

The Small Cat Action Fund

The Small Cat Action Fund (SCAF) is a grants program established by Panthera with the oversight of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. The fund is intended to support *in situ* conservation and research activities on the many small cat species.

SPECIES AND LOCATION

The SCAF supports work on the “small cats,” namely all species of the family Felidae excluding the genera *Panthera*, *Uncia*, *Neofelis*, *Acinonyx*, and the puma (*Puma concolor*). The following species are eligible for SCAF:

Caracal - *Caracal caracal*
Bay cat - *Catopuma badia*
Asian golden cat - *Catopuma temminckii*
Jungle cat - *Felis chaus*
Sand cat - *Felis margarita*
Black-footed cat - *Felis nigripes*
Wild cat - *Felis silvestris*
Jaguarundi - *Herpailurus yaguarondi*
Ocelot - *Leopardus pardalis*
Little spotted cat - *Leopardus tigrinus*
Margay - *Leopardus wiedii*
Serval - *Leptailurus serval*
Canada lynx - *Lynx canadensis*
Eurasian lynx - *Lynx lynx*
Spanish lynx - *Lynx pardinus*
Bobcat - *Lynx rufus*
Pampas cat - *Oncifelis colocolo*
Geoffroy's cat - *Oncifelis geoffroyi*
Kodkod - *Oncifelis guigna*
Andean mountain cat - *Oreailurus jacobita*
Pallas's cat - *Otocolobus manul*
Leopard cat - *Prionailurus bengalensis*
Flat-headed cat - *Prionailurus planiceps*
Rusty-spotted cat - *Prionailurus rubiginosus*
Fishing cat - *Prionailurus viverrinus*
African golden cat - *Profelis aurata*
Marbled cat - *Pardofelis marmorata*

Applicants whose proposed work includes any of the eight largest cat species along with one or more of the small cats should apply to the Kaplan Graduate Awards (if they are graduate students and otherwise eligible). If the project does not explicitly include those eight species (even if they occur in the area), the application should be made to the Small Cat Action Fund. There are no restrictions on location other than the presence of the target species in the wild.

BUDGET GUIDELINES

The amount of funding awarded varies, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year. Preference will be given to requests specifically for field conservation and research activities, including equipment, transportation, and local salaries. Panthera will consider salaries, per diems, and stipends for local field personnel only; we will not fund salaries for core administrative and management personnel.



Panthera will not consider large requests for expensive first world university tuition, except in exceptional cases where the applicants are nationals from developing countries and provide convincing rationales that the institutions will provide critical graduate training that is not available in their home country.

Panthera does not support conferences, travel to scientific meetings, legal actions, overhead costs, academic exchanges, or captive breeding.

GENETIC ANALYSIS

In partnership with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Panthera has developed the Global Felid Conservation Genetics Program. The program focuses on the molecular ecology of endangered felid populations and promotes, when preferable, the use of noninvasive sampling to understand genetic issues relevant to felid conservation. Applicants may apply to Panthera for genetic analysis funding, but the applicant must agree to process all genetic analysis through the AMNH.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Letters of Inquiry and applications are reviewed by Panthera staff and Panthera's Scientific Council as well as the joint chairs of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. Projects are evaluated in terms of the:

- Relevance to wild cat conservation
- Scientific merit & value

HOW TO APPLY

The application process opens with a call for Letters of Inquiry (LOIs). The LOI asks for the title and location of the proposed project, the target species, the project budget and the amount requested from Panthera, and an abstract of the project. Qualified students who submit LOIs for projects that appear to be a good fit for the program will be asked to submit a full application and supporting documents. Both LOIs and applications must be submitted through Panthera's grant management system, Foundant.

Applicants are only permitted to apply to one Panthera grant program per intake round. If you are seeking renewal for a previous grant, please contact us directly.

To apply online, visit www.panthera.org/grants.