



# CSF's Fellowship Program

Presented by Conservation Strategy Fund's Numbers for Nature Training Institute

4317894782190412890478901238593719081734789012385937190817347890

## OVERVIEW

CSF's Fellowship Programs support emerging conservation researchers and practitioners by mentoring them through applied analysis projects that use economic and financial tools for conservation. With technical support from CSF and partner organizations, Fellows develop strong skills in research design, field data collection, statistical methods and software, and effective communication of results. The program produces policy-relevant, technically rigorous research while expanding the global pool of conservation professionals with solid economic expertise.

To date, the program has trained over **80** researchers from Indonesia, the Pacific Islands, and the Tropical Amazon Andes region.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop applied research skills in economics and finance for conservation.
- Produce science-based, policy-relevant evidence to support conservation strategies.
- Strengthen leadership and professional capacity among emerging conservation professionals.
- Enhance communication of research findings to decision-makers and stakeholders.



Pacific Ocean Finance Fellows, 2019

## EXAMPLE TOPICS

Research topics are selected through stakeholder consultations and donor priorities, and are aligned with program goals and regional conservation needs:

- Economic and financial feasibility studies
- Valuation of ecosystem services or natural capital
- Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of conservation and development interventions
- Economic incentives and institutional arrangements=
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g., REDD+ transaction and implementation costs)
- Financial sustainability of protected and conserved areas
- Policy and market instruments for conservation

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE & METHODOLOGY

### Preparation (3-6 months)

Priority regions and topics, timelines, objectives, available funding, and the desired Fellow profile are set collaboratively. Research topics are selected through stakeholder consultations, with consideration to donor priorities, program goals, and regional conservation needs.

### Call for Proposals (1-2 months)

The program begins with a clear call for proposals shared across several communication channels. Applications are open for one to two months and proposals are reviewed through a three-round evaluation process.

### Mentor Assignments and Workshops (6-12 months)

Each Fellow is matched with a mentor for hands-on guidance throughout the process, including proposal refinement, fieldwork design, data collection and analysis, and results communication to ensure that research outputs are practical, high-quality, and replicable. Fellows also take part in a series of workshops focused on advancing their research and strengthening individual and collective capacities.

### Research Dissemination (3-6 months)

Research outputs are shared through the CSF Technical Series, peer-reviewed journals, stakeholder presentations, and engagement with local communities. When appropriate, final reports approved by mentors undergo external peer review.

## FROM PAST FELLOWS

“Useful, insightful, innovative, memorable! Professionally, I have gained invaluable tools to better apply the additional lens that is ‘finance’ to improve assessment of the viability of projects long term. Personally, I have gained an amazing network of mentors and friends, that in itself is the most value as we will continue to improve on our tools and better contextualise them to our region's needs and capacities.”

- **Danita Strickland. Pacific Ocean Fellowship Program**

“I am honored and grateful for CSF. Hopefully my research will help to solve real-life problems within Fisheries Management Area 711 specifically, in the Riau Islands.”

- **Ani Suryanti. Indonesia Fellowship Program**

“In my field of work, one is always very focused on one's project, on one's scientific circle, but the CSF fellowship programme forced me to communicate with different professionals, from various fields linked to conservation, with different perspectives, and I had to learn to adapt my language in order to communicate my project. That was a personal learning experience that gave me greater confidence in interacting with different groups of people.”

- **Janeth Lessmann. Andes Amazon Fellowship Program**