



## Net-Biome Joint Call Text

Funding of Trans-National and Trans-Regional Research Projects for Net-Biome's Joint Call

**Towards Biodiversity Management in support of  
Sustainable Development in Tropical and Subtropical EU**

### Funding Organisations



## **Summary**

Net-Biome Joint Call for research projects gathers eight funding organisations from EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Territories, and two National Research Agencies (France and Portugal).

These 10 funding organisations open a call for trans-national and trans-regional research projects within the framework of the ERA-Net Net-Biome, which will fund research projects in biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in the Tropical and Subtropical Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories of Europe. The call will be open between 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Successful projects are expected to start not before September 2011.

Each proposal must involve a minimum of three partners (mainland and/or overseas), originating from three different Net-Biome Joint Call funding partners. Partners from outside Net-Biome and third parties are welcome to join the consortia with their own funding. The funding decision will be based on international peer-review of the scientific excellence, the quality of the implementation and the impact of the project proposal. Funding will be provided for a maximum of a three-year period for collaborative projects. The total amount of funding available for this call is about 3.5 million Euros.

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## Background / motivation

### About EU's Overseas

Europe's Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Territories (OCTs) extend across the world and have important tropical and subtropical elements dispersed throughout the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. These, mostly small, fragile regions and territories – all of them islands except for French Guiana – are highly diverse in terms of environment, biodiversity, culture, socio-economic and political systems and are extremely vulnerable to the effects of human development, natural disasters and climate change. These circumstances have led to increasing levels of environmental destruction in the ORs and OCTs along with the depletion of the biological resources that underpin their local economies.

Nowadays, the precarious state of Europe's ORs and OCTs biodiversity has raised them into prominence as sentinels of global change. However, they often lack the capacity for effective management and suffer from isolation and the lack of basic resources, including access to facilities and information.

All this has put them at the forefront of attempts to integrate sustainable resource management at the heart of environmental governance and policy development through research excellence. Even so, cooperation and coordination between the ORs, OCTs and continental EU on research issues remains inadequate, which limits progress, since this level of policy integration demands many research outputs.

### About the ERA-Net Project Net-Biome

Responding to these difficulties, authorities from European ORs and OCTs prepared a regional ERA-Net (**Net-Biome**, EU's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program). The aim of **Net-Biome** is to initiate and stimulate co-operation and coordination of research programs for the sustainable and integrated management of biodiversity, and in a way that would address the needs of the threatened ecosystems of the ORs and OCTs.

The **Net-Biome** consortium is composed of 11 partners linking bodies relating to the Overseas Entities from five European Member States (Figure 1), as follows:

- **France:** the four outermost regions (Guadeloupe archipelago, Martinique, French Guiana, La Réunion) and two overseas territories (New Caledonia and French Polynesia);
- **Netherlands:** the independently governed Dutch Overseas Territories of Curaçao and St. Maarten, and the three special municipalities of The Netherlands, Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius;
- **Portugal:** the two outermost regions of Azores and Madeira archipelagos;
- **Spain:** the outermost region of Canary Islands archipelago;
- **United Kingdom:** the nine independently governed UK Overseas Territories (Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Ascension Island, St. Helena, British Indian Ocean Territory and the Pitcairn Islands groups).

