

**Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management,  
University of Rwanda and National Geographic Society East Africa Fund**

**Research and Conservation Grant Writing Seminar**

**March 11, 2017**



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## Executive Summary



The Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management (CoEB) at University of Rwanda with the National Geographic East Africa Fund ran a **seminar of grant writing** this Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at CoEB office, University of Rwanda - Huye Campus.

The seminar was for master's and PhD students in **Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management** and **Geography**, who are planning a research or a conservation project in the field. Participants learnt about *how to develop a competitive grant application for field research and conservation projects*.

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## 1. Introduction

The stakeholders of the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB) agreed its goal in 2010 as **“To encourage, enable and support stakeholders to generate and apply knowledge on Biodiversity and Natural Resources for sustainable development”**.

Furthermore, under its specific objectives of enabling the stakeholders to generate knowledge through research and enhancing education in

biodiversity and Natural Resources Management, the CoEB and NGS East Africa Fund enhanced the capacity building of master’s and PhD students in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management at University of Rwanda by providing knowledge about *“how to develop a competitive grant application for field research and conservation projects through a training workshop*.



The NGS East Africa Fund provides funding opportunities for **research, conservation, education and storytelling** in the East Africa region (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC). NGS grants focus on: the Human Journey, Wildlife and Wild Places, and Our Changing Planet. [www.nationalgeographic.org/grants](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants)

The Human Story supports projects that explore and document the human experience through time to preserve and celebrate our shared heritage (fields of anthropology, archaeology, paleoanthropology, psychology, human health, and human geography).

Critical Species and Places supports projects that explore and document the Earth’s biodiversity to better understand and conserve species, habitats, processes, and marine and terrestrial ecosystem fields of biology, ecology, and conservation).

Our Changing Planet supports projects that explore and document earth and ocean systems in the present, past, and future to better understand and protect the evolving environment (fields of geology, geochemistry, physical geography, oceanography, paleontology, and observational astronomy).

## 2. Workshop activities

The active workshop ran from 9: 20 am – 5 pm and the program included the principles of grant writing, meet a grantee, overview of National Geographic grant program and East Africa Fund and Practical exercise.

### 2.1 Principles of grant writing

Chloé Cipolletta, the Director of NGS East Africa Program explained about planning the project, researching funding opportunities, understanding the granting agency, writing and submitting the proposal. She pointed that the grant writing needs practice, relevancy of the research and project, understanding the funding agency, good reference and meet the deadline.



**Chloé Cipolletta, the Director of NGS East Africa Program during the workshop**

### 2.2 Meet a grantee

A PhD student Déogratias Tuyisingize successfully got fund from NGS East Africa Fund program shared his experience for writing a successful conservation project proposal and he presented his project.





**Déogratias Tuyisingize, a PhD student sharing his experience during the workshop**

### **2.3 Overview of the National Geographic grant program and the East Africa Fund**

Chloé Cipolletta gave an overview of grant types, focus, application processes and advice for early career applicants. The NGS is interested in supporting innovations in technology, education, mapping, and storytelling related to these themes, particularly data visualization, high-tech approaches, cultural heritage preservation, educational outreach, and curricula development.

Early career applicants are particularly encouraged to attend. NGS early career grants offer individuals their first opportunity to lead their own project: applicants are not required to have advanced degrees; however, a record of prior experience in their field is expected. Funding for early career grants is up to 5,000\$.

Standard conservation or research grants require applicants to have clear records of successful completion of similar projects with measurable and/or tangible results. Funding for standard grants is up to 30,000\$.

## 2.4 Practical exercise

Participants break out into groups to review previously approved/rejected applications. A plenary discussion followed and debate the key aspects which led to the proposals approval/rejection.

## 3. Conclusion

The workshop awoke the participants to commit more in proposal writing and looking for funding; the NGS East Africa Fund expects to get numerous applications from MSc. and PhD students. Moreover the participants enlarge their career network by getting new contacts and to know more each other.

## 4. Acknowledgements

A sincere thank you to the National Geographic Society East Africa fund for their interest to collaborate with the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management and support conservation and research in Rwanda. Thank you to the CoEB team who helped to make this workshop fruitful. And thank you to the MSc. and PhD students for their active participation.

## 5. List of participants

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