

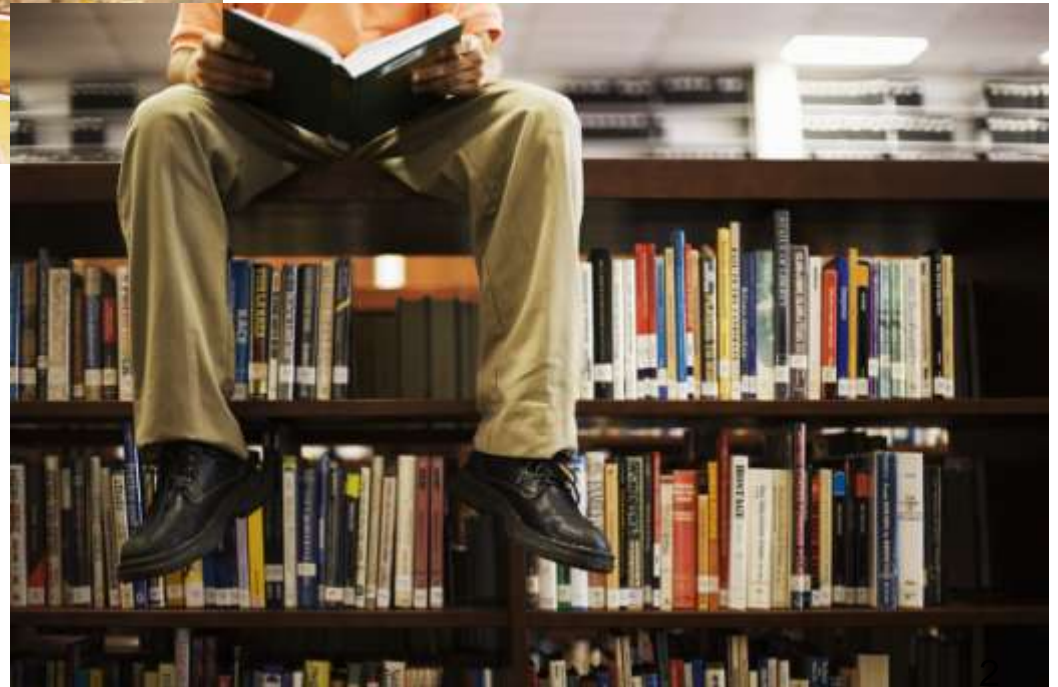
# ***Research Funding Opportunity & Scientific Capacity Building in Developing Countries***

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Scientific Research

Scientific Knowledge









**Scientific knowledge**  
is a driving force for  
**development**

# Science & technology in developing countries

- Lack of resources
- Low scientific productivity
- Absence of recruitment of  
new scientists
- Brain drain



**INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION FOR  
SCIENCE**

- NGO, Research council
- Stockholm, Sweden
- International Board of Trustees
- 1,400 scientific advisers (helping young scientists on a voluntary basis)
- 6600 to 6800 grants in more than 100 developing countries





# Our Mission

**Strengthen the  
scientific capacity  
to conduct  
research related to  
biological and  
waterresources.**



Research fields supported  
Natural and Social Sciences

# Our strategy

Identify

**young promising  
scientists**

support them at the  
**beginning of their  
careers**



## Our programme

### IFS Research Grant

(max USD 12,000)

(research 1-3 years)



(Could be renewed twice)



# Our programme (cont.)

- Travel grants
- Publication Grants
- Purchasing services
- Workshops and training
- Scientific contacts & participation in networks (mentoring programme)
- Awards programme

# Eligibility Criteria

- Developing country
- Under 40 years
- Research on biological and water resource base
- $\leq$  Masters degree, enrolled PhD
- Attached to a national university, research institution, or NGO in a developing country
- Carrying out the project in a developing country



# Competitive Grant

- 1500 applications per year (including revised)
- External Review by scientific advisers and experts
- Deliberation by a Scientific Advisory Committee
- 200-300 grants per year



## Evaluation criteria

- Well-formulated research question
- Sound experimental design/methods
- Likely to produce new knowledge
- Relevant to local priorities and needs
- Applicant's training and experience
- etc. (see Gastel's lecture)





# Applying for a Research Grant at IFS

**NOTE: Currently there is only special calls for application. IFS is in a process of envisioning its future direction in supporting reseachers in developing countries.**

# Pre-screening of Application

Different outcome of applications:

- Not accepted (negatively)
- Not accepted (positively)
- Pending
- Accepted for External Review

~1000 applications/year (out of 1500)  
will be sent for external review

# External Review Process of proposals

An application is sent to 3-5 IFS advisers and 2-3 experts for review and recommendation for funding

At least 2-3 reviewers would have provided comments within 6 weeks

# Scientific Advisory Committee



Deliberation of Grants  
by an international panel  
of Scientific Advisers

Considering own review  
external reviews,  
qualification of applicant,  
quality/feasibility of proposal,  
relevance of expected results

