



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Center for Tropical Forest Science

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, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students to utilize existing Forest Dynamics Plots and to conduct research with scientists associated with these plots.



What is the Center for Tropical Forest Science?

The Center for Tropical Forest Science is a program within the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute that coordinates a pan-tropical network of large-scale Forest Dynamics Plots, each using a standardized protocol. Within each census plot, all trees greater than 1 cm at diameter breast height are measured, tagged, identified, and monitored through time. Since the first Forest Dynamics Plot was initiated on Panama's Barro Colorado Island in 1980, the network has grown to include 22 sites in 15 countries, and is currently monitoring more than 3 million trees of about 6000 species. (See map and list of CTFS Forest Dynamics Plots). For more information on the CTFS network or Forest Dynamics Plot methodology, visit the CTFS website www.ctfs.si.edu.

What types of projects will the CTFS Grants Program support?

Anyone working directly in a Forest Dynamics Plot, analyzing data from a plot, identifying plants or animals in a plot, or generating complementary data that strengthens Forest Dynamics 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 Grant 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 post-doctoral 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 and/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?

Grant proposals should include the following:

- **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 if this proposal is a repeat submission.
- **Research Proposal** (not to exceed 1500 words). The proposal must describe the proposed research, indicate its relevance to one or more Forest Dynamics 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 a 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.
- **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 Forest Dynamics 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.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
CTFS Grants Program
Apartado 0843-03092
Balboa, Ancón
Panamá, República de Panamá

Mail from the USA:
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
CTFS Grants Program
Unit 0948
APO AA 34002, USA

E-mail: sautua@si.edu ; ctfs@si.edu

For additional information please contact:
Stuart Davies, CTFS Director
Email: sdavies@oeb.harvard.edu

When are applications due?

This grants program has switched to an annual cycle. Submissions will be accepted yearly on the last day of April. The next deadline for applications is **APRIL 30th, 2008**. Decisions will be made approximately three months after the deadline.

CTFS Forest Dynamics Plots

AMERICA

- Barro Colorado Island, Panama
- Manaus, Brazil
- La Planada, Colombia
- Amacayacu, Colombia
- Luquillo, Puerto Rico
- Yasuní National Park, Ecuador
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, United States
- Smithsonian Conservation & Research Center, United States

AFRICA

- Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Korup, Cameroon

ASIA

- Bukit Timah, Singapore
- Doi Inthanon, Thailand
- Fushan, Taiwan
- Huai Kha Khaeng, Thailand
- Khao Chong, Thailand
- Lambir, Sarawak, Malaysia
- Mudumalai, India
- Nanjenshan, Taiwan
- Palanan, Philippines
- Pasoh, Peninsular Malaysia
- Sinharaja, Sri Lanka
- Xishuangbanna, China 

	Principal Investigator	Nationality	Proposal Title	Study Site
2007 Grant Recipients	Hugo Romero-Saltos,	Ecuadorian	Community assembly processes in lianas: quantifying functional traits and second census of the liana community in the Yasuni Forest Dynamics Plot (YFDP)	Yasuni
	Bettina Engelbrecht.	German	Quantifying seedling responses to key resources as a basis for understanding tropical tree distribution patterns and species selection for reforestation	BCI, Panama Canal Water Shed and PRORENA sites
	Nancy C. Garwood	British	Role of Seedling Functional Traits in Forest Dynamics and Community Assembly at Yasuni and BCI	Yasuni & BCI
	Corneille E.N. Ewango	Congolese	Assessing liana-host tree relationships in a Central African Rain Forest, Ituri, DR Congo	Ituri Forest Dynamic Plot
	Nathan G. Swenson	USA	Life-history, functional diversity and the post-hurricane dynamics of a forest plot	Luquillo
	Hazel Ty Consunji	Filipino	Do edaphic factors influence floristic and performance variation of trees in a lowland dipterocarp forest in Palanan, Philippines?	Palanan
	David Alan King	USA	Inferring Height Growth Histories From Leaf Scars in Palms	BCI and Fort Sherman Canopy Crane
	Kabir G. Peay	USA	Assemblage structure, host preferences and edaphic specialization of ectomycorrhizal fungi in hyper-diverse Bornean mixed-dipterocarp forest in Sarawak, Malaysia	Lambir
	B.M.P. Singhakumara	Sri Lankan	Comparative physio-morphological traits of mature-phase trees in a rain forest community of the perhumid tropics: Completing the context for building explanatory hypotheses	Sinharaja