



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

Program Descriptions and Eligibility

Applicants of any nationality or citizenship are eligible to apply for the Research Equipment Program (REP) if they meet the specific program guidelines, but must be affiliated with a university or government agency in South and Central America.

Research Equipment Program

The Research Equipment Program (REP) provides basic science equipment to research groups in the American tropics. The intent of the program is that donated equipment and literature should be of general use to a variety of projects, students, and researchers associated with the research group. Individual researchers are not eligible for this program. Applicants must complete the general and program specific fields in Section I (cover sheet), and complete in full Sections II – V of the application provided below. Applications are reviewed by a panel of researchers affiliated with the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy, and selected to the program based on the merit of the associated projects, number of projects expected to be impacted by the equipment, and how closely projects meet the mission of the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy.

Application Deadlines, Submissions, and Additional Information

Applications for the Research Equipment Program (REP) are accepted on the first of August, December, and April, and may be submitted electronically to:

info@conservegrassland.org

or mailed to:

The Neotropical Grassland Conservancy
6274 Heathcliff Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608-0909

Requests for clarification and/or additional information should be directed to:

info@conservegrassland.org



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND
CONSERVANCY

Research Equipment Program Application

(All information will be kept confidential.)

Section I – Cover Sheet

Applicant's Full Name: _____
Last First

University Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Applicant's Citizenship: _____

Applicant's Email: _____

Highest Degree Received: B.S. M.S. Ph.D.

Please mail this Cover Sheet along with completed Sections II – V to:

NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

6274 Heathcliff Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608-0909

Section II – Photograph (Optional)

If possible, please include a photograph(s) of applicant and study organism or system. Photographs are a very powerful tool for aiding the NGC in securing funds.

Section III – Project Description (3 Pages Maximum, Including Literature Cited)

Project description should include five sections: 1) Background- include sufficient information so that importance of the project and current state of knowledge can be evaluated, 2) Project Objectives, 3) Methods/ Experimental Design – provide sufficient detail such that we can determine how the experiment and sampling will address the stated objectives, 3) Expected Results, 4) Significance and Products – what are the broader implications of this project and your results to issues of grassland conservation, and what products will the project generate (e.g., publications and/or conservation policies), and 5) Literature Cited.

Section IV – List of Requested Equipment

List on a separate sheet of paper. If requesting a specific model, please indicate which features are essential. Because our Research Equipment Program depends primarily on donated items, we may not be able to secure a specific model, but may be able to provide an alternative piece with the essential features. For each piece of requested equipment please specify how it will be used and explain why it is essential for the completion of the project.

Section V – Waiver

I, the undersigned, authorize the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy to use any material submitted as part of the Student Grant and Research Equipment Programs application to aid them in securing donations. By signing below, I also declare that the information provided is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct.

Applicant's Signature

Date



NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

Who We Are

The Neotropical Grassland Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting the conservation of savannas, gallery forests, wetlands, and associated ecosystems in Central and South America.

What We Do

We promote conservation through our programs and grants: 1) the Research Equipment Program (REP), which supports local scientific infrastructure; 2) the Student Grant Program (SGP), which supports graduate students enrolled in Latin American institutions, pursuing careers in grassland conservation; and 3) Memorial Research Grants, which directly fund conservation research.

Research Equipment Program

The Research Equipment Program (REP) provides basic science equipment to scientists and students in the American tropics. Conservation research efforts and opportunities are often truncated by a lack of basic equipment, such as microscopes, GPS units, cameras, binoculars, and science textbooks. Surprisingly, a used pair of binoculars can make the difference between a student embarking on a Master's project in conservation or switching over to an agricultural focus with better funding.

Student Grant Program

The Student Grant Program (SGP) was designed in response to feedback from Venezuelan university professors. Graduate student research projects are often hindered by lack of funds for basic needs such as transportation, lodging, meals and consumable field supplies. As little as \$500 can launch a lifelong career in conservation.

Memorial Research Grants

Memorial Research Grants (MRG) directly promote and fund conservation research. Grants are one year, unrestricted funds that can be used for direct or indirect costs, including salary. Specific grants may be restricted to certain taxa or new research initiatives. See individual grants for details.

Why It Matters

The dual threat of agriculture and cattle ranching puts the health of the relatively ignored savanna and wetland ecosystems at risk. If these ecosystems are to be preserved, then in-country scientists, landowners, and students will make the difference between habitat preservation and destruction.

How It Works

Researchers in our growing network outline their projects, request specific equipment or student grants, and describe its impact. Equipment stays with the research group to encourage further studies and professional development. At the end of the year, we receive an update on each project. The impact of these programs, particularly for young professionals, is immense.

How We Measure Success

We measure success by the number of researchers impacted and projects assisted. For a major equipment donation, success is measured by its continued use for multiple projects and students. We use donated funds to expand our programs, to purchase equipment, and to support conservation students in Latin America. Our dedicated interns and board members volunteer their work and donate all administrative costs, so every dollar you give goes directly toward conservation.