

Joint call for proposals

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS(SIOMPA):

Ecological connectivity to maximize biodiversity conservation.

2023

National Annex: South Africa

Partners: Successful South African participants in this call will be supported by National Research Foundation.

Notice: The National Research Foundation is participating in the SIOMPA Joint Call for Proposal for which it commits a total of up to € 1 000 000.00. (One million Euro) which at the current exchange rate equates to approximately R 20 000 000.00 (twenty million Rand) for a maximum of 48 months from project start date.

The official national call announcement for South Africa will be co-currently published on the *National Research Foundation website* (<http://www.nrf.ac.za>) as will be done by the *Agence Nationale de la Recherche* (ANR) responsible for this joint call. Details of the call and the application process are provided via the ANR website (<http://www.anr.fr/RF>). Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point before starting to prepare proposals for application. The National Research Foundation national contact is Tracy Klarenbeek (tj.klarenbeek@risa.nrf.ac.za). See further details at the end of the document.

Eligibility and national funding modalities:

This call is open to all South African researchers and permanent residents who meet the general eligibility criteria and requirements as set below. Applications should seek to align the objectives of their applications to the priorities of the 2016 Marine and Antarctic Research Strategy and the relevant themes for this call. Applicants will also be required to meet the specific eligibility criteria as detailed in the call. All applications will be assessed on the basis of the below eligibility criteria as well as the selection criteria described in the call.

Country-specific eligibility

In order to qualify for funding, applicants must fulfil the following criteria:

- Rated and unrated researchers can apply for this funding opportunity.
- Researchers must be employed by public research institutions that are recognised by the directive of the Minister of Science and Innovation (DSI). These include mainly public Universities, Museums and Science Councils.
- Part-time employees on contract at a recognised research institution (as defined above) in South Africa may apply, on condition that their appointment is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form. Salaries must be paid by the research institution and the primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfil a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Retired academics/researchers if they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
 - are residents in SA;
 - are formally affiliated to a recognised institution (as defined above) e.g., appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee;

- are active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision;
 - are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff and
 - the institution ensures that a minimum of 6 months per year is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development.
- **Students, including PhD Candidates, are NOT eligible to apply** as principal investigators in this call. They may, however, find support for their proposed research by embedding this into applications submitted by eligible principal investigators as detailed above. ***Applications for own degree purposes will not be considered.***
 - **Post-doctoral Fellows are NOT eligible to apply** as principal investigators in this call. They may, however, find support for their proposed research by embedding this into applications submitted by eligible principal investigators as detailed above.

Eligible researchers involved in successful applications will be funded within the limits of the NRF's contribution to the call according to the general principles outlined therein. Disbursement of the funds as well as the management and reporting thereof will be in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the NRF granting mechanism as stated below.

Country-specific grant conditions

Successful South African participants may only use their grant awards for research purposes under the auspices of the NRF standard grant conditions and finance policies. The money is released on acceptance of the conditions of the grant both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. The funds will be awarded in support of small equipment (maximum R 200 000.00 per grant), running costs, national and international travel costs (including conferences) and post-doctoral fellowships (R 200 000 pa for a maximum period of 2 years). Requests for technical assistants will be entertained, but are required to bring specific skills over a short period to a project. Students especially will not be considered as technical assistants. Bursaries are awarded in line with the DSI-NRF POSTGRADUATE FUNDING POLICY and are not awarded as grantholder-linked bursaries. Students need to apply for funding via the NRFConnect system (<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>). All student applications must meet the eligibility requirements as stated in the policy framework document and guidelines and must reach the NRF within the prescribed deadlines. Eligibility requirements include nationality, age at application and importantly a minimum of 65% for their previous degree. It is essential that eligible students include either your application reference or your grant award unique identifier. Without this information, the students will not be linked to your project, and as such will not be prioritised in the student selection process.

The NRF requires the submission of Annual Progress Reports in accordance with NRF and institutional deadlines. These reports will be required in addition to reports required by ANR. The timely submission of informative reports is a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit an Annual Progress Report will result in the cancellation of the project and will impact on all other NRF funding awards via other instruments in the same way. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

More specifically:

- *Grants will be awarded **for a maximum of 48 months** from the project start date.*
- *The grant application should be submitted in Euro but will be awarded in Rand at the current exchange rate at the date of award, distributed as budgeted over the grant period. The value of the award will not change during the period of the grant;*
- *Student bursaries/fellowships will be awarded at the standard NRF levels;*
- *Similarly, small equipment will be supported at the standard NRF levels*

This is a collaborative research grant therefore applicants are expected to apply as a consortium as defined in the call document. The National Research Foundation will serve as the South African funder for all successful transnational collaborations.

In preparing the project budget applicants are advised to check with the National Contact Point on the eligible costs that may be covered in this call. For example, the NRF does not pay for salaries, lecture replacement or indirect costs. Proof of other funding to cover the non-eligible costs (if applicable) will be required before the final funding decisions can be made.

National Contact Point

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