

International Joint Synthesis Call on Climate Change and Biodiversity Change

Climate change and biodiversity change are not independent crises, but inter-related in many ways. The CIEE-ICEE joins with 10 synthesis centers around the world in inviting working group proposals that explore such inter-relationships between climate change and biodiversity change. The CIEE-ICEE will support one working group for a 4-5 day in person meeting within Canada, with a follow-up virtual meeting. Meetings should occur over the period January 2026-December 2027. **The deadline for submissions is 28 May, 2025.**

Criteria: In-person meetings may take place anywhere in Canada. CIEE provides financial support for working groups and working group meetings, but applicants are expected to manage the logistics of their funded meetings. At least one PI must be a faculty member at a Canadian university. All else equal, priority is given to proposals led by a researcher based at a CIEE member institution.

International context: Please see the joint call document [here](#) to understand the rationale for the call. This document also describes how working groups around the world, all funded under this joint call, will be able to interact with each other.

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 of each of the organizers.

You must inform us if you have submitted or plan to submit the same or similar working group proposal to another synthesis centre under this international call. While this is permitted, the synthesis centres need to coordinate so as not to fund proposals more than once.

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

1. The project title, name and complete contact information for the PI(s), and project summary (max. 300 words), suitable for public circulation. At least one of the PIs 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. Participants should be chosen to enable synergy between different disciplines, skill sets and ways of knowing (including Indigenous

knowledge), and may be drawn from both academic and non-academic sectors. Productive working groups typically include participants from a variety of career stages. CIEE requires the participation of at least one graduate student and one postdoctoral fellow in each working group. Participants should be drawn from multiple universities or organizations; meetings with primarily local participants should demonstrate that these participants do not normally collaborate with each other on a day-to-day basis. International participants are encouraged as long as their travel costs fit within the budget. Working groups must have demographic diversity, including gender balance ($\geq 40\%$ self-identified as women or gender non-binary), and consider inclusiveness of under-represented racialized minorities, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, self-identified LGBTQIA+, and those with very different disciplinary, social and cultural backgrounds. Please only provide such identifying information that participants freely volunteer to disclose. 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 and all code needed for reproducibility in a data repository. Some of the information that is relevant to a data management plan includes: (1) ownership of the data and conditions for accessing and publishing results based on this data; (2) how the data will be compiled and integrated prior to the first meeting; (3) how the data will be stored and backed-up; and (4) the plan for making the meta-data, original or derived data, and code publicly accessible at the end of the project with timelines and names of those responsible.
4. A budget to support the proposed activities, no more than \$14,000 total. Costs for meetings can include: (1) costs required for in-person meetings, including accommodation, transportation, meals and meeting room(s); (2) Costs associated with increasing accessibility for participants with disabilities, for example a contract with a professional interpreter; (3) Up to \$750 for exceptional (i.e., not normally incurred) costs for childcare or eldercare to enable participation for those with caring responsibilities who would otherwise not be able to participate.

Please note that overhead costs, faculty stipends and equipment cannot be included as eligible expenses. Our experience is that few working groups are able to have manuscripts accepted for publication within the 12-month timeframe of the budget, so publication costs should not be included in this budget. We encourage applicants to consult with the CIEE Program Coordinator if there is any uncertainty about allowable budget items.

Appended to the application form should be a:

5. A maximum three-pages, single-spaced proposal (12-point font, 2.5 cm margins). Please note that proposals longer than 3 pages will not be accepted. The proposal should include:

5.1. Brief introduction to the project goals. It should be clear how your proposal addresses the theme of this special call.

5.2. Work plan of activities: schedule of any pre-meeting activities, agenda of the planned meetings, follow-up plan in order to reach the expected outcomes. Although in-person working group meetings are normally constrained to be 4-5 consecutive full days, there is no such constraint on your virtual working group meeting and you may elect to have your virtual meeting in multiple smaller sessions (see [CIEE-ICEE Guide for Virtual Working Groups](#)).

5.3. For projects involving data synthesis, describe the source of the data to be synthesized, whether the database is already constructed or will be constructed in advance of the meeting, and the methods of analyses.

5.4. Discuss how your working group will ensure a broad diversity of participants (see #2 in Application Procedures), and create an equitable, inclusive and productive working environment.

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

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 confidential peer reviews. The CIEE's Director 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 the case of a conflict of interest, the CIEE Director will defer to the CIEE Management Board.

In general, fit to the special call theme, scientific excellence and likelihood of success are the main criteria for evaluation, although consideration will also be given to cost effectiveness, participant complementarity and diversity, data management plans, attention to equity and inclusion, and participation of CIEE member institutions. The *specific criteria* of evaluation are:

1. Project rationale: scientific and/or applied significance of the questions, fit to the special call theme, likelihood to advance understanding in ecology, evolution and/or environmental issues, evidence of novel synthesis, and evidence of benefit to societal well-being.

2. Project description: clarity of objectives, outcomes, work plan, meeting schedule, data management plan.
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 as defined in criteria #2 of the Application Procedure. Attention to equity and inclusion.
5. Anticipated outcomes. Potential for impactful products, such as 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.

Deadline: Submit the full proposal, as a single document, by **28 May 2025** to:

ciee-icee@biodiversity.ubc.ca

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

Diane Srivastava (srivast@zoology.ubc.ca)

Director, Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution

Kelly Haller (ciee-icee@biodiversity.ubc.ca)

Program Coordinator, Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution