Collaborative Conservation Fellows Program
Call for <u>Team</u> Proposals
2018-2020

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) at Colorado State University (CSU) invites <u>team applications</u> for its Collaborative Conservation[1] Fellowship Program's ninth cohort of fellows.

A. Introduction

Since 2008, the Center for Collaborative Conservation's Fellows Program has challenged and encouraged students, faculty and practitioners to work together to help local communities build their livelihoods and conserve their landscapes. Fellows work across disciplinary, landscape, cultural and administrative boundaries to find new solutions to conservation issues by 'helping communities help themselves' through on-the-ground projects in the United States and around the world. We are seeking projects that integrate disciplines, link theory with practice, and use collaboration to address conservation and livelihood issues.

B. Award

Team projects will receive <u>up to</u> $15,000, depending on the number and quality of applications. Final award amounts are at the discretion of the CCC. We encourage applications from practitioner organizations/agencies and all CSU colleges and departments.

C. Timeline
The deadline for applications is **midnight MST, <u>Wednesday, November 1, 2017</u>**. **No late applications will be accepted**. Completed applications should be sent to Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org on or before that date.

Decisions on successful applicants will be announced on <u>November 10, 2017</u> and will be formally recognized at CSU through the CCC. <u>This ninth cohort will run for 24 months from January 15, 2018 to January 15, 2020</u>. Details on the program appear below and on the CCC webpage at www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows.

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[1] We define *collaboration* as action on a particular problem where multiple individuals, or organizations, must work together to solve a problem that none can solve alone. We define *conservation* as action that promotes the sustainability of linked natural and human communities and the resources they both depend upon. *Livelihoods* may include economics, well-being and health, gender issues, power structures, or behavior changes.

D. Team Members

Minimum team size: two fellows, plus one CSU undergraduate

Maximum team size: two fellows, one CSU undergraduate, and up to five collaborator team members

- **Team fellows** – one fellow must be a **practitioner** (see definition below) and one must be **a CSU representative** that can be a faculty member, researcher, or graduate student (see definitions below). The fellows are <u>required to participate in ALL the cohort activities</u> (meetings, reception, training retreat, etc.), manage the funding awarded by the CCC, and deliver the fellowship products.
- **CSU undergraduate student** – (see definition below). This student can be chosen once the fellowship begins.
- **Collaborators** – Fellows may have <u>up to five</u> collaborators or partner team members. These collaborators are invited to participate in activities and can receive support from the fellowship (i.e., fellows may use CCC funds to support them in their project). Collaborators are <u>not required</u> to participate in activities nor are they responsible for final delivery of products. However, we welcome all team members to participate in all cohort activities if they have time and funding to support this.

  <u>NOTE: Past CCC Fellows may be a collaborator team member but may NOT be a team fellow.</u>

Definitions

I. *Conservation Practitioner*

Practitioners are people acting on linked conservation-livelihood issues. These include people who use, own, or manage natural resources as individuals (like ranchers, foresters, farmers, land owners, conservationists, urbanites, etc.) or who work professionally as part of tribal nations, the private sector, NGOs, government agencies and other entities. Current conservation practitioners who are actively working on collaborative conservation initiatives, or who are seeking creative ways to build the collaborative aspect of their work through research, education, mentoring and scholarly activities may be team fellow or collaborator.

II. *Faculty, research scientists, post docs*

If a faculty member, research scientist or post doctorate researcher is a team fellow**,** then he/she must be from CSU. Faculty or researchers who are collaborators may be from CSU or another accredited university.

These are faculty members, research scientists and post docs who wish to take their engagement and conservation research to a new collaborative level through local partnerships, community action, citizen science and other new forms of exchange.

III. *Graduate Students*

If a graduate student is a team fellow**,** he/she must be from CSU. Graduate students who are collaborators may be from CSU or another accredited university.

Graduate students must be enrolled at their institution for at least two semesters of the fellowship. They may be majoring in any discipline.

The team project should add a practical collaborative aspect to the graduate students' research and / or take their engagement with conservation stakeholders to a new level; it should also include a field work component.

IV. *CSU Undergraduate Student*

The purpose of including these students is to give them an opportunity to study and practice collaborative conservation in an interdisciplinary team setting. Undergraduates may include their experience as part of a senior project, as a fulfillment of an internship requirement, or apply it as independent study credits toward their degree. All teams must have at least one undergraduate and one of those undergraduates must be from CSU.

E. Types of Projects

CCC may give preference to projects that address the following themes related to our strategic plan (although other topics areas are encouraged). Successful team projects will link both theoretical aspects of the following issues with practical examples / cases.

1) **Markets for Ecosystem Services**

- Identify the barriers and challenges to watershed investment funds or payments for ecosystem services around the world and how they are overcome.
- Identify practical models of using existing or new and innovative market-based tools for payments for ecosystem services.
- Explore when and how payments for ecosystem services improve community and ecosystem resilience.

