



INVESTIGADORES DEL DESIERTO SONORENSE
SONORAN DESERT RESEARCHERS

Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers

— Call for Research Grant Pre-Proposals —

Deadline June 1, 2018

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 short (one-page) pre-proposals for original student, early career, and collaborative research, with preference always given to proposals that take a synthetic and transdisciplinary approach to understanding and conserving the rich social and ecological landscape of the greater Sonoran Desert region and associated marine and coastal areas. We invite proposals from researchers investigating topics ranging from border issues, anthropology, arts and humanities, natural resources, climate change, sociology, linguistics, conservation, natural and biological sciences, and other topics that align with the vision and goals of the N-Gen community. Submissions that incorporate multinational research, or the fusion of art and science, scientific journalism, as well as traditional academic perspectives, are welcome. This call for pre-proposals encompasses the Jiji Foundation's small grants program, and all related proposals should be submitted here. Successful pre-proposals will be requested to submit a full (2-page) proposal and budget in August 2018 based on feedback from the N-Gen Grants committee.

Transdisciplinary research transcends the boundaries of individual disciplines to create a holistic approach, integrating and including stakeholders in defining research objectives and strategies. Projects that plan to incorporate a truly collaborative approach will be ranked higher than traditional, single-discipline studies. The pre-proposal process is designed so N-Gen can provide feedback and recommendations to maximize the transdisciplinary nature of the full proposals due in August 2018.

The grants program will include two independent funds. Projects will be of one-year duration, with no restriction on applicant affiliation other than being an N-Gen member:

- (A) Student and Early Career Research Grants (up to \$1,500 USD each)
- (B) Collaborative Research Grants (up to \$5,000 USD each)



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(A) Student and Early Career Research Grants

The Student and Early Career Research Grants are intended to provide transformative resources to early career professionals to realize independent projects that otherwise would not have an opportunity to be developed. There is a great amount of student and early career 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 early career individuals with or without degrees independently pursuing research outside of academia. There are no pre-defined areas of geographic or thematic focus as long as the proposal addresses the broad region and themes included under this RFP.

This year we will also be offering the Nancy Z Fellowship in honor of the late Nancy Zierenberg, a tireless environmental activist dedicated to the beauty and wildlands of the Sonoran Desert. The research proposal that most effectively links science and conservation will receive \$1500 with this special distinction.

(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 collaborative vision and best address the thematic/geographic area of focus identified in the annual announcement. *For the 2018 call the focus is land:sea interface:*

The coastal fringe is our primary connection to the ocean where most human pressure exists (e.g. mega-developments, aquaculture, run-off from agriculture and mining, coastal development, effects of hurricanes, etc.). This narrow transition zone is also home to the most productive ecosystems in the Sonoran Desert region; estuaries and islands of the Gulf of California in the midst of globally high marine upwelling. Innovative approaches that address this porous boundary from diverse perspectives including science, arts, anthropology, and predictive planning are needed to provide a proactive response to mounting pressures from development and a rapidly changing climate.



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The N-Gen Vision

The Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers (N-Gen, <http://www.nextgensd.com/>), is a network of individuals and institutions committed to conserving 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.

Requirements for Pre-Proposal Preparation

All pre-proposal applicants and co-PIs must be N-Gen members to be considered (<http://nextgensd.com/about-us/join-the-network/>). Pre-proposals can be in English or Spanish and must follow the template on the last page. The pre-proposal should briefly describe the proposed study, highlighting how it involves a transdisciplinary approach to the conservation of a social or natural aspect of the Sonoran Desert and surrounding coastal and marine areas. Pre-proposals should not exceed one page (single spaced). Indicate whether you are applying for a (A) Student and Early Career Research Grant or (B) Collaborative Research Grant. For Student and Early Career Grants, briefly outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas and explain how funding would help improve or complete your research project. For Collaborative Grants, briefly outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas, and in specific how your transdisciplinary project addresses **the land:sea interface**. For all pre-proposals, briefly describe what N-Gen funding would support (e.g., travel, equipment, etc.). N-Gen grants will not support requests for salary.

Applicants should email the 1-page pre-proposal as a single pdf document to 'nextgensd2012@gmail.com' with "Student and Early Career Research Grant Pre-Proposal" or "Collaborative Research Grant Pre-Proposal" as the subject line by **June 1, 2018**.



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Evaluation, Award Process, and Timeline

Pre-proposal applications will be reviewed by the N-Gen Research Grants Committee in early June 2018. By early July 2018, N-Gen will notify applicants if they are invited to submit a full proposal. Those applicants that are invited for a full proposal will receive feedback and guidance for a full (2-page) proposal and budget submission by the August 31, 2018 deadline, which will then be reviewed and final decisions made.

Disbursement of funds:

Student and Early Career 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.

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.

Activity	Date
Pre-Proposal Announcement	Early April, 2018
Pre-Proposal Deadline	June 1, 2018
N-Gen Provides Feedback & Guidance	Early July, 2018
Full Proposal Submission Deadline	August 31, 2018
Announcement of Awards	Late September, 2018
Project Start Date	January 1, 2019
'Notes From the Field' Blog Post Due	June 1, 2019
Project End Date	December 31, 2019
Final Report Due	January 31, 2020

Point of Contact

Please contact N-Gen with any questions regarding this request for pre-proposals at nextgensd2012@gmail.com.



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N-Gen Research Grants Pre-Proposal Template

(to be used for Student and Early Career and Collaborative Grants)

- Project Title:
- PI (name, affiliation, email):
- Co-PIs (not required for Student and Early Career grants):
- Type of Grant (Student and Early Career or Collaborative):
- Discipline(s): (refer to Disciplines listed here: <http://nextgensd.com/about-us/join-the-network/>)

Student and Early Career Grant prompt: Briefly outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas and explain how funding would help improve or complete your research project.

Collaborative Grant prompt: Briefly outline your proposed research related to the Sonoran Desert and/or associated marine and coastal areas, and in specific how your transdisciplinary project addresses **the land:sea interface**.

For all pre-proposals, briefly describe what N-Gen funding would support (e.g., travel, equipment, etc.). Specific numbers are not needed here but will be required at the full proposal stage.