



2023-03-31

Call for proposals for seed projects for the years 2023-2024

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

BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) welcomes proposals for seed projects in line with 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). The call aims to further consolidate the collaboration between research groups within and between LU and UGOT and to increase the impact on research and society in relation to BECC's three Grand Challenges:

- Develop a scientific basis for effective and biologically meaningful conservation strategies under on-going and future global change in socio-ecological land-use systems
- 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
- 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

Aim of call

This 2023-2024 call targets seed projects such as: testing new ideas to scope out new research directions, pilot data collections to strengthen future research proposals, and other proof of concept studies or targeted synthesis with the goal of exploring knowledge gaps and future research directions. This call particularly invites inter- and transdisciplinary applications that merge natural and social sciences to generate new frontiers in BECC's research portfolio, but also disciplinary applications are welcome. Acknowledging that extra effort is needed to develop a common understanding, explicitly inter- and transdisciplinary project can apply for additional support (see Application guidelines). All applications should be in line with the BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025, connected to at least one of the three grand challenges, and the Theme strategies 2021-2025.

Application guidelines

The main applicant must be a BECC PI. There can be up to two additional co-applicants (BECC-members) with roles clearly described. Collaboration with external researchers is welcomed, but the funding is strictly to be used for BECC-members at the departments where the applicants are affiliated. An applicant may only apply for one proposal as main applicant, and main applicants who were successful in BECC's "Call for proposals for research funding in BECC for the years 2022-2023" cannot be main applicants in this call.

Instructions

1. Applications should be sent in using the application template (Appendix 1).
2. The project size should fit in a budget of 400 000 to 1 000 000 SEK, with an additional support of up to 500 000 SEK for *inter- or transdisciplinary projects* (to be specified in Appendix 1). 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. The project timeline should not exceed two years.
4. CV should be attached for both main and co-applicants (2 pages each), using the CV-template (Appendix 2).



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

Time frame for application

Announcement of call: Mars 31 2023

Final day of application: Juni 2 2023

Decisions are expected to be taken during November 2023.

Assessment

Only applications that clearly fit the call topic and criteria will be evaluated. The goal is to have at least two projects that pursue an inter- or transdisciplinary approach. 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 and future potential will be supported. (Ranking: 1-5)
- *Degree of synergy*. Applications with high synergistic effects across disciplines, universities, research groups and/ or sectors will be favoured. For inter- and transdisciplinary projects, applications with a balanced collaborations between social and natural science will be ranked higher (Ranking: 1-3)
- *For the inter- and transdisciplinary projects only*: the degree to which knowledge, methods, goals and outcomes of different disciplines are integrated into a new understanding that goes beyond what single disciplines can achieve alone. Balanced collaborations between social and natural science are compulsory. (Ranking: 1-5)
- *Degree of relevance in relation to call topic* including the connection to the wider BECC's Research Strategy 2020-2025, BECCs grand challenges, and to BECC Research Themes' Strategic Plans 2021-2025. (Ranking: 1-5)
- *Feasibility*. The application shall describe an innovative seed project that can be achieved within a time frame of up to two years and that has adequate resources to be carried out (e.g. external funds sufficient to support cost not included in the project budget). (Ranking: 1-3)
- *The applicant's/s' scientific merits*. (Ranking: 1-3)

where Rankings 1-5 are defined: 1=insufficient, 2=poor, 3=acceptable, 4=good, 5=very good, whereas Ranking 1-3 are defined: 1=insufficient, 2=acceptable, 3=good. Applications scoring "insufficient" or "poor" in any category, and "acceptable" in the *scientific quality and novelty* category, will be excluded from the final ranking. The score from remaining applications will then be used for ranking where funding will be allocated to the highest ranked projects, considering budget allocations from each university and the aim of funding at least two inter- and transdisciplinary projects.

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)

Henrik Smith

Coordinator of BECC