



Nagao Natural Environment Foundation



Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (NEF)

Founded: November 21, 1989

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For more information about the NEF's activities,
please visit the following website.

www.nagaofoundation.or.jp



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Mission

The mission of the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (NEF) is to promote nature conservation in developing countries by implementing financial and technical support to researchers, university students, and residents in those countries, in cooperation with local governmental or non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

Activities

Grants and Other Funding Activities

Research Grant Scheme

With the aim of strengthening the research capabilities of young researchers and gathering information necessary for conservation work in target countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the NEF Research Grant Scheme offers financial support to implement research and publication projects. The NEF Selection Committee is responsible for the screening process. Around 480 research projects have been approved until April 2018.

• Research Grant Programme

The Research Grant Programme supports academic and scientific research that will deepen knowledge related to nature conservation. Grants are available only for individual researchers and not for groups or teams. The duration of projects in this Programme is 1–2 years, with the maximum grant amount per project at 500,000 Japanese yen.

• Publication Programme

The Publication Programme supports scientific publications that are derived from the applicant's own research work and will expand on knowledge of nature conservation. The duration of projects in this Programme is 1 year and the maximum amount is 1,000,000 Japanese yen.

Application deadlines for both programmes are twice a year: in mid-April and in mid-October.

Scholarship Scheme

The NEF Scholarship Programme offers financial support to university students who are willing to study subjects related to environmental conservation, but who lack sufficient financial resources for university level studies. Through the Programme, scholarship students are expected to major in biological or

environmental studies in a broad sense and intend to work in the nature conservation field in the future. From 1991 to April 2018, about 6,000 students in 9 countries have been supported under the Programme.

Currently, scholarships are provided for students in Vietnam, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Bangladesh in cooperation with each country's NEF counterpart, which is responsible for the primary selection of scholarship recipients. The monthly scholarship amount per student is 3,000 Japanese yen for undergraduates and 7,000 Japanese yen for postgraduates.

NEF Commemorative Grant Fund for Capacity Building of Young Scientists (CGF)

The CGF Programme, which started in 2016 as a 10-year plan, aims to nurture young scientists in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region as they endeavour to become world-class scientists in the areas of, or related to, conservation of wildlife and ecosystems in their own countries. A project scientist is requested to implement the project with adequate support of, and collaboration with, a project coordinator who has made excellent achievement in the relevant field and, as a general rule, who has work experience in a Japanese university or research institution as a scientist.

Application deadlines are twice a year: the end of July and the end of January. The CGF Management Committee is responsible for the screening process.

Nagao Wetland Fund in Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention (NWF)

The NWF is intended to help local governments, researchers, non-governmental organizations, and local communities of developing countries in the Asia-Oceania region to implement the Ramsar Convention, and in particular the goals and targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024. The NWF prioritizes projects concerning the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands, including communications, education and awareness, and also training for park rangers and staff working in wetland education centers. The NWF supported 1 project in 2016 and 4 projects in 2017. For more information about the NWF, please visit the Ramsar website below:

URL: <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/investing-in-wetlands>

Other Activities

Comprehensive Programme for Conservation Research and Activities

The NEF began the Comprehensive Programme for Conservation Research and Activities in 2006, to contribute to nature conservation, focusing on the biodiversity, in full collaboration with local researchers (research organizations) and local inhabitants in Asia-Pacific developing countries. The first project was conducted from 2006 to 2015 in the Mekong-Chao Phraya region as mentioned below; the core concept of this Programme has been succeeded to ongoing projects, i.e., the abovementioned CGF project and three projects listed below.

• Basic Study of the Aquatic Fauna and Flora and Conservation Activities with Participation of Local Residents in the Mekong-Chao Phraya Region

The NEF conducted comprehensive surveys on aquatic fauna and flora in collaboration with researchers and, in some cases, local inhabitants in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam from 2006 to 2015. Their on-site collaboration was expected to contribute to capacity building and empowerment through technology transfers. As the results of this project, field guidebooks of fishes for the respective countries, and the web database on fishes of Mainland Southeast Asia (<http://ffish.asia/>) have been made available.

• NEF Bio-ecological Nature Conservation Project in Mountainous Region of Northern Vietnam

This Project starts in October 2018 as a 3-year plan. Among the various precious environments in Vietnam, the project is conducted in the limestone (karst) zone of the country's north, as limestone environments are highly vulnerable to climate change as well as economic development such as land use change.

• Supporting Programme for Biodiversity Conservation in Myanmar

This Programme started in 2016, in collaboration with scientists and teachers in several universities and governmental institutions in Myanmar, to support their academic and technical development in the collection, preservation, and exhibition of biological specimens and in education using those specimens.