



2009/2010 Call for Proposals

START Grants for Global Environmental Change Research in Africa

START, the global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (www.start.org) is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for research and assessments of global environmental change (GEC) in Africa in the context of the Joint Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP)¹. Proposals must be relevant to one or more of the following four ESSP Joint Projects:

- Global **Carbon** Project
(<http://www.essp.org/index.php?id=16&L=en>)
- Global Environmental Change and **Food** Systems
(<http://www.essp.org/index.php?id=15&L=en>)
- Global **Water** Systems Project
(<http://www.essp.org/index.php?id=14>)
- Global Environmental Change and Human **Health**
(<http://www.essp.org/index.php?id=13>)

The proposed activities must also:

- consider issues of changing ecosystem goods and services in relation to sustainable livelihoods and development;
- explicitly address local, sub-regional and regional scale; and
- foster inter-disciplinary collaboration among natural sciences and social sciences.

The Science Plans developed by the African scientific community^{2,3} form the basis of this Call for Proposals. The funding for these awards is drawn from a grant from the US Global Change Research Program/US National Science Foundation. Therefore, proposals should also address the US Climate Change Science Program⁴ goal: “*Understanding the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate*”

¹ Joint Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP): <http://www.essp.org/index.php?id=7&L=en>

² The AFRICANness Science Plan can be found at: <http://www.igbp.kva.se/page.php?pid=412>

³ The ICSU RoA Science Plan can be found at: http://www.icsu-africa.org/docs/sp_gec.pdf

⁴ The United States Climate Change Science Plan guidelines can be found at:
<http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/final/ccspstratplan2003-chap2.pdf>

and related global changes.”

Eligible proposals must be a collaboration among multiple investigators. Investigator teams must comprise either:

- 3 African scientists at the same institution with complementary skills and expertise, with one serving as the Principal Investigator + 2 co-Investigators, *or*
- 3 African scientists from different institutions, with one serving as the Principal Investigator + 2 co-Investigators.

Proposals that do not meet these criteria will not be considered for funding.

Under this call, START will fund 4 such collaborating groups for the period of approximately one year. Awards will not exceed US\$45,000 per collaborating group. The proposal should designate a Principal Investigator, whose institution will serve as the Contractor to receive and distribute the funds as appropriate. The financial regulations for the use of funds are included on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Outputs: In addition to submitting a final project report and final financial report to START, each collaborating group is expected to submit at least one paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

START intends to announce future calls for GEC research in Africa during 2010.

Timelines

1. **11 July 2009:** Announcement of the Call for Proposals
2. **30 August 2009:** Proposals due at Midnight (24:00 hours) US Eastern Time at the International START Secretariat office. Electronic submissions of the completed CFP template are to be sent to: start-proposals@agu.org
3. **30 September 2009:** Award decisions
4. **01 October 2009:** Award funds available: (note financial guidelines)
5. **01 September 2010:** Final reports due.

The following reference material may be helpful in designing the proposals:

- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: “*Ecosystems and Human Well-Being*”:
<http://www.greenfacts.org/en/ecosystems/index.htm>
- “*Convenient Solutions and an Inconvenient Truth: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change*”:
<http://climate-l.org/2009/07/06/world-bank-publishes-report-on-ecosystem-based-approaches-to-climate-change/>
- The ecoServices Science Plan of DIVERSITAS:
http://www.diversitas-international.org/index.php?page=core_ecoserv_response

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FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR START-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

The following guidelines indicate what costs will and will not be allowed by START:

1. Salaries:

Allowable:

- Funds may be used to pay part-time staff fees, graduate students and other workers for their labor in support of the research projects.

Not allowable:

- Funds may NOT be used to add to the salary of existing full time scientists, administrators or administrative staff.

2. Equipment

Allowable:

- Leasing or renting equipment for the duration of the project.
- Purchase of equipment that will remain in the department as a way of increasing long-term capacity for conducting research.

Not Allowable

- Equipment that will become the property of an individual researcher at the completion of the project -- unless express permission is provided by START.

3. Travel

Allowable:

- Where travel is necessary for the performance of the project, the most economical means of transport should be used.
- Airfare for projects funded through US NSF/USGCRP must be at no more than economy rate and on US Carriers or code-share flights, if possible. For more details and exceptions please contact the International START Secretariat.
- Transportation between the airport and hotel may be by the most economical means available, with an upper limit of US\$30 each way.
- Vehicles may be rented or hired for travel to remote field-work.
- The cost of any airport taxes and other taxes incurred, as well as necessary visas and inoculations.

Not Allowable

- Upgrades to business class or first class (unless done at one's own expense.)
- Telephone calls during travel are not covered by this grant.
- Excess baggage fees will be covered only for items necessary to the project.
- START will not cover expenses incurred from side trips or other items unnecessary to the project.

5. Per Diems

Allowable:

- A per diem may be provided to Project team members when performance of the project requires them to travel away from their home and spend a full night or more away. The per diem is provided to cover costs of accommodation and a daily allowance.
- Per diem rates will be consistent with the published US Department of State Per Diem rates for foreign travel on the dates of travel.

6. Other Expenses

Allowable:

- printing,
- copying
- communication, and
- rental of meeting rooms

7. Administrative Overheads

Allowable:

- The cost for administration of the grant should be presented in the budget as collateral support from the host institution.

Not Allowable

- Administrative overhead

Currencies

In general, START support will be in US Dollars. Calculations of currency exchange will be based on the international transfer rate in effect on the date of the transaction. Once approved, budgets will not be adjusted to reflect changes in currency rates between date when the proposal was written and the time of contract execution.

Documentation

Details on required documentation on financial expenditures will be provided in the project contract. Generally, any expenditure will require receipt or invoice. Full financial statements will be required within 60 days of the end of the contract. Funds not expended over the course of the project will be returned to START

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