



Joint call for proposals

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:

ecological connectivity to maximize biodiversity conservation

2023

PUBLICATION DATE September 18th, 2023

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of proposals is November 30th, 2023, 2:00 pm (CET).

Publication address of the joint call for proposals: <https://anr.fr/SIOMPA-2023>

Before submitting a proposal for a research project, it is necessary to read carefully the whole of this document and the regulations relating to the terms and conditions for awarding grants from the ANR (<http://www.anr.fr/RF>) and the co-funders of the call.



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Deadline for the call of proposals

All documents (see § 3.1 Submission of proposals) must
be submitted on the ANR website before the end of the
call for proposals:

November, 30th, 2023

2:00 pm (CET)

Call secretariat

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1. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE CALL

The Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) basin is a globally recognized hotspot of endemism and biodiversity. It is home to many spatially fragmented Marine Protected Areas (MPA), which are essential in maintaining marine ecosystems. A crucial element, which requires further investigation, is the ecological connectivity, often highlighted in the design of MPAs and the guarantees of conservation success. This ecological connectivity governs the exchange of marine species moving across spatially fragmented habitats during their different life stages. The establishment of a powerful regional network of MPAs would help to promote the notion of linking management actions as well as to develop bold initiatives to achieve conservation goals. The extent to which measured or modelled representations of this connectivity are applied to marine management decisions is uncertain, as there are currently limited interactions between MPA governing bodies at the regional, and sometimes national level. Detailed knowledge of the distribution, movements, and interactions of marine species with their oceanic environment between different marine protected areas is essential for implementing effective marine spatial planning strategies, for assessing the effectiveness of marine protected areas, identifying new areas to be protected as a priority, but also strengthened existing strategies and areas

Increased interactions between MPA governing bodies would also provide a means to raise community awareness in or near marine, "high seas" and coastal protected areas. Because global and local threats are expected to compromise the effectiveness of MPAs, it would also provide a better understanding of the adaptation and mitigation requirements, and propose actions to increase the success of global biodiversity conservation in the SWIO region. This research programme will be based on the networking of numerous MPAs or marine reserves located throughout the western part of the SWIO basin, with a particular focus on the Mozambique Channel and, to some extent, the Mascarenes Archipelago (Réunion, Mauritius) areas or Madagascar.

Previous projects in this area with the two research calls for proposals on the "Scattered Islands or Eparses" (2011-2014 and 2017-2021) coordinated in the framework of inter-agency consortia have rapidly highlighted the status of the Scattered Islands or Eparses as reference ecosystems in view of their exceptional biodiversity, subject to very low anthropogenic pressures, and as a privileged observatory of past and present climate and environmental changes. This research programme will be developed in complementarity with the different initiatives in the region and will also link up with future initiatives. It will also support the initiative VARUNA (AFD), which is a large project aiming at stopping biodiversity erosion of this SWIO biodiversity hot spot including all the territories of this region, and BIODEV 2030 project coordinated by AFD in association with IUCN and WWF to preserve the biodiversity by promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

This collaborative research call for proposals will have the broader objective of supporting projects studying the evolution, functioning and dynamics of the socio-ecosystems of the region, in all their diversity, and will draw on a wide range of scientific disciplines (from physical, biological and ecological sciences to human, social and economic sciences).

Finally, it is expected that the projects developed from this collaborative research call will pay particular attention to the network of existing MPA or planned marine protected reserves in the SWIO, with the objective of contributing to regional public policies for



the establishment and management of these networks.

Funding will be available thanks to the funding organisations (FO) from France (ANR, AFD), South Africa (NRF), Kenya (NRF), Mozambique (FNI), and Tanzania (COSTECH).

2. SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK

The call for proposals addresses several questions and issues detailed below:

2.1. HOW CAN WE HARMONISE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF THE MPAS OF THE REGIONAL AREA?

In the perspective of long-term environmental monitoring in the MPAs of Southwest Indian Ocean region, it is proposed to design harmonised monitoring systems and networks of different parameters considering the connectivity of different kinds between the socio-ecosystems. They must also integrate the links between the state of these ecosystems, the existing or future natural heritage protection and conservation mechanisms, and the current or planned biological and the impact of mineral resource exploitation activities. This may include:

- **Designing spatio-temporal monitoring of different biotic and abiotic variables**, characterising the state and evolution of climate and biodiversity at a regional scale. Identify an inventory of existing monitoring activities in the different MPAs and develop an appropriate monitoring framework and implementation pathways to ensure long-term collaboration in the region around issues of socio-ecosystems monitoring. Particular attention should be paid to the aspects of data storage, dissemination and valorisation of the collected data.

A particular focus could be on remarkable or vulnerable species and habitats or on indicator species of ecosystem health. **Iconic marine species** of the Southwest Indian Ocean (sea turtles, humpback whales, sharks, various seabirds, etc.) have to be followed throughout their life spans.

- **Develop assessment tools and indicators to establish**, on the basis of the data collected through these networks, a diagnosis of the state of the ecosystems, their evolution in relation to anthropic pressures, and the assessment of on-going management measures to evaluate their effectiveness.
- **Develop new** autonomous, eco-responsible and connected biological, chemical or physical sensors.

The projects proposed in the framework of this axis will have to propose pathways to reach a sustainable monitoring strategy:

- 1/ built on the basis of an inventory of existing monitoring systems,
- 2/ detailing the methods and means to be deployed to ensure long term monitoring and establishment of open access data base,
- 3/ considering the specificities of the sites/species targeted for the deployment of the systems,
- 4/ evaluating, the feasibility of integrating these systems into approved national and international monitoring frameworks.



