

ZSL's EDGE Fellowship 2016

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)'s EDGE of Existence programme identifies, highlights and conserves the world's most irreplaceable threatened species. The vast majority of these species were overlooked by the global conservation movement until the EDGE programme was established in 2007. One of the key ways in which EDGE is addressing this is by building grass roots conservation capacity for EDGE species conservation where it is most needed. Our comprehensive two-year Fellowship programme provides funding, training, mentoring and a support network to promising early-career conservationists to carry out applied research or conservation on a local poorly-known EDGE species. On successful completion of our Fellowship programme, EDGE Fellows will not only have made a tangible difference to their target species, but will also be equipped with the skills, knowledge and networks essential for becoming a future conservation leader.

The EDGE Fellowship programme is much more than just a source of funding and as such we require a greater degree of commitment than most grant-giving organisations. In addition to receiving a grant of up to £5,000 per year, EDGE Fellows attend two regional training courses; undertake online modules in relevant topics; and receive one-to-one support from a scientific advisor based at ZSL or a partner organisation. Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear need for **all** elements of the EDGE Fellowship programme as well as a high level of commitment to the programme.

Eligibility

- The applicant's project must focus on a mammal, amphibian, bird or coral EDGE or ED-DD species. [Click here for a list of eligible species.](#)
- Priority will be given to projects focusing on EDGE species where limited research has been done and/or that currently receive little or no conservation attention.
- Fellowships are aimed at early-career (less than 10 years' experience) 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.
- Applications are strongly 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 unlikely to be funded.
- Applicants should be nationals and/or residents of the country in which the proposed focal species occurs. If you live in the country where your project will take place, but are not a national of that country, you must demonstrate that you are able to remain in the country and have a long-term commitment to conservation in that country.

- EDGE Fellowships are awarded for two-year projects and are non-transferrable (i.e. the potential fellow must be able to commit to the project for the entire 2-year duration).
- Projects should fit into the following categories: (1) applied research and conservation planning; (2) implementation of recommended conservation actions. EDGE fellowships include a component of ecological research and data collection and a component of social research and outreach/education; we therefore look for both components in a successful application.
- Support must be provided to the applicant from an in-country supervisor, for example a university project supervisor, or senior colleague or associate. The in-country supervisor will be in regular contact with the EDGE team.
- 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 must be computer literate and able to use basic Microsoft packages (Word, Excel and PowerPoint).

Training Programme

Provisional Fellowships, including a fully-funded place on a four-week Conservation Tools training course, are awarded in August 2016. **Awardees must attend and pass the Conservation Tools training course in order to receive the full Fellowship.** The course will be held at some point between November 2016 and February 2017 (TBD), and provides comprehensive training in conservation project planning, data collection and analysis, fundraising, communication and community-based conservation. [Click here to view a slideshow of the 2016 training course in the Philippines](#)

Technical support and mentoring for the remainder of the two-year Fellowship is provided via a series of online modules, remote tutorials and seminars, and a field visits from ZSL conservation biologists (field visits are dependent on available funding).

Eighteen months into their Fellowships individuals attend a fully-funded two-week training course at the ZSL headquarters in London. This course provides further training in conservation leadership and advice on scaling up their projects as well as an opportunity to network with UK conservation biologists and meet each other once again.

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 including ethical approval. All subsequent payments will be released at six month intervals, on completion of the necessary reporting requirements.

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).

PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES BEFORE COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

The EDGE Fellowship application deadline is **15th June 2016**. We strongly encourage applicants to discuss their projects with us before submitting their application, and are happy to give feedback on a draft of the application if provided with plenty of notice and at least 3 weeks before the deadline.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts. Successful applicants will be announced **in August 2016**.