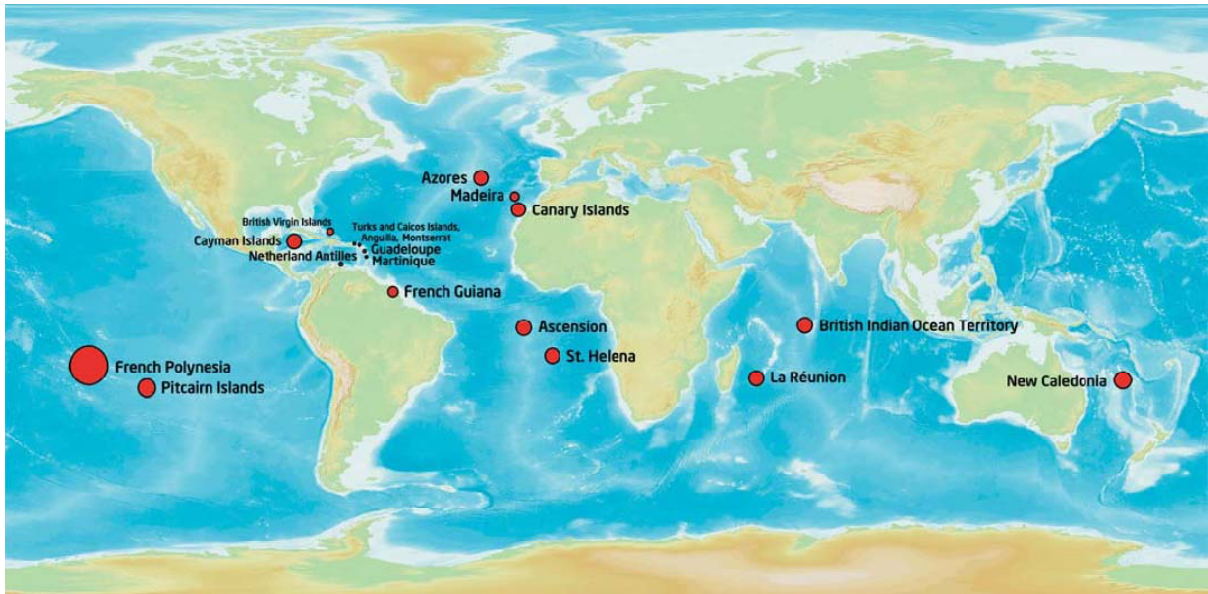


Figure 1. World map depicting the EU's ORs and OCTs part of the Net-Biome ERA-Net Project.

Net-Biome partner ORs and OCTs are characterized by three **main features**: **(a)** their marine and terrestrial biodiversity is exceptional, **(b)** their environments are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, natural hazards and pressures of human activities and **(c)**, biodiversity is fundamental to their economic development.

The project draws together interests in research activities related to biodiversity, global change, and sustainable development (the whole FP6 priority 6.3). Its purpose is to improve the coherence of research funding in Europe's tropical and sub-tropical biodiversity, while making an important contribution to Research and Technological Development efforts across European ORs and OCTs, and improve their application in policy and governance.

### About the Joint Call

The aim of Net-Biome is to initiate and stimulate cooperation and coordination of research programs for the sustainable and integrated management of tropical and subtropical biodiversity, and to do this in a way that will address the needs of sustainable development in the ORs and OCTs.

Inspired by the challenges of this ground-breaking initiative, ten European regional and national funding institutions have decided to open the **first Joint Call** for trans-regional/national research projects in tropical and sub-tropical biodiversity in Europe's ORs and OCTs. In line with the practical aspirations and grass roots approach of Net-Biome, projects will need to demonstrate their potential to improve conservation management and the sustainable use of biodiversity at regional and local levels.

In a crucial step towards implementing activities within the Consortium, and as laid out in ERA Net-Biome's Consortium Agreement on the development of joint activities, Funding Organisations have together decided to launch the First Joint Call for trans-regional and trans-national research.

Under the umbrella of the ERA-Net Net-Biome, 8 project partners and 2 national research funding agencies:

- Regional Council of Reunion
- Regional Council of Guadeloupe
- Regional Council of French Guyana
- Regional Council of Martinique
- Regional Government of Canary Islands
- Regional Government of Madeira
- Regional Government of the Azores
- Government of New Caledonia/ADECAL, France
- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT, Portugal)
- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France)

have together decided to launch the First Joint Call for trans-national and trans-regional research entitled **“Towards Biodiversity Management in support of Sustainable Development in Tropical and Subtropical EU”**.

These ten institutions have agreed to support research that aims to address the specificities of the European tropical and sub-tropical Outermost Regions and Territories in terms of biodiversity management, within a unique framework of long-term sustainable development, knowledge building and transfer, and international cooperation.

As such, project proposals will be expected to have a clear focus on policy regarding biodiversity management.

## Aim of the Call

As a result of an extensive survey carried out in Net-Biome ORs and OCTs, three collaborative research priorities have been identified as the focus of Net-Biome's First Joint Call:

**A. The use, evaluation and valuation of biodiversity and the services and resources it provides, underpinning the sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. agriculture and fisheries) and including those with important cultural and aesthetic resonances;**

**B. Improving Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management in order to support the sustainable management and use of biodiversity (marine and terrestrial) in the context of human pressures and global change;**

**C. Characterising biodiversity (from gene to ecosystem level and through to landscape) and the drivers of its evolution in a way that will enhance local capacity and improve policy decision-making.**

Projects financed under this Joint Call will need to establish linkages through interdisciplinary cooperation. Studies integrating or centred on Human and Social Sciences are strongly encouraged.

### Important

In the evaluation process, priority will be given to transnational research projects.

Proposals that include women as applicants are encouraged.

**Moreover,** the enhancement of Subtropical and Tropical activities resulting from this Net-Biome Joint Call **should cover:**

- 1) Increase knowledge of both marine and terrestrial biodiversity, its conservation and evolution;
- 2) Provide results for use by researchers, teachers, and all the stakeholders including decision makers, SMEs, and NGOs, to ensure the sustainable management of biodiversity in ORs and OCTs;
- 3) Develop tools and methods to promote sustainable biodiversity management (including monitoring, preservation and rehabilitation) and enhance the biodiversity value of human controlled ecosystems;
- 4) Reinforce economic viability of environmentally friendly activities (i.e. eco-tourism);
- 5) Provide elements to define and implement the public policies of biodiversity management (including invasive species and plant and animal protection regulations);
- 6) Develop socio-economic valuation of biodiversity;
- 7) Provide capacity-building opportunities for researchers from the Net-Biome ORs and OCTs;
- 8) Increase the education level and public awareness of populations, namely from the Net-Biome partner ORs and OCTs.

