

Hariyo Ban Program



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINE FOR STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

The main objective of the Hariyo Ban **Student Research Grant** is to support for research or dissertation work of final year students of Bachelors' or Masters' degrees and PhD students who are in the research development and/or data collection phase of their PhD studies in Nepal. WWF Nepal under the USAID funded Hariyo Ban Program II seeks well-designed research proposals that are relevant and will contribute to the work of the Hariyo Ban Program as well as build the capacity of young student researchers.

1. GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The preferred geographic areas for field researches are the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and Chitwan Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) including protected areas therein. Some research proposals falling outside TAL and CHAL yet directly contribute to Hariyo Ban Program's below specified themes will also be considered.

2. BROAD THEMES OF INTEREST

Research themes must fall under one of the following themes (Priority areas of research for this year's awards are listed below) and the applicant should clearly select only one of the themes and state it in their proposal. While it is not essential for dissertations to be on these particular topics, they must fall under and strongly contributes to **one of the five main themes** below:

A. Biodiversity Conservation

Research and studies on species and ecosystems focusing on landscape conservation, ecological linkages, forests, grasslands, wetlands, integrated watershed management, environmental flow (E-flow) studies, wildlife habitat, human-wildlife conflict inside and/or outside protected areas, wildlife health, wildlife corridor functionality, impact of infrastructure on biodiversity, climate refugia, forest fire, NRM governance, illegal wildlife poaching and trafficking, impacts of climate change on species and tree-line shift, linkage of livelihood and conservation, economic valuation of ecosystem services, ecological resilience, youth engagement in conservation, application of GIS in biodiversity conservation, indigenous

knowledge in biodiversity conservation, application of science and technology in conservation, and management and utilization of biodiverse natural resources.

B. Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

Climate change impacts, adaptation and resilience in ecological and human communities, Mainstreaming CCA in development planning, integration of CCA, DRR and watershed management approaches, vulnerability/hazard/risk assessments/mapping, institutional mechanism for integrated river basin management, establishing linkage and providing feedback from Hariyo Ban Program's adaptation activities in the field with the national adaptation plan process (NAP), national climate change policy instruments and its implementation, effectiveness of CCA measures, use of climate science (Hydro-meteorological data) in local level adaptation, indigenous knowledge in CCA, differential vulnerabilities of communities, and application of science and technology in building climate resilience of communities and ecosystems.

C. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Governance

GESI in different forest management regimes, leadership of women, poor and marginalized in NRM, resource allocation status for GESI response, Gender Based Violence (GBV) in NRM sector, GESI policies and practices in NRM sector, integrating GESI in CCA planning process, governance in conservation area management committees, buffer zones and community forests, enabling factors in attracting women and marginalized people in forestry sector, enabling factors and barriers in governance of NRM groups, accountability and resource utilization in NRM groups, and Nepal's governance and GESI issues and their relation and existing/potential solutions in Hariyo Ban working area.

D. Market Based Livelihood

Green enterprise and conservation; eco-tourism, conservation and livelihood; private sector financing in NRM sector; economic and ecological impacts of livelihood activities; market based livelihood for poor and marginalized communities; value chain studies in forest and non-forest based commodities, local livelihood practices; and establishing linkage and monitoring mechanism to show how livelihoods matters in conservation.

E. Communication in biodiversity conservation and climate change

Effective communication means and message, best medium to disseminate environment communication, needs and gaps in media to enhance their environmental reporting capacity, and strengthening role and effectiveness of media engagement in conservation and adaptation

initiatives in Nepal with special reference to Hariyo Ban working areas.

3. APPROACH

This grant is provided to individual students of final year of Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students for conducting their academic research for thesis/dissertation. Relevant Universities/Colleges will be approached to help identify the areas of research linking with Hariyo Ban Program goals and objectives. The gaps in research identified during implementation of Hariyo Ban Program will be fulfilled by this research program. The aim of the program is to support the dissertation along with fulfilling the research needs of Hariyo Ban Program.

4. ELIGIBILITY

For **Student Research Grant**, the applicants must be Nepalese citizens studying Bachelors, Master's degree¹ and PhD² at institutions in Nepal and planning research as a requirement for partial fulfillment of their academic degrees. The applicant should demonstrate the need for financial support and show any other funding applied for or already secured for the ³research.

