

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Check the Grant Award you are seeking.

- Individual Development/Course Development Grant
 Critchfield Research Grant
 Ashforth Research Grant

Applicant Information:

Principal Researcher:	Mike Gunter
Academic Rank:	Associate Professor
Department:	Political Science
Office Phone Number:	2263
E-Mail Address:	mgunter@rollins.edu

Grant Proposal:

Short Title of Grant Proposal:	African Wildlife Earthwatch Expedition
Proposed Start Date:	July 2008
Proposed End Date:	May 2009

Description of Grant Proposal:

<p>Objectives of grant proposal: Please list objectives that are clear, specific, concrete, and measurable.</p>	<p>My objective in this proposal is threefold. First, to strengthen my international coursework load at Rollins College and especially one called Case Studies in Sustainable Development by adding a case study that both targets a new area for me personally and highlights the Global South, more specifically in the form of South Africa. Second, this grant will allow me to gain additional field study experience abroad, with the end objective of developing an entirely new course on sustainable development in the near future. Third, one of my current research projects is targeting the role of NGOs and ecotourism, and I believe this trip will be very fruitful in generating data as well as building contacts in this part of Africa for that project. Related to this research agenda is my particular interest in the group Earthwatch, an unusual group that often flies under the radar in environmental interest group discussion. I hope to continue groundwork on a larger manuscript addressing this organization more specifically.</p>
<p>Describe how this project relates to your current expertise.</p>	<p>Environmental NGOs such as Earthwatch were the focus of my recent book, <i>Building the Next Ark</i>, which was first released in cloth in October 2004 by University Press of New England (UPNE) and co-sponsored by Dartmouth College. A paperback version of the text came out in fall of 2006. <i>Building the Next Ark</i> explains that biodiversity protection efforts are at a critical juncture in history today with the extinction of some 50,000 species per year. Indeed, ominous</p>

storm clouds have gathered to threaten humanity's most basic resource of all – the diversity of life on earth. The danger facing us -- of losing forever hundreds of thousands of species with whom we share this planet -- is magnified by the fact that the challenge posed by the rapid decline of global biodiversity is too vast to be handled solely by states or their existing international institutions.

Building the Next Ark suggests a fundamentally different route is needed to stem the ongoing extinction crisis. It shows how NGOs fit into the landscape of international biodiversity protection and what makes them most effective, demonstrating that NGOs provide invaluable assistance by fostering fundamental linkages between the domestic and international, ecological and economic, and short and long term considerations. Such linkages are strategic. They defuse special-interest political agendas and open up avenues for discussion of biodiversity issues worldwide. In short, they help build the next ark.

Even more specifically, my work focuses on the specific mainstream and participatory strategies of a diverse group of well-known environmental NGOs (Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, to name but a few), determining which strategies work and which do not. While scholars have previously outlined the essential functions of NGOs, *Building the Next Ark* is the first to look at how their day-to-day operations translate into truly effective biodiversity protection. I find that the most effective work occurs when groups carve out their own strategic niche, that strategies that consciously recognize the work of other groups are more effective. I also find that a number of unique partnerships continue to develop in the environmental NGO community and that these liaisons often make the critical linkages between the aforementioned domestic-international, ecological-economic, and short-long term considerations possible.

Outside of this recent book, as you can see by my attached vita I am professionally active in a number of other environmental arenas. I would be happy to provide a more extensive vita if further elaboration on invited talks such as the US Embassy's Annual [Fachleiter Conference](#): The US in a Global Community, held at the Gustav-Stresemann Institut, Bonn, Germany, May 17-20, 2007, is needed. Here I spoke on US Climate Policy, Sustainable Development & Terrorism, and Individual Carbon Footprints.