~200-300 applications  
/year (out of 1000)  
recommended for funding



## SAC recommendations:

- Not Recommended for funding
- Not Recommended (revision encouraged)
- Recommended with Conditions
- Recommended (with instructions)\*
- Recommended (outstanding)

*(\*) priority according to the availability of funds*

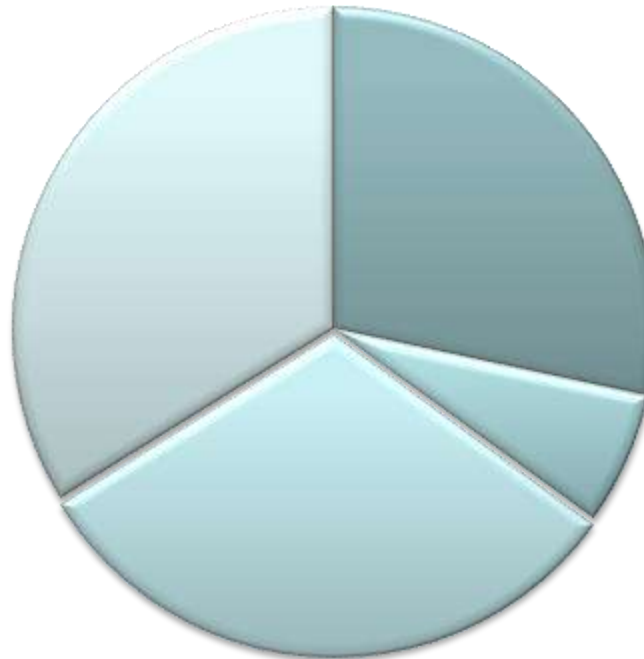
# Grants by Region

**Total IFS Research Grants Awarded: 6 838**  
(2011-05-06)

**Top recipient countries per region/total grants per region:**

**Sub-Saharan Africa**  
**34%:**  
Nigeria 329  
Cameroon 250  
Kenya 244  
Burkina Faso 145  
Tanzania 125  
Uganda 120  
Benin 105  
Cote d'Ivoire 101

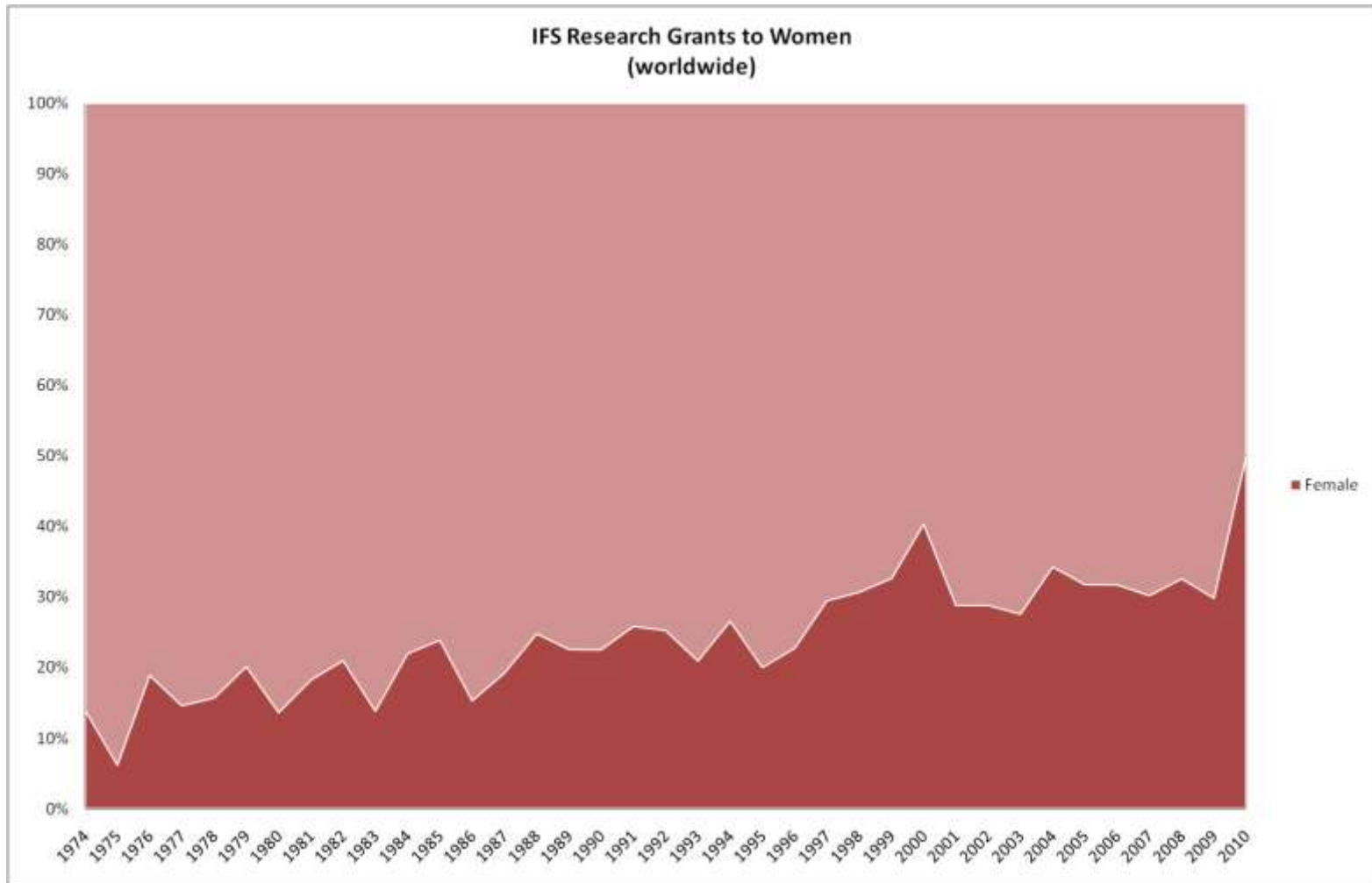
**South and S E Asia  
and Pacific**  
**31%:**



