

### **LACA Professional Development Scholarship 2015**

The Latin American and Caribbean (LACA) section of the Society for Conservation Biology is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for 2015 that is available to graduate students working in the Latin American and Caribbean region. We will be offering four competitive scholarships of \$2,000 each to provide support for emerging conservation professionals to address costs associated with the attendance of the 27th International Conference on Conservation Biology (ICCB) and the presentation of their work.

#### **Rationale:**

The most pressing issues with respect to the conservation of the world's biodiversity lie outside the boundaries of westernized nations and include Latin America and the Caribbean. Universities and colleges across most of the LACA membership region do not currently have adequate support for the professional development of their emerging conservation professionals. In particular, greater support is needed for networking, the sharing of ideas, and learning from mentors, faculty, and fellow students, on a global stage. We hope this scholarship opportunity is a small, first step of several toward increasing support for Latin America's most creative, innovative, and dedicated conservation graduate students, so they may attend SCB's International Conference in Conservation Biology, the world's premier conservation congress.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

To be eligible, students must: (1) be a member in good standing of the Society for Conservation Biology, (2) be a member of SCB's LACA section, (3) be a native citizen of a Latin American or Caribbean nation (i.e., countries and territories of the Americas excluding the United States, Canada, and Greenland), (4) be enrolled in a graduate program at a University or College in a Latin American or Caribbean nation, (5) confirm that their abstract has been accepted by SCB for the 27<sup>th</sup> ICCB, (6) demonstrate financial need (i.e., why they currently don't have any financial support to attend the ICCB), and (7) use the scholarship exclusively to cover costs associated with ICCB attendance (e.g., airfare, lodging, student member registration, food, and local travel).

#### **Application Guidelines:**

Candidates working on topics of greatest importance to the mission of The Society for Conservation Biology will receive the highest consideration. Please submit the following materials by March 31:

- (1) Your abstract and confirmation of acceptance from the ICCB conference organizing committee
- (2) Statement/ Essay (1 page maximum, single spaced). Provide an overview as to why your work is important relative to existing studies, including how/why it is different, or what gap it is addressing. Also discuss how it is relevant to SCB's mission, and what you hope to accomplish across your career. Finally, please briefly discuss your financial need in this statement
- (3) Budget. Please include a budget table (MS Word) or description showing how all of the scholarship funds will be spent.
- (4) CV (3 page max, any format)
- (5) Proof of citizenship (e.g., copy of passport ID page)
- (6) Two letters of reference (one of which is required to be from your major professor or advisor; in the letter, your advisor should briefly state why these funds are needed in order for you to attend the ICCB)
- (7) Undergraduate and current graduate transcripts (2015) and GPA

After the ICCB, successful applicants will be required to furnish receipts for expenses these funds were used for up to the amount of the award. We expect this scholarship will be a recurring annual or bi-annual opportunity, and are proud to be the first SCB section to offer such an opportunity in support of further developing the careers of its graduate student members. We also hope to offer a similar opportunity to support attendance of future LACA regional section meetings, to be held during even years (opposite the ICCB) beginning in 2018. Starting in 2017, applicants will need to be members of the SCB in good standing for at least two consecutive years (international student rates apply) in order to be eligible for either scholarship.

All files must be in either MS Word, pdf, or jpeg format and saved as follows:

Please send all application materials as a single zip/ compressed file saved as the last name\_first initial(s) of the applicant (e.g., Rodriguez\_JRC) in a single email with the subject line "LACA SCHOLARSHIP" to:

Anthony J. Giordano, LACA Scholarship Committee

Email: [laca@conbio.org](mailto:laca@conbio.org)