



ASF Grants Scheme

ASF Grants Commission

ASF has instituted a range of grants to support worthwhile speleological projects. These notes provide an outline of each grant type, some of which may be partly funded by ASF's Karst Conservation Fund (KCF). Where possible, applications for grants will be publicised in Caves Australia and in electronic media normally received by all ASF members. Applications for the first round of grants will be advertised in the next Caves Australia.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Unless otherwise mentioned, all applicants, who may normally include provisional and corporate member clubs, must be financial members of ASF at the time of application. Exceptions may be made where appropriate for conservation and environmental grants, and for some conference grants.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

For further details and general enquiries about the grants, you can in the first instance e-mail grants@caves.org.au. If you have a good proposal, discuss it first with land owners, other clubs and speleologists. An excellent source of ideas for cave conservation projects may be found in the annual Conservation issues of NSS News (USA), the most recent being those for March 2010 (especially pp. 6-7) and April 2010. The Karst Conservation Fund (John Dunkley, jrdunkley@gmail.com) and the ASF Conservation Commission (Nicholas White, nicholaswhite@netspace.com.au) are also available for advice.

There is no form as such but please make sure your application doesn't exceed 2-3 pages, and ensure you include an outline of the proposal, a statement of the significance of the project (particularly within the broader context of speleology), a brief statements of capability based on experience, proposed project time lines, and (for individuals) a short curriculum vitae. Applications, when called, should be sent to the ASF Executive who will forward it to the Commissioner.

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IN-KIND AND PARTNER SUPPORT

ASF encourages all members to work in close cooperation with landowners, managers and other speleologists in the project area.

In general, applications will require an indication of at least some in-kind support from the proponent club or individual member. Applications may also include support from other sources.

SELECTION

The Grants Commission will seek advice from one or more referees able to comment on each proposal. All applications will be considered by a selection committee whose decision will be final.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO PROVIDE IN RETURN?

In addition to any other expectations for individual grants, all recipients are expected to provide a final report including a statement of moneys expended. Acknowledgment of ASF support must be included in reports and other publicity.

GRANT DETAILS

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To encourage projects consistent with the environmental objectives of ASF as set out in the Constitution ss. 2 a) and 2 b). The amount is at the discretion of the directors of the ASF Karst Conservation Fund.

Eligibility criteria, applications and selection

Any individual or organisation (including non-members) is eligible for a grant under this heading but the purpose must demonstrably advance the above Constitutional objectives, and preference will be given to ASF members.

Applications may be made at any time or as determined by the directors of the Karst Conservation Fund.

These grants will normally be administered by the management committee of the Karst Conservation Fund which will make a recommendation to the KCF directors, whose decision is final. In exceptional circumstances a KCF grant may be supplemented from funds of ASF itself.

Expectations

All recipients are expected to provide a final report including a statement of moneys expended and an article suitable for Caves Australia, along with any other requirements which will be discussed with proponents at the time.

EDUCATION AND ADVICE GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

Development of educational programs relating to caves, karst and their conservation e.g. information booklets and pamphlets for students, land owners, presentations to primary and secondary school students, scout and guide groups (but not training). Grant amount is \$250.

Eligibility criteria, applications and selection

Normally corporate member clubs and their members are eligible, and karst conservancies partnered with ASF are encouraged, but in exceptional cases others (including non-members) will be considered.

Expectations

A written final report including copies of any printed or electronic material prepared, and a project report for Caves Australia, with acknowledgment to ASF.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To encourage and share original research on caves and karst, normally within Australia, in any field relevant to speleology, cave and karst conservation and management, including but not limited to natural sciences (e.g. cave biology, geology), social sciences and humanities (e.g. cave history and conservation). It may include work in progress. One or two grants per year totalling \$500-750.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

Not restricted to academics or scientists. Projects involving original research by any ASF member or member club will be considered, including (but not restricted to) that done as part of the requirements for acquiring a formal qualification, or as part of post-doctoral studies. Special encouragement is given to projects that will involve and/or inform other ASF members. Applications will be called for annually in Caves Australia, in ASF electronic media, and where possible Helictite, not later than three months prior to a closing date of March 31 in each year. When funds permit, a further round will be conducted in July.

Expectations

The grant may be used for any purpose connected to the project, including equipment, travel costs, publication expenses etc. Recipients are expected to submit one or more of the following: a suitable review article or paper at an appropriate level to Caves Australia, a submitted or presented paper to the following ASF conference, a paper to a peer-refereed journal (preferably Helictite), or at least an abstract for Helictite. In all cases a written final report including copies of publications emanating from the project is required. Proposals associated with acquisition of formal tertiary qualifications (including from post-doctoral students) will in addition require a standard preliminary research plan and a copy (electronic or hard) of the final thesis. Publications and theses must include acknowledgment of ASF funding.

Where the project fits the requirements, further funding may be available from the Karst Conservation Fund.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

1. To encourage attendance at and active participation in ASF conferences by new ASF members
2. To attract valuable conference presentations relevant to speleology by persons who may not otherwise be able to attend the conference.

More than one grant may be made for each conference totalling between \$1000-\$2000.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

New members must be of not more than five years standing, and have not attended any previous ASF conference. In exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to members of long-standing who have not attended a conference for 20 years and who have an active contribution to offer to the conference.

The conference organising committee will publicise these grants in Caves Australia generally about six months before the Conference, and through normal ASF electronic media received by all members. The organisers may in addition approach prospective presenters and contributors. Subject to these general guidelines, administration will (at their discretion) be by the conference organising committee, which will determine the amount of each grant and may at their discretion supplement the

ASF grant with a small amount from the conference registration budget.

Expectations

The grant provides for whole or part re-mission of conference registration fees and travel costs etc., and personal attendance is required. An appropriate presentation is required from those funded because of their ability to provide a valuable contribution, and is encouraged from others where possible.

EXPLORATION GRANTS

Purpose, scope and amount

To support ASF members in undertaking expeditions concentrating on original exploration (including surveying), covering travel, equipment and other expenses. While preference will be given to expeditions within Australia, foreign expeditions organised by ASF corporate members will be considered. One grant not exceeding \$500.

Eligibility, criteria, applications and selection

Any individual or corporate member club is eligible, and the grant may be used for any purpose associated with the expedition. In all cases (including foreign expeditions), a clear indication is required of liaison with landowners, managers and/or speleologists in the area to be visited.

Expectations

A copy of all reports and publications deriving from the expedition (which must acknowledge support from ASF) and an article for Caves Australia and/or Helictite.

WHEN AND HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applications for the categories are able to be applied for at any time.