

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACTION:

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

**IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PATHWAYS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE HEALTH**

*Call for Proposals*

2019

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ABOUT THE BELMONT FORUM

The Belmont Forum is a partnership of funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to the advancement of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary science. Forum operations are guided by the [Belmont Challenge,](http://www.belmontforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/belmont-challenge-white-paper.pdf) a vision document that encourages international transdisciplinary research providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating and adapting to global environmental change*.*

Forum members and partner organizations work collaboratively to meet this Challenge by issuing international calls for proposals, committing to best practices for open data access, and providing transdisciplinary training.  To that end, the Belmont Forum is also working to enhance the broader capacity to conduct transnational environmental change research through its [e-Infrastructure and Data Management initiative](http://www.bfe-inf.org/).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BF | Belmont Forum |
| BF CEH | Belmont Forum Climate, Environment, and Health. |
| BFgo | Belmont Forum Grant Operations website:<http://bfgo.org> |
| Call | *“Call*” is the overarching term for the process undertaken to fund proposals from the research community to address a Collaborative Research Action |
| CEH | Climate, Environment, and Health. (Belmont Forum Call) |
| Competition | “*Competition*” means a peer-reviewed selection process, by which applicant teams submit proposals outlining their research plans. Upon completion of the review process, Grants will be awarded based on meritorious review and availability of funds from each Partner Organization. |
| CRA | Collaborative Research Action (Belmont Forum) |
| CSA | Coordination and Support Action (EC Framework Programme H2020) |
| EC | European Commission |
| EU | European Union |
| EoI | Expression of Interest |
| External Reviewers | “External Reviewers” are experts who review the Proposals, work independently in their personal capacity and do not represent any organization or country |
| GPC | “*Group of Program Coordinators*” (GPC) is the committee composed of one management level representative from each of the Partner Organisations with oversight responsibility for this Call. Additional representatives from Partner Organisations may attend as required. |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| LLMIC | Low- and lower-middle income countries (economic classification of the World Bank) |
| LPI | Leading Principal Investigator |
| Partner Organisations | Funding organisations participating in this Belmont Forum CEH CRA, that have submitted a National Annex. |
| PoE | “*Panel of Experts*” (PoE) is the committee composed of scientific experts that will review proposals, moderated by one Chair, with potential for a Vice-chair if the number of proposals necessitates. |
| Proposals | “*Proposals*” are responses to a Call for Proposals from multinational research teams pursuant to this Initiative. |
| PRM | Post Review Meeting |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| TPO | “*Theme Program Office*” (TPO) is entrusted by the Partner Organizations to prepare, publish, and manage the Call for Proposals in cooperation and consultation with the Group of Program Coordinators (GPC) for the particular theme of the Call. |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |

1. SUMMARY
   1. **Synopsis**

A call for research proposals to improve understanding of the pathways between climate, environment, and health to protect and promote human health and well-being in the face of climate challenges. Multilateral, inter- and transdisciplinary research projects will investigate where significant uncertainties exist that are barriers to action; address complex climate, ecosystem and health pathways to determine processes underlying causal links; and foster the use of scientific information and climate-related decision support tools to better inform planning and enhance resilience.

Research consortia should make use of transdisciplinary, end-user focused approaches to investigate and address the linkages between climate, environment and health. Projects should seek to bridge knowledge gaps, understand health risks, improve predictability, and deliver usable data, information, and innovative solutions to planners and decision makers. Research outputs should help to improve preparedness and response to climate’s impacts on health and support climate services, prevention, adaptation or development measures that provide significant population health benefits. Global geographic diversity is encouraged to increase the scalability and applicability of the project out-comes, including working with low- and lower middle-income country ([LLMIC](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf)) partners where data, knowledge, services and solutions are lacking. Consortia are strongly encouraged to foster innovative institutional relationships that will sustain the development of new partnerships and capacity to address climate-related health risks.

* 1. **Eligibility and timeline**

Proposals must be eligible to receive funding from at least **three** participating Partner Organisations established in **three** different countries and should include researchers from the natural sciences (including climate), health/medical sciences, social and economic sciences or humanities, as well as societal partners (*i.e.* public health organisations, civil society organisations). Researchers from countries not supported by any of the partner agencies can participate in the research project at their own expense.

