



## Forest Farmers

Bats are crucial to the survival of the world's remaining tropical forests. Enormous expanses of rainforest are cleared every year for logging, agriculture, ranching and other uses. Fruit-eating bats are uniquely suited for dispersing the seeds of vital "pioneer plants," those that provide a foundation from which a diverse and healthy forest can re-emerge. Bats are such effective seed-dispersers that Canadian researcher Donald Thomas called them the "farmers of the tropics." And that's in addition to bats' role in pollinating countless tropical plants, many of them of great economic importance.

Knowledge is the key to conservation.

## BATS IN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOLARS 2009~10

Winners of BCI/U.S. Forest Service scholarships for the 2009–10 academic year include:

- Eric Moise Bakwo Fils:** Cameroon  
Seed dispersal and forest conservation by fruit bats
- Kristine Bohmann:** Swaziland  
*Free-tailed bats and the pest moth *Eldana saccharina**
- Beth Clare:** Costa Rica  
Dietary resource partitioning in a bat community
- Rodrigo Garcia-Morales:** Mexico  
Fruit-eating bat diets and forest regeneration
- Lee-sim Lim:** Malaysia  
Conservation consequences of forest fragmentation
- J. Leighton Reid:** Costa Rica  
Role of artificial bat roosts in forest restoration
- Dalhouni Ridha:** Tunisia  
Roost sites, diet and conservation at a national park
- Pamela Thompson:** Mexico  
Landscape changes and bat-plant interactions
- Edgar Toribio:** Mexico  
Food resources in tropical forest fragments
- Amanda Wendt:** Costa Rica  
Tent-making bats and forest regeneration
- Special Scholarship – Durian pollination**  
U.S. Forest Service International Programs  
& The Brown Foundation
- Pushpa Raj Acharya:** Thailand  
Radiotracking dawn fruit bats to examine their effectiveness in pollinating durian



## 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/](http://www.fs.fed.us/global/)



**BAT CONSERVATION**  
INTERNATIONAL  
[www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

## The Bats in International Forestry Scholarship Fund

The U.S. Forest Service International Programs and Bat Conservation International established the Bats in International Forestry Scholarship Fund in 2005 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. Most awards will be for \$2,500, but some may be as high as \$5,000.

Since the program began, Bats in International Forestry Scholarships have supported 31 student-research projects in 19 countries.

Sandra Peters of The University of Western Ontario used her Bats in International Forestry Scholarship to study roosting patterns and community structure in mixed forests and forest corridors of Amazonia in Brazil.



Graduate student Radek Lucan of the University of South Bohemia records measurements before attaching a radiotransmitter to a captured bat in the Czech Republic. Lucan used his BCI/U.S. Forest Service scholarship to study bats' habitat requirements.

## A sampling of previous BCI Student Research Scholarships:

- *Maria Pereira, University of Lisbon (Brazil):* Seasonal and spatial variation in Amazonian bat assemblages: the influence of floods and food.
- *Michael Buchalski, Western Michigan University (Costa Rica):* The effects of habitat degradation on Neotropical bats.
- *Phansamai Phommexay, Prince of Songkla University (Thailand):* Bat diversity and activity levels in intact forest and rubber plantations.

## Apply for a Scholarship

For information about a Bats in International Forestry Scholarship or any other BCI Student Research Scholarship, visit [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org) or contact [grants@batcon.org](mailto:grants@batcon.org). 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 more than \$674,750 to 275 students for research in 58 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.

BCI/Forest Service Scholar Eric Moise Bakwo Fils (left) of the University of Yaounde removes a bat from a mist net, as an assistant observes, as part of his research on seed dispersal by bats in Cameroon.

