

PRAKRITI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Third Call Inviting Proposals 2020-21

An initiative of CARPE

24/02/2020

[Apply for Prakriti Research Fellowship](#)

a small grants program for nature conservation in India

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PRAKRITI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP,
a small grants program for nature conservation in India
An initiative of CARPE, Aurangabad

ABOUT CARPE

The Center for Applied Research and People's Engagement (CARPE) (formerly known as Civic Response Team) is a social enterprise aimed at developing sustainable cities, towns, and villages by designing and implementing evidence-driven solutions to civic and environmental challenges in collaboration with government and industry partners. CARPE was established in 2015 as a Section 8 not-for-profit company (NGO) with its base in Aurangabad city, Maharashtra, India and projects in various parts of the country and abroad.

The Prakriti Research Fellowship is a product of our research in the sector of ecological restoration that demonstrated that CSR investment and partnerships remain relatively unexplored for impactful research and action for nature conservation.

ABOUT THE PRAKRITI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Prakriti Research Fellowship is a small grants program focused on creating direct, tangible, long-term impact on nature conservation in India. CARPE and the founders of the Prakriti Research Fellowship are deeply committed to liaison with industry partners and individual sponsors to boost nature conservation efforts in India.

OBJECTIVES:

- a) to provide timely support for strengthening on-ground action-oriented nature conservation projects
- b) to support independent researchers, teams, and small NGOs who are dedicatedly working in this field

AMOUNT:

Maximum of ₹ 2 lakh per project. One candidate/organization can apply for one fellowship only.

A fellow who has applied earlier can not re-apply.

Project duration: Maximum of one year

CATEGORIES AND THEMES

Applications are invited under two categories which are based on the geographical location of the projects, while the themes are the same for both the categories.

CATEGORY ONE: Projects located in Aurangabad division of Maharashtra(which includes Aurangabad, Nanded, Beed, Jalna, Latur, Hingoli, Parbhani and Osmanabad districts).

CATEGORY TWO: Projects located across India,except Aurangabad division

THEMES

Themes are the same for both category one and category two:

- 1) Conservation of important habitats (e.g. UNESCO Natural World heritage sites, Protected Areas – National parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves, Marine Protected Areas, Biosphere reserves, threatened and neglected habitats such as grasslands and freshwater systems).
- 2) Conservation of Threatened Species (Wildlife Protection Act Schedule 1 species)(IUCN Red list categories: CR, EN, VU, NT, Data deficient). While the IUCN Red list will be our primary reference to check for threat status of a species, we may consider proposals on data deficient species not yet evaluated by IUCN. In such cases, one needs to provide a strong justification for choosing this species, and provide other threat assessments by local bodies or Botanical Survey of India (BSI) /Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) if available.
- 3) Research and action in Urban Ecology- Most Indian cities are facing an environmental and ecological crisis of various scales and dimensions. Under this theme we are looking for projects in the urban or peri-urban sector which would fill knowledge gaps in the present understanding of urban biodiversity, ecosystem services, urban wildlife habitats, air and water pollution, or awareness projects on urban ecology or demonstrate workable solutions for the same. Projects in agro-ecology

based around urban areas are welcome too, as long as they demonstrate a direct link to nature conservation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please go through the FAQs section carefully before filling in the application form which will clear most of your doubts. If you still have a query you can write to us at

<info@carpeindia.org>

*What projects **will** be funded?*

- We are looking for projects with clear achievable objectives bringing about tangible on-ground conservation action and research. The proposal should fit well in the given themes. Most importantly, the impacts of the project should be measurable.
- For Category 1, projects based in Aurangabad division only will be funded.
- For Category 2, projects across India based on the given themes will be funded, Except Aurangabad Division.

*What projects **maybe** funded?*

- Proposals for tangible on-ground conservation action on above listed themes will be given priority. However, pure research proposals shown to have direct relevance towards taking informed decisions for conservation of a threatened species or habitat will be considered as long as the project fits well in any of the given themes.
- MSc dissertation and PhD work will usually not be funded, unless they demonstrate conservation action, which is the focus of this fellowship.

