



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



canadian institute of ecology and evolution  
institut canadien d'écologie et d'évolution

# Joint Call Cesab-CIEE Synergy 2020

## **Biodiversity in a time of global change**

### **Contact**

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## Context

**The Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE)** is Canada's national synthesis centre in ecology and evolution. This centre funds working groups, supports training workshops, and provides leadership on scientific data. CIEE is supported by ten Canadian universities and the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution. The administrative host of CIEE is currently the University of British Columbia, Vancouver (see appendix for more information);

**The Centre for the Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity (Cesab)** is an instrument of the French FRB (Foundation for Research on Biodiversity). This center funds and host groups of researchers in order to make better use of existing data, information and knowledge, and to foster theoretical and synthetic approaches in biodiversity research. CESAB is located in Montpellier (see appendix for more information)

**The two centers** propose a joint call for working groups that include researchers based primarily in Canada and France.

## Topic

### **Biodiversity in a time of Global Change**

Life on Earth has already changed substantially and will change even further as a result of increasing anthropogenic activities. How can we understand, predict or mitigate the effects of global change on biodiversity? In this context, biodiversity is interpreted broadly to refer to the variety of biological life, including the genes and traits that characterise organisms, and the communities, networks and ecosystems in which populations of organisms are embedded. Global change refers to the widespread impact of humans on the planet, including climate change, pollution, land use change, resource extraction and over-harvesting, invasive species and emergent diseases, and other forms of environmental stress and disturbance. Canada and France have a history of working together on aspects of biodiversity and global change, and this joint call celebrates that partnership.

## Eligibility

**Two (2) working groups will be funded.**

**Each working group will comprise 8 researchers and will be funded for two meetings.**

A group must have two co-PIs, one of whom must be associated with a French research institution and the other with a Canadian research institution. Of the remaining six participants, two must be associated with a Canadian research institution and two from a French research institution; the remaining two researchers may be associated with research institutions in any country.

Working group participants should demonstrate individual research excellence and complementarity in expertise and skills among team members. PIs should strive for a well-balanced group of participants in terms of gender, career stage (including both early career and established), and expertise diversity. Successful groups consist of people with excellent expertise but also with dedication and time to participate in the meetings and to work on the working group goals. The availability of early results during the limited timeframe of a meeting typically boosts the intellectual progress.

## Objectives and expectations

**Working groups are expected to examine important and original research questions using innovative approaches and best practices in synthesis science.** Synthesis science advances fundamental understanding of emerging patterns and principles from at least one of: (a) synthesis of existing data; (b) integration of multiple disciplines or approaches; or (c) development of a new theoretical framework of general applicability. Successful proposals will use the working group method to address a key question about how global change affects biodiversity, with the potential for substantially improving the ability of researchers or managers to understand, predict, or mitigate these effects. Working groups are expected to complete their projects over the two years of funding, producing scientific outputs such as refereed publications, policy papers, and open access databases.

Additional requirements:

- One of the funded working groups will be co-funded by the Consulate General of France in Vancouver. The Consulate requests that researchers associated with the working group contribute to an evening panel discussion in the FACT-B (French Ameri-Can Climate Talks) series during their working group meeting.
- One of the funded working groups will be co-funded by the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the successful group must include a UBC researcher in their proposal.
- Working groups may be asked to contribute a research seminar at UBC or FRB.

## Financial support

The financial support includes transportation, accommodation, catering and care of all local arrangements for the 2 meetings of each working group. Administration of the budget will be handled by CESAB and CIEE staff.

The first working group meeting will be organized by CIEE and occur in Vancouver, Canada between Sept 2020 and January 2021. The second working group meeting will be organised by Cesab and occur in Montpellier, France, in 2021.

## Application process and schedule

The fullproposal should be written in English, submitted as a single pdf, and sent by e-mail to [cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr](mailto:cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr) **before 31 Jan. 2020**

The proposal form (word document to be download on FRB and CIEE websites) includes: (a) Information about the co-PIs; (b) a description of the project: context, scientific objectives and

activities, its approach, and its synthesis aspect. (c) a list of researchers who will take part in the project.

The proposal form should be accompanied by short CV's (< 2 pages) for each of the two PIs and a pdf summarizing e-mailed agreements of researchers to participate.

**Final selection will be made by the 6<sup>th</sup> of march 2020.**

## Contact

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