

Pre-proposal Guidelines

Deadline: October 15, 2021

The Coastal Solutions Fellows Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is looking for exceptional candidates that excel in understanding multiple disciplines and sectors to design and implement solutions that improve the coastal resiliency along the Pacific Coast of Latin America. Before preparing your pre-proposal, please review in detail our **Call for Applications for 2022 Fellows**.

The proposed projects should include the following characteristics:

- Are focused on priority sites along the Migratory American Pacific Flyway, as defined in the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy and other conservation tools. Priority will be given to sites larger than 1,000 hectares.
- Are focused on our conservation targets (shorebirds and coastal ecosystems) and specific to the following priority habitats: mudflats, beaches and sand dunes, salt flats, coastal lagoons, coastal marshes and mangroves, as well as agriculture or aquaculture sites important to shorebirds.
- Are evidence based and incorporate the best available science.
- Include resources and understanding of different disciplines, particularly architecture, engineering and natural sciences.
- Undertake priority threats for shorebirds and coastal ecosystems. They should focus on threats in one of the two following categories:

1. Non sustainable land use changes in wetlands and coastal zones. This includes impacts from: urban growth, industrial development, tourism, agricultural activities, aquaculture expansion, watershed development affecting coastal areas, salt production and other mining activities.

2. Coastal human disturbance. This includes disturbances caused by recreational and tourist activities, fishing, small scale aquaculture and invasive species.

- Propose the application of a concrete and effective solution with measurable impacts to solve a priority threat, taking advantage of available resources and opportunities.
- Include mechanisms that guarantee the participation of different sectors (academic, non-governmental, private and government agencies).
- Incorporate governance strategies that will secure the feasibility of the project.
- Consider strategies for the long-term continuity of the project.
- Benefit from existing opportunities, synergies and conservation plans specific to the region.

- Contribute to the professional development and goals of the fellow.

The applications should be submitted through the [Coastal Solutions platform](#), where the candidates will provide their basic information and upload their pre-proposal file. All pre-proposals should be submitted with 11-point font and include three sections, in the following order:

1. Cover letter and personal statement (2 pages max)
2. Project Narrative (3 pages max)
3. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max)

Cover letter Personal Statement: This brief essay is a critical component in the selection process of pre-proposals. It is an opportunity for candidates to share their motivations for participating in the Coastal Solutions Fellowship, as well as their background, professional development, achievements, and their relationship with the project site. This space is also an opportunity to describe their plans for future professional development and their expected role in the conservation of coastal ecosystems along the Pacific Coast of Latin America.

Project Narrative: The main body of the narrative should not exceed three pages (excluding references). The narrative should include the following information:

- A. Project Title
- B. Site Description
- C. Problem Statement
- D. Goals and Objectives
- E. Expected Outcomes
- F. Project Time-line
- G. Mentor and Host Institution
- H. Cross-sectoral Collaborator
- I. Budget Summary
- J. References

- A. *Project title.* The title of the project should be concise (15 words max) and capture the essence of the proposed solution for the priority site.
- B. *Site description.* Summarize the characteristics and importance of the site for shorebirds, including a location map.
- C. *Problem statement.* The problem statement should clearly define the need for the proposed work, the importance of the selected site, and the priority threat that the project will be focused on.
- D. *Goals and objectives.* In a brief way, the proposed goal should describe the expected changes that will happen with the completion of this project, while the objectives describe the strategies that will be implemented to achieve that goal. The objectives should be specific, measurable, feasible, relevant, and with a defined time span. The pre-proposal should also include preliminary metrics or indicators to measure the success of the project.
- E. *Desired outcomes.* The pre-proposal should describe short-term (two-year) and long-term desired outcomes.

F. Timeline. A table that summarizes a preliminary timeline of activities and deliverables for the project.

G. Mentor and host institution. Candidates should identify their mentor and host institution, including a brief description of their aptitudes and the motivation for working with them.

H. Potential Cross-sector Collaborator. The pre-proposal must define a role for one or more cross-sector collaborators. The collaborator should work in discipline that is different from your own, but whose knowledge and expertise complements your interests and goals and within the target disciplines of the Program (biology, natural sciences, architecture or engineering).

I. Preliminary budget summary. The USD \$80,000 budget is flexible with the only constraint being that some categories have a maximum amount permitted. This flexibility will allow applicants to meet their financial needs, leverage other funding sources, and create a custom budget for their proposed project.

Budget guidelines:

- The maximum amount allowed for the candidate's stipend (i.e., salary support) is \$25,000 USD per year. This amount cannot exceed the guidelines established in the candidate's home institution and must be justified according to the candidate's academic degree, discipline and country of residence.
- A maximum of \$5,000 is available to support the involvement of the mentor.
- There is no limit on the amount that can be allocated toward project funds. The items that can be included in this category are field visits, equipment, materials, software, and salaries for field technician and/or collaborators.
- A maximum of \$5,000 can be used for professional development activities, including travel for trainings, conferences, or workshops.
- Candidates should submit a preliminary budget in the pre-proposal, including an estimated amount for each broad category (i.e., stipend, project funds, mentorship support, and professional development), along with a short description of each. Retreat-related costs are covered by the Program.
- If the candidate has already secured funding for the project (e.g., fellow or mentor salary or project implementation funds) please include them in the pre-proposal under a separate column labeled as "Matching Funds". Having matching funds is not a requirement for the Program, but this will give us an idea of existing synergies and collaborations found by the candidate.

Application Process: The pre-proposal deadline is October 15, 2021. 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_Proposal2021 (e.g., JohnSmith_Proposal2021). Interested applicants should carefully read the Call for Applications before preparing and submitting a pre-proposal.

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

