The Center for Field Research

Earthwatch Offers Grants for Labor-intensive Field Research

Earthwatch, a private, non-profit-making organization, fosters scholarly research by offering capital, labor and greater visibility to the scientific community. The membership consists of individuals who want to learn more about scientific problems and to share in the challenge and excitement of solving them, thus providing a bridge between scholarly research and public education. The Center for Field Research receives, reviews and recommends research proposals for Earthwatch support. In recent years, about twenty percent of the research projects Earthwatch has supported have been in the marine sciences. In recognition of the growing importance of understanding marine biological, chemical and physical processes in order to best manage marine resources threatened by anthropogenic influences, Earthwatch is now committed to enhancing the level of its support to the marine sciences community.

Earthwatch funds are primarily derived from the contributions of participating volunteers selected from Earthwatch's 75,000 members world-wide; therefore, non-specialist volunteers must be integrated into the research design. Volunteers are enthusiastic, well-educated people who can be trained to perform a variety of tasks in a relatively short time.

Examples of the labor-intensive field research that Earthwatch is supporting in 1991-92 include:

- Biogeochemistry of Lake Naivasha, Kenya
- Eroded Sediment & Nutrient Load in Tropical Estuaries of the Great Barrier Reef region, Australia
- Breeding Biology of the Leatherback Sea Turtle, St Croix, USVI
- Coral Reef Population Dynamics and Interactive Coral Reef Simulation Modelling, Netherlands Antilles
- Seagrass Biomass and Species Distribution: an Indicator of Oceanic Pollution, Bahamas
- Behavioral Ecology of Coral Reef Fishes, Belize
- Survey of Humpback & Right Whale Breeding Grounds off Mozambique
- Population Density & Ecology of Diamondback Terrapins, South Carolina
- Life History Studies of the Behavior of the Lemon Shark, Bahamas
- Fishes of the Canary Islands: Quantitative Habitat Study
- Population Biology & Behavior of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins, Florida
- Microbial Ecology & Biogeochemistry of Lake Baikal, USSR
- Coastal Geomorphic Response to Sea Level Rise, Caspian Sea, USSR
- Submarine Groundwater Discharge into the Gulf of Mexico
- Hydrology & Hydrochemical Field Monitoring of Russian Northern Eutrophic Lakes
- Tubbataha Reef Marine Park Survey and Monitoring Project, Philippines

Preliminary proposals may be made by telephone or by a detailed letter to the Center for Field Research. Upon favorable review, full proposals will be invited for submission at least twelve months prior to the proposed start date of the project. Full proposals will be peer-reviewed. Proposals will be considered from scholars of any nationality, for research in any geographic region.

For further information contact: Andrew Hudson, Program Officer, Center for Field Research, 680 Mt Auburn St, Box 403, Watertown, MA 02272, USA; tel. (617) 926-8200; fax (617) 926-8532.

Cover: The photograph on the outside of the cover was taken by David Nicholson at Pedney Beach, Cornwall.

Inside front cover: 'Busy Bee', a converted 60-foot steam yacht, owned by the MBA from 1896 until 1901, and used for teaching courses as well as research.

Inside back cover: SS 'Oithona', an 83-foot steam yacht, in Millbay docks during her conversion for research use. 'Oithona' was owned by the MBA from 1901 until 1921 and was used for the first regular investigations of the physics, chemistry and biology of the Western Channel and Approaches.

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