

Request for Proposals

Socioeconomic Seed Grants for State Gap Analysis Projects

Proposals due 1 September 1999.
All state GAP projects are eligible.

For more information, contact:
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1 June 1999

Introduction

Gap analysis as a technique and the National Gap Analysis (GAP) Program are making significant progress. Methods are evolving, datasets are becoming more complete, products are being prepared, and gap analysis projects are underway in most states. The scientific literature on gap analysis is growing. As gap analysis has developed, it has become increasingly clear that socioeconomic factors play a significant role in the distributions of biodiversity elements and their conservation. Research on the adoption and diffusion of gap analysis is also important.

The National GAP Program has initiated a seed grant program to encourage and support the integration of socioeconomic research into gap analysis techniques and state projects. This Request for Proposals (RFP) solicits proposals from state GAP projects to receive socioeconomic seed grants to conduct such interdisciplinary work. Four seed grants of up to \$15,000 each will be awarded this year.

At the request of the National GAP Office, this research competition is being managed by the University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit (UI CPSU). The National GAP Office will transfer funds directly to the state projects that submit winning proposals.

Background and Rationale

There is a growing scientific literature linking human actions to biodiversity loss, and conservation biology is increasingly integrating human behavior into its theory, conceptual models and policy implications. Because human actions may increase the vulnerability of populations, species, habitats and ecosystems to biodiversity loss, socioeconomic factors are critical to the gap analysis technique. In addition, the social sciences can assist gap analysis projects in the adoption and diffusion of gap analysis as an innovation in conservation planning and management.

Objectives

The objectives of this seed grant program are to:

- make modest funds available to state GAP projects interested in integrating socioeconomic factors into their activities,
- encourage testing of diverse conceptual, methodological and technical approaches to integrating socioeconomic factors into gap analysis,
- enable the development of interdisciplinary gap analysis teams that include social scientists, and

- encourage the adoption and diffusion of gap analysis, and its application to conservation planning and management.

Project Proposals

This RFP solicits proposals for projects in two categories. Only proposals submitted directly by state GAP projects will be considered, and all state GAP projects are eligible. Two winning proposals will be selected in each category.

Category 1

Category 1 projects should focus on techniques for integrating socioeconomic factors into gap analysis methods and products. Examples include:

- new interdisciplinary conceptual and mathematical models, such as models that incorporate socioeconomic factors to help predict future conditions and trends in conservation management,
- new interdisciplinary techniques, such as incorporating gap analysis and socioeconomic factors into zoning and land use planning,
- expanded gap analysis datasets that include socioeconomic variables, and
- new gap products with a socioeconomic component.

Category 2

Category 2 projects should focus on social science research that increases the adoption and diffusion of gap analysis techniques and products. (Funding is restricted to research, and will not be provided for outreach programs, publications, training workshops and so forth.) Examples include research on:

- gap analysis users and their needs,
- barriers to the adoption and diffusion of gap analysis, and
- innovation in gap products to increase their usability.

Necessary Skills and Experience

The study teams for project proposals submitted in Category 1 and Category 2 should include a representative(s) from the state's GAP project staff. The study team *must* also include *significant* involvement by a social scientist(s) as principal investigator(s) or co-principal investigator(s).

State GAP staff can recruit social scientists through a variety of sources, such as contacting:

- departments at a research university that deal with disciplines such as economics, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, or environmental history,
- social scientists employed by the Biological Resources Division of the USGS (e.g., at BRD Science Centers),
- social science professional associations, such as the
 - American Economic Association <<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/>>
 - Association of American Geographers <<http://www.aag.org>>

- American Political Science Association <<http://www.apsanet.org>>
- American Sociological Association <<http://asanet.org>>
- American Anthropological Association <<http://www.ameranthassn.org>>
- American Association for Public Opinion Research
<<http://www.aapor.org>>
- American Society for Environmental History
<<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~aseh/>>

Budget

Total seed grant funding available for each project proposal is \$15,000.

Products

Deliverable products should include 1) brief semi-annual progress reports, 2) brief Investigator's Annual Progress Report, 3) final report containing analyses, findings, and conclusions along with an executive summary, 4) an electronic copy of the final report, and 5) presentation(s) of work and final results at an annual GAP meeting.

Preparing Proposals

Proposals should closely follow the guidelines below. Proposals should be single-spaced, stay within page limits, not include unnecessary materials, and avoid unnecessary expense. Individual state GAP projects may compete for both Category 1 and Category 2 projects, and can submit more than one proposal per project. However, separate and complete proposals must be provided for each submission. Each submitted proposal should include the following:

1. A title page that identifies the proposal as a Category 1 or Category 2 project and provides the names and affiliations of the Principal Investigators.
2. A brief description of the proposed research (5 pages or less). This description should include specific research objectives, detailed methods (such as data collection and analysis techniques), and the strategy for collaborating with a social scientist(s).
3. A brief description of the products to be delivered (1 page or less).
4. An itemized budget and specific schedule for completing the project (1 page or less). State projects are encouraged to seek funding or in-kind contributions from other sources. Any additional funds or in-kind contributions should be noted in the budget. Projects need to be completed within two years. Proposals should assume that work can begin by 1 November 1999.
5. A brief description of the study team including names and affiliations of all co-investigators. For the social scientist co-investigator(s) only, include a current copy of the curriculum vitae.

Four copies of the proposal should be submitted to:

Dr. Gary Machlis, Project Leader
Cooperative Park Studies Unit
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844-1133

Proposals must be postmarked no later than 1 September 1999.

Selection of Winning Proposals

All proposals submitted in both categories will be evaluated by a panel that includes National GAP Program managers, and biophysical and social scientists. The panel will make its recommendations to the National GAP Program. Two winning proposals will be funded in each category. Funds will be transferred directly from the National GAP Program to the winning state projects.

Evaluation criteria are listed below and weighted equally. Successful proposals will be those that best meet the following criteria:

1. Presents a research plan that responds to the major objectives described in the project category in this Request for Proposals.
2. Describes in sufficient detail how the proposed research will use appropriate, state-of-the-art social science methods.
3. Demonstrates creativity in the conceptualization of the research problem and research plan.
4. Demonstrates how qualifications of the research team, particularly those of the social scientist(s), are appropriate for the activities being proposed.
5. Presents a research plan that can lead to the required products within the allotted schedule.
6. Presents a research plan that is within the proposed budget, and demonstrates a cost-effective approach for meeting the research objectives.

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