2) **The Phenomenon of Collaborative Conservation**

- Explore and/or apply innovative approaches to documenting, measuring, or analyzing the direct or indirect outcomes and impacts of either individual collaborative initiatives or collaborative conservation efforts as a whole. (This may include community-based natural resource management, place-based conservation initiatives, and other relatives of collaborative conservation.)
- Research the conditions or factors that influence the effectiveness of collaborative conservation.
- Teams can propose to strengthen an existing conservation project by implementing or increasing the use of a collaborative approach, or can propose to start a new collaborative to address a critical conservation and livelihoods issue.

- Conduct a comparative study of the effectiveness of collaborative conservation approaches compared to more traditional conservation management, including an assessment of the cost of reaching ecological outcomes (environmental return on investment).

3) **Collaboration Conservation Tools and Skills for Practitioners** (practitioners include individual land owners and land users, non-profit employees, agency managers, business owners, and other people practicing conservation outside a university setting)

- Designing, implementing or providing training in collaborative tools and skills for current or future practitioners to increase the effectiveness of their collaborative practice. These may include People and Processing Skills such as: listening and communicating, interpersonal relationship management, facilitating and decision-making, understanding others interests, leadership, collaboration 101 - the need to understand the basics of the collaborative process including definitions, and how to form, manage and sustain collaborative efforts. This may also include designing, implementing or providing training in Technical & Knowledge Tools such as finance and fundraising, legal, regulation & policy information, nonprofit & executive director training.

F. Team Fellowship Requirements
<u>NOTE: Team Fellows must attend ALL activities.</u> If you cannot commit to these activities, timeframes, and/or deliverables, please understand that this is not the right program for you.

1. Activities
These activities are designed to grow the overall collaborative conservation program at CSU and elsewhere, and enhance the engagement, teaching and learning of all fellows.

a) **Reception and Retreat**: Attend the Cohort 9 official Fellows Reception and Retreat (early March 2018- dates TBA). The reception welcomes the new fellows and you have a chance to introduce your project. The retreat is 2.5- 3 days of training in the skills and tools of collaborative conservation that you can use for your fellows project. Collaborators are welcome and encouraged to attend!

b) **Cohort Meetings**: Meet 3-4 times per year from April 2018 through October 2019 with other fellows and CCC staff to discuss your project as well as topical issues in collaborative conservation. Each team will be the leaders for a meeting and set the agenda (video conferencing will be available if not physically located near Fort Collins).

c) **Mentorship:** Assist other fellows as mentors and colleagues with the challenges they face.

d) **Education**: Contribute to short courses, classes, and/or trainings in collaborative conservation that are hosted by the CCC (dates TBD). May do so remotely.

e) **Support the CCC**: Continue engagement with the CCC beyond the term of the fellowship. Fellows will be welcome to attend CCC activities that occur after the fellow's own cohort term ends. Such activities may include participating on future fellowship review panels, acting as trainers for future retreats or short courses, contributing to CCC blogs, attending CCC social / partnership / networking functions, participating in CCC conferences, workshops and/or special events.

2. Deliverables

Teams are **<u>required</u>** to produce the following deliverables**:**

- **Quarterly Products:** If these items are not turned in, funding or reimbursements may be withheld until they are turned in.
  - o **Blog posts:** Each team is required to <u>produce at least one blog post for the CCC website every three months </u>on the progress, challenges, lessons learned and successes of their projects. Blogs must include high quality photos of the project.

  - o **Journal notes:** Turn in <u>journal notes and high quality project photos every three months</u>. Journals must address the questions from the final report so when it comes time to do the Fellows Final Report, all the notes will be in one place.
- **Final Products:** These items can be turned in at the end of your fellowship in December 2019. However, the creation of these products should take place throughout your entire fellowship to ensure comprehensive reporting of your experience.
  - o **Storytelling Video/Film:** Tell the story of your fellowship project in a format that any audience can understand. Be creative. Show your field sites, do some interviews with community members or partners, but be sure to include the following requirements:
    - ▪ talk about the objectives of your project,
    - ▪ why the project is collaborative - and who you collaborated with and why,
    - ▪ any challenges and/or successes you have had,
    - ▪ lessons you have learned *about collaboration* while conducting the project, and
    - ▪ how your project is benefitting *both* people and the environment.

**Videos are due NO LATER than December 15, 2019. Do NOT wait until the end of the fellowship to get started. Start filming and story boarding from the beginning. CCC will provide some training on this.

  - o **Research product:** at least one research product. Examples of research products are: conference presentations, publishable manuscripts, models, case studies, etc.
  - o **Practical products**: At least two practical products that communities want and/or can use. These might include training guides, handbooks, films documenting lessons learned from a collaborative, policy briefs for policy makers, workshop agendas and notes, digital and non- digital maps, community reports, etc.
  - o **Undergraduate products**: Undergraduate students are required to submit <u>at least three blogs and a written report</u> to the CCC about their fellowship experiences and what they are learning. Other products such as video documentation of their project role are welcome as well.