A total of 12 funders from 8 countries have committed up to €10.59m of cash plus additional in-kind resources for this call. The call aims to support 10-12 projects of between three and four years duration.

This call has a two-stage submission process. Deadlines for submission are:

* Expressions of Interest (mandatory for proposal submission) to be submitted online by **06 May 2019, 16:00 GMT**
* Full proposals to be submitted online by **23 July 2019 , 16:00 GMT**

**All proposals must be written in English.**

1. CALL DESCRIPTION
   1. **Background And Rationale**

*Policy context*

Climate change is a serious threat to human health, as recently highlighted in the Summary for Policy Makers of the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C (IPCC SR1.5)[[1]](#footnote-2). This global alert follows UNFCCC’s conclusions in the 2015 Paris Agreement, WMO’s State of the Global Climate Report and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The WHO estimates that between 2030 and 2050 climate change is expected to cause an additional 250,000 deaths per year due to malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea and heat stress. The direct damage costs to health are estimated at USD2-4 billion per year by 2030, and areas with weak health infrastructures (mostly in developing countries) will be the least able to prepare and respond. Ambient temperature and extreme heat events are already on the rise, and increasing sea levels further exacerbate the health impacts of more frequent and intense weather events like hurricanes and cyclones. Under the UNFCCC process, work is currently underway to identify the risks and embed options for health adaptation in [National Adaptation Plans](https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans) to support health systems and decision-makers in other health-determining sectors to plan for, manage and adapt to health risks associated with climate variability and change.[[2]](#footnote-3)

*Background*

The IPCC SR1.5 report suggests that any increase in global warming is projected to affect human health, with primarily negative outcomes. Climate variability and change and the associated environmental consequences impact physical and mental health through a variety of pathways that interact with changes in the built environment and ecosystem degradation. Increased exposure to multiple climate related health threats, together with changes in sensitivity and the ability to adapt to those threats, increases an individual’s vulnerability and influences behavior and can also compound and cascade climate-related health effects. Consequently, the impacts of climate variability and change can interact with underlying health, human behaviour and socioeconomic factors to change the severity or frequency of health problems that are already affected by climate factors as well as create unprecedented health problems or health threats in novel locales.

The IPCC SR1.5 report recognises the existence of significant health risks in the context of climate change at 1.5°C​, especially in key areas such as health, livelihoods, food security (including nutrition) water supply, human security and economic growth. It highlights (SPM B.5.2) that heat-related morbidity and mortality, ozone related mortality and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever are all projected to increase as global warming continues to rise. It equally stresses (SPM B.5.3) that climate change is projected to reduce the yield of human staple crops, including maize, rice, wheat and other cereal crops, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and central and South America. IPCC also draw particular attention to the evidence showing that the nutritional quality of rice and wheat will continue to decrease as CO2 atmospheric concentrations rise.

The WHO working definition of a climate resilient health system[[3]](#footnote-4) is one that is able to anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from and adapt to climate-related shocks and stress, so as to bring sustained improvements in population health, despite an unstable climate. Policy and decision-makers in all relevant determining sectors (e.g. water and sanitation, food and agriculture, energy, urban planning) need to understand and effectively prepare for the additional health risks posed by climate variability and change. Climate, environment and health research can help to reduce uncertainty about how local conditions may be affected from a season to decades ahead, provide insight into local solutions, and build evidence to strengthen decision-making.

*Knowledge gaps*

Climate change and related seasonal, annual and decadal variability are already, and are expected to increasingly impact human health and well-being. We need a better understanding of climate impacts on livelihoods, food security (including nutrition), water supply, human security and economic growth, as highlighted by IPCC in its SR1.5 report.

The relationship between climate and disease mechanisms are often poorly understood and may not be consistent across space and time, model biases and uncertainties in projections are magnified when working at shorter timescales and smaller spatial scales required by health impact research. Concomitant disease, climate and other required data of sufficient quality, historic length and appropriate spatial scale and coverage are often not readily available, and issues with translating and operationalising research may limit its usefulness. Further research is needed to robustly characterise and quantify which climate variations and trends are important for the range of health impacts in different locales and cultures and to place this understanding in the broader environmental, socioeconomic and institutional context, to work with stakeholders to determine how the knowledge can be best used for effective adaptation strategies and policies.

