots contribute to the proposed research.

How should proposals be submitted?

Proposals can be sent electronically (preferred method) or by mail to the addresses listed below.

E-mail

slischynsky@fas.harvard.edu

Mail

CTFS Grants Program
Attn: Sara Lischynsky
The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
1300 Centre Street
Roslindale, MA 02131
USA

When are applications due?

The next **deadline** for applications is **OCTOBER 1, 2010**. Decisions will be made approximately three months after the deadline.

For additional information, please contact Sara Lischynsky, CTFS Program Assistant, at slischynsky@fas.harvard.edu.

	Principal Investigator	Proposal Title	Study Site
2010 Grant Recipients	Lei Chen	The role of density dependence in community assembly: implications from adult tree pattern and seedling dynamics in both subtropical and tropical forest.	Gutianshan, China; BCI, Panama
	Neal Enright	Understanding the population dynamics of <i>Nageia motleyi</i> (Podocarpaceae) in lowland tropical rainforests of South-east Asia	Pasoh, Malaysia
	Gonçalo Ferraz and Cintia Cornelius	Predicting occurrence of cavity-nesting birds from tree demographic data	Manaus, Brazil
	Ben Filewod	Allocation to reproduction across ages and between sexes in White Ash, <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	Haliburton Forest, Canada
	David L. Gorchov, Melissa K. McCormick, Dennis F. Whigham	Exotic Plant Invasion in Temperate Deciduous Forest: Patterns and Processes	SERC, Maryland
	Steven W. Kembel, Jessica L. Green	Quantifying the scaling of bacterial phyllosphere diversity: the role of space, environment, and host plant attributes	BCI, Panama
	Madhava Meegaskumbura and Suyama Meegaskumbura	Determining microclimatic envelopes and monitoring populations of Sri Lankan Shrub-Frogs in Sinharaja 25 ha. plot to understand finer scale determinants of their distribution, reproduction and survival	Sinharaja, Sri Lanka
	Ngo Kang Min	A review of tree height measurement methods and improvement of aboveground biomass estimation	BCI, Panama
	Eadaoin M.I. Quinn	Does age-related crown thinning occur in canopy-dominant tropical trees?	BCI, Panama
	Siewe Siewe Siewe and Jacqueline Vadjunec	Degradation and carbon stocks dynamics. An analysis of the anthropogenic impact on deforestation and degradation in the Korup National Park	Korup, Cameroon
	Erin Spear	Agents of change: identifying phytopathogens and their contributions to tree diversity	BCI, Panama
	Pimonrat Tiansawat	Ecological significance of seed traits in the genus <i>Macaranga</i>	Lambir, Malaysia