

APPLICATION Information

The Crowder-Messersmith Fund provides startup funding for nature conservation projects in developing countries.

General Criteria for all grants

Projects must:

- Focus on nature conservation and education.
- Benefit endangered or threatened species or habitat.
- Include a public education component.
- Involve the local population.
- Have lasting significance for local residents.
- Be completed within a year.

General Exclusions

- Projects in the United States or other advanced economies.
- Pure scientific research or data gathering with no obvious conservation benefit.
- Expeditions, particularly where the applicant has to raise funds in order to participate.
- Projects that focus on species listed as Least Concern in [the IUCN Red Book of Threatened Species](#).
- Projects that are a small part of a large-scale project that has major financial support.
- Funding for international travel, overhead expenses, taxes, utilities, or insurance.
- Money transfers to individual accounts.

Preference is given to applicants who have a record of prior conservation action relevant to the proposed project. Applicants from countries other than the United States are especially encouraged to apply. United States researchers planning work in foreign countries must have at least one local collaborator and consider how the project will benefit the local communities.

Application Time Frame

Applications are accepted beginning September 1, 2023. Deadline for receipt is January 6, 2024. Decisions will be announced in April 2024. Projects may begin in May and must be completed within twelve months of start date.

Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum grant for 1 year is \$3000 USD.

Grant Acceptance

Upon Notification of a grant award, the Grantee must provide bank information for an international bank transfer. The Grantee must also agree to provide a project status report 6 months after the project start date. Upon completion of the project, but no later than May 31 of the following year, a full project report is required unless an extension is requested due to unforeseen circumstances. This report must include an accounting of funds, a description of activities and populations receiving education and/or training, copies of any materials or publications that have been developed, evaluation of the project's success and failures, and photos of project activities.

Instructions for Preparing Grant Applications

Where to Send

Email your application as an attachment to: CMAward@natureforward.org or mail to:

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund, Nature Forward
8940 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

USA

On the subject line of the email transmitting your application use a title that is a concise version of your project title. The transmittal email is a good place to describe your relationship with the organization requesting the funds.

Document Format and Length

The entire application must fit on four pages or less. There are no limitations on the space devoted to individual sections. The application should be in Times Roman 12 pt. type. The document may be in MS Word (*.doc or *.docx), pdf or rtf formats.

Name and Email of Requester

This should be the person responsible for preparing and transmitting the proposal, not the local field manager carrying out the work and not a general information address for the applicant organization. We will communicate only by email. You may include a mailing address and phone number if you wish.

Organization

Grant funds will be transferred electronically so successful applicants will need to provide a bank account number of the organization where you work.

Title

The title should include the specific activity being proposed "conservation", "training", etc. are too vague. Please include the species or habitat that the effort is directed towards (use common name), also include the location – country and area.

Summary

It is not necessary to go into a lengthy discussion of the location and species. The selection committee is primarily interested in the specific details of what you are proposing to do with the funds you are requesting. Please state the school/education program, community and populations that will be served. If you are trying to educate local communities, perhaps to stop hunting/ poaching, how specifically are you going to do it? If you are doing plant/animal surveys, how are you involving the local community and how will they benefit from your activities?

Budget

The more detail you provide the better. If you are also receiving funds from other sources for this work, please state what they will be providing.

Relation to Previous Work

Our website states that "Preference is given to applicants who have a record of prior conservation action relevant to their proposed project." This is the place to concisely discuss your record and how it relates to the proposed project. Remember there is a four-page limit on the total application length. Some applicants have been submitting a resume or curriculum vitae as a separate attachment. This is not necessary.

How Did You Hear About the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund?

We are interested in knowing how your organization heard about the grants awarded by the Crowder-Messersmith Fund.