Recent advances in combining time-series of epidemiological and climate data coupled with modern technology able to deliver climate and health and related behaviour information directly to local decision-makers means it is timely to try and address some of the knowledge gaps.

*Rationale for Belmont Forum CRA*

The Belmont Forum has designed this CRA to strengthen and expand the current scientific understanding of links between climate variability and change, environment ,and health impacts.

The CRA aims to have a programmatic structure with early activities coordinated by Future Earth to facilitate consortia formation and agenda-setting, a series of research calls (this is the first), and a coordination and support action led by the European Commission to promote synergies across the funded projects and other relevant investments.

* 1. **Call Statement**

This is an international, transdisciplinary call for proposals with the aims to:

* foster global transdisciplinary teams of natural (including climate), health and social scientists and stakeholders to co-produce world-leading research;
* increase knowledge of the complex linkages and pathways between climate variability and change and associated impacts on the environment, on exposure pathways for health, and on human behaviour and well-being; and
* provide useful information, scientific evidence and effective tools to support policy and decision-making for planning across various timescales related to climate, environment and health.

The intended outcomes and impacts are to improve planning, preparedness and response to health impacts that are climate driven. Additionally, research outputs should be used to target prevention, adaptation or development measures that provide significant population health benefits.

Projects should employ a transdisciplinary, stakeholder-based participatory approach across a wide range of relevant disciplines to co-design and co-deliver research that meets the needs of users and bridges the knowledge gaps of climate impacts on health, particularly in relation to under-studied environmental exposure pathways. Projects are not restricted in their geographic focus- applicants should justify their choice according to the research challenges and needs of stakeholders. Projects that seek to address the knowledge gaps and challenges in [LLMIC’s](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf) are welcome.

Proposals should aim to take an end-to-end approach to:

* 1. bridge knowledge gaps on the direct linkages and environmental pathways, feedbacks and interactions that connect climate variability and change to human disease and well-being, with a view to improve health through prevention, mitigation and/or adaption strategies, that incorporate the use of climate knowledge and information;
  2. understand health risk, vulnerability and resilience according to the amplitude of climate variations and changes, baseline conditions and existing adaptation measures at all relevant scales;
  3. improve predictability and early warning of the frequency and extent of climate and climate-related environmental threats to health, at relevant temporal and spatial scales; and
  4. deliver usable data, information, tools, services and effective innovative solutions that allow decision-makers in health and health-determining sectors to be better prepared, and to increase societal and behavioral resilience, respond to climate-related impacts on health, and optimise planning and management strategies that have health benefits.

Research consortia are expected to propose a thematic focus and research strategy through which to formulate concrete pathways, novel actions or solutions to provide a contribution to health system climate resilience and improved health, leading to benefits in line with SDGs.

The funders recognise the breadth of the topic, health, environment and climate, is difficult to cover in a single call and have therefore prioritised the following themes for this call, as those presenting significant climate risks to health with opportunities to protect and promote health:

* **Food systems and nutrition** – changes in climate and associated water availability/scarcity impact the quality and quantity of food from land and the oceans. There are important health implications, directly via nutritional pathways, such as increased risks of stunting, decrease in nutritional quality as a direct result of increased concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and indirectly for example by increasing use of pesticides and increasing the impoverishment of subsistence farmers.
* **Heat and health** – chronic exposure to increases or changes in heat and humidity (including and beyond episodic heatwaves) leads to impacts on behavioural, physical and mental health and mortality. Impacts are often amplified in urban areas and can lead to impacts on labour and overall productivity, with associated economic impacts.
* **Climate-sensitive infectious diseases** - climate variability and change and changes in the way we use land and the oceans can accelerate biodiversity loss and lead to changes in the distribution and incidence of a range of infectious diseases and emergence of novel pathogens including vector-, food- water-borne and zoonotic diseases.