*What projects **will not** be funded?*

- No litigation/activism will be funded.
- Participation for conferences, workshops, and expeditions will not be funded

Who should apply?

- We are looking for applications from independent researchers and small NGOs, especially self-motivated, passionate researchers and small conservation groups.
- The applicant must be an Indian national.

How long will it take to announce the selected projects?

The decision of the reviewers will be communicated to every applicant via email within 3 months after the final submission date. In case you do not hear from us after this period, you can drop us an email.

Can I apply again if my application is rejected?

Applicant can only apply for funding for a single project in one call for proposal. If rejected, a new application can be submitted in the following call.

How many projects will be funded in a year?

We are looking at funding two projects in category 1 and three projects in category 2. However, if we do not find merit in any of the applications received in a category, projects from the other category can be considered for funding. This decision lies with the panel of reviewers, CARPE and the sponsors.

How will my project proposal be evaluated?

Only completed application (with reference letters) will be sent to reviewers for evaluation. A panel of Subject Matter Experts will evaluate your proposal using an objective scoring card. The selection criteria is based on how relevant the project idea is to the call; whether it addresses an important conservation problem and provides workable, tangible solutions; how achievable the objectives are in the given time frame; is the methodology scientifically sound and well structured; whether the outcomes are measurable; ability of the applicant to lead the project based on work experience, and comments given by your referee, among others.

A telephonic interview will be conducted for shortlisted projects to finalize the projects to be funded.

Please expect questions regarding the status of permission required from forest department, etc for your respective projects

What are the steps after my project is selected for the fellowship?

You will be asked to send a one page note on your project, and a powerpoint slide about yourself and the project, which will be shared with the sponsors.

The fellow would need to sign an agreement with CARPE, a hard copy of which will be given to the fellow. Post this the first instalment of funds will be released. The following documents need to be kept ready-

1. Pan Card (individual/ organization)
2. Registration Certificate (in case of organization)
3. GST Number (if applicable)

How will the funds be disbursed?

50% of the funds will be transferred upon signing of MoU. Balance 40% on submission of mid term report and the remaining 10% fund will be transferred after submission of final report. 10% TDS will be deducted at every disbursement. At any time if the project progress is found unsatisfactory, the disbursement of future installments will be held back till the problems are resolved.

What is the reporting process?

Within one month of the start of the project, the fellow would need to send a short write up along with photographs to upload on the CARPE website. Format of this will be sent to the selected applicant.

The fellow is expected to prepare 1 popular article in English and in the regional language of the state which will be used for publication in online and print media by CARPE

The midterm report should be submitted to us in the stipulated time. Regular reporting will help in quick disbursement of funds. A detailed final report, in the prescribed format, should be submitted during the last month of project completion. We would encourage you to use social media to update the progress of the project, and share links of the same with us. Basic guidelines for sharing on social media will be shared with fellows

How is the fellowship concluded?

The reviewers will give comments on your final report. After working on comments, the fellows will need to submit the final report to the sponsor and CARPE to complete the fellowship.

GUIDELINES FOR FILLING THE APPLICATION FORM(this need to be embedded in the google form under each section as done before)

Please go through the application form carefully and ensure you fill each section. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

It would be a good idea to get your application proof read from a peer before submitting.

Kindly stick to the word limit. Concise and clear text is highly appreciated.

APPLICATION FORM

A) Applicant's details

- 1) Title (Mr./ Ms./ Mrs. / Dr.)
- 2) Name of the applicant (Surname, First name, Middle name if any)
- 3) Age (in years)
- 4) Date of Birth
- 5) Contact Address (please provide complete address for future communication)
- 6) Permanent Address
- 7) Email id
- 8) Personal Mobile Number
- 9) Alternate Contact Number
- 10) Link to a website or blog (if any)
- 11) Please upload your Curriculum Vitae (CV) in pdf format. Make sure you include your formal education qualification (12th and after), your present and past occupation - work experience detailing your roles and responsibilities, and achievements in the CV, list of publication, etc..
- 12) Upload any other noteworthy collateral (published article, research papers etc)

