

To: Katherine Anderson
Administrator, AMR American Airlines Foundation
Mail Drop 5575, PO Box 619616
Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Texas, 75261-9616
FAX 817-967-9784

RE: Request for air passes for international conservation/computer grant program.

Dear Ms. Anderson:

In this letter we outline a request for American Airlines and British Airways to provide airline transportation as part of an alliance of US and International organizations engaged in technology support to nonprofit conservation groups around the world. Our in-kind program is 8 years old and has already distributed over \$10 million in donated computers, books, training and software to over 2000 organizations in over 50 countries. Enclosed you will see a sample of the kinds of research, science, mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) development that these groups have been able to undertake with our support. Our recipients include hundreds of national parks and park foundations, land trusts, community action groups, tribal organizations, schools, biodiversity programs and sustainable development projects of all kinds. Our partners and in-kind sponsors include Hewlett Packard Corp., Apple Computer, The Smithsonian Institution, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, England.

Our challenge has always been that of expanding this program overseas where the problems of global conservation are most severe and resources most limited. As an in-kind program we marshal the support of universities, nonprofit institutions, manufacturers and publishers to provide equipment and intensive training in modern computer and scientific conservation and resource management techniques for needy organizations. Ours is an ongoing program, building a permanent relationship with these groups to ensure that they will have the ongoing support they need. The greatest barrier now to our continued growth is the lack of support for transportation. A few of our sponsors have limited travel budgets, but in our volunteer corps alone we have professionals willing to serve overseas and groups anxious for their help but no way to bring them together. We are also able to put on an annual conference which attracts nearly 10,000 scientists and computer professionals, and which offers special training programs in the weeks before and after. Thanks to help from the University of California and the California Native Plant Society we have free accommodations for overseas nonprofits, in addition to a waiver of the thousands of dollars of training and conference fees. The sponsors listed below have nominated candidates and will serve as their hosts for this year's 4-week training program and will help provide their ongoing support. Even though we can accommodate 50-100 people annually in this program, out of the hundreds each year who compete to come, we only get 5-10 for the sole reason that few have the money for airfare from tropical countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Therefore, the principal sponsors of this program would like to invite you to consider joining us in this international effort. If you would like to begin with a specific request we would like to request free air passage for the 16 candidates listed below. If this is too many we would at least ask you to consider some of the candidates listed below, ranked in order of need. We hope to be able to fly them in to the next training program and international conference, July 1-31. Should you join us, we will provide for you a report of each candidate's experience and progress at this year's conference and courses. Our ongoing support program can also provide annual status reports for each of these recipients, and we are building web stories for each program to help publicize their work. You can see some of these stories at the ESRI Conservation Program Web site, www.esri.com/conservation, and we enclose an example of one of these progress stories from The Mountain Institute in Virginia.

We hope that you will recognize the possibilities for involvement and support in this program and will elect to join with us in additional opportunities. This is only our first year of seeking in-kind transportation

support, but we can foresee being able to make productive use of 50 air passages each year, with all that that implies in terms of grantees, projects and publicity. We appreciate that this is likely more than any single airline company can undertake, and as an alliance ourselves, we appreciate the many reasons why you might be interested in pursuing this program with your business allies like British Airways. At this time we are submitting this proposal only to American Airlines and British Airways, as the two air carriers most prominent in conservation and most frequently cited by our grantees as being supportive in the past. We have already been discussing a "Transportation Alliance for Conservation" as a way to formalize and promote an alliance between our conservation and computer industries and your transportation partnerships. If you would like to discuss the program further, request more specific information, or share your own corporate interests in conservation, mapping, and technology transfer please feel free to contact me at 909-793-2853 x2488, fax 909-307-3014, or email cconvis@esri.com.

Sincere Regards:

Charles Convis

Director, Environmental Systems Research Institute Conservation Program.
380 New York St., Redlands, CA, 92373. Tel: 909-793-2853 x2488

Sponsor Organizations:

World Wildlife Fund, Hewlett-Packard Corp., Apple Computer Corp., The Smithsonian Institution, Conservation International, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Intertribal GIS Council, University of California, International Center for Tropical Ecology, Missouri Botanical Garden, National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio) - Costa Rica, The Mountain Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, US Geological Survey.

Top 16 Candidates for Air Travel and their areas of work, ranked in order:

1. *Ban Lian Ng*, Australia : developing GIS capabilities at La Trobe University in order to assist in natural resource management and community development in Australia
2. *Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza*, Brazil : outstanding work in remote sensing and vegetation ecology at the Instituto de Biociencias
3. *Jorge Fallas Gamboa*, Costa Rica : determine conservation priorities through a GAP Analysis for the country of Costa Rica
4. *Martin Hardiono*, Indonesia : developing GIS capabilities to address biodiversity conservation and landuse policy for WWF-Indonesia
5. *S. C. Rai*, India : Sikkim Biodiversity and Ecotourism Project and applying GIS to analyse landuse changes in India
6. *Huda F. Alkaff*, Yemen (presently at Univ. Georgia) : examining spatial and temporal dynamics of erosion, deposition, and sea-level rise on coastal wetlands
7. *Lynette Obare*, Kenya : energy conservation and forestry issues in Kenya with the Forest Action Network
8. *Tibisay Escalona*, Venezuela (presently at Univ. Missouri) : conservation and sustainable use of Amazon river turtles in Venezuela
9. *Jorge Carranza*, Mexico : biodiversity conservation in Mexico
10. *Daniela K. Ferraz*, Brazil : conservation of plant populations in Brazil's endangered Atlantic Forest
11. *Ana Lucia*, Costa Rica : biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica
12. *Juan Pablo Avalos*, Guatemala : applying GIS to biodiversity and natural resource issues in Peten
13. *Santiago Hernandez*, Dominican Republic : biodiversity conservation in the Dominican Republic
14. *Emilia Moreno*, Panama : biodiversity conservation in Panama
15. *Marilyn Santiago*, Puerto Rico : creating GIS databases which are essential for environmental studies in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands
16. *Ernesto de Villar*, Colombia : biodiversity conservation in Sierra de Nevada de Santa Marta, a region known for its unique flora and fauna