1. ELIGIBILITY AND PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must comply with the requirements and eligibility criteria listed under this section as well as under Review Criteria, together with the individual partner organisation eligibility criteria.

**Transnationality**

Development of research consortia must be supported financially by at least **three** participating partner agencies established in three different countries (see Annex 3). The eligibility of national teams is subject to national eligibility rules. In case of doubt, the relevant funding agency can advise on eligibility. Researchers and non-academic partners not covered by participating funding agencies are also eligible to join consortia at their own expense. If one of the national research teams in a consortium is not eligible and/or the trans-national three countries minimum requirement is not met, the whole consortium will be considered ineligible and the proposal will not be eligible to submit a full proposal. In order to increase the potential for project outcomes to be applicable to other regions and at multiple scales, project partnerships of global geographic diversity are encouraged.

**Transdisciplinarity**

Transdisciplinarity of the research consortia and project is a key criterion and should be clearly demonstrated in the application, including the allocation of responsibilities, workload and funding among the consortium partners. Given the complexity and scope of the challenges, research consortia must be truly transdisciplinary, thus including researchers from: a) natural sciences, including climate sciences, b) health sciences, c) social and economic sciences/humanities as well as d) active input of involved stakeholders (relevant policy makers, researchers, regulators, NGOs, communities or industry) using a co-design, co-development and co-implementation approach. All projects must identify and address clear user needs, including data access and use, throughout the multiple phases of the research process.

Consortium partners shall identify a Leading Principal Investigator (LPI) for each proposal for application, management and communication purposes. The LPI is officially responsible for all communications with the Thematic Program Office, including submission of the proposal.

**Data Requirements**

All proposed projects will require a data management plan. If needed, [data management plan templates and guidance](http://www.bfe-inf.org/sites/default/files/doc-repository/CRA_Data_Digital_Outputs_Management_V2.pdf) are available from the Belmont Forum. The plan should include information about types of data, information, models, software, workflows and code, or other digital products being generated by the project. It should outline the accessible archives or other open repository where these products and accompanying metadata will be housed.

[Belmont Forum Open Data Principles](http://www.bfe-inf.org/about/data-policy-and-principles) are intended to improve and promote the dissemination of knowledge, the access to the data and their reuse thereby improving the efficiency of scientific discovery and maximizing the return on research funding. The funded CRA projects are expected to make their best efforts to ensure open access to data as soon as possible. Awarded projects will be checked for compliance to open data procedures at the mid-term and end-term valorization events using information provided to the BFgo reporting system.

**Ethical considerations**

Applicants should consider whether their proposed research involves the use of humans or vertebrate animals / other organisms covered by relevant National laws. If the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal they will be expected to provide further details on use of humans / animals subjects / samples, study design, ethical implications etc.

1. FUNDING

A total of 12 funders from 8 countries have committed up to €10.59m of cash plus in-kind resources for this call.

The call aims to support 10-12 projects of three to four years duration

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Partner Organisations contributing to this call** | | |
| *Country* | *Name* | *Acronym* | *Funds offered M€* |
| Finland | Academy of Finland | AKA | 1.0 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research | PASRES | 0.207 |
| Norway | Research Council of Norway | RCN | 0.99 |
| Sweden | Swedish Research Council | VR | 0.9 |
| Sweden | Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare | FORTE | 0.9 |
| Chinese Taipei | Ministry of Science and Technology | MOST | 0.5 |
| Turkey | Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey | TUBITAK | 1.0 |
| UK | UK Research and Innovation (Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council) | UKRI | 3.35 |
| USA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | NOAA | 0.87 (plus in kind) |
| USA | National Science Foundation | NSF | 0.87 |
| USA | National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences | NIH/NIEHS | In-kind |
| USA | Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture | USDA/NIFA | In-kind |

1. HOW TO APPLY

A two-step process will apply, with a mandatory Expression of Interest (EoI) at the first step, and submission of full proposals at the second step. EoI’s and full proposals must be written in English and submitted electronically via the Belmont Forum Grant Operations website:<http://bfgo.org>*.*

All call documents, including guidelines for applicants and national/regional requirements, and the submission portal can be found at the Belmont Forum Grant Operations website: <http://bfgo.org>. Links to training modules for proposers on the Belmont Forum YouTube channel. can also be found on the Belmont Forum website: <http://www.belmontforum.org>. Before starting to prepare proposals, applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Points as listed in the annex documents for the call.