The Net-Biome Joint Call announcement will be published via the usual national and regional mechanisms, and additionally on the Net-Biome webpage and Joint Call partners' webpages. The content of this document will be the same for all participants, however, specific sections may need to be amended to meet national/region regulations.

Projects with partners from different bio-geographic areas are welcome, as are proposals from institutions, organizations, or other entities, including private enterprises and public-private partnerships.

### Targeted Research

Requirements for collaborative projects to be funded are:

- The research carried out must involve novel, ambitious or original ideas in biodiversity management (from conservation to use) with a well explained and clear impact in terms of sustainable development at regional and local levels for the ORs and OCTs.
- Proposals must have well-identified lines of collaboration (e.g. common PhD students, post-docs, samples circulating among partners, and others...) demonstrating clearly the added value of trans-national and trans-regional collaboration. Parallel-run national/regional projects with little interaction will not be accepted.

Further, all Net-Biome **projects should be designed on the following principles:**

- All project partners should contribute to, and benefit from, a balanced cooperation.
- Adequate protection for intellectual property rights used in and generated during joint research and development should be ensured.
- Results of collaborative projects should be shared through a controlled process that protects and equitably allocates any intellectual property rights established during cooperation.



## How to find partners

### The Mol

In order to facilitate liaison between Net-Biome researchers, each potential applicant is invited to fill in a **Manifestation of Interest (Mol)** at the launching of the pre-announcement of the Call and submit it until **30<sup>th</sup> December 2010** to the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) by email ([net\\_biome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt](mailto:net_biome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt)).

The Mol information will be available for the Joint Call Secretariat and each regional and national contact point, which may be able to help finding potential partners with the requested profile. Although the submission of the Mol is not compulsory, it is highly welcomed. The Mol template is available at [www.netbiome.org](http://www.netbiome.org).

#### The Mol – Manifestation of Interest:

- The partners' name
- The general idea of the project
- The need of some other partners on the project
- A prospective budget

### The research actors database

Applicants are also invited to search for potential partners at the **Net-Biome Research Actors Database** at [www.netbiome.org](http://www.netbiome.org), where they will find information on research organizations and actors, available infrastructures and current and past projects across all tropical and subtropical EU OR's and OCTs.

If you are a research actor working on one of these EU ORs and OCTs and you are not registered, you are encouraged to provide your information to help others find you.

### Funding

Net-Biome Joint Call is funded through a "virtual common pot scheme" (also known as distributed pot), where each funded partner is bound to national and/or regional regulations when it comes to funding. Therefore, the modalities of funding may vary from country to country, and sometimes even from organization to organization.

For further information on specific national and regional requirements, please refer to the table of country and region specific information (Annex 1).

Funding is granted for a **maximum of three (3) years (but check specific national/regional regulations)**; funded projects are **not expected to start before September 2011**.

The funding granted will be managed by the national and regional funding agencies and the cost eligibility rules will follow the corresponding funding agencies' rules. It is emphasised that the project budget should be appropriate and realistic.

#### Important

Participants are advised to check the national/regional funding agencies websites for further information on the eligibility of the participants and costs for which funding is requested.

### Funding options and restrictions

Each collaborative proposal must involve applicants from **at least 3 different funding partners** (mainland and/or Overseas), i.e., represented by the Funding Organisations<sup>a)</sup> and <sup>b)</sup> (France, Portugal and Spain<sup>d)</sup>). Co-applicants from the same laboratory or research unit cannot be considered as different partners. **Priority will be given to trans-national projects.**

Furthermore, **applications entitled to request funding must:**

- 1) be based for their research in a country (France, Portugal and Spain) or corresponding ORs and OCTs<sup>a)</sup> represented by one of the Funding Organisations (except for other countries situated in the Tropical and Subtropical EU area<sup>b)</sup>; in that case, the Steering Committee (SC) will examine the project relevance as a whole and will consider it for eventual funding),

and

- 2) fulfil the regional and/or national eligibility rules for research grant application as set by the relevant Funding Organisation(s).

Thus, a proposal may include some teams from a country not represented<sup>c)</sup> by any of the Funding Organisations, if the coherence of the project so requires<sup>1</sup>. However, such an outside applicant cannot request funding from the Funding Organisations and must declare to own all the necessary resources for carrying out the project. This case excludes applicants located in the Tropical and Subtropical EU area<sup>b)</sup>, in which case, relevant projects will be examined by the SC for possible funding.

