Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers

—— Call for Research Grant Proposals ——

Deadline August 31, 2017

N-Gen Research Grants

N-Gen Research Grants are designed to provide financial support for members of the N-Gen community conducting research in the Sonoran Desert. N-Gen invites proposals for original student and collaborative research, with preference always given to proposals that take a synthetic and transdisciplinary approach (perspectives that seek to transcend the boundaries of individual disciplines) to various topics in the larger Sonoran Desert region and associated marine and coastal areas. Submissions that incorporate multinational research, or the fusion of art and science, scientific journalism, as well as traditional academic perspectives, are welcome. We invite proposals from researchers investigating topics ranging from natural resources, sociology, conservation, natural and biological sciences, border issues, anthropology, arts and humanities, and other topics that align with the vision and goals of the N-Gen community. This call for proposals encompasses the JiJi Foundation’s small grants program, and all related proposals should be submitted here.

For Collaborative Research Grants, preference will be given to a contemporary thematic / geographic focus of particular relevance for the specific funding year cycle. For 2017, priority will be given to proposals that directly address studies of the US-Mexico borderlands and/or the Baja California peninsula.

The grants program will include two independent funds. Projects will be of one-year duration, with no restriction on applicant affiliation:

(A) Student Research Grants (up to $1,500 USD each)

(B) Collaborative Research Grants (up to $5,000 USD each)
(A) Student Research Grants

The Student Research Grants are intended to provide transformative resources to young professionals to realize independent projects that otherwise would not have an opportunity to be developed. There is a great amount of student talent throughout the Sonoran Desert that often falls outside of typical funding opportunities. This amount of support can launch a career by empowering the individual with recognition and the tools needed to pursue their research goals. This will be an open call to students or independent researchers, broadly defined as individuals in an undergraduate or graduate program, or individuals with or without degrees independently pursuing research outside of academia. There are no pre-defined areas of geographic or thematic focus.

(B) Collaborative Research Grants

Support for Collaborative Research Grants will be open to applicants at any career stage or affiliation. Funding prioritization will be given to projects that embody N-Gen’s vision and best address the area of focus identified in the annual announcement. For the 2017 call the focus is transdisciplinary studies of the US-Mexico borderlands and/or the Baja California peninsula. We will show preference to collaborative studies that bridge the divide created by the border with data that describes, either quantitatively or qualitatively, and tells the story of linkages – physical, biological, and social – across the borderlands region.

The N-Gen Vision

The Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers (N-Gen, www.nextgensd.com), is a network of individuals and institutions committed to the rich social and ecological landscape that spans the mainland Sonoran Desert, the Baja California Peninsula, the Gulf of California, and the US-Mexico borderlands. This interdisciplinary network addresses the research and conservation challenges of our time within this binational region. Dedicated to the spirit of the Sonoran Desert, N-Gen (1) catalyzes research and biocultural collaboration, (2) develops an innovative research and conservation agenda, and (3) influences decision makers in both countries to promote a conservation ethic that matches the grandeur of the landscape.

Deliverables

Grant recipients will deliver a (1) brief (1–2 page) summary report of the research results and next steps and (2) the creation of a “Notes From the Field” blog post to be featured on the N-Gen website. The final report will require an addendum that includes documentation of how research funds were expended, including receipts for expenses. Summary reports will be due one month from project end date, see timeline table below. Acknowledgment of N-Gen funding is expected in any publication that results from N-Gen funded research. Likewise, all resulting publications (peer-reviewed or not) and subsequent
grants must be shared with the N-Gen Research Grants Committee at nextgensd2012@gmail.com

Requirements for Proposal Preparation

Student Research Grants

Applicants should email (1) a cover letter, (2) 2-page (maximum) proposal, and (3) the completed budget template as a single pdf document to ‘nextgensd2012@gmail.com’ with “Students Research Grant Submission” as the subject line by August 31, 2017. Applicants must be a N-Gen member. Your application can be in English or Spanish and must include the following:

- **Cover Letter**
  - Provide a brief explanation of how this award would help foster your research career
  - Have your letter signed by both yourself and your research mentor
- **Proposal**
  - Outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas
  - Describe the items and the costs that you are requesting funding for
  - Explain how funding from a N-Gen Research Grant would help improve or complete your research project.
- **Budget.** Complete the N-Gen Research Grants budget template (same for student and collaborative grants) identifying the following:
  - Travel
  - Equipment
  - Other

Requests to support salary will not be considered.

Collaborative Research Grants

Applicants should email a (1) 2-page (maximum) proposal, and (2) the completed budget template as a single pdf document to ‘nextgensd2012@gmail.com’ with “Collaborative Research Grant Submission” as the subject line by August 31, 2017. Applicants and all members of project team must be N-Gen members. Your application can be in English or Spanish and must include the following:

- **Proposal**
  - Identify the project leader who will be responsible for management of the grant and project partners.
  - Outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas, and in specific how your project addresses transdisciplinary studies of the US-Mexico borderlands and/or the Baja California peninsula.
  - Describe the items and the costs for which you are requesting funding for
  - Provide a brief summary of your collaborative team, identifying the participating individuals and their respective roles.
- **Budget.** Complete the N-Gen Research Grants budget template (same for student and collaborative grants) identifying the following:
• Travel
• Equipment
• Other
Requests to support salary will not be considered.

Evaluation, Award Process, and Timeline
Applications will be reviewed by the N-Gen Research Grants Committee and award announcements will be made in late September 2017. Applications that exhibit how both the researcher and the proposed research have a high prospect for success and timely completion within the 1-year lifespan of these grants will be ranked high.

Disbursement of funds:
Student Research Grants: 100% of the funds for student grants will be provided to the selected grantees at the beginning of the project period. Submission and verification of expenses are required to account for the entire granted amount from the project leader with the submission of the final report, November 1, 2018.

Collaborative Research Grants: 50% of the funds for collaborative grants will be provided to the selected grantees at the beginning of the project period. The remaining 50% will be allocated upon accounting for the first payment via the submission and verification of expenses by the project leader at agreed upon dates. In addition, full accounting of all expenses are required from the project leader with the submission of the final report, November 1, 2018.

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>RFP Announcement</td>
<td>May 15, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission Deadline</td>
<td>August 31, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announcement of Awards</td>
<td>Late September, 2017</td>
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<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>October 1, 2017</td>
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<td>Project End Date</td>
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<td>Final Report Due</td>
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Point of Contact
Please contact N-Gen with any questions regarding this request for proposals at nextgensd2012@gmail.com.