

## IFS: Building Scientific Capacity in Developing Countries

IFS was founded in 1972 as an independent, non-governmental organisation with the mission to contribute to the strengthening of capacity in developing countries to conduct relevant and high quality research on the sustainable management of biological resources.



Through a careful selection process, IFS identifies, promising young scientists from developing countries and supports them in their early careers to help them become established and recognized nationally and internationally. Since it began funding activities in the early 1970s, IFS has supported some 3,500 scientists in 100 developing countries.

IFS relies on a broad network of world-renowned experts who provide an evaluation of the scientific and developmental value of all proposals. They provide suggestions on how proposals can be improved and this feedback is also passed on to unsuccessful applicants.



Recognising that science and technology capacity has not evolved in all developing countries to the same extent, IFS is now focusing its support on scientists in countries still lacking a solid base for national science and technology training. Targeted activities and strategic partnerships with key organisations in the South are included in this sub-regional approach.

### Research Fields Supported

Small grants and supporting services are provided for projects in areas such as agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, food science, natural products, and water resources, as well as for research on the sustainable utilisation and conservation of natural ecosystems. Proposals for projects may address biological, chemical, and physical processes, as well as social and economic relationships important in the conservation, production, and renewable utilisation of the biological resource base.

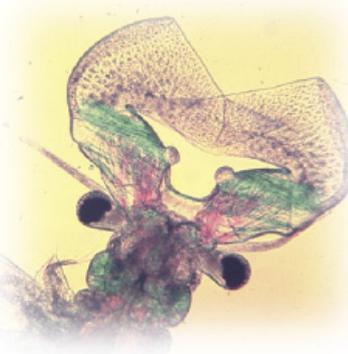


### Who Qualifies for Support

Applicants must be citizens of a developing country, under 40 (under 30 for Chinese applicants), holders of an MSc or the equivalent degree and at the beginning of their research career. The research must be carried out at a national university or research institute in a developing country in Africa, Asia/Pacific, or Latin America/Caribbean.

### Types of IFS Support

- research grants (up to USD 12,000) for the purchase of equipment, expendable supplies, etc. - a grant can be renewed twice
- purchase and delivery of equipment on behalf of grantees
- promotion of scientific networks and links to other scientists
- access to literature searches for grantees
- travel support for grantees
- IFS-organised scientific meetings, international workshops, and training courses
- an award scheme for grantees



## How to Apply for an IFS Research Grant

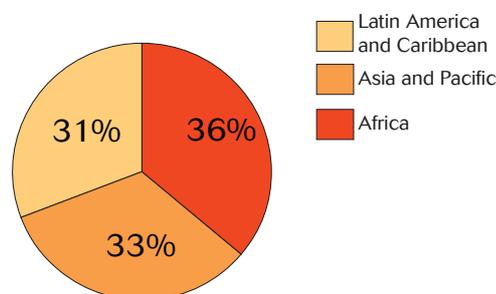
Applications are made on the application form (in English or French), which is available from the IFS Secretariat, or can be downloaded from the IFS web: [www.ifs.se](http://www.ifs.se). Applications can be submitted to the Secretariat throughout the year by mail or electronically, with a copy sent by the applicant to the local Member Organisation. Decisions are made twice a year, in May and December.

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## Distribution of IFS Grantees



## Member Organisations

IFS has a membership of some 130 national scientific academies and research councils, as well as regional and international organisations, in over 80 countries. Three-quarters of them are in developing countries.

## Donors

Governmental organisations, aid agencies, and national research councils contribute to core IFS activities supporting and promoting scientific capacity-building in developing countries. Other organisations participate in Special Programmes or Partnership Programmes, which focus on specific activities within the overall IFS scheme of support. Over 20 organisations contribute to the IFS annual budget, which is approximately USD 5 million.

## IFS eNews

Subscribe to the quarterly IFS electronic newsletter (IFS eNews) by sending an email to: [listserv@listserv.ifs.se](mailto:listserv@listserv.ifs.se) with the following message: subscribe IFS-NEWSLETTER (your first name) (last name). Use one line only and insert your name as above without parentheses.

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