- a) **France:** Teams from all the territory (mainland and overseas are eligible) developing research in and or for the Overseas. It includes the 4 outermost regions (Guadeloupe archipelago, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion Island) and 2 overseas territories (New Caledonia and French Polynesia); **Portugal:**

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<sup>1</sup> to be analysed on a case by case basis and restricted to the geographic areas of regional co-operation of the Overseas territories.

Teams from all the territory (mainland and overseas are eligible) developing research in and or for the Overseas. It includes the two outermost regions of Azores and Madeira archipelagos; **Spain**: teams in the outermost region of Canary Islands archipelago;

- b) **Netherlands**: the independently governed Dutch Overseas Territories of Curaçao and St. Maarten, and the 3 special municipalities of The Netherlands, Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius; **United Kingdom**: the 9 independently governed UK Overseas Territories (Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Ascension Island, St. Helena, British Indian Ocean Territory and the Pitcairn Islands groups).
- c) Any other countries and territories, including non E.U.
- d) Restricted to Canary Islands archipelago

### Submission of project proposals

All information and submission files are available for download at the Net-Biome website ([www.netbiome.org](http://www.netbiome.org)).

Application is a single-stage process (full project proposals). All research consortia have to send their project proposals to the Net-Biome JCS via e-mail ([netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt](mailto:netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt)) by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (23h59, GMT/UTC)**. The JCS will acknowledge receipt of proposals by e-mail.

A hardcopy version of the proposal together with each partners' Statement of Commitments must be sent by air mail to the JCS until **28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

Co-applicants from the same laboratory/research unit cannot enter the same proposal. The co-applicants entering the same proposal should designate a Project Leader.

Within a joint proposal, each national/regional Team Leader will be the contact person for the relevant national or regional funding agency. If additional specific national requirements are demanded (e.g. signatures of all participating partners in a certain project, submission of specific submission files), the corresponding national Team Leader will be responsible for delivering the requested documents.

Potential applicants from other countries, regions or territories which are not funders do not comply with these eligibility criteria but are welcomed, and should contact the JCS directly ([netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt](mailto:netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt)).

Projects are expected to **start by the end 2011, and not before September 2011**.

#### Important:

All material must be in English (except for specific national/regional files).

Before submission proposals must be transformed into PDF format (excluding excel files).

**Important:**

The JCS will acknowledge receipt of proposals by e-mail.

**Full Proposal:**

1. an identity form with the consortium partners administrative details
2. the extended application form with all the required documents and for instance this kind of information:
  - a) A description of the scientific ideas of the collaborative project, highlighting the originality and novelty of the proposal.
  - b) A description of the value added by the collaboration (collaboration vectors, complementarities of partners, what could not be done without the collaboration...) and the role of the Young Researchers (if existing)
  - c) A table with discriminated budget (per main eligible cost items), as well as requested and own budget (overall and per partner)
  - d) List of references
  - e) For each applicant, a one page CV including the 5 most important and relevant publications.
  - f) Any other specific national/regional requested documents
  - g) A Statement of Commitment from each applicant partner organisation

**Important:**

French/ANR applicants will need to submit two additional documents:

- a) a specific excel file with financial information, to be submitted to the Joint Call Secretariat at the same time as the whole project proposal
- b) the "Pôle de compétitivité" file, to be sent to ANR both by air mail and email to [polescompetitivite@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:polescompetitivite@agencerecherche.fr) within 2 months after the deadline of the call.

Detailed information on specific ANR requirements at [www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr](http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr)

**Important:**

A hardcopy version of the proposal together with each partners' Statement of Commitments must be sent by air mail to the JCS until 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

## Eligible budget items

Each applicant in a proposal may request funding to finance the vectors of collaboration, as well as local research necessary for the collaboration, following regional and/or national regulations. Therefore, in addition to the general principles shown in this Call Text, each applicant is bound to comply with the corresponding regional and/or national funding agency specific regulations applied to this call (see Annex 1 containing the specific national and/or regional regulations applied to this call).

Unless other specific regulations (either national and/or regional) apply, general eligible costs are:

- Personnel costs
- Consumables
- Travel Costs <sup>2)</sup>
- Equipment
- Other Costs (e.g. outsourcing if justified<sup>3</sup>)
- Overheads

**All budget items must conform to the national/regional rules relevant for each applicant.**

Participation in follow up meetings: by submitting a proposal all applicants acknowledge that requested travel costs already include the application for at least one representative of each of the applicants participating in the project to attend the mid-term and the closing meetings that the Funding Organisations will organise jointly for the follow-up of the funded projects.

## Funding period

Funding is granted for a maximum of **three years** in accordance with national and regional regulations. In case funding of a PhD position is requested<sup>4</sup> by one of the co-applicants in compliance with national regulations, the project will be extended by up to one additional year but with no additional funding.