EoI’s will be used to check eligibility, fit to scope of call and to aid in the planning of the peer review process.

* 1. **Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of Interest are mandatory and must be submitted on the supplied template by the deadline of **16:00 GMT on 06 May 2019** via the BFGO site. EoI’s received after the deadline, or failing to comply with the published call requirements will be rejected. Incomplete EoI’s and those not using the provided template will also be rejected.

Applicants must have submitted an EoI in order to be allowed to submit a full proposal

The EoI will provide a summary of the proposed project and information on the applicants. The Theme Program Office will use this to verify the eligibility of the proposals according to the transnational eligibility criteria and against the scope of the call. In addition the participating funding agencies will verify the suitability for national funding according to their respective eligibility criteria.

EoI’s which fail this stage will be notified that they are ineligible to submit a full proposal.

Expressions of interest will also be used by the TPO to aid in the peer review planning process.

The EoI form and guidance is available on the [BFGO site](https://bfgo.org/index.jsp;jsessionid=A84F2581A08F2B40964AFCA53AFA4334).

* 1. **Full Proposals**

Applicants must have submitted an EoI in order to be allowed to submit a full proposal.

Full proposals must be submitted using the supplied form by the deadline of **16:00 GMT on 23 July 2019** via the BFGO site. Proposals received after the deadline, or failing to comply with the published call requirements will be rejected. Incomplete proposals and proposals not using the proposal template will also be rejected. Full proposal forms and guidance are available on the BFGO site.

Proposal evaluation will be undertaken by a Panel of Experts (PoE), consisting of international experts nominated by the GPC. At least three assessors will be assigned to each Proposal to cover the breadth of expertise needed. The PoE will evaluate the proposals, prepare a consensus evaluation report on each Proposal, and agree a score for each proposal using the criteria in Annex 2. The PoE will then arrive at an agreed ranked list of projects recommended for funding to the GPC.

Based on the PoE ranking, and taking into account the available (agency) budgets, a common funding recommendation will be finally decided at a Post-Review Meeting (PRM) between the GPC and the Chair of the PoE. The final funding decision is subject to the approval by the Partner Organisations, depending on the national rules and will be made and communicated to the LPI of each Proposal. The Partner Organisations will have the overall responsibility for the final funding decision, administration and management of the projects chosen for funding. LPIs of awarded proposals will be asked to draw up a cooperation agreement detailing the administrative arrangements in the project consortium. Following notification of the funding decision (as agreed by the funders based on panel recommendation) applicants will also receive the consensus report of the evaluation panel as feedback. Any recommendations and requirements stated in the consensus report for funded projects will need to be agreed and implemented prior to awards being made. Awards will be made by each Partner Organisation who will liaise with their successful national applicants on the process required to issue grant awards.

1. TIMELINE

Call launch: March 2019

Deadline for EoI’s: 06 May 2019, 16:00 GMT

Applicants notified of outcome: by 20 May 2019

Deadline for full proposals: 23 July 2019, 16:00 GMT

PoE meeting: Oct 2019 (tbc)

Projects funding start: December 2019 – January 2020

Projects invited to submit full proposals may evolve slightly from that submitted in the EoI, including the inclusion of new partners. However the proposal should substantially remain the same as the EoI which the decision to invite was based upon, and applicants should ensure that any additional partners added are eligible prior to submission by checking with their National contact person.

1. POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS
   1. **Reporting**

LPIs are requested to submit an annual report to the Belmont Forum through the BFgo reporting system. The report should reflect an integrated perspective of the entire team. The reports are due each June 15th concerning the previous year for the lifetime of the project.

Each LPI must also fulfill national reporting requirement(s) of their national Partner Organization, as specified in their grant agreement.

* 1. **Communication and connection**

All funded projects are expected to attend kick-off, mid-term and end term meetings organized by the Theme Program Office for joint discussions and dissemination, funds to attend these must be included within the project budget. The funders may decide on clustering these meetings with others. It is expected that PI’s will attend key programme meetings in person to facilitate partnership building and programme coordination, however it is recognised that this may not be feasible for all, so we would be open to remote participation where required.

