

Great Ape

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Great Ape Trust of Iowa Conservation Grant Program Strategy for Conservation and Advice to Potential Applicants

What types of activities do we support?

Conservation Action: Activities that directly increase the probability of survival of habitat and the primates that live there, with sustainable co-existence with people that live there. Some common examples are salaries and equipment for rangers/guards who discover and eliminate illegal activities, reforestation programs, and community education programs.

Alternative Economies and Cultural Assistance: Programs that provide respectful sustainable economic livelihoods to people living in or near primate habitats as alternatives to extractive activities that threaten habitat and species. Some examples include tree farming (for reforestation, construction material, and fruit), goat and chicken farming, bee-keeping, crafts micro-industries, and ecotourism as alternatives to hunting, tree-cutting, and surface mining. Cultural assistance may include building and funding schools and medical clinics, and supporting higher education for people living in these places.

Conservation-Useful Science: Basic research activities conducted to increase our scientific knowledge of the primate biology and ecology, and of the sociology and culture of the people who share nonhuman primate environments. The primary goal of the scientists conducting this research is to publish findings in the scientific literature and to train graduate students, but the research can be used to plan conservation action programs. Examples include estimation of the abundance and distribution of bonobos, cataloguing the fruit trees eaten by orangutans, and studying the methods of people to collect and use firewood.

We prefer to fund an entire activity from start to finish (e.g. a one-year survey of plant foods eaten by a population of orangutans), or to provide annual support for an ongoing activity (e.g. 12 months salaries for rangers). We prefer not to provide seed money to start a project whose completion will depend on subsequent support from Great Ape Trust or others (e.g. purchasing seedlings to start an agroforestry nursery), or to invisibly co-mingle funds with other contributors to fund a larger-scale project (e.g. contribute to a large fund to establish a new reserve). We ordinarily do not contribute more than nominally to organizational maintenance (e.g. renovating offices) or administrative costs (e.g. telephone bills). In simple terms, we fund research and conservation activities with which Great Ape Trust can be distinctively identified, and which we can visit, see, touch and photograph. Our funded activity will ideally be part of a larger collaborative effort, but we want our signature on a discrete piece.

How to Apply

Application is by written proposal, due on the last day of February of each year. The proposal need not be encyclopedic but should provide enough background to allow those not familiar with the work to fully appreciate its significance and its place in conservation biology. It should provide a clear set of objectives, detailed methodology, and a set of specific performance measures that will allow later evaluation of effectiveness. These performance measures should be linked to real conservation accomplishments whenever possible (e.g. in addition to stating that “we will make 40 presentations on the dangers of eating primate bushmeat”, there should be a

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measure such as “losses of apes due to commercial hunting in the area will drop by 20%”). A detailed budget (at this time requests should not exceed \$US10,000) and timeline should be included. The proposal should provide a set of references that point the way to additional information for those that are interested.

Submit your proposal by e-mail to The Trust’s Director of Conservation, currently Dr. Benjamin Beck (bbeck@greatapetrust.org). The proposal will be reviewed internally by staff, and in some cases by external reviewers. Funding decisions will be made by mid-May of each year in most cases.

If a proposal is funded, it will be circulated to all Great Ape Trust staff members so that we all are fully conversant with and invested in the conservation activities that we support. The proposal will also be the basis for communication with our membership and other external audiences about our conservation activities.

Accountability: Post-Award Responsibilities and Expectations

The principal investigator is expected to submit an annual report on each funded activity. The heart of the report is restatement of the performance measures contained in the original proposal, and a detailed assessment of accomplishments on each measure, with special emphasis on those measures that reflect real conservation accomplishment. This can be supplemented with photos, educational materials, copies of scientific publications, copies of media coverage and other products. New proposals from the principal investigator or his/her organization will not be considered until annual reports have been received for previously funded proposals. Annual reports will be circulated to all Great Ape Trust staff to stimulate internal communication and appreciation, and may be turned into newsletter copy, Web site content and media releases for external audiences.

The written annual report must also contain a complete accounting of expenditures, with some form of auditing or validation. Receipts must be provided upon request.

We might want to make site visits to personally meet the people, animals and work we are supporting. We might want to bring along some of our donors and friends. Of course we would only visit with the principal investigator’s specific advance approval of dates and itineraries. If we do visit, we would ask for approval to turn our journals and photos into newsletter copy and Web site material.