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<sup>2</sup> Participation in follow up meetings: by submitting a proposal all applicants acknowledge that requested travel costs already include the application for at least one representative of each of the applicants participating in the project to attend the mid-term and the closing meetings that the Funding Organisations will organise jointly for the follow-up of the funded projects.

<sup>3</sup> Subcontracts could be included depending on the national or regional financing regulations of the eligible participant, which will manage them accordingly.

<sup>4</sup> Only possible for some funding agencies (see Annex 1).

## Funding maxima

The **maximum amount** that each applicant/team in a proposal can request depends on the country where he/she is established for his/her research (see Annex 1).

## Consortium Agreement

All project participants will be required to sign a **Consortium Agreement** (CA) among them no later than 6 months after the project start, which must address the points given in the CA guidelines (to be provided in case of funding). The CA, together with any other information required by national/regional regulations, must be made available to the national and/or regional funding bodies through the JCS.

## Eligibility of Project Proposals

Project proposals will be subject to an **administrative eligibility check** as detailed in this call announcement. The final rejection decision of a specific proposal due to lack of compliance with one or more criteria will be made by the SC.

Project coordinators will be informed via e-mail by the JCS about a proposal rejection within three weeks after proposal submission deadlines.

### Eligibility Criteria to be considered:

Only proposals meeting all eligibility-criteria will be considered for evaluation (both national or regional regulations/ eligibility criteria). Further, all proposals must meet the following general Net-Biome eligibility criteria:

- Research proposals may be submitted by consortia created by universities, non-university public national or international research establishments and commercial companies or organisations (including NGOs), according to relevant national/regional regulations.
- A minimum of 3 partners from 3 Net-Biome funding countries/regions is required.
- Participants from non-Net-Biome should secure their own funding.
- Each consortium must nominate a Project Leader to represent the consortium externally and to be responsible for its internal management, and be the contact person between the consortium and the JCS.
- A Team Leader has to be defined by each Participant. The Team Leader will be the responsible person on behalf of the Participant and the contact person for the relevant national/regional funding

agency and Project Leader.

- All funded research teams agree to abide by the rules and agreements made within the framework of Net-Biome. Specific agreements will be prepared and signed between the national and/or regional funding agencies and Participants regarding reporting, data policy, rules for acknowledgement, etc.

## Evaluation of Project Proposals

A panel consisting typically of twenty internationally recognized experts in the fields of biodiversity research, the management (including conservation and use) of biodiversity, and sustainable development in the tropical and subtropical EU will evaluate the scientific quality and relevance of the submitted proposals.

Applicants will be free to suggest external peer reviewers; however, the SC will not be obliged to follow their suggestions. Further, applicants will have the possibility to name up to 3 experts with whom a direct conflict of interest exists.

All proposals that pass the eligibility check will be sent for evaluation, and will be rated in two consecutive steps: 1) remote peer review and 2) Evaluation Committee (EC).

The composition of the EC will become public information only after publication of the results of the Joint Call, but the reviewers of the proposals, whether internal or external to the EC, shall remain anonymous.

All Consortia/project proposals considered for evaluation will receive a short evaluation feedback, whether they are funded or not.

Full Proposals will be evaluated according to the following set of criteria:

- Co. **Relevance of proposal** with respect to the focus of the call
- C1. **Scientific excellence**
  - Quality of the trans-national and/or trans-regional project
  - Validity of proposals (sound concept and quality of objectives)
  - Originality/innovative character of research (progress beyond the state-of-the-art)
  - Quality and effectiveness of the methodology.
- C2. **Trans-national or trans-regional added value** – Potential impact
  - Establishment of first-time collaborations. Cohesion of proposed research (necessity of contributions from all the co-applicants)
  - Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of the results and the management of the intellectual property rights.

- Impact in terms of biodiversity management and sustainable development
- **C3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management**
  - Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
  - Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants, relevant collective experience with respect to the objectives, complementarity of the co-applicants.
  - Appropriateness of requested funding.

**Important**

In the evaluation process, priority will be given to trans-national research projects.

The panel of Evaluation Committee members, upon consideration of the reviews and the rankings agreed upon during a plenary meeting where all project proposals will be discussed and analysed, will issue a fully ranked list of all the proposals evaluated.

Once established, the list of projects recommended for funding will be further submitted to the individual formal approval of all Funding Organisations (the SC), where **priority to trans-national projects will be given**.

The SC determines the total number of projects recommended for funding, in conformity with the ranking made by the EC, the priority made for transnational projects, the available budget and the funding procedure. If the number of high-quality proposals, as judged by the EC, is smaller than the number of projects that could be supported by the Budget, the SC may decide not to disburse the entirety of the Principal Budget.



