



NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE) seeks proposals for new **Thematic Programs (Working Groups)** to be staged over the 12 month period from March 2020 to February 2021. The **deadline** for submission is **October 14, 2019**. Proposals should outline a plan to address significant questions in ecology and/or evolution through synthesis-based research in the form of (a) unified and comprehensive data aggregation, (b) methodological integration, (c) conceptual synthesis, (d) analysis of information from multiple sources (e.g., meta analysis) or of multiple types (e.g. cross-disciplinary integration), or (e) application of compiled research data to environmental problems. CIEE supports projects in any area of ecology and evolution which address questions of high conceptual or applied (including environmental issues) importance. Applicants must define the project scope, meeting agenda, inclusive budget, and plan for publication. CIEE provides logistic support and travel and meeting expenses. A limited number of Brazilian researchers participating in funded CIEE working groups can have their travel, accommodation and meal costs covered by SINBIOSE. Please include this information in your CIEE working group proposals.

Application Procedures

Proposals can be submitted in either official language. Proposals include a completed application form (available online at www.ciee-icee.ca), a three-page proposal, and short resume(s) of the organizers.

The **application form** should be completed with the following information:

1. The project title, name and complete contact information for the organizer(s), and project summary (max. 300 words), suitable for public circulation. At least one of the organizers must be a faculty member at a Canadian university to allow transfer of funds between universities.
2. A list of participants, with affiliations and a short (one paragraph) biographic profile including description of their expertise contributed to the working group. CIEE will fund working groups from 8 to 15 participants in size. Proposals for large numbers of participants should be well justified, as previous analyses have shown that per capita productivity declines as group



size increases (Hampton and Parker. 2011). Productive working groups typically include participants from a variety of career stages, including early career researchers (graduate students, postdoctoral fellows) as well as mid to later-career researchers (e.g. university faculty, government research scientists, senior managers). CIEE requires the participation of at least one graduate student and one postdoctoral fellow in each working group. CIEE is a national organization, and therefore encourages geographic breadth of the Canadian participants. International participants are welcome. Working groups must have demographic diversity, including gender balance ($\geq 40\%$ self-identified as female or gender non-binary). There is strong evidence for the positive impact of institutional and demographic diversity on the productivity of working groups (Hampton and Parker 2011, Campbell et al. 2013, Crowston et al. 2015). Finally, please distinguish between those who have committed to the project and those who are potential participants.

3. A Data Management Plan. Funded working groups are required to deposit original or derived data in a data repository. Some of the information that is relevant to a data management plan includes: (1) who owns the data and what are the conditions on accessing and publishing results based on this data; (2) how will the data be compiled and integrated prior to the first meeting; (3) how will the data be stored and backed-up; and (4) what is the plan for making the meta-data and original or derived data publically accessible at the end of the project with timelines and names of those responsible.
4. A budget including accommodation, transportation, meals and meeting room(s). In the past, working groups were awarded grants valued from \$6,000 to \$13,000; however, most awards were in the middle of this range. Please note that overhead costs and equipment cannot be included as eligible expenses. **Working groups can be also co-sponsored with other organizations.** For example, CIEE has sometimes sponsored an additional meeting for working groups already or simultaneously funded by other synthesis centres.

Appended to the application form should be a:

5. A maximum three-pages, single-spaced proposal. Please note that proposals longer than 3 pages will not be accepted. The proposal should include:
 - 5.1. Brief introduction to the project goals.



5.2. Work plan of activities: schedule of pre-meeting activities, agenda of the planned meetings, follow-up plan in order to reach the expected outcomes. As appropriate, please include the source of the data to be synthesized and methods of the analyses. Meetings can be held at any location in Canada; however, preference will be given to meetings hosted at CIEE member organizations. Our experience indicates that a virtual meeting (e.g., via teleconference or Skype) prior to the first physical meeting helps in achieving working group goals (Hampton et al. 2017). In addition, making real progress typically requires at least four full days of meeting time.

5.3. Expected outcomes (e.g., publications, white papers, open access databases, etc).

5.4. Importance to Canada (e.g., benefit to Canadian environmental and economic well-being).

6. Short resume(s) of the organizer(s). Maximum 3 pages for each resume.

The selection process

As in the past grant cycles, CIEE's funding decisions for new Working Groups will be based on a series (4-6) of confidential evaluations performed by individual members of the CIEE's Scientific Advisory Committee. The CIEE's Directors will determine the final level of funding to be received by each awarded project, and will provide all applicants with formal feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their proposals.

In general, scientific excellence and likelihood of success are the main criteria for evaluation, although consideration will also be given to the benefits to Canada, cost effectiveness, participant complementarity and diversity, and benefits to CIEE member institutions. The *specific criteria* of evaluation are:

1. Project rationale: scientific and/or applied significance of the questions, likelihood to advance understanding in ecology, evolution and/or environmental issues, evidence of novel synthesis, and evidence of benefit to Canadian environmental and economic well-being.
2. Project description: clarity of objectives, outcomes, work plan, meeting schedule.



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3. Expertise and appropriateness of applicants and participants (from the organizer's resume and the summaries of the participants).
4. Participant diversity, including the criteria of career, geographic, and demographic diversity.
5. Anticipated outcomes. Potential for defined scientific products, including refereed publications, white papers and open access databases.
6. Budget adequacy and feasibility (complete estimates and coherent justification). Presence of matching funds or partner organizations should be indicated. Applicants with industrial partners should also consider submitting their proposal to the regional NSERC office for consideration in the CONNECT program prior to CIEE submission.

Deadline: Submit the full proposal by **October 14, 2019** to:

ciee-icee@biodiversity.ubc.ca

Applicants are encouraged to contact the CIEE Director, Deputy Director or Program Co-ordinator with any questions, including those on content, budget and facilities.

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References

Campbell, L.G., Mehtani, S., Dozier, M.E. and Rinehart, J., 2013. Gender-heterogeneous working groups produce higher quality science. *PloS one*, 8(10), p.e79147.

Crowston, K., Specht, A., Hoover, C., Chudoba, K.M. and Watson-Manheim, M.B., 2015. Perceived discontinuities and continuities in transdisciplinary scientific working groups. *Science of The Total Environment*, 534, pp.159-172.

Hampton, S.E. and Parker, J.N., 2011. Collaboration and productivity in scientific synthesis. *BioScience*, 61(11), pp.900-910.

Hampton, S.E., Halpern, B.S., Winter, M., Balch, J.K., Parker, J.N., Baron, J.S., Palmer, M., Schildhauer, M.P., Bishop, P., Meagher, T.R. and Specht, A., 2017. Best practices for virtual participation in meetings: Experiences from synthesis centers. *The Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, 98(1), pp.57-63.