



# A Call for Pre-Proposal Applications: 2022 Fellows

**Deadline: October 15, 2021**

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The Pacific Coast of Latin America provides essential ecosystem services for the well-being of millions of people. At the same time the coast provides critical habitat for a great diversity of species, including millions of shorebirds that migrate thousands of miles annually along a network of stopover and wintering sites. Unfortunately, changing climatic conditions and increasing rates of coastal development are currently threatening the integrity of many of these sites. To address these complex challenges, place-based solutions are needed that combine knowledge, expertise, and creative ideas from multiple sectors and disciplines in order to strike a balance between the conservation and development of coastal ecosystems.

**Fellows Program.** The Coastal Solutions Fellows Program (CSF) at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology was designed to create a collaborative community of architects, planners, engineers, biologists and natural resource specialists who are passionate about developing new solutions for the conservation and resiliency of coastal ecosystems. For the next decade, CSF will provide the funding and training for early-career professionals to implement projects that develop and implement innovative approaches for balancing development, management, and conservation along the Pacific Coast in Latin America.

**Benefits and highlights.** The two-year fellowship includes a USD \$80,000 cash award for stipend support, project development, and effective conservation training opportunities. The Program also includes two required retreats at Cornell University with training on topics of coastal zone governance, conservation planning, monitoring and evaluation, leadership and strategic communications, as well as a series of seminars and on-line courses with experts from a diversity of fields and sectors, promoting peer-to-peer learning and collaborations along the continent.

Each fellow will select a strong multidisciplinary team that consists of a mentor and cross-sectoral collaborators. Mentors will provide guidance and support during the fellowship tenure, while cross-sector collaborators will contribute different strategies and tools for achieving desired project outcomes. Fellows can also allocate funds to cover activities such as traveling abroad for professional development. Senior fellows are eligible for collaboration grants to continue working on creative coastal solutions after their fellowship.

### **Eligibility requirements.**

We are looking for exceptional candidates who are motivated to work across sectors and disciplines to develop new approaches for sustainable development and the conservation of coastal ecosystems along the Pacific Coast of Latin America.



Courtesy of Sasaki

The eligibility requirements for candidates are:

- Exceptional leadership skills and passion for the conservation of coastal ecosystems.
- Citizen of a Latin American country.
- Early-career professional, with less than 10 years of experience.
- Have a completed undergraduate degree. Priority will be given to candidates with a completed graduate degree.
- Based at a non-profit, private or governmental institution with a focus on planning, science, conservation, development, architecture or engineering.
- Open for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and early-career faculty based at universities and research institutions as well.
- Target disciplines are: biology, ecology, natural resource management, environmental sciences, environmental engineering, civil engineering, architecture and landscape architecture.
- Must have at least an intermediate level of English (written and oral).

**How to select a mentor** - The mentor should be an experienced professional and leader in their field and should be of the same discipline than the candidate. The mentor must be willing to provide strategic guidance and support in the design and implementation of the project, in addition to the candidate's professional development. For the pre-proposal stage, applicants should have identified a willing mentor and host institution. A letter of commitment is only required if you are invited to submit a full proposal. Some of the benefits for mentors in the program include academic affiliation with Cornell University, funding support (maximum of \$5,000 USD), expenses covered for participation in the training retreats, and participation in

the Coastal Solutions Network, which fosters collaboration opportunities with colleagues and fellows along the Pacific Coast of the Americas. The eligibility requirements for a project mentor are:

- At least 10 years of leadership in their professional field.
- Interest and excellence in the conservation of coastal ecosystems, as well as in multidisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations.
- Availability to meet regularly with the fellow.
- Willingness to provide supervision and mentorship for at least two years.
- Participates in a training retreat with their fellow at the beginning of the fellowship (the expenses are covered by the Program).
- Lives at the same country and city (preferred) than the fellow.
- Is based at the same institution than the fellow (preferred).
- Has an advanced level in English (written and oral).

**How to select a host institution** - Candidates must select a host institution that supports them during the implementation of their project. The institution should be based in the same country than the fellow, and can be from the public, private, non-profit or academic sector. The mission and activities of the host institution must be aligned with the goals of the project and the professional development vision of the candidate. The institution must be a relevant actor in the selected site and in the implementation of the project and must commit to provide institutional support and resources to the fellow during the project, including on issues of project management, communications, human resources and equipment. The funds of the fellowship are typically allocated directly to the



fellow, and thus the program does not consider funds for indirect or administrative costs.