**Latin America and  
the Caribbean**  
**28%:**

**Middle East and  
North Africa**  
**7%:**

## Awarded IFS Grants to women (2010)





## A Grantee in Social Science

**John, 40**  
**Kenya**



# Human Impact on Wetland Ecosystems and its Implications on the Environment



**11 400 USD**

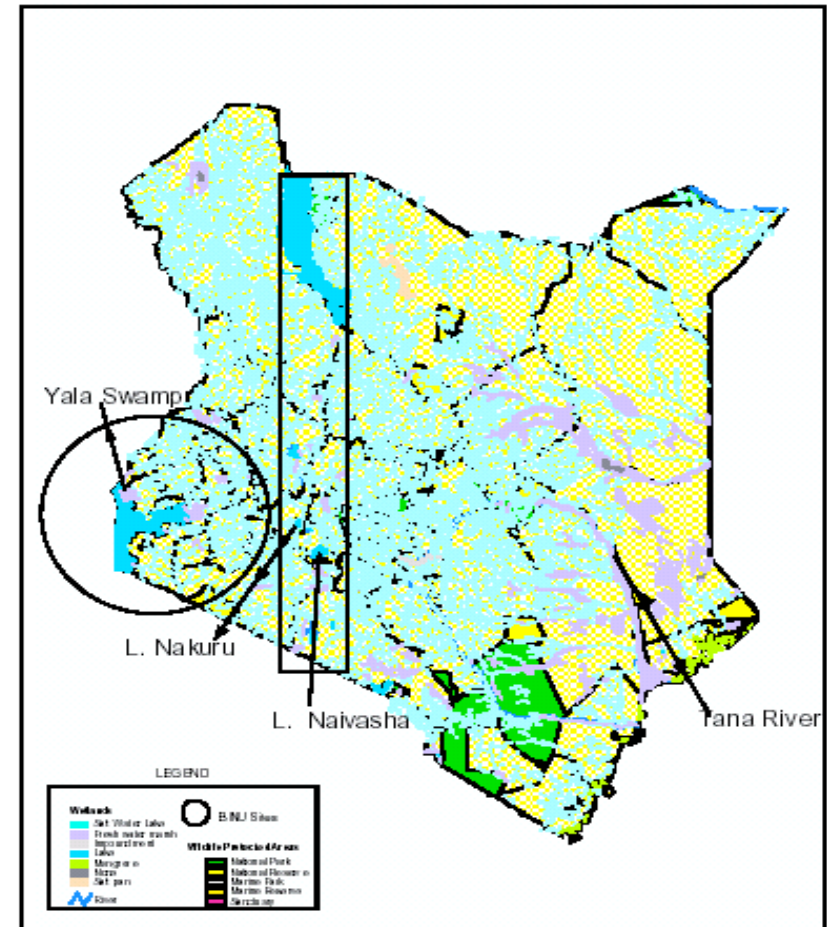
computer

satellite photographs,

literature

field visits

salaries for 2 assistants



## **Outcomes**

Literature review

Research results

Articles in scientific journals

International conference

Promotion, PhD





*"I've been recognized as a good researcher, my papers have been published and I've got a very good response from the readers."*

*The IFS grant has served as a platform for me and enabled me to get into bigger projects."*

## **Impact of IFS grants**

(according to IFS impact studies)

- Keep research careers alive
- Give a certain independence
- Access other funding sources
- Increased scientific productivity

## **IFS Grantees**

(according to IFS impact studies)

Become scientific leaders in their  
community and established  
member of the international  
scientific community



## Conclusions

IFS grant opens the door to the  
international scientific community  
and  
makes a difference in  
researchers' careers

# Thank you

web: [www.ifs.se](http://www.ifs.se)