In support of this CRA a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) will network the funded projects with other key investments supported by BF members and more widely and support the programme community with coordinated outreach and international stakeholder engagement. Applicants and/or successful award holder under this CEH call will be eligible to apply for the Coordination and Support Action, details of which will be made available on the Belmont Forum website.

Annex 1 - PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Belmont Forum member** | **Agency/ website** | **Contact** |
| Chinese Taipei | Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) | [Dr. Yu-Pin Lin](mailto:yplin@ntu.edu.tw)  [Dr. Ming-Hsu Li](mailto:mli@ncu.edu.tw)  [Tung-Ta Tang](mailto:tttang1@most.gov.tw) |
| European Commission | Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) | [Diogo de Gusmão-Sørensen](mailto:Diogo.DE-GUSMAO-SOERENSEN@ec.europa.eu)  [Marialuisa Tamborra](mailto:Marialuisa.TAMBORRA@ec.europa.eu) |
| Finland | Academy of Finland | [Tuula Aarnio](mailto:tuula.aarnio@aka.fi)  [Mikko Ylikangas](mailto:mikko.ylikangas@aka.fi) |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research (PASRES) | [Annette Ouattara](mailto:annetteouattara@yahoo.fr) |
| Norway | Research Council of Norway (RCN) | [Lena Cappelen Endresen](mailto:lce@forskningsradet.no)  [Zlata Turkanovic](mailto:zt@forskningsradet.no) |
| Sweden | Swedish Research Council (VR) | [Adina Feldman](mailto:Adina.Feldman@vr.se) |
| Sweden | Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE) | [Sofie Wallerström](mailto:Sofie.Wallerstrom@forte.se) |
| Turkey | Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK) | [Dr. Zeynep Arziman](mailto:zeynep.arziman@tubitak.gov.tr) |
| UK | UK Research and Innovation (UKRI, Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council) | [Victoria Wickens](mailto:victoria.wickens@nerc.ukri.org) |
| USA | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | [John Balbus](mailto:john.balbus@nih.gov) |
| USA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) | [Lisa Farrow Vaughan](mailto:Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov)  [Juli Trtanj](mailto:Juli.Trtanj@noaa.gov)  [Michael D. Tanner](mailto:Michael.Tanner@noaa.gov) |
| USA | National Science Foundation (NSF) | [Maria Uhle](mailto:muhle@nsf.gov) |
| USA | Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) | [Randi Johnson](mailto:randijohnson@nifa.usda.gov) |

Annex 2 – FULL PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A successful proposal will combine significant contributions by eligible participants drawing on available resources from three countries, and must bring together health scientists, natural and climate scientists, social scientists, and stakeholders in addressing the aims outlined for the described Call Statement. We encourage global geographic diversity to increase the scalability and applicability of the project out-comes and the establishment of innovative institutional relationships that will sustain the development of new partnerships and capacity to address climate-related health risks. The proposal must demonstrate the vision and potential impact of the project, with clear links to relevant stakeholders and decision making or policy processes, and conform to project aims and the designated research fields addressing Transdisciplinary Research for Climate, Environment and Health. The proposal must also have a reasonable and credible [Data Management Plan](http://www.bfe-inf.org/sites/default/files/doc-repository/CRA_Data_Digital_Outputs_Management_Annex_20180501.pdf) for open data access, which is a required element of all proposals to the Belmont Forum.

Proposals will be reviewed by a Panel of Experts (PoE) against the criteria below. Each proposal will be reviewed by a minimum of the PoE members.

Having considered the selection criteria described below, the final decision on which proposals should be recommended for funding will be made at the funders Post Review Meeting according to availability of funds.

