

CARN

Conservation Action Research Network



Aspire Grants for Young Conservationists

CARN seeks to advance evidence-based conservation efforts that conserve biodiversity and ecosystem health, protect threatened wildlife species and habitats, and promote environmental sustainability

Supporting young African scientists through small research grants up to \$5,000 USD

Since 2014, the Conservation Action Research Network (CARN) has operated the Aspire Grant Program which provides research grants of up to \$5,000 USD to early career conservation scientists and graduate students from the Congo Basin region. The goal is to provide a competitive bridge funding mechanism to help develop and strengthen the capacity of young African scientists to conduct relevant and substantive conservation research and management activities that address critical challenges facing wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem health in the Congo Basin.

Awardees submit progress and completion reports along with a final expenditure report with details of the results and conservation outcomes of their research, including any encountered obstacles, and documentation showing that the information was shared with the appropriate local and/or governmental agency or NGO, the USFWS, and any other relevant conservation decision-makers.

Countries where we operate



CARN Aspire grant awardees are:

- focused on biodiversity, conservation, and environmental sustainability in the Congo Basin region
- enrolled in a graduate program or hold a professional position
- 35 or younger
- from Central Africa (7 countries)

Aspire by the Numbers



\$552,100 total to date awarded to

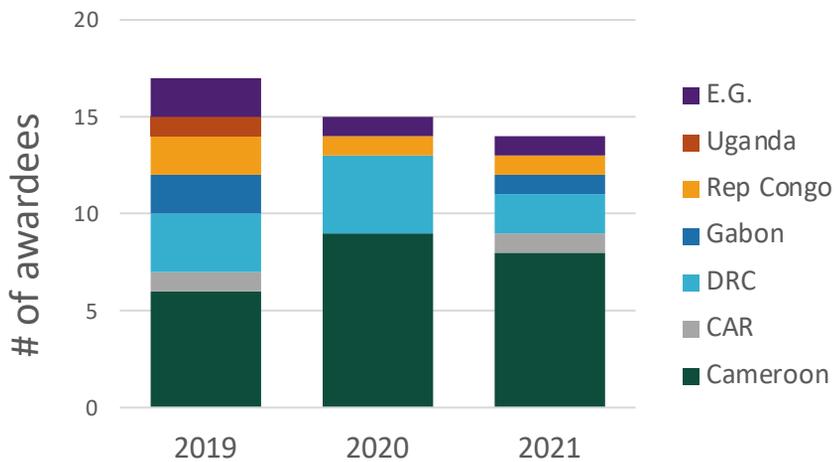
116 young African scientists

15 average number of grants funded each year

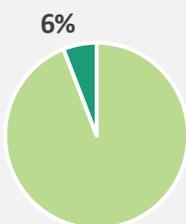
98% The percentage of surveyed CARN awardees who felt ASPIRE helped advance their conservation career

100% The percentage of surveyed CARN awardees who thought their skills improved as a result of the project

Recent CARN Grants by Country

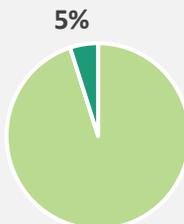


Percent of Applications Funded



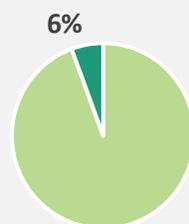
2019

270 applications received
17 proposals funded



2020

289 applications received
15 proposals funded



2021

234 applications received
14 proposals funded

In their own words



“As an early career and PhD student from Cameroon, the CARN grant was a life-changing experience for me. It allowed me to conduct my first research project involving intensive fieldwork as principal investigator.”

Paul Rodrigue Ngafacek, 2015 grantee



“Before I got the grant, I didn't have enough money to pursue my doctoral research. This grant enabled me to go to the field and collect data for my research and to write my thesis which I successfully defended in 2017 with distinction.”

Njie Louis Ndumbe, 2015 grantee



“It was my very first grant at the time. It not only opened the doors to research and capacity building for me personally, but it also allowed me to move forward academically with my PhD.”

Franklin Simo Talla, 2017 grantee



“I thank and I will thank CARN again and again for this grant because it opened a way to work in conservation.”

Ursla Bénédite Koumbo Tagagoum, 2016 grantee



“The CARN grant created a turning point in my professional life and marked the beginning of a new dawn in my career as a young conservation biologist.”

Aghah Valery Binda, 2016 grantee



“My research skills have taken a new turn because of this grant.

As a young scientist, I am motivated to confidently carry out more research and become an excellent researcher who will, in the future, mentor other young researchers.”

Rita Mousme Ebune, 2016 grantee



“Thanks to the field work funded by the grant, I was able to learn more about Cameroonian herpetology.

Today I can identify myself as one of the top Cameroonian herpetologists.”

Walter Paulin Tapondjou, 2017 grantee