

Travel/Study Grants - 2009

Growing out of a July 2008 JRS Trustees Zanzibar meeting with its grantees, it became clear the Foundation's grant recipients had a strong desire to contribute to, and learn from, each other's expertise and work. A subsequent follow-up survey of the meeting participants confirmed the interest in knowledge transfer site visits.

As a result, in January 2009 the Foundation invited its grantees from the first two rounds of funding to apply for cross-institution trips for 2 – 8 week visitation sessions to each other's organizations for learning transfer and development of inter-organization collaborations. The invitation noted that grants made via this new opportunity were expected to advance the level of biodiversity informatics by building capacity through training and knowledge transfer presently available at a colleague organization.

It was indicated that successful proposals would build partnerships that transfer learning to provide and refine available informatics tools that are already in use at a host organization. Proposals needed to describe how computer systems, tools, and applications could be used to more effectively collect, maintain, evaluate and disseminate biodiversity information that is currently being collected or that has previously been collected. Group training, to lower costs and build synergies, was encouraged if more than one entity sought to visit a particular host organization.

The RFP specified training needed to be completed no later than December 31, 2009 and a final narrative and financial report submitted to the Foundation no later than one month after completion of training. Foundation grant awards were for training not to go beyond 3 months in duration.

In April 2009, the Foundation decided to fund seven organizations.

	Grant
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment	11,340
African Conservation Fund	9,000
Botanical Gardens Conservation International	18,357
Centro de Referência em Informação Ambiental	5,000
National Institute of Biodiversity of Costa Rica	20,000
University of Cape Town	9,692
Wildlife Conservation Network - Save the Elephants	6,250
TOTAL	\$ 79,639