

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, Fall 2014

Gabon-Oregon Center Background Information

The Gabon-Oregon Transnational Research Center on Environment and Development (or GOC, for short), developed under the University of Oregon's Global Studies Institute (gsi.uoregon.edu), is a new kind of North-South partnership to promote research, training and community outreach on many aspects of sustainable development. For more information on the Center, see <http://goc.uoregon.edu>.

The Center's mission is to develop collaborative research, education, and public outreach partnerships that link scholars, students, and practitioners in Gabon and Oregon (along with other US and global partners) to address the urgent sustainable development challenges and opportunities facing both Gabon, and through comparative analysis, societies that confront or have addressed similar challenges. The Center seeks to apply scientific understanding, formal training, and public service to global-scale sustainable development dilemmas, while maintaining a local focus on the advancement of human well being for the citizens of Gabon and Oregon.

The Gabon-Oregon Center Seed Grants

The Gabon-Oregon Center will offer seed grants (up to \$15,000) to teams of scholars, researchers, and practitioners from Gabon and Oregon who wish to explore environment, public health, education, and development issues salient for Gabon or for countries facing similar challenges.

These competitive grants are designed to help binational teams engage in preliminary research and develop full proposals, which can in turn be directed to other foundations and institutions, including the Gabon-Oregon Center. The Center encourages proposals that are judged likely to significantly advance its goals and purpose and have broad applicability beyond the submitting institution. We are looking for evidence of expertise of the principal investigators, willingness to work with Gabonese and Oregon partners, plans for sustaining program funding, and unique projects. We will be accepting proposals that reflect GOC values: a belief that both Gabon and Oregon have intellectual experience and solutions to offer in the area of sustainable development. We are not a development organization, but rather a truly binational research and educational center working on a set of overarching themes for the benefit of our two societies. The GOC is eager to work with applicants to develop the most effective proposals in response to this call.

It is critically important that U.S. applicants have already identified a Gabonese partner or are willing to work with the Center to identify such a partner. If the latter, final approval of the Seed Grant will be contingent on identification and partnership with Gabonese partner(s).

Seed Grants will cover the following activities:

- Travel costs
- Lodging
- Meetings
- Preliminary research
- Travel of Gabonese counterparts to Oregon as appropriate
- Other relevant costs, as deemed appropriate by the proposal review committee

Deadline

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. The proposal review committee will meet once each academic term (in Week 10 of each term) to judge proposals received to date. The committee will be made up of two faculty members and one outside practitioner, all with expertise pertinent to the GOC mission. The GOC Executive Director (Oregon) will serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

General inquiries can be directed to Maryne Shephard, Program Assistant, e-mail: marynes@uoregon.edu

Eligibility

- Successful proposals will focus on advancing sustainable development, public health programs, education and environmental management or conservation in Gabon and societies facing similar challenges. (GOC staff both in Oregon and Gabon will work with applicants to provide context and overall guidance on Gabon and on the range of potential partners in the country.)
- Principal Investigators applying for a research grant must have an appropriate, advanced degree in an academic discipline or professional field and must be affiliated with a college, university, research facility or cultural institution.
- Newly launched programs: seed grants fund projects at the very beginning of their existence to help recipients attract larger and/or long-term funding for the duration of the program.
- Joint research teams: research teams are expected to include faculty and possibly graduate students from institutions in Gabon and Oregon. Institutions include schools, colleges and universities, as well as other not-for-profit organizations, such as scientific organizations, museums, etc.
- Gabonese partners may include faculty from higher education, research and training institutions, government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. For information on Gabonese partners and the types of organizations who have been or

currently are involved in projects with the Gabon-Oregon Center, please contact GOC Executive Director (Oregon), Eric Benjaminson, at <ebenjam2@uoregon.edu.>

- Preference will be given to projects whose Principal Investigator is either associated with a Gabonese institution or with the Oregon African Studies Consortium, which links five campuses in Oregon (University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Oregon Health & Science University, and Willamette University) in collaboration on training, research and outreach related to Africa.

Required

- Cover Page (Appendix A).
- Resumes, institutional affiliations, and contact information of project leaders.
- Description of the type of partners the GOC can help identify.
- Project description, including research plan and methodology, significance of work, brief background, and anticipated project outcomes, with emphasis on activities that utilize Center funds. Please highlight the significance of the work as it pertains to sustainable development, public health, education or environmental management/conservation in Gabon or in comparable locations. Maximum two pages for project description, not including works cited.
- Timeline of work to be done.
- Please clearly identify the main sustainability challenge, and how it relates to the Mission Statement of the Gabon-Oregon Center.
- Budget (no more than one page) showing funds requested from the Center and from other sources. Identify other potential grant and funding sources that will be potentially utilized. All costs should be proposed in U.S. dollars.
- Plan for follow-on funding, which identifies probable sources of funding to which PI and team will apply, and how seed funding from the GOC will support/enable such follow-on applications.

Review Process

All materials should be submitted together and attached to a single email as a .doc or .pdf file. File titles should include the name of the grant's principal investigator. Submit proposals electronically or by mail to:

Maryne Shephard
GOC Program Assistant
333 Oregon Hall
5209 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-5209
marynes@uoregon.edu

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

This form must be attached to your research proposal.

Project Title:

Proposal Submission Date:

Name(s) of principal investigator(s):

Institutional affiliation:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax:

E-mail:

Total funding amount requested from the Center: