



**CESAB**  
CENTRE FOR THE SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS  
OF BIODIVERSITY

Appel lancé conjointement avec



## ITTECOP - FRB - CESAB Call for projects 2020:

**"Territorial approach to biodiversity: transport  
infrastructures, natural and agricultural environments"**



### **Contact**

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## Schedule

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16/07/2020 at 13:00 (CEST): deadline for submission of pre-proposals  
21/09/2020: Invitation to submit a full-proposal (for selected projects only)  
12/11/2020 at 13:00 (CET): deadline for submission of proposals  
Early February 2021: final selection

Number of funded project: 1

## Context and expectations

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Transport infrastructure<sup>1</sup> (road, rail, inland waterway, air or energy) are essential to the quality of life in Europe and enables the exchange of services and goods between regions. However, they put pressure on biodiversity by destroying and fragmenting ecosystems and ecological continuities. They can also have positive effects on biodiversity and contribute to creating or recreating ecological continuities, which are likely to increase the connectivity of environments both along rights-of-way<sup>2</sup> and on a territorial scale, interacting with natural and agricultural, rural, sub-urban and even urban environments.

In partnership with the ITTECOP programme, the FRB calls on the scientific community to submit to CESAB projects based on the analysis and synthesis of existing data on the theme "**Territorial approach to biodiversity: transport infrastructures, natural and agricultural environments**" at a European geographic<sup>3</sup> level.

The projects will involve the analysis of large sets of already acquired data which can be gathered and constructed (from dispersed data sets, data available in the literature, etc.) during the project to, among others:

- Assess the impacts of these infrastructures on biodiversity (genetic, specific, functional and ecosystemic), all taxonomic groups being potentially concerned;
- Determine how the design of the infrastructures can impact the different facets of biodiversity in relation to agricultural uses and practices, management of natural environments and wildlife, and surrounding territories;
- Evaluate how the management of infrastructures and their "naturalized" part can influence these impacts in interaction with the surrounding natural and agricultural environments;
- Identify and analyze the economic, socio-technical and political factors that contribute to the deployment of these infrastructures and the degree to which they take biodiversity into account.

In particular, the following are expected: scientific publications and all other forms of knowledge dissemination to managers and stakeholders, open-access analytical tools, databases, the organization of international workshops and training sessions, and the presentation of results at conferences.

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<sup>1</sup> Linear transport infrastructure (LTI) includes road, rail and waterway structures as well as energy transport networks and their associated spaces. Port and airport interfaces are also included in the field of research

<sup>2</sup> <http://cohnecsit.mnhn.fr/problematique/>

<sup>3</sup> Territorial approach to biodiversity covering several countries and/or bio-climatic zones in Europe

The working group will provide an intermediate report (18 months) and a final report (36 months). Special attention will be paid to knowledge transfer. The selected team will thus participate fully in the joint activities of the different projects of the ITTECOP 2020 call.

At the end of the project, a feedback/perspectives session will be organized between the group and the funders (ITTECOP, FRB).

## Consortium composition

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The project coordinator must be a recognized scientific researcher, affiliated to a French research organization. The working groups (made up of a 12 experts, with a maximum of 2 non-EU) must be balanced between young and established profiles, and respect as far as possible parity between men and women. Multidisciplinary groups or groups including stakeholders are highly appreciated, without this being a mandatory selection criterion.

A post-doctoral fellow will be recruited by the FRB for 24 months. The selection will be made by the project coordinator, the working group, the financial partners if any, and the CESAB management. This role implies a strong scientific activity and a full involvement in the functioning of the project. The post-doctoral fellow will act as a catalyst for the working group, under the supervision of its coordinator. He/she will be based in the CESAB premises in Montpellier and will have several weeks per year dedicated to interact directly with the project coordinator between meetings of the group.

