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2009 Call for Pre-Proposals for grants in support of one year of research related to global environmental change in Africa

Call for Pre-Proposals

START¹, the global change SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training, seeks to enhance scientific capacity for global environmental change (GEC) research in developing regions.

START promotes regional collaborative research networks to:

- conduct research on regional aspects of environmental change,
- assess impacts and vulnerabilities to such changes, and
- provide information to policy-makers.

START's activities in Africa are coordinated by the Pan-African Committee for START. The Pan-African START Secretariat is based at the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

START seeks Pre-Proposals from African scientists for one-year projects on global environmental change in Africa. The Pre-Proposal must provide specific information on how the proposed research will contribute to:

- Improving knowledge of the Earth's changing climate and environment, including its natural variability, and/or how the research will improve understanding of the causes of observed variability and change.
- Improving quantification of the driving forces of changes in the Earth's climate and systems.
- Reducing uncertainty in projections of how the Earth's climate and related systems may change in the future.
- Understanding the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes.
- Assessing impacts, adaptation and risk management strategies related to climate variability and change.

¹ Information about START can be found at its website: (<http://www.start.org>) and at the websites of START's co-sponsors* and partners:

*International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP):

<http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de>,

*International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP): <http://www.igbp.kva.se>,

*World Climate Research Programme (WCRP): <http://www.wmo.ch/web/wcrp/wcrp-home.html>

DIVERSITAS: <http://www.diversitas-international.org>

Earth Systems Science Partnership (ESSP): <http://www.essp.org>;

The Pre-Proposal may draw upon various GEC Science Plans including the Plan of the African Network for Earth System Science (AfricanNESS)², the Plans of the International Council for Science Regional Office for Africa (ICSU RoA)³, and other relevant documents from intergovernmental and multi-lateral organizations.

Specific information should be provided on how the proposed research may:

- contribute to global change science knowledge in Africa,
- create long-term, collaborative research partnerships among African scientists and scientists in developed countries,
- enhance the understanding of the impacts and consequences of global changes in Africa,
- provide outreach to scientists, policy makers and the general public, and
- encourage participation of African researchers in international global change research programs.

A Pre-Proposal may be submitted by any African scientist who is associated with an African institution of higher learning or with an African non-governmental organization. African scientists currently supported by any START grants program may not submit requests for new support under this Call. A proposed budget⁴ must be prepared using the format provided on the application form.

The Application Process

Applicants must complete the Application Form for Pre-Proposals, which can be downloaded at: http://www.start.org/Program/African_sm_grants.html. An estimate of the requested budget must be completed using the table on the Application Form. It is important to read “The Financial Regulations for START grants funded through the US National Science Foundation/ US Climate Change Science Program”, which can be downloaded from the same web page.

The Pre-Proposal should be sent to the International START Secretariat using the application form. Each application will be acknowledged when it is received.

- Pre-Proposals are to be sent as a MSWord document to start-proposals@agu.org. Due date is: **midnight (24:00) US Eastern Time on Friday, 15 August 2008.**
- Successful proponents will be invited to submit a full proposal by 25 September 2008.
- Full proposals must be submitted by 01 November 2008.
- Funding decisions will be made by mid January 2009.

Inquiries

Inquires should be directed via e-mail to:

Charles S. Kauffman, cskauffman@agu.org
International START Secretariat
2000 Florida Ave. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009 USA
Tel: 1-202-462-2213, Fax: 1-202-457-5859

² The AFRICANness Science Plan can be found at: <http://www.igbp.kva.se/page.php?pid=412>

³ The ICSU RoA Science Plans can be found at http://www.icsu-africa.org/sp_hh_rep_2007.pdf, http://www.icsu-africa.org/hazards_rep_2007.pdf, and http://www.icsu-africa.org/sustainable_energy_rep_2007.pdf

⁴ Awards usually do not exceed US\$15,000.