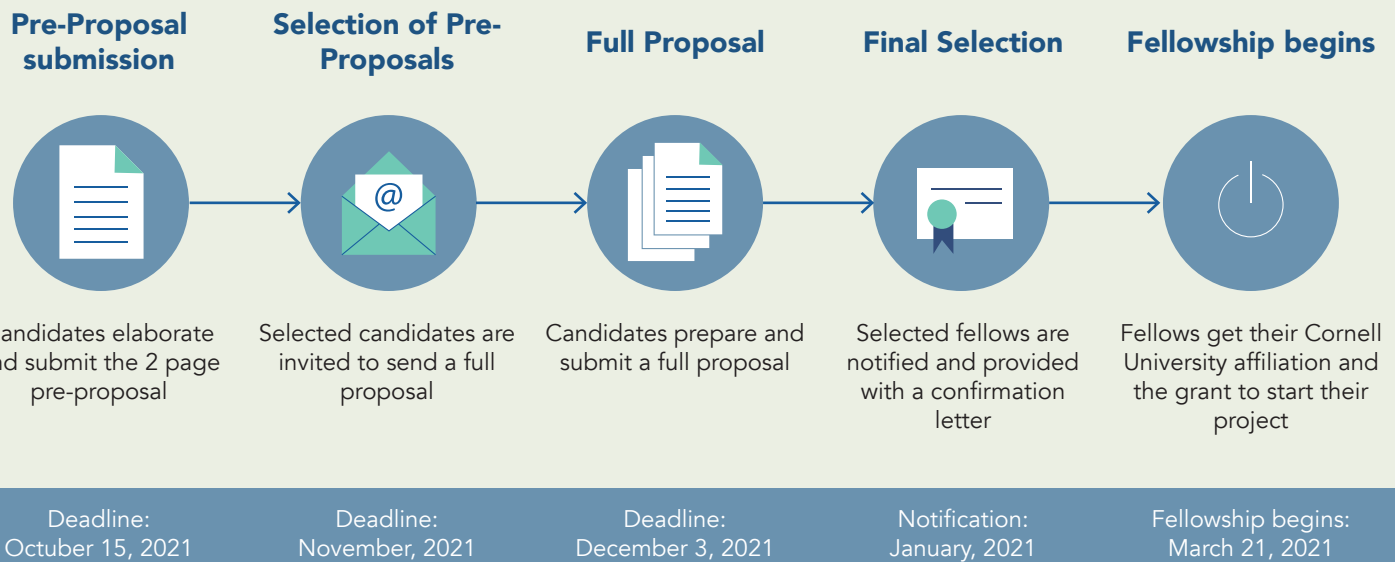
**Cross-sector collaborators** - Candidates must identify one or more cross-sectoral collaborators from a target discipline in the program (biology, natural sciences, architecture or engineering), but from a different field than the candidate. The collaborator's knowledge and experience should complement the team and contribute towards the success of the project. Funds to cover the honorarium of the collaborators can be included in the budget, as long as this is fully justified in terms

of the activities of the Program and the time directly dedicated to the project with the fellow.

**Application process.** Pre-proposals should be submitted through the **Coastal Solutions platform**, where candidates can upload their pre-proposal in a PDF format, using the following naming criteria: NameLastname\_Preproposal2021 (e.g., JohnSmith\_Preproposal2021). Interested applicants should carefully read the Pre-proposal Guidelines before preparing and submitting a pre-proposal. The deadline to submit a pre-proposal is October 15, 2021.



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Pre-proposals will be evaluated and prioritized based on the following criteria:

- \* Ability of the candidate for being a leader in his or her field, and the capacity to integrate different sectors and disciplines in his or her professional development.
- \* Desired outcomes of the project are feasible and align with the goals of the CSF Program.
- \* Strong multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaborations.
- \* Impact on priority sites along the Pacific Coast of Latin America.

**Next steps.** CSF staff will notify candidates on the status of their pre-proposals in November 2021. Applicants with approved pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal. The full proposal deadline is December 3, 2021, and new fellowship cohorts will be announced in January 2022 for the fellowship to begin on March 21, 2022.

**Find out more.** For more information about the Program, eligibility, and the application process, follow us in Facebook (@solucionescosteras), Instagram (@coastalsolutionsfellows), visit [en.solucionescosteras.org](http://en.solucionescosteras.org) or email [csfellows@cornell.edu](mailto:csfellows@cornell.edu).



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