Request For Proposals

Bioacoustics Equipment and Training (BEAT) Program for Indonesia and Malaysia Year 3

Application Deadline: 30 November 2025 (23:59 WIB/UTC+7)
Grant start date: January 2026

The K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics (www.birds.cornell.edu/ccb), in collaboration with the Universitas Gadjah Mada (https://satwaliar.fkt.ugm.ac.id/) and the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (https://www.umt.edu.my/), are inviting applications for the third year of our Bioacoustics Equipment and Training (BEAT) Program for Indonesia and Malaysia.

Building on the success of the first two cohorts, BEAT Year 3 aims to expand and strengthen the growing community of conservation bioacoustics across Indonesia and Malaysia. This program provides researchers and conservationists with equipment, training, and mentoring to design and establish conservation-oriented acoustic monitoring projects in Indonesia or Malaysia. Projects are expected to contribute new data that can be used to develop or support biodiversity and habitat conservation efforts in the region.

Participants will join a vibrant network of peers and alumni, gaining opportunities to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and contribute to the advancement of bioacoustics as a tool for conservation in Indonesia and Malaysia.

What We're Looking For

We welcome applications from teams of researchers, conservationists, and practitioners from diverse professional and academic backgrounds who are passionate about conservation and interested in exploring the use of bioacoustics in their work. Prior experience with acoustic monitoring is **not required**. We encourage applicants to bring fresh ideas and to explore how bioacoustics can add value to or transform their ongoing or planned conservation projects.

Eligibility

- International teams are eligible to apply; however, each team must be led by –and at least half of the team members must also be – citizens or permanent residents of Indonesia or Malaysia.
- At least one team member must demonstrate moderate proficiency in English to ensure effective participation in virtual training sessions.
- The proposed project area must be located in Indonesia and/or Malaysia.

- Projects located in areas requiring special permits (e.g., conservation or restricted zones) must present proof of access permits or an official letter of support from the relevant authority.
- At least one team member must be available to participate and present their project outcomes in the Symposium for Indonesia and Malaysia BioAcoustics, which is tentatively planned for May 2027 in Indonesia. We anticipate funding travel for at least one team member to attend.

What Selected Teams Receive

Over the course of one year, selected teams in BEAT Year 3 will have access to bioacoustic equipment, training, and mentorship to establish and strengthen their projects. Each team will receive:

- Four SwiftOne autonomous recording units (https://www.birds.cornell.edu/ccb/swift-one/), with eight SD cards and batteries.
- Two external hard drives for data storage.
- A series of virtual training sessions in study design, deployment, and data analysis provided by the BEAT Network.
- Mentorship from BEAT Network mentors with expertise in the relevant proposed project area.
- A certificate of completion from the K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics upon successful participation in the BEAT program.

List of Lecture Topics

Selected applicants will receive training and mentoring covering key aspects of bioacoustics for conservation. Topics include:

- **Introduction to Bioacoustics: Welcome and Program Overview:** Introduction to the BEAT Southeast Asia Program, K. Lisa Yang Center Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Basic bioacoustics; Animal sounds.
- **Introduction to Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) and SwiftOne:** This section covers PAM, including its purpose, advantages, conservation urgency, and a demonstration of SwiftOne.
- **Experimental Design**
- **Deployment and Practicalities of PAM:** The importance of metadata organization, recorder setup.
- **Data Management:** Data storage, data curation, storage overview, data replication, Raven Compass.
- **Raven Pro and Sound Visualization:** Raven Pro demo, how to annotate and save clips, Raven learning sources.
- **PAM Pipeline:** Data quality check, metadata table, manual review, subset data.

- **Acoustics Measurements:** Understanding annotations, basic, and robust measurements.
- **Data Preparation for Machine Learning:** Introduction to Machine learning in Bioacoustics, create own training and test datasets.
- **BirdNET Analyzer GUI:** Introduction to BirdNET Analyzer GUI: Batch analysis.
- **Model Performance:** Assessing model performance (recall, precision, threshold).
- **Soundscapes and Noise**
- **Final Presentation and Closing Ceremony:** Team sharing, feedback, and evaluation.

Commitments of Selected Teams

Selected teams will be required to actively participate throughout the BEAT program to ensure the success of their projects and to contribute to the broader BEAT network. Specifically, teams are expected to:

- Design and implement a conservation-oriented passive acoustic monitoring project, including the collection and analysis of bioacoustics data for a minimum of 6 months.
- Participate in monthly 2-hour virtual training sessions led by the BEAT Network, together with other grantees.
- Attend monthly 1-hour mentoring calls with mentors to discuss progress, challenges, and next steps.
- Share project outcomes and present preliminary findings at the Symposium for Indonesia and Malaysia BioAcoustics (in-person).
- Contribute to knowledge sharing by documenting and sharing lessons learned throughout the program, including writing for the BEAT program blog page.
- Develop data-sharing and authorship policies within teams (with options to extend beyond).
- Actively engage with the BEAT network (e.g., Jam Sosial, webinars, symposia, or collaborative activities) to strengthen the bioacoustics network across the region.
- Where possible, extend the benefits of the project beyond research teams by engaging local communities, institutions, or other stakeholders, helping to raise awareness about the value of bioacoustics for conservation.

Application and Selection

All submitted proposals will be evaluated fairly by researchers from the BEAT Network on the following components:

- Rationale and significance of the proposed project
- Feasibility of completing the study within one year of the program start, including access permits to the project area, supporting resources (e.g., funding), and team capacity.
- Clarity identified the next steps or long-term goals beyond the one-year program
- Relevance of proposed project to species and/or habitat conservation

- Research experience, relevant background or demonstrated potential to successfully carry out the proposed project
- Diverse team composition, including evidence of meaningful roles for participants across different backgrounds (e.g., career stages, institution, local inclusion, gender, and leadership from underrepresented groups)

Submission

Application documents must be emailed to ihearbeat.program@gmail.com by **23:59 WIB (Western Indonesia Time) on the 30th of November 2025.** Please enter "BEAT Y3_*your project name*" as the email subject line when submitting your application. The application form can be downloaded here: [https://s.id/Application-form-BEAT-Y3].

Key Dates

Open Call	: 10 October 2025
Application Deadline	: 30 November 2025
Selection Announcement	: 15 January 2026
Program Begins	: January 2026

Contact Person

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