

Thesis Field Sampling Travel Expense

Curtis Brainard & Kim Kastens

We request \$4750 from the Climate Center to partially cover travel costs for Curtis Brainard to do field sampling in his proposed research area, Araki Island, which is located south of Santo Island, Vanuatu in the South Pacific Ocean. These samples will be used for his research project required to complete a degree in Earth & Environmental Science Journalism at Columbia University.

The purpose of the project is to collect corals for uranium series and radiocarbon dating in order to study the impact of the Laschamp geomagnetic excursion on the radiocarbon content of the atmosphere. Curtis plans to sample fossil corals from different uplifted reefs on Araki, previously mapped by Art Bloom and his students and sampled by Prof. Richard Fairbanks' group in 2004. Based on the initial analysis of the coral samples from Araki, the preservation and quality of Araki fossil corals are exceptional and range from Holocene to 60 ka, including the high-stand reefs equivalent in age to marine isotope stage 3 interstadials.