

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

The NEF Commemorative Grant Fund for Capacity Building of Young Scientists (CGF) Programme is directed towards helping young scientists in the Asia-Pacific developing countries grow up as world-class scientists in the fields of conservation of wildlife and ecosystem in the region. Each project should be implemented by a young researcher as a project scientist (PS), under the guidance and support of a project coordinator (PC) having excellent scientific achievements, in PS's home country (or target countries) or in Japan while studying in Japan.

1. Target countries

The target countries in the Asia-Pacific region include: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federal of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

2. Eligibility to Project Scientist (PS)

The Project Scientist (PS) must

- 1) be a national of one of the above-mentioned countries, under 40 years old, and fall under any of the following conditions:
 - (Qualification A) a researcher who works in a university or research institution in one of the above-mentioned countries and has a PhD or Doctor's degree (or having at least 3 years of research experience and corresponding research achievements).
 - (Qualification B) a student who enrolled in or a prospective applicant for admission to a doctor (PhD) course of a university in Japan.
- 2) be not a recipient of on-going research or publication project of the NEF nor an applicant of any other grant of the NEF, at the time of submitting application.

3. Requested conditions and roles of Project Coordinator (PC)

- 1) For Qualification A of PS: The Project Coordinator (PC) is requested to meet all of the following conditions:
 - having teach and/or work experience in a Japanese university or research institution as a scientist, as a general rule,
 - understanding the content of PS research project,
 - supporting and collaborating with the PS throughout the project proposed, while keeping intimate contact with not only the PS but also the CGF Management Committee (MC) and the Secretariat of the NEF.
- 2) For Qualification B of PS: The Project Coordinator (PC) must be a main supervisor of the PS. In addition, the PC is requested to contact intimately with the CGF Management Committee (MC) and the Secretariat of the NEF.

4. Requested conditions for the project

The research project must:

- 1) be planned by the PS with advice/support of the PC, and be implemented by the PS as the principal investigator, in a field survey as well,
- 2) in case of the Qualification A of PS, be fieldwork-based research in the above-mentioned countries and be approved by the head of department, to which the PS belongs, and
- 3) in case of the Qualification B of PS, be related to the doctoral dissertation and be fieldwork-based research in one of PS's home country (or target countries) or in Japan.

5. Eligible research fields

The research project is expected to contribute to nature conservation of the home country of PS, focusing on living organisms, especially wildlife and ecosystem, from such standpoints as follows:

- biology, especially ecology, taxonomy, and distribution and current status of wild animal and plant,
- biodiversity (i.e., species diversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem diversity),
- threatened species, alien species, and restoration of ecosystem, and/or
- relationships between nature and humans (e.g., ecosystem services and sustainable use of biological resources).

Notes: Examples of declined research proposals:

- be focussed on development of agricultural, forestry, and/or fisheries industries,
- be difficult in handling by an individual researcher but by a large group of researchers,
- be funded by other organisations, and
- be already completed in the major part of the study.

6. Duration of research funded

Basically, two years, although, for the case of Qualification B of PS, the funded duration may be extended to maximum of three years.

7. Amount of a grant

The maximum grant size varied from 1,500,000 to 2,500,000 Japanese yen per project, depending on the Qualification of PS as follows (as shown in Table below):

- 1) For Qualification A of PS:

The upper limit of research expenses per project is 1,500,000 Japanese yen. In the research expenses, PS's travel expenses (transportation, accommodation, food expenses, etc.) in the home country or target country (hereinafter referred to as "local") are included. On the other hand, PC's travel expenses (international airfare, travel insurance, accommodation, food, local transportation expenses, etc.) to guide and support the research project and the PC's management expenses (approximately 5% of annual research expenses) are separately provided to PC.

- 2) For Qualification B of PS:

All expenses necessary for the proposed research will be sent to the PC in case of Qualification B. For budget expenses, PS and PC should work together to fill out the 'Budget' in the application form of PS. The qualification B is divided into B-1 and B-2 according to the site of fieldwork as

follows:

- Qualification B-1 (the site of fieldwork being in the above-mentioned country): The upper limit of research expenses per project is 1,500,000 Japanese yen. On the other hand, travel expenses (international airfare, travel insurance, accommodation, food, local transportation expenses, etc.) for PS and PC and the PC's management expenses (approximately 5% of annual research expenses) are provided in addition to the research expenses.
- Qualification B-2 (the site of fieldwork being in Japan): The upper limit of research expenses per project is 1,500,000 Japanese yen. In the research expenses, travel expenses (transportation, accommodation, food expenses, etc.) in Japan of both the PS and PC are included. On the other hand, the PC's management expenses (approximately 5% of annual research expenses) are provided in addition to the research expenses.

