

# ASSOCIATION FOR TROPICAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

## NAVJOT SODHI CONSERVATION RESEARCH AWARD

**A \$1000 award to enhance, expand, or add a new dimension to an ongoing project that directly contributes to conservation in tropical systems.**

### Call for Applications

In remembrance and recognition of the important contributions of [Navjot Sodhi](#), a Professor of Conservation Ecology at the National University of Singapore who inspired many students and colleagues to work for the conservation of tropical biodiversity, the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) presents the Navjot Sodhi Conservation Research Award to a student from a developing country conducting research in tropical conservation biology. Read about the exciting contributions of previous recipients of the Sodhi award [here](#).

#### 1) Award

The Navjot Sodhi award is a \$1000 award to a researcher conducting research in tropical biodiversity conservation. The funds provided by the award are to be used for research-related expenses to **enhance, expand, or add a new dimension to an ongoing project that directly contributes to conservation in tropical systems**. Applicants who are doctoral students should carefully consider whether their research is more suitable to the ATBC Seed Grant or to the Navjot Sodhi Conservation Research Award by reviewing the application requirements and evaluation criteria. New and preliminary studies are more suited to the Seed Grant program, whereas ongoing projects with a strong conservation focus are better suited to the Sodhi Award.

#### 2) Call for Applications

A call for applications is made annually through the ATBC webpage and distributed by social-media and e-mail through the ATBC newsletter to all ATBC members.

#### 3) Selection Committee

The recipient of the Navjot Sodhi Award is selected by the ATBC Grants and Awards Committee.

#### 4) Application and Award Process

- i) Call for applications made by March each year.
- ii) Applications are submitted by uploading all the requested information in the Sodhi Award web-based application form available through the ATBC User Account.
- iii) The winner is notified via email, and the announcement of the winner is made around June each year through the ATBC Newsletter, website, and social media.
- iv) The awardee is recognized at the ATBC Annual Meeting in that year.
- v) Award money is released to the recipient by July of that year.

## 5) Guidelines

### Eligibility:

Applicants must be ATBC members **at the time of the application deadline** and nationals of a tropical developing country, conducting research that directly contributes to biodiversity conservation within the tropics. Applicants may temporarily reside in other countries. All individuals who are currently graduate students (M.S. or Ph.D.) or have been graduate students within the previous 12 months of the application deadline are eligible. Applicants are only eligible to receive one Sodhi Award. If you are not already an ATBC member and would like to be considered for the Sodhi Award, you can join [here](#).

### Application Requirements:

- i) Completed **Application Form** with name, nationality, current academic and/or employment status, project title, project location, and listing of names and affiliations of local collaborators on the project (if any).
- ii) A **Proposal** consisting of two named sections: (1) *Project Description* (300-500 words): a description of the ongoing conservation project, including a summary of the accomplishments to date and (2) *Project Improvement Proposal* (300-500 words): a proposal for enhancing, expanding, or adding a new dimension to the ongoing project, including a specific description of how this improvement would advance tropical biodiversity conservation and how Sodhi Award funds would be used. **Please note:** The Project Description section should not be written as a proposal - it should describe **past** accomplishments of an **ongoing** project specifically designed to address conservation issues. The proposed work should instead be described in the Project Improvement Proposal.
- iii) An optional **Literature Cited** section, not to exceed one page.
- iv) A 1-page **Budget and Budget Justification** including an itemized list of proposed expenses and a brief justification of how each expense contributes to and is required to conduct the proposed activities.
- v) A 2-page **Curriculum Vitae**. Please do not include personal information, such as marital status, identity card numbers, or photos.
- vi) A **Letter of Reference** from the major academic advisor of the applicant, verifying the eligibility (graduate student or graduate student within the past 12 months) and explaining the applicant's academic accomplishments, research potential, and suitability for the award according to the criteria below.

**Please note:** The entire application including the letter of reference must be received before the deadline. Applicants are therefore encouraged to start their application, fill in the information concerning the name and email address of the letter-writer (please double-check that these are correct), and provisionally submit it by pressing the submit button, even if the application is not yet finished. This is because the application must be provisionally submitted in order for the letter writer to be emailed a link to upload their letter, which will then be merged with the

appropriate application. Applicants can still modify their application up until the deadline date, even after they have already pressed the submit button. So, it is a good idea for applicants to start and submit their application as soon as possible so that the letter-writer has time to upload the letter before the deadline.

- vii) All application materials must be written in the English language.

**Submission Instructions:**

- i) The online application form should be completed in full; access the application [here](#).
- ii) Document numbers (ii)-(iv) listed above in the Application Requirements, should be combined in one single PDF file.
- iii) The letter of support should be uploaded by the student's graduate advisor or collaborator in a separate form that will be sent after the student's application has been submitted.

**Selection Criteria:**

Proposals should clearly describe an **ongoing project** directly addressing conservation in tropical systems and should describe new enhancements, improvements, or expansions of the project that funding from the Sodhi Award would make possible, with specifics about the conservation goals, activities, methods, and outcomes. How the Sodhi award would improve the project must be clearly described. The proposal should demonstrate high potential impact on conservation and/or the conservation research community. The applicant should have demonstrated past accomplishments in conservation biology, as exemplified by publications, presentations, reports, or other evidence of conservation-related engagement, and these can be detailed in the curriculum vitae, project description, and/or letter of recommendation.

**Post-award Requirements:**

The awardee is required to submit a one-page summary of the activities and project results supported by the award within two years after receiving the award. The summary will be edited and made available publicly through the ATBC website. Any publication resulting from the research supported wholly or in-part by the award should acknowledge the "Navjot Sodhi Conservation Research Award from the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation."

**Deadline for all application materials: April 12, 2024 (5 am GMT)**

**Questions should be directed to:** Imma Oliveras ([imma.oliverasmenor@ird.fr](mailto:imma.oliverasmenor@ird.fr)), Chair of the 2024 ATBC Grants and Awards Committee, with the subject "ATBC Sodhi Question".