



CESAB
CENTRE FOR THE SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS
OF BIODIVERSITY

FRB-CESAB

Call for projects 2020:

Contact

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Schedule

1st December 2020 at 18:00 (CET): Deadline for submission of pre-proposals
18th January 2021: Notification of the pre-selection and invitation to submit a full proposal
15th March 2021 at 13:00 (CET): Deadline for submission of full proposals
End of May 2021: Announcement of results
Beginning of the projects: Autumn 2021

Context and expectations

One of the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDG) is to stop the global decline of biodiversity, which has been occurring at an alarming rate since the beginning of the 21st century. Synthesis and analysis of biodiversity data will play a critical role in achieving this goal.

In 2020, the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research opens a call for research projects within its Centre for synthesis and analysis of biodiversity ([CESAB](#)). Funding will be provided to at least three innovative projects relating to the synthesis of ideas and concepts and/or the analysis of existing data. The main aim of these projects should be to improve scientific knowledge of biodiversity and demonstrate how we can use this knowledge to better protect it.

Members of projects funded by CESAB share scientific expertise, available data and modeling tools to answer a wide range of biodiversity questions at all levels, spatial and temporal.

Projects may deal with any topic related to biodiversity, in the fields of natural sciences and/or human and social sciences. Examples of research topics include: the state and dynamics of biodiversity, the relationship between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and services, the relationship between biodiversity and anthropogenic pressures, the role of evolutionary processes in biodiversity dynamics, socio-ecosystems and access to biological resources, law and governance of biodiversity uses, biodiversity conservation, the relationship between biodiversity and human health, etc.

While scientific excellence is the first selection criterion, interdisciplinary projects and those that include links with stakeholders (managers, policy makers, NGOs, general public) will be viewed favorably.

Particular attention will also be paid to knowledge transfer. In particular, the following are expected: scientific publications as well as other forms of knowledge dissemination to scientists, managers and users, construction of public databases, development of open access analysis and modelling tools, websites, organization of international workshops, training courses and presentations at major international conferences or official events.

The working group will provide an interim report (18 months) and a final report (36 months), based on a template provided by CESAB.

Consortium composition

The principal investigator (PI) must be a recognized scientific researcher, affiliated with a French research organization. The group must have a co-PI from a different laboratory than the PI (not necessarily from a French research organization). The working group (made up of a maximum of 14 experts, including the PIs) must be **largely international, well-balanced** in terms of gender, career stage (including both early-career and established researchers), and expertise diversity.

Multidisciplinary groups or groups including stakeholders are encouraged. Working groups will meet twice a year for one week at CESAB in Montpellier, France.

A post-doctoral fellow will be recruited by the FRB for 24 months. The selection will be made by the PIs, the working group and the CESAB. The post-doctoral fellow will act as a catalyst for the working group, under the supervision of the PIs. He or she will be fully involved in the dynamics of the project and be a driving force behind the group's research. He or she will be hosted preferably at CESAB in Montpellier, depending on CESAB's hosting capacity. If necessary, travel and accommodation will be funded for several weeks per year to interact directly with the PIs between the group's biannual meetings.

Data management policy

CESAB adheres to the principles of open science. The datasets produced/assembled by the projects funded must be made public and accessible to the widest possible scientific community. 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), are made publicly available within a reasonable amount of time (subject to confidentiality constraints for data on individuals and organizations)
- the raw data used to generate any scientific output 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 4.0 standards are applied as far as possible to all deposited data.

CESAB offers a unique opportunity for scientists to use its expertise in synthesis and data management, and provides links to organizations that can facilitate data submissions.

Selection criteria

Projects will be selected according to the following criteria: (i) the scientific excellence and innovative nature of the project, (ii) the relevance of the project to the objectives of CESAB, (iii) the quality of the working group (i.e. the level of expertise in relation to the topic addressed), (iv) the feasibility of the work program, and (v) the dissemination of knowledge and data.

Budget – funded activities

The financial support of the FRB includes the recruitment of a post-doctoral fellow for 24 months, financial and logistical support for the organization of meetings at the CESAB in Montpellier, communication and dissemination costs, technical and administrative support.

Direct financial support for the operation of the project cannot exceed 3 years. Any change in the list of participants, number of meetings, calendar, etc. must be approved by the CESAB.

The PIs will have to submit a mid-term progress report; this report will be evaluated by the Project Monitoring Committee's to allow the continuation of the funding.

Can be funded, during the project:

- One post-doctoral fellow for 24 months, located preferably in Montpellier at CESAB (depending on CESAB's hosting capacity);
- If applicable: travel and accommodation for 30 days per year to ensure the link between the PIs and the post-doctoral fellow;

- Computer equipment (if necessary and within the limit of 2000 euros) for the post-doctoral fellow;
- Six working group meetings (maximum of 14 experts) of five days each. The working group will meet at CESAB twice a year during the three years of the project.
- Publication costs up to 6000 euros;
- Participation to an international conference for the post-doctoral fellow up to 3000 euros;
- Carbon offsetting of meetings up to 3000 euros.

In addition, the FRB will provide:

- Local logistical organization (planning of meetings, transport, accommodation and catering);
- Workspaces at CESAB and communication tools;
- Support for data analysis;
- Support for communication and promotion of the project and its results;
- Administrative support for project management.

The budget will be handled by the CESAB and does not need to be detailed in the pre-proposal.

Application procedure

Pre-proposals must be submitted in a single pdf document on <https://frbcesabdata.sciencescall.org/> before December 1st 2020 at 18:00 (CET).

This pdf should include:

- The pre-proposal form (to be completed in English) to be downloaded at <https://frbcesabdata.sciencescall.org/>;
- Two pages of information on the PIs (short CVs, main publications, etc...);
- The participants' agreement e-mails from each group members.

The final proposal form will be sent to the pre-selected projects by January 18th, 2021.

Complete proposals will have to be submitted before March 15th, 2021 at 13:00 (CET).

Results will be announced by the end of May 2021.

Contacts

For more information on the call, the preparation of the proposal, the FRB, or the organization of the CESAB: cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr .