



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

International Research Partnership Fund Committee

MEMORANDUM

To: Vladimir Kricsfalusy
School of Environment and Sustainability

From: Meghna Ramaswamy

Date: February 12, 2024

Re: International Research Partnership Fund

Meghna Ramaswamy, PhD
Director, International Office
University of Saskatchewan
222 Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Phone: (306) 966-5904
Email: meghna.ramaswamy@usask.ca

On behalf of the International Research Partnership Fund Committee, I am pleased to inform you that your application “Advancing biodiversity conservation in Canada and Ukraine by enhancement of international research partnership” to collaborate with *the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*, has been approved for a grant in the amount of **\$20,000**.

Due to the unpredictable circumstances in Ukraine and “Avoid All Travel” advisories issued by the Government of Canada, as advised by USask Safety Resources (a division of Human Resources), you are required to complete a strong safety plan in collaboration with Safety Resources and obtain approvals from the Executive Director of the School of Environment and Sustainability and the Provost Office before you travel to Ukraine for this initiative. During your travel, the risk management plan must be implemented, and you are also required to maintain close communications with Safety Resources and International Office.

After the above-mentioned conditions are met, a new fund will be set-up in your name and the International Office (IO) will assist Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASI) with creation of the fund. You are required to attend a project initiation meeting organized by the IO to discuss program expectations and fund administrations.

The International Research Partnership Fund Committee has approved this grant on conditions that:

- 1. Term and residual funds** - The start date of project activities is February 15, 2024, and all activities including submission of final reports must be completed by February 15, 2026. The project lead is required to spend at least one week at the partner institution to allow for substantive partnership development to take place. The funds are to be used only for eligible items as per the program guidelines. Any over expenditures or unauthorized expenditures applied to this fund will be the sole responsibility of the fund holder. Any funds not spent within this period will be retained and reallocated by the IO.
- 2. Technical and cash/in-kind contribution reporting** - An interim progress report must be submitted to the IO at international.office@usask.ca no later than February 1, 2025, and final technical and cash/in-kind contribution reports must be submitted to the IO no later than March 1, 2026. The project team is required to make a cash and/or in-kind contribution of 15% or more of the grant amount to

support their proposed activities. At least 10% of this contribution must come from the international partner(s); and at least 5% from the USask team. Reporting templates will be provided by the IO.

3. **Ethics/Animal Care/Biohazard** - If your research project requires protocol approval, this approval must be in place before any research can be conducted and/or research funds can be released for this project. Research Support Specialists (RSS) at RASI will connect with you to complete the respective compliance check and direct you to the process for early release approval for the part of the project activities that do not require ethics approval, if applicable. (Please follow this link for information on research ethics. <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/contacts/our-offices/research-ethics-and-infrastructure.php>).

If applicable, you are encouraged to incorporate international academic content and other resources into your teaching/interactions with students to contribute to the USask internationalization journey. Congratulations on this prestigious award and we look forward to your continued success!

Sincerely,

Meghna Ramaswamy

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