



Why Study Bats?

Of the more than 1,100 species of bats, most have scarcely been studied at all. Yet bats are vital to the health of ecosystems and human economies worldwide. As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats consume enormous quantities of agricultural pests and reduce the need for chemical pesticides. Others are critical pollinators and seed-dispersers for plants, many with great economic value.

Yet myths and misinformation thrive in the absence of scientific knowledge. Bats are threatened worldwide, their colonies and habitats destroyed – both intentionally and inadvertently – because of ignorance and needless fears.

Knowledge is the key to conservation.



BATS IN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOLARS 2006~07

Winners of BCI/U.S. Forest Service scholarships for the 2006–07 academic year include:

- Laura Bambini: Madagascar
Habitat requirements of trident-nosed bats
- Marian Cabrera: Colombia
Impacts of bat pollination in cloud forests
- Richard Cadenillas: Peru
Tropical forest seed dispersal
- Cullen Geiselman: French Guiana
Rainforest pollination
- Margareta Kalka: Panama
Bats' impact on cacao crop pests
- Kevin Olival: Thailand
Flying fox conservation
- Monik Oprea: Brazil
Ecology and conservation in urban landscapes
- Sandra Peters: Brazil
Roost selection in managed vs. primary forests
- Matthew Struebig: Malaysia
Impacts of forest fragmentation
- Kessarinn Utthammachai: Thailand
Ecological & economic importance of *Tadarida plicata*



BATS IN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

*A partnership of
the U.S. Forest Service
International Programs &
Bat Conservation International*

Supporting original research that documents the ecological and economic value and conservation needs of bats in developing countries.



www.fs.fed.us/global/



BAT CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL
www.batcon.org

The New Bats in International Forestry Scholarship Fund

In 2005, the U.S. Forest Service International Programs and Bat Conservation International established the Bats in International Forestry Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for research conducted in developing countries.

Projects should be focused on the roles bats play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and/or on habitat requirements that are critical to conservation. The Forest Service has a particular interest in supporting work in Brazil, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama and Peru, although projects in other developing countries will be considered.

Most awards will be for \$2,500, but some may be as high as \$5,000.

Robert Kityo of Uganda examines a tree hollow used as a bat roost. Research supported by a BCI Scholarship earned Kityo a Ph.D. and contributed to the first bat atlas of East Africa and the first reference collection of bat echolocation calls in Uganda. He studied bat diversity in three Ugandan national forests.



BCI Scholar Andrea Loayza rode horseback to track radio-tagged bats and document their role in dispersing seeds across savannahs and cleared forests in Bolivia.

A sampling of previous BCI Student Research Scholarships:

- *Marco Mello, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil):* Patterns of seed dispersal by little yellow-shouldered bats.
- *Miguel Munguia-Rosas, Instituto de Ecología (Mexico):* Effects of bat pollinators' availability on the reproductive success, progeny performance and genetic variability of a Mesoamerican columnar cactus.
- *Tony Wood, University of Bristol (Malaysia):* Effect of human land-use on bat diversity and activity in peninsular Malaysia.

Apply for a Scholarship

For information about a Bats in International Forestry Scholarship or any other BCI Student Research Scholarship, visit www.batcon.org or contact grants@batcon.org or (512) 327-9721. The application deadline is December 15.

Bat Conservation International Student Research Scholarships

Bat Conservation International's Student Research Scholarship Funds have been supporting young scientists around the world since 1990. BCI has awarded a total of \$550,770 to 237 students for research in 51 countries. Many BCI Scholars have become international leaders in bat research and conservation.

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 each per academic year are available for research that is relevant to bat conservation in any country. These awards typically provide opportunities for matching grants from other conservation organizations, government agencies and private foundations.

Students enrolled in any college or university worldwide are eligible to apply. Applications for all Bat Conservation International Scholarships are competitive. Proposals are reviewed by an international panel of leading bat biologists.

Brad Mormann, a BCI Student Research Scholarship recipient at Southwest Missouri State University, took to the air in his study of the winter roosting behavior of red bats in Missouri forests.