1. **Quality/Intellectual Merit**

* *Scientific quality and innovativeness of the goals and objectives of the joint research plan*
* *Added value to be expected from the transdisciplinary and international research collaboration*
* *How well does the activity advance knowledge and understanding within its own field and across different fields?*
* *Does the proposal contribute to scientific excellence and significant progress toward the state of the art?*
* *To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original concepts?*
* *If these partnerships currently exist what does this new funding allow them to do that they could not do otherwise?*
* *What is the added value of the international cooperation? Where appropriate this should also include the extent to which Partner Organisations’ existing investments are leveraged in the proposed project.*

1. **Stakeholder Engagement and Societal/Broader Impacts**

* *Engagement of stakeholders (relevant policy makers, researchers, regulators, NGOs, communities or industry) and the effectiveness of proposed knowledge exchange activities*
* *Expected impacts: e.g. societal, policy related, economical*
* *Communication and use of results: e.g. quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users*
* *What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society, including policy-development, change of practice, or economic benefit?*
* *Have the stakeholders been engaged in the co-development of the project proposal, and is it clearly outlined how they will be involved in the co-implementation?*
* *Are there plans for effective dissemination of outcomes to relevant sectors?*
* *Does the project involve early career researchers?*
* *Does the project include training that would benefit stakeholder participants and relevant communities?*
* *Does the research collaboration focus on global challenges for which solutions can best be achieved by global scientific approaches or global collaboration?*

1. **Interdisciplinarity, regional representation and Personnel/Quality of the Consortium**

* *Regional representation and spread*
* *Collaboration between health, natural and social sciences, and other sciences where relevant*
* *Competence and expertise of team and complementarities of consortium (inter-disciplinary / inclusion of all necessary expertise)*
* *Trans-disciplinary approaches within the consortium (co-construct, co-identify, co-develop)*
* *How strong is the collaboration between the natural, health and social sciences?*
* *How well qualified are the proposers (Leading Principal Investigator and team) in terms of science knowledge, expertise and experience to conduct the project?*
* *What is the quality of previous work in terms of past or potential contributions to, and impact on the proposed and other areas of research?*

1. **Resources and Management**

* *Appropriateness of resources and funding requested*
* *Balanced cooperation*
* *Appropriate management structures and procedures to ensure project integration and cooperation*
* *How well conceived and organised is the proposed activity?*
* *Is there an operational plan with well-defined milestones in place?*
* *Is the coordination plan adequate?*
* *Is there sufficient access to resources?*
* *Is the Data Management Plan in line with the Belmont Forum policy with appropriate resources?*
* *Is the data stewardship during and beyond the project lifetime well described?*
* *Are the requested investments well justified and relevant?*
* *Are the scientific and financial contributions requested of the Partner Organisations from each country well balanced?*

Against the **Quality/Intellectual** merit criteria, proposals will be scored as to whether they meet the criteria:

**A** Fully

**A-** Very Well

**B** Well

**B-** Adequately

**C** Not at all

Against the criteria Stakeholder Engagement and Societal/Broader Impacts; Interdisciplinarity, regional representation and Personnel/Quality of the Consortium; and Resources and Management proposals will scored as to whether **they meet these:**

**A** Fully

**B** Adequately

**C**  Not at all

An overall score will be assigned to each proposal as follows:

**A** This is a very strong proposal that fully meets all assessment criteria

1. This is a strong proposal that meets all assessment criteria well

**B** This is a very good proposal that meets all assessment criteria but with minor weaknesses

1. This is a good proposal that meets all assessment criteria but with a number of minor weaknesses

**C** This proposal does not meet a significant number of assessment criteria and/or is scientifically or technically flawed.

The panel will also make a funding recommendation by assigning proposals to one of the following three categories:

i. highly recommended for funding;

ii. recommended if funding is available; and

iii. not recommended for funding.

Annex 3 - NATIONAL ANNEXES

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they meet the eligibility criteria of the funding agency they will be applying to for funding. Please read the following applicable Annexes carefully and contact your National Contact point for any queries.

* Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Chinese Taipei
* Academy of Finland (AKA)
* Strategic Support Program for Scientific Research (PASRES), Côte d'Ivoire
* Research Council of Norway (RCN) Norway
* Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
* Swedish Research Council (VR)
* Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK)
* UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
* US National Science Foundation (NSF)
* US National Institutes of Health (NIH) [to be added later]
* US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
* Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) [to be added later]

1. IPCC (2018) Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. WHO (2015) Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/189951/9789241565073_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)