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FRB-Cesab call for proposals

DATASHARE 2023

Objective of the call

The sharing of open-access and large-scale biodiversity-related datasets allows to carry out successful and more quantitative biodiversity syntheses. Yet the considerable efforts to search, gather, clean and store these data and last but not least the efforts to insure they are easily accessible and reusable are often insufficiently supported by research funding calls. **The aim of the DataShare call is to accelerate and promote these efforts to fuel future syntheses and meta-analyses.**

Working with a full-time data scientist based at the CESAB, a working group funded by this call is expected to build and format their datasets of ecological values and ultimately make them accessible, interoperable and easily usable by others.

Any dataset of ecological values[1], anywhere on Earth and at any time, submitted to any level of anthropogenic influence, is eligible for support. Socio-economic-health and/or environmental data will also be considered if clearly linked to biodiversity-related data. Cross-level datasets combining different levels of biodiversity will be most appreciated.

A dataset proposal will be considered if it aims at collecting mostly unpublished data or is a compilation and curation/harmonization of data from published and/or unpublished sources. Aggregation/transformation of existing data (if the added value is convincing) are also eligible. Acquisition of new data from laboratory experiments or field expeditions happening during the proposed project will not be considered as eligible.

The Datashare call can be seen as a preliminary - but not mandatory - step before submitting a research proposal to a classic biodiversity synthesis call (e.g. CESAB, sDiv, NCEAS), the later aiming at fostering the analysis of existing data and the synthesis of ideas and concepts, and the promotion of data compilation and sharing.

For its 2023 edition the DataShare joint call will fund four projects for two years each.

Working group composition

Each working-group proposal must:

- be led by **two principal investigators (PIs)[2]** :
    - the first PI must be a researcher with a permanent position in a French research organization or a French university ;
    - the second PI must have a permanent position or a contract that runs until the end of the project, within any organisation worldwide. If he/she is a

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[1] such as occurrence, abundance, genomic, phylogenetic, functional, biogeochemical, biodiversity related data on any functions, taxa, communities, ecosystems, etc.

[2] There is no hierarchy between the PIs, who must share equally the scientific direction and the animation of the group throughout the project. Their names will appear in alphabetical order on the project presentation materials.

researcher, he/she must come from a different laboratory than the first PI ; if he/she is not a researcher, he/she must justify a scientific leadership background.

- consist of a maximum of **ten members** (including the PIs);

- be international, well-balanced and diverse in terms of gender, range of expertise and career stage[3];

- include at least one person clearly identified and nominated as responsible for the management of data within the group. This person will be in direct interaction with the CESAB data scientists.

The groups are expected to meet at the CESAB three times over the 2-year duration of the project. Each meeting will last 5 days. They are also expected to organize a one-week virtual meeting and regular short virtual meetings throughout the project duration.

The working group will receive help and scientific support from a dedicated data scientist based at the CESAB in Montpellier for database conceptualization, design (including tools/software recommendations and workflow development), compilation (data curation, data cleaning, data homogenization) and potential dissemination (e.g. a Shiny application to help user query and access the data).

The data scientist will be hired by the CESAB for two years and he/she will work full time and exclusively with the four funded projects. The PIs of the four funded working groups will be associated with the selection process. However, the working group cannot rely only on the CESAB data scientist to compile the database and write the data management plan (DMP).

The working group will also receive advice from the French Biodiversity Data Hub (Pôle National de Données de Biodiversité - PNDB: https://www.pndb.fr/) regarding the structuring of the associated metadata and the writing of the DMP.

Working group outcome

Expected outcomes, which ultimately should comply with the Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) principles, include:

Expected outcomes include:

- a release of the metadata on an online public repository with a structured and fine-grained description (using machine-readable international standards like the Ecological Metadata Language, EML) at the end of the project (Findable, Interoperable);
- the publication of the dataset (in a scientific data paper) and the publication of in-depth analyses (if relevant) of this data, are expected within two years of the last

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3 Please note that the group must be stable in composition for at least three years (including the year of the proposal evaluation), which is incompatible with including too many non-permanent members (we recommend one or two non-permanent researchers max if justified).

meeting of the working group. The datasets must be released and made accessible to the widest possible scientific community through a trusted online public repository (Accessible);

- the release of code and/or workflows used to preprocess, clean and homogenize the data from raw to final stage will be appreciated. Similarly, the release of software/code (e.g. R, Python, API, Web Interface) to access and explore the data will be an added value (Reusable).

The CESAB and the PNDB offer a unique opportunity for scientists to use their expertise in synthesis and data management, and will provide links to organizations that can facilitate release of the metadata and data submissions.

The successful working groups will provide an interim report and data management plan at mid-term and a final report, based on a template provided by the CESAB.

Selection criteria

Working groups will be selected according to the following criteria:

- The scientific importance, extent, and originality of the dataset assembled;
- The level of expertise of the working group in relation to the topic addressed;
- The feasibility of the work program;
- The dissemination actions (in addition to the mandatory publication of the dataset).

Budget – funded activities

Each working group of up to ten experts will be funded for 2 years, including:

- Meeting costs for 3 workshops of 5 days each at the CESAB (10 participants max);
- Technical and administrative support;
- Zoom channel and admin support for the organization of virtual meetings;
- Publication costs up to 3000 €;
- Carbon offsetting of meetings up to 1500 €.

The budget will be handled by the CESAB and needs not be detailed in the project proposal

Calendar

15/09/2023   Deadline for submission of proposals – at 13:00 CEST
13/12/2023   Announcement of results
Spring 2024   1st meeting at CESAB

Application procedure

1. [Request for the proposal form](#)

2. Send your proposal in pdf before Sept 15th, 2023 by email to cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr