



2017-06-20

Call for proposals for research funding in BECC for the years 2018-2020

BECC welcomes proposals for research funding within the vision and aims of BECC for the years 2018-20. This is a joint call, up to 20 million SEK, between LU and UGOT and aims at a continued consolidation of the collaboration between research groups and major projects within and between Lund and Gothenburg universities.

BECC strives to assess the impacts of climate change on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to generate knowledge as a basis for informed societal responses to those impacts. BECC research encompasses forestry, agriculture and subarctic ecosystems, but also how nutrient export from forestry and agricultural land affects aquatic systems. The focus is on Swedish conditions, taking into account relevant aspects of the regional (e.g. European) and global context. Studies of other climatic, societal or regional contexts may also be relevant, if they generate knowledge of well-motivated relevance to the evidence-based management of Swedish ecosystems, or to the fulfilment of Sweden's international commitments in related policy areas.

Proposals are invited for research relevant to achieving the vision and aims of BECC and its Challenge Themes, as described on next page, and specified in more detail in the documents available to this link (<http://www.becc.lu.se/important-becc-documents>)

Proposals is expected to be discussed within a BECC Grand Challenge Theme before 29/9.

Examples of activities that may be funded include:

- Demonstration in the form of a pilot study of the feasibility and strategic relevance of a novel research idea relevant to BECC.
- Consolidate work successfully carried out during the last years funded by, or affiliated with, BECC.
- Research linked and complementary to other major research projects/programmes/ research environments that add value by increasing the relevance, impact and participation in the research.

Time plan

- a) Announcement of call for proposals for new research projects, 2018-20, in June 2017.
- b) Researchers will have the possibility to apply for this funding at the latest 29 September at 2 pm.
- c) In between the call for proposals and the last day to apply there will be theme meetings arranged to discuss possible projects (find one and register here: <http://www.becc.lu.se/events>)
- d) Decisions about the proposed research projects is expected to be taken during November 2017.

Complete call text and application form is available on BECCs web-page: www.becc.lu.se

If you have questions about

- Application format, CV and other details contact Anna Boo
- Research: attend a theme meeting or contact a theme leader

BECC Grand Challenge Themes

BECC is organized in Challenge Themes, each relating to a Grand Challenge with regard to the impacts of climate and environmental change on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the ability of society to adapt to the impacts, or mitigate their causes. Each Challenge Theme (“Theme” for short) thus focuses on an overarching issue of scientific importance, in need of scientific coordination, with high relevance to decision making and with potentially high impact on international research, today and in coming years. These are:

Constraining the carbon cycle to characterise and mitigate climate change

The carbon cycle dynamically couples the biosphere, oceans and atmosphere, and links societal and biophysical dimensions of the Earth system. A *grand challenge* is to reduce wide uncertainty in the carbon cycle, its responses to anthropogenic and biophysical drivers, and legacy effects of slow-responding processes of vegetation and soils, combining empirical ecology and modelling, informed by studies of the past, and accounting for links across scales from the local to the regional and global. Accurately quantifying and projecting changes in carbon balance, regionally and globally, across compartments and sectors, and accounting for links to other biogeochemical cycles (e.g. N and P), is central to understanding and projecting climate change and its impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. This in turn provides a necessary basis for the design of mitigation strategies to sequester greenhouse gases from the atmosphere through land use and management interventions.

Promoting ecosystem services from land use under global change

Climate, environmental and socio-economic change may negatively impact ecosystems and their services, but may also provide opportunities such as increased agricultural and silvicultural production. A *grand challenge* is to 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. The design and assessment of adaptation strategies needs to build on future projections and their uncertainties, but also on studies of the motivations, behaviour and interactions of stakeholders and institutions facing different adaptation choices, and having different, sometimes conflicting, goals. Tools are needed that can describe key aspects of change, and consequences of proposed adaptation measures, in terms of metrics of interest to decision-makers ranging from farmers and forest owners to regulators, policy makers, government agencies dependent industries, while accounting for governance factors that may help or hinder the realisation of adaptation goals.

Identifying efficient strategies for biodiversity conservation under the combined pressures from climate change and land use change

Climate change threatens biodiversity directly, but also indirectly through changes in land-use caused by attempts to mitigate or adapt to climate change. The direct and indirect consequences of climate change may have compounding effects, such as habitat loss that constrains species range shifts. A *grand challenge* is to develop a scientific basis for the design of biodiversity conservation strategies under climate change, building on the relative merits of strengthening resilience, using traditional conservation actions such as protected areas, versus enhancing the ability of species to adapt to climate change. This will require improved knowledge of how organisms respond to the combined effects of climate change and habitat deterioration or loss through responses such as range shifts, adapting or going extinct.

Link to Theme meetings in August- September: <http://www.becc.lu.se/events>



Specific criteria for selection of proposals

Obligatory criteria

- Scientific quality is most important. Only applications of the highest scientific quality will be supported.
- The proposal must describe a project that is feasible to carry out in the years 2018-2020.
- Well motivated costs of *at least* 800,000 including overhead, in total between Lund and Gothenburg (see * below).
- Credible and specific plan for dissemination of results tailored to the research conducted.

In the ranking of proposals fulfilling the above obligatory criteria, equal weight will be given to each of the following criteria:

- Scientific, methodological and/or transdisciplinary novelty;
- Expectation and extent of impact of the research findings on societal processes relevant to the scope of BECC;
- Relevance in relation to one or more of BECC's Challenge Themes, including the potential to initiate or enhance interdisciplinary collaboration within BECC;
- Degree of synergy between different research areas of BECC by involving collaboration spanning more than one research group, department, faculty and/or university;
- The applicants' academic track record, expertise relevant to the proposed research and demonstrated engagement for the development of the BECC environment.

How much can be applied for?

Total budget for potential allocation under this call is up to 16 million SEK (including OH) for Lund University and up to 4 million SEK (including OH) for University of Gothenburg.

Minimum sum for each application is 800 000 SEK in total between Lund and Gothenburg

* Example of eligible costs is salary funding for 1-2 years PhD-funding, 1-2 year Post-doc, running costs, infrastructure and other costs related to the specific research project.

Who can apply?

The call is open to Lund University and Gothenburg University-affiliated researchers (all staff categories).

For each application there should be one main applicant (must be a BECC PI) and maximum 4 co-applicants. The role for each applicant in a project, including co-applicants, should be clearly stated in the application.

As a PI you can only be main applicant on 1 application as well as co-applicant on 1 application, thus as a PI you can have your name on at most 2 applications.

In addition to the project description, the main applicant should also submit a CV and a complete list of publications from the last 8 years.

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