

Potential Funding Sources for Colorado State University Short Courses

Introduction

CSU does not provide scholarships to the short courses and seminars it organizes on protected area management. Most participants are funded by international donors that they and their own institutions identify or that are identified by CSU, from among a wide range of sources including multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, foundations, and conservation and development NGOs. Some participants are at least partially funded by their own agencies, from other sources from within their countries, or pay all or part of their own participation costs, particularly for things like passport and visa fees, domestic travel from their home cities to international departure airports, or for international airfares.

Before You Begin to Look for Funds...

Note that some government agencies, universities and non-profit organizations have internal policies and procedures to determine who from among their staff gets priority and permission to attend our courses and seminars. We recommend that all interested candidates make their interest in attending known not only to their direct superiors but also to regional and central office staff in charge of human resources, training, and international relations. These same staff members can often provide helpful advice regarding issues such as travel on official passports for government employees, institutional support and contacts for obtaining US visas, existence of training funds and sources specific to your agency, and processes for obtaining official approval to travel. They can also tell you about other internal procedures and policies regarding training abroad and the post-training responsibilities of trainees, such as a requirement to write a final report on the training or give a training workshop to share skills learned with peers on your return from abroad, or even a commitment to stay with the agency for a period of time.

Potential Sources of Support

CSU short courses and seminars on protected area management are supported by a number of funding sources. Many of them have geographic, thematic or other restrictions on who they choose to support. Some, for example, only support individuals from certain countries, or only women, or only indigenous candidates, or only candidates from NGOs, community-based organizations, or government agencies. Before applying for any source of scholarship support, make sure you read up on the policies of the potential donor on their web site and review their list of past recipients. Also, many of them have funding proposal deadlines and only receive proposals during certain periods each year; often the deadline might be many months before the training event you want to attend. Be sure to apply within the application window and to follow the instructions on applying carefully. Below are links to several of the most important potential sources of support.

International Sources

World Wildlife Fund-US Russell Train Education for Nature Program: Applications will be accepted on the following dates: November 1, 2016, Feb. 1, 2017, May 1, 2017 & August 1, 2017. Trainings must take place more than 90 days after the application deadline. For more information, click [Here](#)

World Wildlife Fund Prince Bernhard Scholarships: Usually the deadline for applying is in early January. For more information, click [Here](#).

International Tropical Timber Organization: ITTO has a yearly competition for grants for individuals from some tropical developing nations with two yearly deadlines. For more information, click [here](#).

Other International NGOs: The Wildlife Conservation Society ([click here](#)), Conservation International ([click here](#)), The Nature Conservancy ([click here](#)), Flora & Fauna International ([click here](#)), IUCN ([click here](#)), and in some cases WWF national offices can provide support for scholarships to our courses. We recommend you directly contact local staff of these international NGOs to see if they might be able to help; in some cases they might refer you to other staff members at regional or global offices of these NGOs. On their web sites you can usually find information about key staff to contact.

US federal conservation agencies: The US National Park Service Office of International Affairs ([click here](#)), US Fish and Wildlife Service ([click here](#)), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration ([click here](#)), which manages marine sanctuaries in the USA, the US Department of the Interior International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) ([click here](#)) and the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service International Programs ([click here](#)) all provide scholarships to our courses. Very often there are specific countries, partners, and themes (such as big cats, sea turtles, ocean conservation, etc.) for which they provide support. In some cases these agencies, particularly the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, even have staff based in your own countries you can contact.

GEF projects: The GEF is the largest source of multilateral funding for conservation projects. Often GEF projects have training components. If there are GEF projects related to protected areas and biodiversity conservation in your country, your best option is to contact the in-country team responsible for the project to find out if they might be able to support your participation.

Other Multilateral Donors: The European Union, the World Bank ([click here](#)), and regional development banks such as IADB ([click here](#)) and the African ([click here](#)) and Asian Development Banks ([click here](#)) and other sub-regional banks have funded participants to our courses. Check the web sites for regional banks active in your country to see if there might be options, and contact local representatives if the organization has an office in your country. Very often the best source of support can come through existing projects.

Bilateral Donors: USAID ([click here](#)) and GIZ ([click here](#)) regularly support candidates to our courses. Your best opportunity for funding through these bilateral donors, and others such as those from the United Kingdom, other European countries, Japan (JICA) and others, is through direct contact with their representatives and their contractors in charge of natural resources and tourism projects in your country.

Face to face contact with potential donors is always a good idea, and very often your best chance of getting support from an international organization is actually through their local representatives in your country. Some developed country embassies have small grant funds managed by ambassadors or consulates. Any bilateral agency, such as USAID or GIZ, or multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, the European Community, and UN agencies such as UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, and others that have a presence in your country, are good sources to contact. Also contact private contractors and consulting companies that manage large projects in your country for international donors. Even if these individuals cannot help you directly, they may be able to direct you to key contacts within their agencies or information on other funding sources that can help provide support.

National Sources:

Your own agency: Many international donors like to see counterpart support provided by the agency or government of the individual interested in a training grant. Among the types of counterpart support from your agency or government you can use to leverage additional international funding are the following: a) covering your salary and not forcing you to take vacation time during training; b) paying for your passport and visa costs; c) paying for your internal transportation from your place of employment to your departure airport for your international travel, which in some cases can be considerable; d) paying for your international airfare to Colorado; and e) offering to pay at least part of the course fee.

Other sources within your country: We suggest you examine the possibility of support from other national sources, including major national and local conservation NGOs; national environmental trust funds and foundations; your national or regional tourism promotion agency; airlines, which might give you a discounted or free ticket; and major for-profit partners of your organization such as protected area concessionaires. Many countries also have national training agencies and education loan funds that might be sources of grants or loans to fund your participation. Also, contact major national and international corporations active in or near your protected area. We have had participants to our courses funded by tourism and mining companies and operators of major hydroelectric dams, for example. Many large companies today have corporate environmental responsibility officers and funding programs and have to make biodiversity offset payments to compensate for their impact.

Final thoughts

When you apply to any outside source of funding you should list the types and amounts of counterpart support your own organization or government is providing and any contribution you can make or funds you have raised personally. We have even had participants raise funds from online crowd-funding platforms.

Additionally, we recommend that you use the Internet to search for funding. One excellent source of information on many funding sources is terravivagrants.org; it lists upcoming funding deadlines, and has profiles on many funding sources. Access is free to individuals from developing countries.

Do note that CSU regularly organizes conservation training courses in developing nations around the world, and provides assistance to undergraduate and graduate degree programs in many nations related to protected area management, interpretation, and ecotourism. We are happy to discuss, as an alternative or in addition to you applying to our courses given in the USA, the potential for organizing one or more training courses in your country, which can often be very cost-effective.

In closing, we would like to stress that though we will do all possible to help you complete the application process and locate potential donors. However, the main responsibility for finding funding and getting permission from your institution to apply to and attend a CSU conservation short course rests on your shoulders as the applicant! Good luck!