<p>Describe the relationship of this project to your long term professional goals.</p>	<p>My proposal is to gain experience on one of the over an hundred scientific expeditions that Earthwatch sponsors each year. As a participant-observer I believe I will gain a better grasp for how these projects are actually run, and experience first hand the complications that arise from using non-expert staff (the volunteers) to gather scientific data. I am also curious to learn more about the volunteers themselves. I have some experience here thanks to support in 2006 and work with Macaws in the Peruvian Amazon. If I am to continue developing background on Earthwatch, however, more is needed. I need more data on what inspires volunteers to participate, to pay their own money to work very long hours on what is undoubtedly precious vacation time from work? And what do these volunteers hope to take away from their experience? What are their plans afterwards? This is just a brief glimpse into my interests, of course, but in the next section below I offer more detailed description of this Earthwatch Expedition I have chosen, African Wildlife.</p>
<p>Describe why this project is important.</p>	<p>While scholars have previously outlined the essential functions of NGOs, much more work is still needed regarding how their day-to-day operations translate into truly effective biodiversity protection. This is timely work, considering the extinction spasm currently underway, with perhaps 55,000 species a year becoming extinct. And NGOs are a critical medium to examine here, given the increasing challenges to state sovereignty due to globalization, i.e. habitat loss, general pollution, environmental degradation, invasive species, and climate change. Furthermore, the ability of NGOs to operate simultaneously above and below the state – both in support of and as an alternative power source to the state and its authority – is a key attribute to consider. States cannot solve the new class of global problems today on their own. They cannot even solve such problems through international organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies like the United Nations Environmental Program. They need help, help that NGOs provide.</p> <p>This proposal targets the oldest national park on the continent of Africa, <i>Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park</i>. I will work under Sue van Rensburg in an ongoing survey of herbivores of that park. Her data will be used to project population trends and enhance management in that park. Some 15 target species (such as black rhinos, giraffes, elephants, zebras, wildebeest, etc.) exist in this study, covering 900-square kilometers. Over 16-days in teams of two I will cover eight to ten kilometers a day of acacia woodland and forest.</p>

Describe the expected outcome(s) for this project (publication, performance, exhibit, paper)	This project will make possible, as noted earlier, improvements in at least one course of mine (but several others will benefit as well) by adding a specific African case study where one is lacking to date. The proposal will also give me further abroad experience, adding more potential for a long term goal of a future field study on sustainable development. And this project will make first a conference presentation, then an article-length work, and finally a book on NGOs and eco-tourism possible.
Describe the contribution this project will make to Rollins College.	This will further enhance the reputation of Rollins College as a proud liberal arts institution that values international experience. It will allow me to continue to build my environmental politics research agenda, specifically that on NGOs and ecotourism noted above. And the end product will be enhancement of course offerings for our students.

Proposed Budget:

(Please review Permitted Expenditures section and provide as much detail as possible. Be specific about what costs will be incurred for travel, telephone, staff support, photocopying, etc. This budget will be for one year only).

<u>Item</u>	<u>Justification</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Equipment/Supplies	Vaccinations	\$ 550
Personnel Support		\$
Travel	Air and Ground expenses to African continent	\$ 1,500
Other	Earthwatch Expedition Fee	\$ 2,946
TOTAL		\$4,996

Previous Funding from Rollins College:

1. Have you received previous funding for a Critchfield/Ashforth Research, Individual Development, Course Development, or Cornell Research Grant?	<u>YES</u>	NO
<i>If yes, list all grants received:</i> Macaws of the Peruvian Amazon, Cornell Research Grant, 2006 War & Film on Silver Screen, Course Development Grant, 2003 Building the Next Ark, Individual Development Grant, 2002		
2. Have you applied for other grants from Rollins this year?	YES	<u>NO</u>
<i>If yes, list all grants applied for, grants awarded, and amounts to be received:</i>		
3. Have you received any other grants or funding from Rollins during the previous five years?	<u>YES</u>	NO
<i>If yes, list all grants awarded and amounts received over the last five years:</i> Cornell Scholar, \$5,000, 2007		

Other Support for Current Proposal

1. Have you applied for or been granted any external or other internal sources of funding for this proposal?	YES	<u>NO</u>
<i>If yes, clearly identify all other requests which duplicate this proposal, indicating the periods and amounts of all support requested and/or received, along with the status of the support.</i>		
<i>If you are requesting funds for a second or third year of support for one project, attach a progress report.</i>		

Attach to this application:

Abbreviated Vita (3 pages maximum) listing all papers published and/or presented that are related to this project. If this is a new area for you, list your most recent publications/ presentations.

Department Approval Statement: Proposals requiring departmental approval (new course development, curriculum redesign, etc.) or support (supplies, space, supporting personnel, etc) should be accompanied by a statement from the department head, director, or appropriate dean that affirms support for the project. This statement is particularly important when the proposal involved the design of a new course or changes to the department's curriculum changes.

Research Review Board Approval: If the proposed research involves human subjects or vertebrates, a letter of approval from the requisite board should be attached to this grant application (IRB for human subjects or IACUC for vertebrates).

Signature of Principal Researcher _____

Date January 18, 2008

Send this application electronically to the Dean of the Faculty. In addition, make 10 hard copies of your application, including 10 copies of your vita and deliver them to the Dean of the Faculty by the application due date.