The Net-Biome first Joint Call will follow the calendar set out below:

Table 2: Call schedule

Week/time frame	Activity/Step
September 15 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Call for Manifestation of Interest
September 15 <sup>th</sup> – December 30 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Manifestation of Interest
<b>November 26<sup>th</sup> 2010</b>	<b>Publication of Call</b>
<b>February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011, 23h59 (GMT/UTC)</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
March 1 <sup>st</sup> – June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2011	Evaluation and Selection of Project Proposals
July 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Funding Negotiations and Contract signatures
September 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011 onwards	Start of projects

## Reporting Requirements and Projects follow up

### Projects administration and funding

The financial administration and contracting of the successful projects will be done at the national/regional level, with each Party being responsible for contracting and funding its Nationals/Regionals according to national/regional rules and, if necessary, following an agreement between other Parties representing the same country.

### Projects follow up

There will be a common monitoring procedure mandatory for all applicants involved in the funded projects. For this purpose, each Project Leader, on behalf of all the participants in the project, should submit a **brief annual scientific and financial progress report, and a final report (in English) on the project to the Net-Biome JCS**. The JCS will therefore expect an annual and a final report from the Project Leader who, in his turn, will collect the relevant information from the project partners and submit the general report (model forms for the report will be provided by the JCS in due time). Reports are expected to be sent to the JCS within **45 days after each 12-month period**, which will transfer them to all Funding Organisations.

If mandatory due to national regulations, each funded team may have to submit periodical financial and scientific reports and a final report to its Funding Organisation, in accordance with national/regional rules.

The Funding Organisations will jointly organize one or two meetings (mid-term and final) for the review of the funded projects, aiming at:

- Assessing the projects accomplishments towards their initial objectives
- Strengthening the community through a networking of scientists
- Getting a feedback from the research teams in view of future improvements to the programme

The projects follow up will be under the responsibility of a group of experts appointed by the SC, some of them ideally chosen among the EC members who assessed the projects.

The final meeting assessment, along with the final reports submitted by the Project Leaders, will constitute the basis of an evaluation of the programme as a whole (implementation and outcomes).

#### **Important**

**Researchers involved in funded projects will not claim any additional financial contribution from the Funding Organisations to attend the review meeting(s).**

#### **Dissemination of Results**

Dissemination of project results is requested in terms of presentations for stakeholders, seminars and other means (website, etc.) to ensure direct information transfer, besides both scientific communications in scientific meetings, peer-review publications or books. A detailed dissemination plan should specify the intended activities, including the production of articles for special Net-Biome newsletters.

All Net-Biome Joint Call partners shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the Research Partners and/or to use the information and results for their own purposes (e.g. for policy making purposes), provided that the owner's rights are kept and taking care to specify their origin.

The Project Leader is required to provide a publishable annual project summary to the Net-Biome JCS for publication at Net-Biome website.

All publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information resulting from the funded projects must acknowledge the ERA-Net Net-Biome and the national/regional Funding Organisations. All dissemination activities should be reported to the JCS and at least a summary of the publication and/or a copy should be made available for the Net-Biome web site.

## **Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights and use of access to the results**

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the Net-Biome Joint Call will be owned by the researchers' organizations (within the limitations of the national/regional rules on IPR and/or national/regional rules on access and benefit sharing). Where several participants have jointly carried out work generating new IPR, they shall agree amongst themselves the allocation of IPR ownership, taking into account their contributions to the creation of those.

The results of the research project and IPR created should be actively exploited and made available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created. Researchers will be expected to make available either free of charge or for fair and reasonable royalties the IPR created in the projects.

## Net-Biome Joint Call Management Structure

- 1) The **Steering Committee** is the decision-making body of the Net-Biome Joint Call and is composed of one representative of each institution contributing with funds towards its implementation. It supervises the Joint Call Secretariat. All financial issues, procedures and, ultimately, the selection of the projects to be funded through the Joint Call, are the decision of the Steering Committee, following the projects ranking and recommendations made by an independent Evaluation Committee. After the selection of the funded projects the Steering Committee will continue steering the scientific coordination and monitoring the funded projects.
- 2) The **Joint Call Secretariat** has responsibility for the overall coordination and technical organisation of the Joint Call implementation with the help of the **Joint Call Task Force**. During the implementation of the research projects, it will take the responsibility for processing progress reports, organising workshops as needed, disseminating knowledge, creating and maintaining communication with relevant actors.
- 3) The **Evaluation Committee Panel** consists of an international panel of scientific experts and stakeholders, appointed by the Steering Committee. Its composition should cover all relevant fields of expertise related to the themes of the Call. The chair of the Evaluation Panel is appointed by the Steering Committee.
- 4) The **Joint Call Task Force** is composed of elements of the Net-Biome Consortium. It will assist the JCS whenever needed concerning the processing of the proposals as well as taking care of all local matters in each country/ organisation.

The Net-Biome Joint Call Secretariat will be hosted by FCT (Lisbon, Portugal) until funding decisions by the SC.

