



EDGE Fellows Programme

The EDGE of Existence programme is working to secure the future of EDGE species by helping to build conservation capacity in regions in which they occur. Our Fellowship programme provides structured training to early-career conservation biologists to undertake an applied research or conservation project on a local EDGE species. EDGE Fellowships thus help individuals to develop their own conservation skill set while at the same time ensuring that some of the world's most remarkable species are no longer overlooked.

Each EDGE Fellow is provided with training, mentoring, financial and technical support to carry out a two-year project on an EDGE species. Fellows receive a grant of up to £5,000 per year, plus the opportunity to attend regional training courses, undertake online modules in relevant topics and receive one-to-one support from a scientific advisor based at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) or partner organisation.

Eligibility

- The applicant's project must focus on a [mammal](#), [amphibian](#) or [coral](#) EDGE or ED-DD species.
- Priority will be given to projects focusing on:
 - top 100 EDGE [mammals](#) and [amphibians](#) and top 10 focal EDGE [corals](#).
 - top 10 potential EDGE [mammals](#), [amphibians](#) and [corals](#) (ED-DD).
 - species where limited research has been done and/or that currently receive little or no conservation attention.
- Fellowships are aimed at early-career conservation biologists or wildlife managers. No formal qualifications are required but preference will be given to candidates with an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject or equivalent experience.
- Applicants can be from any country, though applications are favoured from areas where conservation capacity is most needed and where support is most likely to have a large impact. Projects in developed countries are, therefore, unlikely to be funded.
- Priority is given to nationals and residents of the country in which the proposed focal species occurs.
- EDGE Fellowships are awarded for two-year projects.
- Projects should fit into the following categories: (1) applied research and conservation planning; (2) implementation of recommended conservation actions.
- Support should be provided to the applicant from an in-country supervisor, for example a university project supervisor, or senior colleague or associate.
- Individuals should be able to communicate in English. If the applicant is not a native English speaker, they must provide evidence that their English skills meet the minimum requirements (IELTS score 7.0, or TOEFL score 600, or internet based TOEFL score 100, or Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English grade C, or equivalent).
- Individuals should be computer literate.

In addition, those applying for a project that involves diving should:

- Hold a PADI Open water SCUBA Diving qualification or the equivalent.
- Have at least 25 dives logged and have dived within the last two years.
- Have passed a dive medical in the last two years.



Grant

EDGE Fellows are awarded a total grant of up to £10,000 for their two-year project.

The grant is given in four instalments, each of £2,500. The first instalment will be released on successful completion of the 4-week training course and the necessary paperwork (approximately November-December 2012). All subsequent payments will be released at six month intervals, on completion of the necessary reporting requirements.

Training Programme

We aim to commence Fellowships in October/November with a four-week *Conservation Tools* training course in a ZSL hub country (most likely Kenya). The course will provide Fellows with training in field techniques and equip them with the tools to plan and implement their own conservation projects. Fellows are expected to complete a number of online modules from August to October to ensure they are fully prepared for the training course.

Technical support and mentoring for the remainder of the two-year Fellowship is provided via further online modules, remote tutorials and seminars, and field visits from ZSL conservation biologists

On successful completion of their Fellowships, Fellows have the opportunity to attend a fully-funded two-week training course at ZSL to receive further training in conservation leadership, as well as network with UK conservation biologists and meet each other once again.

Application and Review Procedures

The application form and guidelines are available to download on the EDGE of Existence website (www.edgeofexistence.org) or can be requested from the EDGE Fellows co-ordinator (fellows@edgeofexistence.org).

The next application deadline is **31st May 2012**. We strongly encourage applicants to discuss their projects with us before applying, and are happy to give feedback on a draft of the application before the deadline.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts. Successful applicants will be announced **by August 2012**.