5. TIMELINE

The period of implementation of the research will be maximum of one year from the date of signing of the grant. Within this period the entire research activity should be completed, and final reports should be submitted to the funding organization.

6. BUDGET

Student Research Grant will not exceed NRs 50,000 for Bachelors, NRs 80000 for Masters' and NRs 500000 for PhD students. The Research grant **will not support** salaries, research assistant cost (applicable for Bachelors' and Masters' thesis) and overhead costs. If funds are being sought from Hariyo Ban Program Small Grants for partial support, then the proposal budget should clearly state this. Co-funding will not have implications on decision making. Please see Annex II for budget template.

¹ Nepalese citizen enrolled in or outside the country are eligible

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7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated competitively, based on:

- Background and rationale of the research;
- Clarification of research goals and objectives;
- Research methodologies (procedures and data analysis);
- Contribution to goal and objectives and the above-specified research themes of Hariyo Ban Program

8. REVIEW AND DECISION MAKING

At first proposals will be screened based on proposed budget ceiling, geographic area, proposal format, recommendation letters etc. Shortlisted proposals will be then reviewed by a committee comprising Hariyo Ban Program Technical advisors- Biodiversity and Climate change adaptation, GESI coordinator, governance specialist and livelihood specialist. All members will be required to sign a non-disclosure and non-conflict of interest declaration.

The committee will review the proposals following a standard technical review format for their relevance and support to government's policies and priorities and contribution to Hariyo Ban Program's objectives and cross-cutting themes. In case of need where the committee wants to seek opinion from external expert, a meeting will be organized among the committee, technical advisors at WWF Nepal or his/her designee, and the Hariyo Ban Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party. The final decision will be based on majority opinion. The applicants can be asked to revisit/elaborate the proposals in accordance with review comments. The committee can also seek suggestions from Ministries and its Departments if needed.

The committee will then recommend the USAID for review and approval of the successful proposals.

9. APPLICATIONS PROCEDURE

Applications must be submitted in the **prescribed format** and with the **prescribed number of pages** to be considered for selection; **failing this, proposals will not be shortlisted for selection.**

Annex I: Proposal submission format

I. COVER PAGE- (1 page)

1. Proposal Title:
2. Theme (one of the five themes as specified in the guideline):
3. Academic level:
4. Name and contact details of Applicant (e-mail, phone):
5. Proposed supervisor:
6. Institution:
7. Amount requested from WWF Nepal:
8. Other funding sources sought and/or secured:
9. Research start and end date (likely to start from July 2017 and should end within June 2018 for Bachelors' and Masters' degree)

II. NARRATIVE SECTION: (Not exceeding 5 pages excluding References and supporting documents)

1. Introduction: - (1 page)
2. Rationale of the project: - (1/2 page)
3. Study area: - (1/2 page-concise description of the project site)
4. Objectives- 2-4 points (1/2 pages)
5. Methodology: - (1 1/2page; research design, methods and analysis)
6. Budget- 1/2 page (format to be strictly followed - particulars, unit, number, rate, total and justification)
7. Proposed work plan- 1/2 page (detailed on a monthly basis);
8. References
 - a. **Letter** of institutional endorsement and recommendation from the research guide under whose supervision the research is proposed, on institutional letter head with institutional seal; or provide official statement from the academic institution stating that your research proposal is/will be approved by the faculty as a partial fulfillment for the completion of an academic degree. The letter of endorsement should also mention if the same grant proposal has been sent for funding to another agency. If partial funds are being sought from Hariyo Ban Program Small Grants Program, then the proposal budget should clearly state this.
 - b. **Curriculum vitae of the researcher** (not exceeding 2 pages along with **signature of applicant** signifying the truth and correctness of the above information) and CV of **direct supervisor** (not exceeding 3 pages).
Failure to submit any of the above mentioned required documents at the time of submission of the proposal will disqualify the application.
 - c. **Research permit** should be retained by applicant, if required.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Document: MS Word format; Font: Georgia; Font size: 10
Line spacing: 1.5 point; Page margins: 1" on all four sides
Ensure spelling and grammar check.

Annex II: Budget template

S. N.	Particulars	Unit	# of Unit	Rate	Total
1	Example: Food and Accommodation	Day*Person			
2	Travel				
3	Communication				
4	Printing				
	Total				