These products will be shared on the CCC's website. **ALL products are due NO LATER than December 15, 2019.**

- **Final Project and Program Evaluations**
  - o **Final Project Report:** Team Fellows must complete a standard report of the team's project **before January 1, 2020.** These reports help the CCC to quantify the impact of the team project on conservation and livelihoods in the project area, and to the field of collaborative conservation as a whole. Report guidelines will be given to fellows at the start of the fellowship and several times throughout the fellowship.
  - o **Fellows Program Evaluation:** Team fellows are required to fill out a CCC program evaluation form to evaluate the Fellows Program as a whole and offer suggestions for improvement. These evaluations are used to improve the program. Evaluation guidelines will be sent to the fellows in early fall, 2019 and are due **before January 1, 2020.**

G. Application Package

Completed applications should be sent to Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org before midnight MST, Wednesday, November 1, 2017

(NOTE: The CCC Fellows webpage also contains a "Frequently Asked Questions" document. All other questions should be directed to Kim Skyelander, CCC Associate Director, at Kim.Skyelander@colostate.edu but Do NOT send applications to this address).

Instructions

The fellowship proposal must address each section listed below to be considered for review.

Use a 12 point font, single-spaced, with 1 inch margins for all materials except the CV/resumes.

Please submit the proposal, budget template, and the CV/resumes ALL together as a single PDF document. **Separate Word or PDF documents will *not* be accepted.**

Note: PDF naming conventions should follow
"Lastname- Firstname_Team _Application" (Skyelander-Kim_Team_Application)

Sections

1. **Summary of the fellowship, 3/4 page maximum**
   This must contain:
   a) the title of your project,
   b) names of team fellows, their titles and affiliations
   b) names of all your collaborators-
            their titles and affiliations, and
            their **specific roles i**n the project,
   c) where the project is located,
   d) what the project is about
   e) project outcomes for conservation and livelihoods

Summaries will be used for the news release, for the CCC webpage, and other program publicity, so please *write them for a lay audienc*e.

NOTE: You <u>must</u> include items a-e above in your summary or your application will NOT be considered.

2. **Overall description of the fellowship, 2.5 pages maximum, including the questions above**

   A statement of what you will do during the fellowship, and how this will raise the level of your engagement with any of the following: faculty and students at CSU, landowners, land users and land managers, community members, government agencies, the private sector, tribal nations or other stakeholders.

   If the proposed work will form part of a larger research project, or build on or enhance an existing program, part of this description should provide a short background and explain how the proposed work fits into the bigger picture.

   Also include how you will *communicate your findings* to stakeholders, communities, and other publics. Be specific.

3. **Potential for impact in the geographic location of the project, 1 page maximum**
   You must describe how your proposed work will: 1) engage stakeholders in the project location, and 2) describe the anticipated short-term and long-term outputs/outcomes of your project for BOTH conservation and livelihood issues.

4. **Measuring project success, ½ page maximum**
   Describe how you will measure or determine the success of your project. How will you know if you meet your goals?

5. **Potential for impact on your team, the fellows program, the CCC, and the greater collaborative conservation-oriented community, ½ page maximum**
   You must describe how your proposed work will contribute to: your teams professional and personal growth, the fellows program specifically, the CCC, and the goals of the collaborative conservation community more generally.

6. **Fellowship products. ½ page maximum**
   A specific description of the expected products of the fellowship (see the E2-Deliverables section).

7. **Information on collaborators who will be working with your team, ½ page maximum**
   <u>List the names, titles, affiliations, emails, and SPECIFIC roles of people</u> whom you will collaborate with during the fellowship project. These may be community members, other practitioners, other CSU people, non-profits, businesses, government representatives, etc. (NOTE: The panel that reviews the team fellowship applications may speak with these collaborators about their

involvement in your proposed work).

8. **Budget statement (½ page of text) plus the budget template**
This statement should include a *description* of how you plan to use the funds in the team fellowship and *general justification* of these expenditures. (If the proposed work will form part of a larger project, <u>an explanation of funding already received</u> and a justification for these additional funds should be given).

You must also fill in the budget template on the CCC webpage http://www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows) under application materials.

Categories should include:
   o **Salary/stipend** (can be used for local collaborators or a local person to help with the project, for the applicants themselves, a student helper, etc.)
   o **Services** (meeting expenses, publications, translation, etc.)
   o **Supplies** (supplies and equipment; NOTE: we do *not* fund computer type equipment)

   o **Travel** (local and international, including food, accommodation and transport). *If travel is planned for more than one trip or more than one person, please give details that explain this.*
   o **Other** if needed.

<u>NOTE :</u> You <u>must</u> use all of your funding **by the end of the fellowship, January 15, 2020**.

9. **A current CV or resume for *each* team fellow (3 page maximum each person)**
Individual formats are acceptable, but please keep font size appropriate and lists (publications, awards, etc.) *brief and relevant* to the proposed fellowship project.

H. Accountability
Upon acceptance of the fellowship, you will be required to sign a contract saying you will submit the required products by the due dates (exceptions will only be granted on a case by case basis - we realize not everything goes according to plan). The CCC reserves the right to withhold final fellowship funds until these products are turned in.

I. Evaluation of Applications

**For a list of application evaluation criteria, please see the "Criteria for Evaluating All Fellows Applications" on the CCC Fellows webpage, under Application Materials.