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Conservancy™



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**BAT CONSERVATION
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Bat Conservation International and The Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy Request for Proposals for White-nose Syndrome Research

Bat Conservation, International and the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy are committed to supporting solution-oriented research that prevents the spread and/or effects of White-nose Syndrome and the fungus that causes it, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. As such, we are pleased to announce the availability of funding for research projects that identify mechanisms to control the fungal disease White-nose Syndrome and its causative agent. This opportunity is available to all state and federal personnel, non-governmental organizations, universities, and private or independent researchers.

Award Information

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for high priority research projects. Preference will be given to proposals that use this funding as leverage against other funding sources. Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 pm CST on **Tuesday April 15, 2014**. Submissions after this time will not be considered. Recipients will be notified by **June 15, 2014**.

2014 Research Priorities

Through this Request for Proposals, we will support projects that identify and develop tools to control the fungus, *P. destructans*, including, but not limited to:

1. Bacteria that are capable of reducing, inhibiting, or preventing the growth and/or establishment of *P. destructans*.
2. Fungi that are parasitic and/or antagonistic to *P. destructans* that are capable of reducing, inhibiting, or preventing its growth.
3. The identification of genes within the *P. destructans* genome that cause and/or regulate virulence and colonization.
4. The development of gene silencing mechanisms that reduce and/or eliminate the colonization of *P. destructans*.

Projects that propose alternative methods to control the fungus *P. destructans*, but are not described above, will also be considered. BCI and TNC are interested in supporting any work that reduces the spread, virulence and pathogenicity of this fungus.

Applicant Requirements

Failure to comply with the following requirements will preclude proposals from consideration and eligibility. Projects must be completed within 2 years of notification of funding.

Conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

Prior to the submission of a proposal, all applicants must contact all cooperating partners, including State natural resource agency personnel, federal biologists and resource managers, and relevant local landowners, to discuss the proposed project and ensure that the work can be conducted if funded (e.g., necessary samples can be collected, required permits can be obtained, etc). Affirmation of support of all partners must be provided on the cover page. The application must identify any state or federal support that will be required to conduct field work, collect data, or interpret results. All participants of funded projects must procure all necessary state, federal, and local permits, as well as landowner permission, prior to project initiation.

Proposal Requirements and Submission Format

A proposal must not exceed 5 pages in length, including cover page, executive summary, figures and tables, an itemized budget, and supplemental information on PI qualifications, matching or existing funds, etc. Proposals written in a font smaller than 12 pt will not be accepted.

Please submit each proposal via email to Katie Gillies at Bat Conservation International, at kgillies@batcon.org. Title the subject line of the email as “BCI-TNC Biological Control Research Proposal” followed by your last name. Title the proposal (as either an MS Word or .pdf attachment) as “Your Last Name – BCI-TNC Biological Control Research Proposal” (e.g., “Gillies – BCI-TNC Biological Control Research Proposal”).

Proposals must include the following sections:

1. **Cover page:** One page containing the project title, PI(s) and respective affiliations and contact information, the total amount of the request and the total amount of the project, the timeline of the project, and a statement affirming that the PI and all collaborators are aware of the project and agree to the terms of the proposal (including an acknowledgement of sample collection terms and requirements).
2. **Executive summary:** A one page summary of the proposed project that outlines objectives, implications for management, and the total budget (broken down by year and contributor).
3. **Body of the proposal:**
 - a. Introduction – Include a brief background and problem statement, the objectives, including hypothesis and anticipated products, and how the project directly addresses one or more of the above priorities. Do not include a history of the disease White-nose Syndrome.
 - b. Methods – A detailed description of target species and all trapping, handling, treatment, disturbance and/or euthanasia practices, statistical and analytical processes, confirmation of all necessary trapping and holding permits, as well as the project timeline.
 - c. Discussion – Include the application of anticipated results with direct implications for disease management, the relation of the project to existing efforts, and implications to the WNS investigation if this project is not funded.
 - d. Budget – A justified budget, including breakdowns by year and contributor, as well as the amount and source of any matching funds and partner contributions.
4. **PI Qualifications:** A one paragraph (not to exceed 250 words) statement detailing the qualifications of the Principal Investigator.