## National and Regional Contact Points

The only official communication line of the proposal is between the Net-Biome JCS and the project coordinator. The Project Leader will be the person contacted by Net-Biome JCS during the application procedure, and hence he/she is the responsible for forwarding information to the other participants.

Each region and country involved on this Net-Biome Joint Call has contact persons who can be contacted for information about the specific regional or national requirements.

### General information on Net-Biome Joint Call will be given by:

#### Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)

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**Portugal (FCT)**

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**UKOFTC - UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum**

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## Annexes

### Annex 1: Funding agencies specific funding regulations.

Country	Region/territory	Funding Agency	Maximum funding per project partner	Funding of industrial partners	Participation of industry required?	Additional documents required	Funding of PhD projects possible?	Other national and/or regional restrictions
Portugal	All Portuguese regions	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)	70 000 €	up to 50 %	No	In the case of a positive funding decision all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application.	No	Regulations governing access to funding for scientific research and technological development projects shall be consulted at <a href="http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento.phtml.en">http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento.phtml.en</a>
Portugal	Madeira	Direcção Regional do Ambiente (DRAmb) -SRA	50 000 €	up to 50 %	No	No	No	The same as FCT; funding should go to local teams
Portugal	Azores	Direcção Regional do Ambiente	70 000 €	As long as registered with Regional Directorate for Science and Technology	No	No	Yes	Funding should go to regional research teams complying with the regional research agency; no more than 15 % overheads
Spain	Canaries	Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información (ACIISI)	70 000 €	Welcomed, as long as registered in the Canary Islands: funding up to 50%	No	No	No	Only research groups at Canary Islands centres/companies can be funded

**Annex 1:** Funding agencies specific funding regulations (continued).

Country	Region/territory	Funding Agency	Maximum funding per project partner	Funding of industrial partners	Participation of industry required?	Additional documents required	Funding of PhD projects possible?	Other national and/or regional restrictions
France	Guadeloupe	Regional Council of Guadeloupe	75 000 €	Welcomed	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR'S)	No	As ANR rules for funding
France	Reunion	Regional Council of La Reunion	100 000 €	Welcomed	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR's)	No	Priority for local teams. No funding of heavy equipment.
France	Martinique	Regional Council of Martinique	50 000€	up to 50 % total cost	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR's)	Yes	The projects should take place in Martinique
France	French Guiana	Regional Council of French Guyana	100 000€	up to 50 % total cost	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR's)	Yes	Information available at <a href="http://www.cnes.fr/web/CNES-en/3773-about-cnes.php">http://www.cnes.fr/web/CNES-en/3773-about-cnes.php</a>
France	New Caledonia	ADECAL	Not applicable	Yes	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR'S)	Yes	Priority for local teams. Direct funding / payment of expenditures needed for the project.
France	All French territories	Agence Nationale de Recherche (ANR)	No	Welcomed	No	Need to fill additional submission files (ANR'S) See website: document administrative et financier, formulaire pole de compétitivité	Yes, as well as postdocs (CDD); in these cases, the "extension request" has to be submitted at the moment of the submission of the project proposals (i.e. 3,5 years to cover the all PhD duration).	Will be given when the call pages will be available. A lot of information already available at <a href="http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/programmes-de-recherche/guide-de-l-appel-a-projets/questions-frequentes/">http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/programmes-de-recherche/guide-de-l-appel-a-projets/questions-frequentes/</a>

**Important:** note that this is only a summary. Please check both national and/or regional regulations as applicable.



## Annex 2

### FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions:

#### 1. Is the MoI (Manifestation of Interest) submission mandatory?

No. The submission of the MoI is not mandatory, but it is highly welcomed as it will facilitate liaison between researchers, and help potential applicants to find trans-national or trans-regional partners.

#### 2. How do I apply for the call?

Applicants have to email their full proposal to the Net-Biome Joint Call Secretariat ([netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt](mailto:netbiome.jcs@fct.mctes.pt)). Proposals should be submitted in the form of a PDF document (except for the financial excel files).

The JCS will acknowledge receipt of proposals by e-mail. A hardcopy version of the proposal together with each partners' Statement of Commitments must be sent by air mail to the JCS until 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

All application forms are available for download on the Net-Biome website [www.netbiome.org](http://www.netbiome.org).

#### 3. What is the timetable for the call?

Deadline for the submission of the proposals: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 23h59 GMT/UTC

Evaluation of proposals: April-June 2011

Steering committee meeting and funding decisions: July-August 2011

Start of projects: September 2011 onwards

#### 4. Who are the Net-Biome partners?

The Net-Biome consortium is composed of 11 partners linking bodies relating to the overseas entities from 5 European member states. Those are:

- the 4 outermost regions of Guadeloupe archipelago, Martinique, French Guiana and La Reunion and the 2 overseas territories of French Polynesia and New Caledonia, for FRANCE;
- the independently governed Dutch Overseas Territories of Curaçao and St. Maarten, and the three special municipalities of The Netherlands, Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius for THE NETHERLANDS;
- the 2 outermost regions of Azores and Madeira archipelagos for PORTUGAL;
- the outermost region of Canary Islands archipelago for SPAIN;
- and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org), providing a link with the 9 independently governed, tropical and sub tropical UK Overseas Territories (Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Ascension Island, St. Helena, British Indian Ocean Territory and the Pitcairn Islands groups) for the United Kingdom.

