



2012 Research Partnership Enhancement Awards

Announcing five Awards of \$5,000 each to develop and/or enhance partnerships between African and US scientists for collaborative GEC research.

START is offering five grant awards to enhance partnerships between African scientists and US scientists who are currently engaged in Global Environmental Change (GEC) research.

1. Who is eligible?

Applications will be accepted from individual scientists from Africa who are based at an institution in Africa. The African scientist must have an established contact with a counterpart scientist based at an institution in the United States.

2. Why are the grants being offered?

START sponsors a number of programs to build capacity for GEC research and outreach by scientists in Africa. (<http://start.org/programs>) Over the years, START has received many requests to provide funds to allow face-to-face visits of scientists from the US and Africa. The Research Partnership Enhancement Awards are being offered as a way to enhance collaborative US/Africa projects for research, training, joint scientific publications and the development of communication products. The awards are part of START's overall goals to:

- increase the number of scientists in Africa who are working on global environmental change issues;
- enhance communication at the interface of science, policy and practice;
- encourage research that contributes to understanding global environmental change in the context of regional and national development priorities; and
- strengthen scientific networks by fostering collaborative relationships across disciplines, institutions and countries.

3. How are the funds to be used?

An African scientist with connections to a scientist at an institution in the US may travel to the US for a short working visit. Or the African scientist may extend an invitation to a US scientist to travel to Africa for a short working visit. Funds may be used in support of travel expenses, lodging, per diem and associated costs (visas, etc).

4. What types of activities are encouraged during the visit?

During the visit, the collaborating scientists are encouraged to engage in activities to develop research teams to work together and develop collaborative projects. Or, if the African and US scientists are already working collaboratively, the visit may allow scientists to bring the project to completion through development of a report for a scientific journal, or by working to produce other communication products. Other potential activities might be for the visiting scientist to serve as a guest lecturer, or to receive training in a science lab, or to work with information technicians, etc.

5. When will the awards be available?

Exchange activities should be conducted during the first six months of 2012 (January to August).

6. How does one apply?

Interested African scientists should send a letter of intent to START to include:

- the name and contact information for a counterpart scientist in the US;
- a description of previous and current communications and/or joint activities between the African scientist and the US counterpart scientist;
- an explanation of why the African scientist should visit the US, or why the US scientist should visit the African institution;
- a suggested date for the upcoming visit;
- a description of the activities that will be conducted during the visit;
- the intended outcomes and outputs that will occur as a result of the visit; and
- a budget of proposed expenses.

Applications must be sent via email to START by 01 December 2011.

Please send letter of intent to:

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