



## **Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA)**

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## **CALL FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS**

Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA) in Southeast Asia invites proposals for **research scholarships** in the area of forests and climate change adaptation. The research will take place in Indonesia.

### **About TroFCCA**

TroFCCA is a four-year effort of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Tropical Agriculture Center for Research and Higher Education (CATIE) funded by the European Commission. The project will contribute to the limited understanding of the adaptation of tropical forest ecosystems by developing methodologies to assess vulnerability of the ecosystems to climate change and to mainstreaming adaptation strategies into development agendas.

### **Objective of the call**

TroFCCA is inviting students interested in the links between climate change and forest fires or landslides in Indonesia to submit research proposals on either topic.

### **Research themes**

Research activities for TroFCCA in Southeast Asia focus on the increased risk of **forest fires** and **landslides** driven by future climate change and climate variability. Current knowledge gaps on this particular include:

- **The development of specific methodologies to assess the vulnerability of forest ecosystems and forest dependent communities to forest fires and landslides**  
The research will concentrate on the identification of clusters of vulnerability issues, such as biophysical and socio-economic and institutional variables that increase the risk of fire and landslides. Specific questions are:
  - How changes in climate, including climate variability, will increase the risk of forest fires/landslides in Indonesia? In particular:
    - What biophysical variables determine the vulnerability of forests to fires/landslides in Indonesia, and what indicators could be used?
    - What socio-economic and institutional variables determine vulnerability of society to forest fires/landslides in Indonesia, and what indicators could be used?
  - Which areas in Indonesia are likely to experience a rising risk in forest fires/landslides?
- **Policy research**  
The research will concentrate on the analysis of the institutional framework for addressing forest fires/landslides, in particular, how climate change is, or could be, incorporated into existing policies. Specific questions are:
  - What are the existing policy gaps for mainstreaming climate change existing policies or institutions for forest fires/landslides?
  - What policies best fit sub national and local level in terms of their implementability and cost effectiveness?

Other relevant proposals will also be considered and judged toward the objectives and activities of TroFCCA in South East Asia.

### Who may apply

University students enrolled in **undergraduate** degrees or **postgraduate** degrees (Masters or PhD) in the process of conducting their final field-works, researches or thesis writings/dissertations are welcome to apply.

### Criteria for candidate selection

Research scholarships are available for students from any nationality. Indonesians are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applicants are requested to submit their application letter which states their interest on the research topic, together with a full CV, an approval letter from his/her supervisor for conducting research with TroFCCA at CIFOR (Indonesia), and a short essay (maximum 1500-words) that describes a research proposal from pre-selected themes listed below:

- Variables and processes that increase the occurrence of forest fires or landslides in Indonesia;
- How climate change impacts over forest ecosystems may increase the risk of forest fires or landslides;
- Institutional gaps and needs from the above issues;
- Implementable policies in the decentralized era in controlling forest fires (or in avoiding landslide hazards).

In conducting their researches, candidates will have to work in partnership with appointed TroFCCA staff who will give guidance on their research activities. Co-supervision relationship between the academic supervisor at the university and TroFCCA research staff/project coordinator is advisable.

Undergraduate students can work together with postgraduate students as a research assistant in a team.

*Selection will be based on an interview and the quality of submitted essay. Capability of writing in ENGLISH is an advantage.*

### Available funding

Depending on the qualification, successful candidates will receive a research scholarship up to **US\$ 3,500** to support their research activities including: field work travels, data collection, and a modest allowances. On a case by case basis, resources for **PhD candidates can be increased**, subject to the availability of funds. Additional home leave allowance is also granted for students coming outside from Indonesia.

The application should be sent to the Project Coordinator at the below address, and received by **10 October 2006**. Earlier applications will be considered most.

For further enquiries, please contact:

#### **Dr. Heru Santoso**

TroFCCA Project Coordinator for Southeast Asia  
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

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More information about TroFCCA is available on <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca>.