#### 5. Who are the Net-Biome Joint Call funding partners?

Under the umbrella of the ERA-Net Net-Biome, 8 Net-Biome partners and 2 National science agencies have together decided to launch this first Joint Call for trans-national and trans-regional research entitled "Toward biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in tropical and sub-tropical EU".

Those funding partners are:

- the 4 outermost regions of **Guadeloupe** archipelago, **Martinique**, **French Guiana** and **La Reunion**, the overseas territory of **New Caledonia** and **Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)**, for **France**;
- the 2 outermost regions of **Azores** and **Madeira** archipelagos and the **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)** for **Portugal**;
- the outermost region of **Canary Islands** archipelago for **Spain**;

#### **6. Who can participate to the Net-Biome Joint Call?**

The Net-Biome Joint Call is open to research teams based in a country (or associated regions and territories) represented by one of the funding partners, namely **France, Portugal, Spain** (restricted to the Canary Islands region).

In addition, the project consortium has to involve research teams from **at least 3 of the funding partners**.

However, research teams from other countries can be associated in the project, as non-funded partners (if they can bring a secured budget from a different source of funding).

#### **7. My proposal involves 3 applicants from 3 different funding partners but from the same country. Is it still entitled to request funding?**

Yes. However, priority will be given to trans-national research projects in the evaluation process.

#### **8. My team is based in a territory which is a Net-Biome consortium member (see 4.), but not a funding partner of the call at regional or national level (see 5.). Am I still entitled to request funding?**

Yes. In the case of applicants based in regions and territories situated in the Tropical and Subtropical EU area, after a positive evaluation by the Evaluation Committee, the Steering Committee will examine the project relevance as a whole and will consider it for eventual funding, even if they are not from a country represented by one of the funding partners.

#### **9. Who can apply for the call?**

Provided that the project involves research teams from at least 3 partners participating in the Net-Biome call, any eligible research organisations can apply to the call. National or regional eligibility criteria apply to research organisations and for participation by the private sector (profit and non-profit).

#### **10. How long should the project last?**

The project duration cannot exceed 3 years.

#### **11. Which agency will be funding my project?**

The Net-Biome Joint Call is funded through the so-called "virtual common pot" scheme (also known as distributed pot). Indeed, each funding partner or agency (whether national or regional) participating to the call will fund its national or regional research teams.

#### **12. In which language(s) can the proposals be written?**

Proposals must be written in English only. However, specific national/regional application forms may be submitted in the national language.

## Annex 3

### Partner: Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)

**Notice:** The Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) supports the 1<sup>st</sup> *Net-Biome's* Call for Proposals "Towards Biodiversity Management in support of Sustainable Development in Tropical and Subtropical EU".

The ANR funds will be available only for support of French participants in projects. So the French partners need to know and to observe the ANR's rules (especially the rate of non permanent scientists which could be asked for funding to ANR and any other rule).

A specific *document administratif et financier* has to be filled by French partners (Excel table).

For further details on the ANR, please visit <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/>.

### National regulations:

The rate of funding applicable to research organisations and companies, to undertakings, as well as the rules for complementary funding for projects labelled by a "Pôle de compétitivité" are defined by ANR and can be found on the ANR Website. The final acceptance of the projects will be given by the ANR director.

### Consortium agreement and Intellectual Property Rights:

For the selected projects the consortium agreement between the parties should follow the IPR conditions.

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## Annex 4

### Partner: Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)

**Notice:** The Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) supports the 1<sup>st</sup> Net-Biome's Call for Proposals "Towards Biodiversity Management in support of Sustainable Development in Tropical and Subtropical EU" and encourages the Portuguese research community and the related private sector to apply for funding for collaborative research.

**Eligibility and National Regulations:** Research themes, application and evaluation of research proposals will follow the procedure as defined in the call notice. However, FCT Board of Directors will make the final approving of funding. In the case of a positive funding decision all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application. For Portuguese institutions affiliated participants the national regulations will apply, namely with regard to: eligibility of the participants, maximum duration of the projects, consortium agreement, research project follow-up and intellectual property rights. The aforementioned regulations are available for download at the FCT institutional website: <http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/>

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**ERA-Net Net-Biome**  
**NET**working tropical and subtropical  
**B**iodiversity research in  
**O**uter  
**M**ost regions and territories of  
Europe in support of sustainable development



**ERA-Net Net-Biome Partners**

