

MacArthur Foundation

Grant Guidelines

Conservation and Sustainable Development Watersheds of the Tropical Andes

Request for Letters of Inquiry for the Tropical Andes Regionwide 2016

The MacArthur Foundation's Conservation and Sustainable Development program invites letters of inquiry for conservation projects across the Tropical Andes. The objective of the Foundation's investment in the tropical Andes, Choco and western Amazon program area is to reduce current rates of biodiversity and natural habitat loss and sustain the ecosystem services that underpin human well being.

We seek proposals that have regionwide impact or influence in *at least two* of the four focal countries for the Tropical Andes: Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia. Projects should enhance enabling conditions for conservation and improved management of the priority watersheds identified in the Watersheds of the Andes strategy. These watersheds and a map are appended to the end of these guidelines.

For the purposes of this call, we define enabling conditions as:

- better knowledge of ecological conditions and emerging threats,¹
- supportive policies and appropriate enforcement of applicable laws,
- enhanced capacity for management and advocacy,
- new and improved incentives and resource streams for conservation and wise management, and
- positive and informed perception of biodiversity and watershed conservation by decision makers and the public.

We expect successful proposals to be complementary to existing grants in the northern and southern tropical Andes portfolios that support conservation efforts in particular priority watersheds. Please clearly indicate in your letter of inquiry how your project will enhance the enabling conditions necessary for conservation and improved management of priority watersheds, and why now is the best time for this effort.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Demonstrate effective partnerships with national and local organizations, including sub-grant arrangements;
- Emphasize institutional capacity and exchange with civil society in Ecuador and Bolivia;

¹ Please note that per the Management Response to the mid-term evaluation of the current grantmaking strategy, we will prioritize research and science that are that exhibits good design, support from stakeholders, and rationale for success informing particular decisions or policies.

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- Increase understanding and capacity to respond to emerging threats and opportunities (e.g., agroindustrial expansion, policy changes, drought and fire, poorly planned infrastructure);
- Explicitly target freshwater biodiversity, services, and fisheries, including conservation of páramos and coastal waters;
- Address practical steps to respond to the challenges of climate change and foster ecosystem resilience; and,
- Support conservation and resource rights on lands managed by indigenous communities.

Final decisions will be based on the quality of the proposal, responsiveness to strategy and guidance, and potential for impact.

Application Process

Grants under this call will be made for 1-3 years. Administrative costs or “overhead” will need to be limited to 15% of the total grant budget. A detailed budget and work plan will be required in the full proposal for accepted letters of inquiry.

Please submit *only one* letter of inquiry per organization to the online portal: www.regionwideandes2016.fluidreview.com. Inquiries will be accepted only through the designated online [portal](#); any sent by email or post will not be considered. Applicants will need to create a login and password for the site in order to access the application form. You may save your work and return to edit your application within the application window. Should you experience any technical difficulties with the website, please email Support@fluidreview.com for technical assistance. Direct assistance will be available within 24 hours of your request.

The online application includes two primary sections: Applicant Organization and Letter of Inquiry. The application questions for the letter of inquiry are listed below. Please follow word limits for each section. All proposals must be written in English.

Letter of inquiry:

1. Proposed project title
2. Describe your project proposal. (*limit 450 words*)
3. Which countries are included? Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Other (*fill in the blank*)
4. How does this project enhance the enabling conditions for improved watershed management and/or conservation in MacArthur’s priority watersheds? (*limit 200 words*)
5. Why is now the time to engage in this proposed project? (*limit 200 words*)
6. Why is your organization the most appropriate implementer of this project? (*limit 150 words*)
7. Would this project include partnerships with local or national organizations? Yes/No. If so, which ones and how (e.g., beneficiaries, sub-grantee, co-funder)? (*limit 150 words*)

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8. What is the anticipated budget expenditure to execute this proposed project? How much are you requesting from MacArthur at this time?
9. What is the time period for the proposed project in number of months? (*e.g.*, 24)
10. Is this a proposal to renew support for an existing project supported by MacArthur? Yes/No
11. Additional relevant information (*free response field; limit 150 words*)

Please note that we expect more than 100 applications to be submitted, while we have resources available to support only about a dozen projects. Communication with applicants about the application process will be limited as a result of time and human resource constraints. Proposals may be shared with other institutional supporters of conservation in the Andes-Amazon for feedback and review.

Deadlines

The deadline for all letters of inquiry is **May 2, 2016**. Final decisions for LOIs will be communicated by email on June 6, 2016. The deadline for full proposals is July 4, 2016. Final decisions regarding approval of invited proposals will be made by September 15, 2016.

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Disclaimer

Nothing herein represents a commitment by the MacArthur Foundation to award any grant to any entity participating in, responding to, or submitting subsequent information in response to this invitation to submit a proposal for funding. Any grant commitment will be evidenced by a grant agreement signed by authorized representatives of the Foundation and the grantee.

The Foundation reserves the right to terminate, alter, or suspend this process at any time. By submitting an application or information pursuant to this invitation to submit a proposal for funding each applicant shall be deemed to have acknowledged that the Foundation shall have no obligation to make any grant and shall have no liability to any applicant or other person or entity should it determine not to proceed with this process or not to make any grants or program-related investments. It is further understood that any grant that may be considered pursuant to this process must satisfy certain legal criteria in the sole discretion of the Foundation.

All information and applications submitted to the Foundation shall become the property of the Foundation. Information submitted by applicants may be shared with third parties engaged to assist the Foundation with the selection process for these awards. The Foundation may also use such information for its internal purposes or in connection with outside studies or research or with respect to other charitable purposes. The Foundation will not use any information for commercial purposes or sell the information to third parties. Should an applicant's project be funded, the Foundation reserves the right to post for viewing by the general public the project Abstract, the description of the project design and methodology, and the size of the total grant award with the general public. Detailed budget information will not be made public.

Any grant awarded will be subject to the Foundation's policy on intellectual property which is available on the Foundation's [website](#). In general, the Foundation's policy is to ensure that grant work product furthers charitable purposes and benefits the public. To that end, the Foundation seeks prompt and broad dissemination of the grant work products at little or minimal cost or, when justified as described generally in the policy, at a reasonable cost.

The Foundation also encourages openness in research and freedom of access to underlying data by persons with a serious interest in the research. The Foundation recognizes there may be circumstances where limited or delayed dissemination of grant work product or limited access to data may be appropriate to protect legitimate interests of the grantee, other funders, principal investigators or participants in research studies. Such circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

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The priority watersheds for the Watersheds of the Andes strategy are the:

- Madre de Dios-Beni watersheds of Peru and Bolivia
- Ucayali watershed of Peru
- Marañón watershed of Ecuador and Peru
- Napo watershed of Ecuador
- Caquetá watershed of Colombia
- Atrato watershed of Colombia, including the coastal waters
- Mira watershed of Ecuador and Colombia, including the coastal waters
- Magdalena-Cauca watersheds of Colombia



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