

CNPq/MCTIC Call for Proposals nr. 17/2019
Synthesis on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (SinBiose)

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This call for proposals is designed to support research projects in the scope of the Synthesis Center on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (SinBiose), a new research program by the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). This call is also supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology Innovation and Communication. The present summarized version in English is for diffusion purposes only. The complete instructions for proper submission are presented in the full version of the Call for Proposals nr. 17/2019, available in Portuguese version at CNPq website.

II. AIM OF THE PROGRAM

SinBiose's mission is to produce international-level data and concepts' synthesis with emphasis on current issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Center must act as a science-policy broker, helping in the development of scenarios, strategies and solutions. It must also help identifying knowledge gaps and emerging environmental problems.

Our focus is on the production of qualified information for decision-making, but proposals aimed to development of new conceptual models in knowledge frontier will be also considered for evaluation.

II - 1 Synthesis concept

Synthesis projects involve a inter or transdisciplinary approach to integrate knowledge, methods and scientific perspectives in analysis, re-organization or re-contextualization of available data and information, to produce novel knowledge, thus allowing for the conceptualization of complex social and environmental problems beyond the scope of any one profession, discipline, data set, or research approach. Synthesis-produced knowledge have a greater potential to led to new scientific discoveries, as well as other societal-relevant products, such as qualified information for decision-making and subsidies for public policy.

II – 2 Data management

Considering public interest and the scientific premise of research reproducibility, SinBiose recognizes the importance of adequate data management and sharing. So, we strongly recommend that SinBiose's related data should be deposited on open repositories with well-established guidelines for data acces and use. The term data is here used in a broader sense, including data sets, metadata, softwares, workflows, reports, etc.

III. PRIORITY THEMES

Below are listed suggested priority research themes. Additional research themes related to biodiversity and ecosystem services can be considered for funding. Proposals must involve analysis and synthesis of available data, and not predict data collection.

- a) Direct and indirect vectors of environmental transformation and vulnerability;
- b) Ecosystem integrity bioindicators;

- c) Natural resources and landscape management strategies;
- d) Ecosystem services and its relations to economic system and human well-being;
- e) Identification, evaluation and modeling of biodiversity generation, maintenance and distribution;
- f) Priorities and techniques for natural resources and ecosystem services conservation, restoration and recovery.

IV. WHO CAN APPLY

IV – 1 Applicants

The applicants must fulfill CNPq eligibility rules for research grant application, including a permanent position within a Brazilian research institute or University. They should be principal investigators (PI) in the synthesis working group.

IV – 2 Working groups

The working group can be composed of a maximum of 20 members and have one post-doctoral student and two PIs. It should have a diverse composition in terms of professional perspective; gender balance; age and career stage; ethnic, cultural and regional representativity; international cooperation.

IV – 3 International Cooperation

SinBiose has previous understandings for partnerships with research and synthesis centers in Canada (CIEE), France (CEBA), Germany (sDiv) and United Kingdom (EOS). These may be materialized by the participation of researchers linked to these institutions on approved proposals and would involve travel funding for participation in SinBiose working groups meetings.

V. DURATION OF PROJECTS

The research period shall be of 24 months, with a possibility to extend the projects on a cost neutral basis, upon justification, analysis and approval by CNPq.

Within this period, a series of three working groups is predicted, with a week duration each. The meetings shall take place in Brasilia, save in exceptional cases.

VI. TIMELINE

Launch of the Call for proposals – august 2019

Deadline for proposals submission – 45 days after the launch of the call

Selection of proposals – one month after deadline submission

Announcement of results – one month after selection of proposals

VII. FUNDING

Funding procedures and eligible costs are subject to CNPq regulations and will be specified in the call document. The expenses of the panel members will be covered by CNPq.

VII-2. CNPq

The total Brazilian budget for proposals to be approved for this call will be up to R\$ 2,000,000.00 (~US\$ 500,000.00) to fund up to 4 projects. Each proposal may request to CNPq up to R\$ 500,000.00 (~US\$ 125,000.00). In the case that additional funding is made available, selected projects can receive additional funding or additional projects can be approved.

VII – 3 Expenses to be supported by CNPq

- a) Fellowships for post-doc, for 24 month duration in Brazil. The support includes living allowance and overhead charges;
- b) Third-party expenses;
- c) Travel and visiting costs for participation in working group meetings.

VIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION

VII.1. Submission of Proposals

Brazilian applicants shall submit their proposals through CNPq online system Plataforma Carlos Chagas, filling the CNPq Online Proposal Form, attaching the file of the detailed joint project. The peer review and the preparation for the panel meeting will be organized by CNPq.

Note: All Brazilian research team members of projects must fill in their curriculum data in the Lattes Platform (<http://lattes.cnpq.br/>) at the time of sending their application to CNPq.

Proposals must include a detailed project including the information below:

- a) Title;
- b) Relevance;
- c) Research team qualification;
- d) Integration strategy;
- e) Data availability and data management proposal;
- f) Timeline;
- g) International cooperation component;
- h) Contribution to knowledge advancement;
- i) Application perspectives in societal-relevant issues on science policy and management interfaces;
- j) Funding availability from other sources.

IX. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Evaluation will be conducted in three phases (peer review, panel meeting, technical supervision):

a) Peer review: An external peer review will assess the proposals according to fixed evaluation criteria. The peer review will be conducted according to international standards, where the experts are recommended by CNPq.

b) Panel meeting: An evaluation panel will evaluate each proposal, grounding its assessment on the external reviews. The members of the evaluation panel will be nominated by CNPq and the panel will meet physically at CNPq headquarters in Brasilia.

c) Technical supervision: CNPq staff will review the previous evaluation phases and forward for final decision by the President of CNPq.

X. EVALUATION CRITERIA

A	Project originality, scientific merit and relevance
B	Adherence to scientific synthesis concept, as defined in II - 1
C	Appropriateness of the methodology regardless to data availability and management, perspective integration, budget and timeline
D	Track record and expertise of PI regardless to interdisciplinary projects leadership and participation in synthesis projects
E	Team composition and expertise regardless of synthesis concept as defined in II - 1
F	Potential contributions to knowledge advancement and/or applicability in societal-relevant problems

XI ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION

The final decision regarding projects that will be supported will be announced by CNPq after they have been formally approved. Expected period for announcement is end November/beginning December 2019.

XII. FOLLOW UP OF THE PROJECT EXECUTION

During the execution period, the project will be monitored and evaluated by CNPq. This includes delivery of annual reports and participation in workshops that will be organized by CNPq in Brasília-DF, both under the responsibility of project's PIs.