## Data management policy

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The datasets produced by the projects funded under this call should be made public and accessible to the widest possible scientific community. In order to achieve this objective, CESAB expects that:

- the datasets synthesized during the research project at CESAB are described in a relevant way (using international standards as far as possible), are made publicly available within a reasonable time (subject to statistical confidentiality constraints for data on individuals and enterprises), and that a publishable metadata set is produced at the end of the project;
- the raw data used to generate the derived scientific outputs are well documented;
- the intellectual property rights of all data owners are respected when their data are used in CESAB working groups;
- Creative Commons BY 4 standards are applied as far as possible to all deposited data.

The FRB cannot be held responsible for any misuse of the research data thus deposited. CESAB offers a unique opportunity for scientists to use its expertise and advice, and provides links to organizations that can facilitate data submissions.

## Selection criteria

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Projects will be selected according to the following criteria : (i) the scientific excellence and innovative character of the project, (ii) the relevance to the theme of the call and to the objectives of CESAB, (iii) the quality of the working group established (i.e. the relevance of the skills brought together and the level of expertise in relation to the topic addressed), (iv) the feasibility of the work programme, (v) the importance of the proposed activities for the dissemination of knowledge and data, and (vi) the links with national (and international) initiatives.

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## Budget – funded activities

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The financial support of the FRB and FFP includes the recruitment of the post-doctoral fellow for 24 months, financial and logistical support for the organization of meetings, communication and dissemination costs, technical and administrative support. Direct financial support for the operation of the project cannot exceed the project duration of 3 years. The setting up of the project constitutes a commitment on the part of the project leader: any change in the list of members of the group, the number of meetings, the calendar, etc. must be approved by the CESAB management and its partner. Thus, the project leader will submit a mid-term progress report; this report will need the Project Monitoring Committee's approval to allow the continuation of the budget.

Budget includes:

- One post-doctoral student located in Montpellier in the premises of CESAB for a period of 24 months,
- 5 meetings of the group (consisting of 12 experts, with a maximum of 2 non-EU). The working group will meet at CESAB twice a year for 5 days, for a maximum project 's duration of 3 years,
- 1 restitution meeting at the end of the project,
- A computer (within the limit of 2000 euros) for the post-doctoral student,
- 30 days per year to ensure the link between the coordinator and the post-doctoral student,
- Publication costs up to a limit of 5000 euros,
- Carbon offsetting of meetings up to a limit of 3000 euros.

In addition, the FRB will provide:

- Local organization and logistic (planning of meetings, transport, accommodation and catering),
- Workspaces at CESAB,
- Support for data analysis,
- Support for the communication of the project's results,
- Administrative support for project management.

The budget (construction and monitoring) will be handled by the CESAB staff.

The selected candidate will contribute to the three events organized as part of the scientific animation of the ITTECOP programme (starting seminar in the first quarter of 2021, intermediate and final).

## Pre-proposals

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Pre-proposals must be submitted exclusively by e-mail in the form of a **single .pdf document to [cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr](mailto:cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr) no later than 16/07/2020 at 13:00 (CEST).**

This should include:

- **The pre-proposal form** (to be completed in English), including a brief description of the context, aims, scope and scientific objectives of the project, as well as its approach and interest in terms of synthesis, and the list of researchers who have agreed to participate in the project). The document will be sent by e-mail after registration on the webpage of the call.
- **Two pages of information on the project leaders** (CV, publications, etc...).
- **The participants' agreement** e-mails from the group members.



Pre-selection of projects will be made by the CESAB [scientific committee](#).

## Propositions

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The final proposal form will be provided on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 after the evaluation of the pre-proposals, to the applicants whose projects have been pre-selected.

Proposals must be submitted exclusively by e-mail in a **single .pdf document** to [cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr](mailto:cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr) **no later than 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 13:00 (CET)**.

Results will be announced early February 2021.

## Contacts

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For more information on the call, the preparation of the proposal, the FRB, or the organization of the Centre:

[cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr](mailto:cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr)

[www.fondationbiodiversite.fr](http://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr)