



## BATS IN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY SCHOLARS 2010~11

Winners of BCI/U.S. Forest Service scholarships for the 2010–11 academic year include:

**Jorge Ayala:** Mexico

Constraints on the distribution of nectar bats

**Laura Cisneros:** Costa Rica

Bat communities in a fragmented landscape

**Natalia Cortes-Delgado:** Mexico

Roosting choices in shade-coffee plantations

**Dawn Cory Toussaint:** South Africa

Maintaining water and energy balance in dry habitat

**Alona Gukasova:** Ukraine

A new system of summer bat-population monitoring

**Chun-Chia Huang:** Indonesia

Ecological services of insectivorous bats in rainforests

**Ralisata Mahefatiana:** Madagascar

Roosting ecology of the Old World sucker-footed bat

**Corneile Minnaar:** South Africa

Artificial lighting and the diet of insectivorous bats

**Kendra Phelps:** Malaysia

Significance of caves to bat conservation

**Leighton Reid:** Costa Rica

Artificial bat roosts for tropical forest restoration



## The Value of Bats

More than 1,100 species of bats worldwide account for about 20 percent of all mammal species. Bats play critical roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems and many human economies. They eat huge amounts of night-flying insects, including costly pests. Other bats pollinate countless and often-valuable plants and disperse seeds that help restore cleared rainforests.

Yet bats are also among the least studied and most misunderstood of creatures. Victims of centuries of myths and misinformation, they are in decline almost everywhere. Protecting bats requires understanding and explaining their benefits and needs.

Knowledge is the key to conservation.

## 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. Scholarships up to \$5,000 each will be awarded based on reviews by independent scientists.

Bats in International Forestry Scholarships have supported 43 student-research projects in 20 countries through the 2009-10 academic year.

Cesar Brocamontes of the Universidad Nacional de Salta and an assistant erect a mist net in the Yungas forest of Argentina. Brocamontes used a Bats in International Forestry Scholarship to study the organization of the bat community in the high-country habitat.



Graduate student Lee-sim Lim of Queen Mary, University of London measures a bicolor roundleaf bat as part of her study of the impact of forest fragmentation on bat dispersal in Malaysia. Her work was supported in part by a BCI/U.S. Forest Service scholarship.

## A sampling of previous BCI Student Research Scholarships:

- *Elisa Fuentes-Montemayor, University of Stirling (Scotland):* The impact of size, isolation and structure of woodland patches on bat populations within agricultural landscapes.
- *Elizabeth Braun, Boston University (Texas, USA):* Are Mexican free-tailed bats providing an important pest-control service for pecan orchards?
- *Aneta Zepart, University of Gdansk (Poland):* Habitat use by the pond myotis, a poorly studied and threatened European species.

## Apply for a Scholarship

For information about a Bats in International Forestry Scholarship or any other BCI Student Research Scholarship, visit [www.batcon.org/scholarships](http://www.batcon.org/scholarships). The application deadline is December 15, 2010.

## Bat Conservation International Student Research Scholarships

Bat Conservation International's Student Research Scholarships have been supporting young scientists around the world since 1990. BCI has awarded more than \$724,000 to 292 students for research in 59 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.

Amanda Wendt, a BCI/Forest Service Scholar from the University of Connecticut, searches the tropical forests of Costa Rica for roosts that tent-making bats build by chewing on stems to make leaves fold over into a tent.

