

Frequently Asked Question

International Primatological Society Conservation Grant Applications

The following are a few questions that may arise when preparing grant proposals for IPS Conservation Grants. Please review these before contacting us with any additional questions.

- Q: Do I have to be a member of IPS to apply for an IPS Conservation Grant?
- A: No. But we certainly welcome you to become a member. In fact, if you are from a primate habitat country, you may qualify for complimentary membership. Please contact the VP for Conservation (janettewallis@sbcglobal.net) for details.
- Q: My project is partially about research and partially about conservation. Can I apply for money from both the research and conservation funds? What about the education fund, if I also have an education component?
- A: As long as the fund requests are for different things, you may submit proposals to more than one competition. Keep in mind, however, that each IPS Committee funds the strongest proposals that match their needs. A conservation project that has only a minor aspect related to education is more suitable for submission to the Conservation Committee, whereas an educational project that happens to deal with the topic of conservation is more likely to be more successful through submission to the Education Committee. The same is true for basic research projects. Think carefully about which fund is most appropriate for your project's topic. If you have a project that genuinely crosses over between two (or three) funding competitions, you may submit a proposal to each. However, you cannot receive duplicate funds. Each submission must have a unique funding request. For further details, contact the VP for Conservation (janettewallis@sbcglobal.net).
- Q: I plan to begin my project right away. If I'm awarded a grant, when can I receive the money?
- A: The deadline for submitting your grant proposal is March 1. The IPS Conservation Committee will review the applications during the month of March and make its decision by late April or early May. Funds will be made available to grant winners sometime in May.
- Q: I have finished most of my project. Can I get a grant that will pay for already completed work?
- A: No. You cannot be reimbursed for money already spent. Please plan accordingly. Funds are available only for future portions of your project.
- Q: I have started my project already, but I'm applying for money to cover work that has yet to be completed. Is that OK?
- A: Yes. As long as you are specifying FUTURE work to be completed, you are eligible to apply for funds. Be careful to explain this fully in the proposal timeline.

Q: I study an endangered species. Does my project automatically qualify for conservation funds?

A: No. The conservation funds are ONLY for conservation projects. If your project is not related to conservation, you should consider applying for the IPS research grant instead.

Q: My conservation project focuses on a primate species that is not endangered. Can it still qualify for IPS Conservation funding?

A: Yes. Although the competition is tough and we tend to place endangered species as a priority, there are many very worthwhile projects that focus on non-threatened species. For example, an important conservation concern is human-wildlife conflict – and many human-wildlife conflict issues include species that are not endangered.

Q: I received an IPS Conservation Grant in the past. Am I eligible to apply again?

A: Yes. As long as you have fully complied with submitting reports about your previous project, you may apply for another grant.

Q: How many grant applications are submitted each year and how many are awarded?

A: The IPS Conservation Committee typically receives 45 or more applications per year, but it varies. We typically award 9 or 10 grants each year.

Q: If I am unsuccessful this year, can I re-submit my application for next year's competition?

A: Yes, although you will likely want to make changes that update your references and other time-sensitive information in the proposal.

Q: How are grant proposals reviewed – and will I receive feedback about the review?

A: The IPS Conservation Committee members review the applications. We do not provide detailed feedback to applicants about the proposal reviews.

Q: Are there examples of successful applications on the web?

A: At present, we do not provide this service. However, the progress reports of past winners routinely appear in the IPS Bulletin. By reviewing the reports from past awardees, you will have a good idea of the kinds of projects we tend to fund. Online versions of past IPS Bulletins are available to IPS members. Please go to the IPS web site at: <http://www.internationalprimatologicalsociety.org/> and click on the Member Login link.

Q: What are the fiscal reporting requirements for awardees?

A: Awardees provide progress reports (which can include details of how money was spent) to the VP for Conservation and the VP for Communication.

Q: When will I be notified if an award will be made to me?

A: The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1. The IPS Committee will spend most of the month of March on the review process. We hope to have a list of winners available by early May, with funds dispersed soon after announcement.

Q: Is there an age or degree limit for application for an IPS Conservation Grant?

A: No. We assess your background and job duties to determine whether you are qualified to carry out the work planned. If needed, we may contact your supervisor or other referees.

- Q: Am I eligible if I am not affiliated with an institution?
A: Yes. We assess your background and job duties to determine whether you are qualified to carry out the work planned. If needed, we may contact your supervisor or other referees.
- Q: What can the grant money be used for?
A: The funds can be used for research supplies, field equipment, field assistant salaries, travel expenses, research fees, etc. What we tend not to fund are salaries for researchers (you) and we do not provide funds for institutional overhead.
- Q: What happens if I cannot complete my project on time?
A: Don't worry. This happens a lot. Just contact the VP for Conservation and provide an update and explanation.
- Q: How will the funds awarded be tracked?
A: Awardees provide progress reports (which can include details of how money was spent) to the VP for Conservation. After you receive the award and carry out your project, you will work with us on any specific tracking required.
- Q: What should be included in the 200 word summary?
A: Think of this as an "abstract" of the proposal. Let us know – in 200 words – the overall plan, purpose, and expected outcome of your project. Make certain to include relevance to conservation.
- Q: How many times can I receive an IPS Conservation Grant? Is there a limit?
A: We do not currently have a set limit. However, the competition for these grants is expected to increase over time, and the Committee members do seek to make funds available to help a broad number of primate species and habitats. In the end, however, we fund the strongest proposals each year.
- Q: English is not my first language. Will my application suffer if I have not written in proper English?
A: We encourage all applicants to **FIRST** seek help with their proposal preparation (including English usage) from a mentor, advisor, supervisor, or colleague within their own home country. These are the people who know you best and can work directly with you to improve your proposal. The IPS does not provide proposal preparation assistance from the standpoint of scientific design or project ideas. However, you may contact us if you would like a quick review of your proposal – for language assessment only. We may be able to find someone who can advise you. If you choose to ask for this help please do so by **FEBRUARY 15** to allow sufficient time for your application to be submitted to the competition by the March 1 deadline. (In other words, the version that is submitted for the March 1 deadline is the one that will be reviewed; you are not eligible for language assessment after that date.)