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Call for proposals for research funding in BECC for the years 2022-2023

BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) welcomes proposals for research funding within the vision and aims of BECC.

This is a joint call between Lund University (LU) (up to 7 million SEK) and University of Gothenburg (UGOT) (up to 2 million SEK) and aims at a continued consolidation of the collaboration between research groups within and between Lund and Gothenburg universities and to an increased impact on research and society in relation to BECC's three Grand Challenges.

The main applicant must be a BECC PI. There can be up to two additional co-applicants (BECC-members) and their roles should be clearly described. Collaboration with external researchers is welcomed, but the funding is strictly to be used for BECC-members at the departments where applicants are affiliated. An applicant may only apply for one proposal as main applicant and one other as co-applicant.

Main applicants who were successful in BECC's "Call for proposals for research funding in BECC for the years 2021-2022" cannot receive funding.

Relevant documents

[BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025](#)

[Strategic Plans of BECC Research Themes 2021-2025](#)

[List of BECC-PIs](#)

[List of BECC-researchers LU](#)

List of BECC researchers UGOT (ask for pdf)

Awarded projects will be invited to a kickoff meeting.

General information

BECC is a strategic research area (SRA), which brings together research on climate-ecosystem-biodiversity relationships from natural and social sciences at LU and UGOT. BECC strives to assess the combined consequences of anthropogenic emissions, land-use and climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and provide a basis for informed societal responses, with a focus on critical changes in forest, agricultural, urban and subarctic ecosystems, including interactions between terrestrial and aquatic systems. The focus is on Swedish conditions, taking into account relevant aspects of the regional (e.g. European) and global context. The ability of societies to tackle such complex social-ecological questions depends on excellent research and the integration of it into management practices and policy development, which in turn demands collaboration between different disciplines, research methods, and involvement with stakeholders. To assist in solving these questions, BECC has chosen the path of a challenge-driven research environment, where a Grand Challenge refers to an issue where gaps in scientific understanding seriously constrains the ability to make informed decisions on matters of



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pressing concern for the well-being of people and the environment, today and in a future world affected by continued global change.

Call topic

As a point of departure, applications should be in line with the BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025 and the updated Theme strategies 2021-2025. These documents stress interdisciplinary research, innovative research, emerging research topics, and stakeholder collaboration.

BECC revolves around three Grand Challenges:

- *Grand Challenge*: develop a scientific basis for effective and biologically meaningful conservation strategies under on-going and future global change in socio-ecological land-use systems
- *Grand Challenge*: reduce wide uncertainty in the components of the carbon cycle, its responses to anthropogenic and biophysical drivers, and the legacy effects of slow responding processes of vegetation and soils
- *Grand Challenge*: integrate the private and public value of ecosystem services into management and policy while accounting for the projected impacts of climate, land-use and other drivers of change

Under the umbrella of these challenges, this year's call focuses on specific sub-challenges as a way to promote novelty and renewal of BECC research. The following sub-challenges are both essential and unifying across the Grand Challenges but have been under-researched within BECC and the global scientific community. All sub-challenges can be approached from each of BECC's three Grand Challenges. This call thus aims at funding research proposals that address one or more of the below sub-challenges. Motivate the connection of your project to the(se) research focuses in the Application section "Highlight your chosen sub-challenge/s relevance within the umbrella of BECC Grand affect the Challenges ", which will be the basis for the external evaluation of the project's BECC relevance.

- Identify and clarify the importance of **key processes** (ecological and/or societal) that affect the carbon cycle, as a means to determine efficient and feasible ecosystem-based management/interventions for climate mitigation.
- Identify significant driving forces and their **effect** on the carbon cycle, to determine the most urgent, efficient and feasible ecosystem-based interventions for climate mitigation considering ecological, economic and/or social aspects.

Further develop ways to **scale** carbon cycle processes over space and time, such that large-scale predictions are better informed by small-scale empirical studies and vice versa.

- Improve the assessment of **combined effects** of multiple drivers on biodiversity, in particular land-use and climate change, as well as societal strategies to handle such combined effects.
- Identify trade-offs and find synergies generated by different approaches (ecological as well as societal) to fight the **twin challenge** biodiversity loss and climate change.



