



CESAB
CENTRE FOR THE SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS
OF BIODIVERSITY

FRB-CESAB Call for projects 2024

Contact

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Calendar

3 April 2024: Opening of the call
3 June 2024 at 12:00 (CEST): Deadline for submission of the pre-proposals
15 July 2024: Invitation to submit a full proposal
30 Sept 2024 at 13:00 (CEST): Deadline for submission of the full proposals
Mid-December 2024: Announcement of results
Spring 2025: Virtual kick-off meeting
Autumn 2025 : 1st CESAB workshop

Context and expectations

The French Foundation for Biodiversity Research opens its 2024 call for research projects within its Center for Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity ([CESAB](#)).

Funding will be provided to 2 innovative three-year projects related to the synthesis of ideas and concepts and the analysis of existing biodiversity-related data. The main aims of these projects are to improve scientific knowledge on biodiversity and to demonstrate how this knowledge can be used to better protect biodiversity.

Members of projects funded by CESAB share scientific expertise, available data and/or modeling and methodological tools to answer a wide range of biodiversity questions at all biological, spatial, and temporal scales (all levels of biodiversity are concerned from genes to ecosystems).

Projects may deal with any topic related to biodiversity, in the fields of natural sciences, climate sciences and/or human and social sciences. Examples of research topics include (but are not limited to): the state and dynamics of biodiversity changes; the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services; the relationships between biodiversity and anthropogenic pressures; the role of evolutionary processes in biodiversity dynamics; the role of biodiversity in socio-ecosystem resilience; the access to and conservation of biological resources; biodiversity law and governance; biodiversity conservation; the relationship between biodiversity and human health nature based solution, etc.

While innovative ideas, feasibility and scientific excellence are primary criteria, projects that are transdisciplinary and that engage stakeholders (managers, policy makers, NGOs, general public) are encouraged.

Deliverables

Multi-author high-quality scientific publications, publication of datasets as well as outreach products are expected. The working group will provide a mid-term report (after 18 months - evaluated by the CESAB to allow the continuation of the funding) and a final report (after the last meeting), based on a template provided by the CESAB.

Particular attention will also be paid to knowledge transfer. In particular, the following are expected: scientific publications and oral communications at international conferences, as well as other forms of knowledge dissemination tailored to scientists, managers and users, construction of public

databases, development of open access analysis and modeling tools, websites, organization of international workshops, training courses or official events and public outreach when relevant.

Selection criteria

Projects will be selected according to the following criteria:

- the scientific quality and innovative nature of the project;
- the relevance of the project to the objectives of CESAB;
- the quality of the working group (i.e. expertise matching the topic addressed and overall balance among disciplines, genders, career stages);
- the feasibility of the work program;
- the impact of the project's scientific data and results;
- and the dissemination plan.

Data management policy

The CESAB adheres to the principles of open science and reproducibility. The datasets produced/assembled by the funded projects and the associated scripts and codes used for the analyses must be made publicly accessible.

To achieve this objective, the CESAB expects that:

- the datasets synthesized during the research project at the CESAB are described in a relevant way (using international standards) and 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 associated scripts and codes used for the analyses must be made publicly accessible;
- 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 much as possible to all deposited data.

The CESAB offers a unique opportunity for scientists to benefit from the expertise of two data scientists (part of the CESAB staff). The CESAB does not offer any storage or hosting solutions for its groups. The hosting and deployment of databases, web services and any other product of the project is the responsibility of the PIs. In terms of numerical analyses, a computing station will be accessible (for medium performance computing only). According to this, the objectives and computing needs of the project must be described in the proposal submission.

Consortium composition

A project submitted to the call must include a thorough description of its consortium, i.e. the working group that will be hosted at the CESAB during workshops. Successful groups consist of people with relevant expertise but also with the dedication and time to participate in the meetings and contribute to the group goals.

The groups are expected to meet at the CESAB 5 times over the 3-year duration of the project. Each meeting lasts 5 days. They are also expected to organize a one-week virtual meeting and regular short virtual meetings throughout the project duration.

A project's working group must:

- be led by two principal investigators (PIs). The first PI must be a scientist 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 organization worldwide. If he/she is a 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 12 members (including the PIs, but not the post-doctoral fellow to be recruited);
- include international members; to reduce the carbon footprint, we advise the group not to have too many participants traveling from very far locations.
- be balanced and diverse in terms of gender, range of expertise, and career stage; multidisciplinary groups or groups including non-academic stakeholders or practitioners are welcome;
- include at least one group member clearly identified as responsible for the management of data within the group. This person will be in direct interaction with the CESAB data scientists.

Any change in the list of participants after the selection of the project must be approved by the CESAB.

Post-doctoral fellow

Each group will have the opportunity to recruit a postdoctoral fellow. The recruitment will be led by the two PIs and the CESAB staff after the project has been selected. The postdoctoral fellow will act as a catalyst for the working group. He or she will be fully involved in the dynamics of the project and be a driving force behind the group's research. We expect the postdoctoral fellow to be independent and willing to contribute to the CESAB activities and collaborative opportunities.

He or she may be hired by either the FRB or the French PI's institution, depending on CESAB's hosting capacity and FRB Human Resources management policy. Depending on this, he or she will be hosted either at the CESAB in Montpellier, or in one of the PI's laboratories. If relevant and/or necessary, travel and accommodation will be funded up to 30 days a year to interact directly with the PIs between the group's biannual meetings.

Budget – funded activities

The financial support of the FRB includes:

- the recruitment of a postdoctoral fellow for a maximum of 24 months;
- computer equipment (if necessary and within the limit of 2000 euros) for the postdoctoral fellow;

- If applicable (should the postdoc be recruited by the FRB and hosted at the CESAB): travel and accommodation up to 30 days per year dedicated to skill development (link with the French PI, training courses, ...);
- meeting costs (transportation, accommodation and food) for 5 workshops of 5 days each at the CESAB in Montpellier;
- publication costs up to 10 000 euros;
- participation to national or international conferences for the postdoctoral fellow (for a cost up to 3000 euros);
- carbon offsetting of meetings up to 3000 euros.

Note that the groups are also expected to organize a one-week virtual workshop (support provided by CESAB staff).

In addition, the FRB will provide:

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

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

Application procedure

All information is available on <https://frbcesabcall24.sciencesconf.org/>

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