



Instructions for Sustainable Biodiversity Fund Proposals

The Atkinson Center's [Sustainable Biodiversity Fund](#) (SBF) supports Cornell graduate students and postdocs with grants for research. These young researchers carry out novel research on the most pressing questions in biodiversity. Protecting the earth's biodiversity is critical for preserving global ecosystem services, natural pest control on farms, and four billion years of irreplaceable evolutionary history.

Cornell graduate students and postdoctoral research associates from all disciplines are encouraged to apply to pursue innovative, interdisciplinary research relevant for the sustainability of natural biodiversity.

All proposal materials **MUST** be received by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2018.**

Eligibility

Cornell graduate students and postdocs from any field with research interests in sustainable biodiversity are eligible, including past recipients of the award. Award recipients must participate in the fall SBF Symposium. Proposals by applicants who have not been previously funded by SBF can submit funding requests up to \$7000, or \$8000 with an undergraduate intern. Applicants who have previously received SBF funding can request funding up to \$3000, or \$4000 with an undergraduate intern. SBF awards fund research only; they do not directly support demonstrations, course development, or outreach. Funds may not be used as a stipend for the applicant, to pay journal page charges, or to purchase computers or equipment typically available in faculty labs. A maximum of \$3,000 may be used for undergraduate research assistance. If you request funds for an undergraduate research intern, please justify the need and explain a clear plan for mentorship on your budget page.

All funds should be spent within two years of the award; extensions will typically not be granted, but may be requested in writing by emailing the program manager at the address below. To remain in good standing and eligible for future funding, all awardees must

- Update their profile on the Sustainable Biodiversity Fund webpage,
- Complete a short final report, due after 2 years.
- Participate in a fall symposium the year after funding.
- Forward later publications that result from the SBF funding, and
- Participate in a review panel evaluating future research proposals.

2019 Applications: Deadline is November 1, 2018

Create a single PDF document (saved as Your Last Name-First Name, e.g. Smith-John.pdf) including the following:

- Proposal for new research (3 pages maximum, excluding references)
- Statement on the project's sustainable biodiversity impact (half page maximum)

- If previously funded by SBF include summary of 1) results from earlier grant, 2) awards received as a result of earlier funding, 3) publicity generated by earlier funding, and 4) list of publications, including non-technical writings.
- Short CV (2 pages maximum)
- Detailed budget and justification—the more specific, the better (1 page maximum), include 10% university indirect cost charge
- Current and pending funding: title, amount, duration, and funding source for all funds available to you and your faculty advisers. **Demonstration of need and lack of other funding is critical.**

Assemble one PDF file with all of these parts in the above order, each starting on a separate page and [submit it via this online form](#). (You will need to log in with a Google account).

Funding decisions will be made on the basis of overall scientific merit, relevance to the goals of sustainable biodiversity, and availability of funds.

Previous Successful Proposals

- [Example 1](#)
- [Example 2](#)
- [Example 3](#)

Research Topics

We advocate innovative approaches with sustainable biodiversity as a central theme. To help you brainstorm project ideas, here is a list of hypothetical topics. These topics are neither preferred nor comprehensive.

- The economic cost of biodiversity loss
- Biodiversity loss and ecosystem functioning
- Impacts of alternative energy sources on biodiversity
- The origins and maintenance of global biodiversity hotspots
- Impacts of invasive species on biodiversity
- How ecotourism impacts biodiversity and economic development
- Impacts on biodiversity of climate-mediated disease spread
- Insurance products for climate change impacts on biota
- Causes and consequences of native pollinator biodiversity for natural and managed systems
- How studying the past (evolution of diversity) can forecast the future (sustaining biodiversity)

Questions? Contact Monica Geber (mag9@cornell.edu, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology).