

CONSERVATION TRAINING CONSORTIUM

A consortium of The Field Museum, Chicago Zoological Society, University of Illinois at Chicago, John G. Shedd Aquarium, and the University of Chicago was formed to provide intensive training in conservation biology for young professionals from developing countries, with special emphasis on the Caribbean, among others. By acquiring the tools necessary for assessing, analyzing, and managing biological diversity, the participants will be better equipped to help establish conservation programs and direct biodiversity policies in their own countries.

Specifically, participants spend approximately half of their time attending lectures, taking part in seminars, and engaging in discussions of relevant publications. Topics include habitat disturbance and fragmentation, island biogeography, conservation genetics, and design and protection of reserves. Participants gain experience writing grant proposals, and are provided with information on funding for biodiversity research and conservation from United States and international organizations. During the remainder of the time, participants develop a conservation-related project with their individual advisor at one of the five institutions.

Participants will be selected from a pool of applicants committed to using what they learn to help guide conservation programs in their own countries, and who are in a position that will allow them to put their knowledge to immediate, effective use in their home country.

Over the next three years (1997–1999), two sessions focusing on aquatic ecosystems and four sessions focusing on terrestrial ecosystems will be offered. Aquatic sessions will be offered in the Spring of 1998 and 1999, and will be 10 weeks in length. Summer terrestrial sessions will take place in 1997 and 1999 from mid-June through August. Autumn terrestrial sessions will take place in 1997 and 1998 from mid-August through mid-December. Six participants will be accepted for each aquatic and Autumn terrestrial session, and eight for each of the summer terrestrial sessions.

Deadlines: 1 February for the summer 1997 terrestrial session; 1 March for the autumn 1997 terrestrial session. Submit the following: 1. a three-page curriculum vitae, which should include a description of your current and past positions, relevant professional experience and educational background; 2. names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references; and 3. a two-page statement of interest, discussing why you would like to attend the program, what aspects of conservation biology are of interest to you, and how you would implement your training when you return home after the program. Be sure to include your e-mail address and fax number on all correspondence. Submit applications to: Dr. Wendy M. Jackson, Conservation Training Consortium, c/o The Field Museum, Roosevelt Rd. at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, USA; telephone 312-922-9410, ext. 432; fax: 312-922-5421; e-mail: jackson@fmppr.fmnh.org