B) Project details

- 1) Category (Mention category one or category two; and the project location)
- 2) Theme (Choose one among the three themes that best fits your project- Conservation of important habitats/ Conservation of threatened species/ Research and action in Urban Ecology. Select your theme carefully. For example, if a neglected habitat such as a river or lake lies within the urban limits, it is advisable to apply under the 'research and action in Urban ecology' theme rather than theme one)

- 3) Proposed Project Title (maximum 20 words) (the title should briefly convey what your project is about)
- 4) Background/Rationale for the Project (maximum 500 words) (This section should describe the motivation behind doing this project and build a strong case for need to tackle the proposed conservation issue or the research question)
- 5) Project Objectives (one to three objectives) (Make them clear, crisp and achievable)
- 6) Is the proposed project part of an ongoing project? If yes, please provide details of the current status of the project describing achievement so far. If not, write 'Not applicable'.
- 7) What are the permits/ permissions that will be required for carrying out this project. Please list the various permits/ permissions required, government departments concerned, the current status of permissions for your project).
- 8) Project Methods (maximum of 500 words) (The methods should describe the project site, activities to be conducted, be scientifically sound, and well referenced. Arrange the methods in the order of the objectives. Mention how you will measure the impact of actions taken for eg; we will conduct a before and after test of the participants to evaluate the success of the training conducted).
- 9) Proposed time frame in tabular format (please mention specific objective as rows while the timeline and the indicator of progress as columns of the table) **Below is an example of responses and format expected:**

Objective	Timeline (specify months)	Activities	Measurable Indicator of progress
Eg 1. To conduct teachers training workshops to build awareness about the threatened grassland habitat	Aug 2020- Dec 2020	Total 2 workshops will be conducted reaching out to an estimated 50 teachers of 7 th -10 th grade from 15 schools. A pre and post objective test will be conducted of the teachers to understand the impact of the training program.	1) number of workshops conducted 2) No. of participants 3) Impact of the training (pre & post-test result)
Eg 2. To conduct an occupancy survey to understand the distribution of a threatened species	Sept 2020- Feb 2021	A total number of 35 grids of 1km x 1km will be sampled in the study area	No. of grids sampled within the given timeline
Eg 3. To build a strong local network for conservation of the threatened species	July 2020- March 2021	A network comprising of the local communities, the forest department, NGOs, and researchers will be developed by conducting a workshop to bring all the concerned stakeholders on one platform. Follow-up meetings will be conducted for regular discussions on the status of the threatened species	1) Stakeholder groups involved- 2) No. of meetings held with various stakeholders, 3) Any important decisions taken which have translated to on-ground action for conservation of the species.

10) Expected Outcomes (maximum 300 words) (here we expect a description on how your project will benefit conservation action or how your research will fill the knowledge gap to address an important conservation issue; these outcomes need to be measurable; building capacities of local communities is highly encouraged)

11) Project Budget (in a tabular format. Kindly provide detailed explanation for each budget head like rate per item, total quantity, justification, and funds from other sources if any; Budget should be provided in Indian Rupees (INR); Salaries will not be supported, but moderate living costs (40% of total budget) can be covered; No expensive equipment (e.g. laptop, SLR camera) purchase allowed. Reasonably-priced equipment can be purchased if shown to be absolutely necessary to achieve project objectives; Core running cost for an organization will not be funded. Administrative costs should not exceed 5% of the total budget; 50% of the funds will be transferred upon signing of MoU. Balance 40% on submission of mid-term report and the remaining 10% fund will be transferred after submission of final report. 10% TDS will be deducted at every disbursement which can be claimed by the applicant while filing IT returns. So prepare your budget keeping this in mind)

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Reference letters

Two reference letters need to be submitted. The Referees should be academicians, professionals you are or have worked with in the past, they should not be part of the core team for this project. Referees should be able to comment on the conservation relevance of the project proposed and the ability of the applicant to lead the project

Reference letters should be emailed directly by the referees to info@carpeindia.org with the name of the applicant in the subject line "Prakriti Research Fellowship Submission: Reference Letter for (name of applicant)". If reference letters are not received till the last date of submission your application will not be considered.

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The decision of the selection panel will be final. No appeals against decisions would be entertained

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