Qualification of PS	Upper limit of research expenses (Jap. Yen)		Local travel expenses	Travel expenses in Japan	Overseas travel expenses	Management expenses
A	1,500,000	PS	Included in research expenses	-	-	-
	-	PC	Paid separately	-	Paid separately	Paid separately
B-1	1,500,000	PS	Paid separately	-	Paid separately	-
	-	PC	Paid separately	-	Paid separately	Paid separately
B-2	1,500,000	PS	-	Included in research expenses	-	-
	-	PC	-	Included in research expenses	-	Paid separately

8. Eligible and ineligible expenses

8.1 Eligible expenses

- travel expenses for field work (e.g., transportation, accommodation, and food expenses),
- expendables necessary to field survey and analyses (e.g., sampling gear and reagent),
- minimum wages and labour costs necessary to the study, except for a routine work,
- reference materials (e.g., article and book), if specifically needed,
- costs for public awareness activities, if specifically needed for the research goal, and
- expenditure for returning research results to society (limited to activities closely related to the research project and to cases where PS is the presenter at an academic conference or workshop in the above-mentioned countries or Japan.)

8.2 Ineligible expenses

- personal expenses for the PS nor the PC,

- versatile equipment (e.g., personal computer, microscope, GPS, and digital camera),
- administrative expenses and overheads of institution where the PS or PC works

9. How to apply

9.1 Download the documents

The PS is requested to download the “CGF Application Form for Project Scientist (PS)” corresponding to Qualification of PS from our website (URL:<https://www.nagaofoundation.or.jp/e/research/cgf.html>).

The PC is requested to download the “CGF Form for Project Coordinator (PC)” corresponding to Qualification of PS from the same website.

9.2 What to prepare

The PS is requested to fill in all items of the “CGF Application Form for PS” corresponding to the Qualification of PS, consulting carefully with the instructions shown in the form with blue ink, in cooperation with the PC.

The PC is requested to fill in the “CGF Application Form for PC,” corresponding to Qualification of PS and to send it to the PS.

9.3 Where to submit

The PS is requested to submit a set of completed forms, i.e., “CGF Application Form for PS” and “CGF Application Form for PC,” after transformation into PDF format, to the NEF Secretariat (cgf@nagaofoundation.or.jp) by e-mail.

9.4 Application deadlines

Application deadlines for this year are twice a year: 31 July 2024 and 31 January 2025.

10. Pass-or-fail judgement

The CGF Management Committee (MC), consisting of board members of the NEF and external experts, has all responsibilities about pass-or-fail decision of the applications, with support of the NEF Secretariat; there are possibilities that the MC inquires of the PC and/or PS through the Secretariat about questionable points mentioned in the application form. The MC and the Secretariat also check budget plans; there are possibilities of reducing the amounts of budget requested.

The following factors are considered in the selection process:

- relevance and importance to nature conservation,
- originality and quality of the research,
- feasibility of the research design/plan and schedule,
- rationality and effectiveness of the budget,
- the PS’s research skills and experience (including his/her publications), sufficient involvement in the proposed research,
- the PC’s teach and/or research experience as the academic supervisor of PS, and
- efficacy of cooperation between PS and PC.

11. Notification of results

The selection results will be announced by three months after the deadline of each occasion of application, by e-mail and/or a postal letter, to each PS and PC. Also, the title and the names of awardee of the selected projects will be announced in our website.

The NEF Secretariat informs each PS selected as the recipient and his/her PC of time schedule of communication with the Secretariat, remittance process and others for smooth procedure of the research project.

12. Subsequent procedure for recipient PS and PC

The recipient PS, with collaboration with the PC, is requested to send, at minimum, three reports to the Secretariat: a brief (about 1 page) report, within three months from the date of acceptance, describing the situation of fieldwork and other activities; a progress report (several pages), including financial report, by one month after the end of each one year; and a final report, including financial report, by three months after completion of the research project.

The respective PS and PC (the PC only in case of Qualification B of PS) are requested, as early as possible, to indicate the full name and details of the organisation to which remittance will be sent (including its address, telephone, fax, and e-mail), and to provide the number of bank account where the funds can be deposited. The first year's budget of the approved fund will be transferred by the NEF Secretariat to PS and PC, while the remaining fund will be transferred after receipt and satisfactory review of the progress report.

13. Contact address

Nagao Natural Environment Foundation

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