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- Identify and analyse trade-offs and synergies between ecosystem services generated by land-use and management with a focus on implications for landscape management/governance **across sectors and actors** in a changing climate.
- Deepen the social, economic and ecological understanding of ecosystem service trade-offs and synergies with a focus on implications for management and policy.

This call thus aims at funding research proposals that address sub-challenges of BECC's Grand Challenges. Motivate the connection of your project to the above sub-challenge chosen in the Application section "How is the proposed project relevant for one or several of the sub-challenges in the call and the wider BECC Grand Challenges ", which will be the basis for the external evaluation of the project's BECC relevance.

Assessment

Only applications that clearly fit the call topic will be evaluated. Eligible applications by BECC PIs will be evaluated by external evaluators on the basis of:

- *Scientific quality and novelty.* Only applications of highest scientific quality and with a significant degree of novelty will be supported. The application shall describe a project that can be achieved within the frame of up to two years of funding.
- *Degree of relevance in relation to call topic* (sub-challenge) and to the wider BECC's Research Strategy 2020-2025 and BECC Research Themes' Strategic Plans 2021-2025.
- *Degree of synergy.* Applications with synergistic effects across disciplines, universities or sectors will be favoured over those of closely related disciplines.
- *The applicant's/s' scientific merits.*
- *Adequate resources* to carry out the project (e.g. external funds sufficient to support project operation).
- *A well-motivated plan for scientific dissemination and stakeholder communication* of results tailored to the proposed research.

Instructions

1. Use the application template attached (attachment 1).
2. Minimum sum for each application is 400 000 SEK and maximum 1 000 000 SEK. Examples of eligible costs are salary funding/co-funding for researchers/postdocs/PhD-students, running costs, infrastructure, and other costs related to the specific research project.
3. CV should be attached for main and co-applicants (2 pages). Use the CV-template (attachment 2).

Attachment 1 and 2 at the end of this document.



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Application

Announcement of call: April 6 2022

Final day of application: June 1 2022

Decisions are expected to be taken during November 2022.

Proposals should be sent to BECC research coordinator, Josefin Madjidian, Josefin.Madjidian@cec.lu.se, who also provides information on the application procedure.

This call is also available on BECCs web page: www.becc.lu.se

Henrik Smith

Coordinator of BECC



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Attachment 1

APPLICATION TEMPLATE

First page

Project title

Names of main applicant, co-applicant/s and other collaborators

[Main applicant must be a BECC PI and co-applicants any member of BECC. Collaborators may be external.]

Project summary (max 200 words)

Scientific description

Aim (200 words)

xxx

Project description (max 1500 words)

[Theory, methods, performance, time plan, plan for scientific dissemination and stakeholder communication of results]

xxx

How is the proposed project relevant for one or several of the sub-challenges in the call and the wider BECC Grand Challenges (min 500 words)

[See [BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025](#) and the [Strategic Plans of BECC Research Themes 2021-2025](#)]

xxx

Novelty of the proposed project in comparison with your research carried out today (max 300 words)

xxx

Roles of applicants and how collaboration will be fostered (max 200 words)

xxx



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Project budget

[Full cost calculation from respective department. Important! It is not possible to shift money between our universities.]

Applied and obtained ongoing relevant grants

[Applied and obtained grants should be shown so that the operation of the project is apparent.]

xxx

Added value and potential synergies with the proposal explained

xxx



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Attachment 2

CV

(main and co-applicants)

PERSONAL DATA

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

MAJOR EMPLOYMENTS AND PARENTAL LEAVE (current and previous)

SCIENTIFIC MERITS (fill in where applicable)

PhD supervision and postdoctoral mentorship

Awards

Honorary assignments and commissions of trust (in selection)

Examiner and examination board for PhD thesis

Academic administration

Expert assignments

Professional service: Editor and referee

International conferences (organisation, chair, invited speaker, talk) (in selection)

Teaching

Grants (in selection)

Peer reviewed original articles (10 most relevant and a link to your LU-portal page or GUP-page)

Popular science

EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH

EXPERIENCE IN COLLABORATING WITH SOCIETAL ACTORS