

SCB MARINE SECTION CONSERVATION RESEARCH SMALL-GRANTS PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR SCB MARINE SECTION CONSERVATION RESEARCH SMALL-GRANTS PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The need for support of marine conservation efforts is acute in many parts of the world, especially in developing nations and nations with little or no access to conservation funding. The Society for Conservation Biology Marine Section is thus initiating the Conservation Research Small-Grants Program to fund worthy conservation projects around the globe. Grants will range from US\$500-700. The objective of the SCB Marine Section Conservation Research Small-Grants Program is to advance the conservation of marine organisms and their habitats by providing funds to individuals or groups for research, conservation and restoration activities. While we encourage applications from all Marine Section members, priority will be given to individuals from developing countries and those working in developing countries. Marine Section members should bring this program to the attention of potential worthy recipients, especially students and early-career scientists.

The program will support the SCB Marine Section's mission and goals:

Marine Section Mission Statement:

To advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's marine biological diversity

Goals

- *Be a global focal point for marine conservation*
- *Facilitate the dissemination of the science of marine conservation through education, publications, presentations, and media outreach*
- *Promote marine conservation as a priority for SCB*
- *Inform and facilitate the implementation of marine conservation policy*
- *Encourage communication/action across disciplinary, national and institutional boundaries*
- *Create the capacity to accomplish the aforementioned goals*

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be members of the Society for Conservation Biology's Marine Section (<http://conbio.org/groups/sections/marine/members>). Priority is to support conservation efforts in developing countries (<http://conbio.org/membership/become-a-member/developing-countries>) by its citizens. If your country is not designated as developing by the World Bank, but has less access to conservation funding, please explain/demonstrate that in the application. Priority will also be given to applicants who demonstrate capacity to accomplish the work proposed (e.g., through matching funds, matching funds in kind, or existing in-country capacity). Priority will also be given to first-time applicants. For continuing (previously CSGP-funded) projects, eligibility also depends on timely reporting (within two months of the completion of the project or the funded phase of the project). Awardees from the previous year are not eligible.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The SCB-Marine Section Conservation Research Small-Grants Program application form may be accessed online from the program website (<http://conbio.org/groups/sections/marine/small-grants>). The application form includes, but is not limited to, contact information, a detailed description of the study, including location(s), how it advances marine conservation, and a detailed budget. Online application forms should be filled out in English unless otherwise agreed upon with the Marine Section Science Officer. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Completed application forms for 2016 awards must be submitted online by **21st October**.

If funds are awarded to an applicant, a hard copy of the application form must be sent to the Marine Section Science Officer (this may be obtained from and sent to the Marine Section Science Officer via email). Upon receipt of a grant, awardees will fill out a member profile from the Marine Section Communication Officer.

Disbursement of funds

Award decisions will be made by the Marine Section Conservation Research Small-Grants Committee and approved by the Marine Section Board of Directors in November. Awardees for 2016 awards will be notified by **22nd November**, and funds will be disbursed as soon as possible thereafter. The amounts awarded will be determined by the number of proposals, the quality of proposals, and the contribution of the proposed work to conservation efforts worldwide. Funds must be used to directly accomplish the proposed conservation activities. Any funds not spent will be returned to the SCB Marine Section for later disbursement on other projects.

Examples of eligible activities:

- Providing materials to train local residents to reduce impacts of human activities on marine animals and their habitats
- Developing educational materials or equipment for teaching fishers to reduce bycatch
- Surveys of novel areas to evaluate status and conservation of marine organisms or habitats.

Examples of non-eligible activities:

- Travel to the ICCBs or IMCCs or other meetings
- Personal expenses such as food, lodging, or professional membership fees
- Researcher salaries
- Tuition or course fees
- Overhead

Reporting

No later than 2 months following the completion of the funded project, award recipients must provide a completed Conservation Small-Grants Program Report Form detailing: (1) their proposed objectives and outcomes, (2) their proposed activities/actions, (3) their actual activities/actions, (4) their subjective/objective evaluation of the effectiveness of their actions, including detailed quantitative information, when possible, (5) a comparison of proposed and actual expenditures, and (6) suggestions for further work or improvements to the completed project design. Report Forms may be obtained from the Conservation Small-Grants Program website or the Marine Section Science Officer and should be in English unless otherwise agreed

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upon with the Marine Section Science Officer.

Awardees must also include photos from the project with a signed release (to be provided to recipients with their award) and captions to the Marine Section Communication Officer during the reporting cycle. Grant awardees should assume that all of their outputs will be publicly disseminated in various formats of media by the SCB Marine Section. If, for a valid reason, they wish to embargo certain outputs from public dissemination, they should contact the Marine Science Officer at the time they submit their report.

Questions about the application process should be directed to the Marine Science Officer (scbmarinegrants@conbio.org).

If you require this application guidelines document or the forms in an alternative format, such as large print, audio, Braille, or a coloured background, please contact the Diversity Officer [Lourdes Martinez-Estevez, mmarti72@ucsc.edu].