2.2. HOW ARE THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE REGION STRUCTURED AND/OR CONNECTED?

The projects proposed could aim in particular at:

- **Modelling oceanic, atmospheric, and biological circulations**, to identify links between regional ecosystems and their MPAs.
- **Study the connectivity between ecosystems, ecosystems and/or species in the biogeographic context of the Western Indian Ocean and at a larger scale of the Indo-Pacific.** Connectivity may be examined from different angles (e.g., hydrodynamical model, genetic). Proposals may also aim at establishing links between different ecosystem compartments. The connections studied can be active (species migrations) or passive (biological propagules and pollution carried by currents and winds).
- **A focus on the remarkable, iconic species or vulnerable species and ecosystems**, which are the object of protection measures to contribute to the orientation of large-scale preservation policies for the future. In particular, the identification of areas/habitats of importance for the life cycle of migratory species could provide relevant elements for the implementation of national and international protection measures in connection with the Nairobi Convention and dedicated programmes.
- **Establish a link on a biogeographic scale between the networks of marine protected areas and the structuring of the ecosystems and associated connectivity mechanisms**, with a view to evaluating the coherence of this network and, if necessary, issuing recommendations on a regional scale and/or between countries. Collected observations will be relied upon **to identify marine corridors** used by individuals moving across different MPA, determine whether studied species actually use existing protected areas and possibly identify new areas to be protected as priorities in the future.

2.3. WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACTS ON THE ECOLOGICAL STATES OF THE ECOSYSTEMS AND WHAT MEASURES SHOULD BE PROPOSED TO REDUCE THESE IMPACTS?

In the context of accelerated development of anthropogenic activities in the western Indian Ocean it is proposed to study the pressures on the ecosystems of the area, the possible associated impacts as well as the risks induced by their development at local and/or regional scale. Management proposals will be made to reduce the impacts and risks. The work will be able to relate in particular to:

- **The characterization and mapping of anthropic pressures** that are exerted on the region's ecosystems. **The evaluation of the associated impacts** on ecosystems and ecosystem services they are delivering as well as, if necessary, **modelling/projection of the induced environmental risks** at short, medium, and long term, considering the possible measures taken to reduce these risks.
- **Proposals for management modalities and measures** to move towards sustainability of activities at the local and regional scales, particularly with regard to the impact of



offshore activities to make it possible for these activities to coexist while preserving species and ecosystems of the region.

2.4. WHAT ARE THE LINKS BETWEEN THE ECOLOGICAL STATE OF THE ECOSYSTEMS, THE PROTECTION MEASURES AND THE HUMAN POPULATIONS OF THE SOCIO-ECOSYSTEMS CONCERNED?

The projects responding to this axis will aim at achieving all or part of the following objectives:

- **Understand the context and characterize the consideration of local perceptions and local knowledge** in monitoring tools and in decision related to management and protection of ecosystems.
- **Study the practices and social representations** of the local, neighbouring populations including tourism that use the marine environment as a prerequisite for the appropriation and acceptability of environmental management measures implemented in the area.
- **Study the processes leading to the social and economic acceptability of environmental policies** and projects, in particular the establishment and management of marine protected areas for the countries of the region: participatory research, co-construction of scenarios, knowledge sharing, mediation, approaches integrating historical aspects, memories and imaginary linked to the different territories.
- **o Develop a reflexive approach on the actors taking decisions in the region and on the decision process:** legal aspects and policy angle on the models of development and visions of local actors and their projects. Bring economic elements of market and non-market goods to contribute to policy decision making.

3. PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

A one-stage procedure (i.e. only full proposals, no pre-proposals) for joint applications will be followed.

3.1. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals will be assessed by an interdisciplinary panel of international reviewers: the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC), whose members will be chosen to cover the breadth of the call topic. Applications should demonstrate how the project will increase synergy between research teams across countries and how such a collaboration adds value beyond research that could be done nationally.

Details for applicants are given below in Annex 1 (Instructions for Proposals) including the submission forms to be filled out and submitted online to the **ANR submission site (see webpage)**.

Proposals must be finalized and submitted on the submission site by the



communicated closing deadline (November 30th, 2023, 2 pm, CEST) and meet all formal requirements set out in the call (see also ANNEX 1: "Instructions for Proposals").

Each research partner of a proposal must select the Funding organisations from which it seeks funding and enquire about its eligibility in relation with the Terms and conditions in the relevant Funding partners Annex.

IMPORTANT

Additional element and information cannot be accepted after the closing date and time of the joint call for proposals.

3.2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIAE

IMPORTANT

Eligibility is checked on the basis of the information and documents available on the submission site at the closing date and time of the call for proposals. The information submitted online takes precedence over the information provided in the project description if these two sources of information were not consistent, including if they are incorrectly filled in or missing.

The call is open to proposals that meet the following criteria:

- Applications must be submitted complete by the deadline, and meet all formal requirements set in the call (see below ANNEX 1: "Instructions for Proposals").
- Each collaborative proposal must involve applicants from at least three different countries either funding the call or requesting fund from AFD. These funding countries are France, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania. Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius can request fund to AFD. Co-applicants from the same laboratory, research unit or university cannot be considered as different partners, even if they are located in different territories.
- In-kind contributions from third parties / countries will be welcome in addition to the funding countries. Researcher entities who are willing to contribute in-kind to the proposed project will be considered part of the project consortium and will be requested to sign the consortium agreement.
- The coordinator who lead the project (PI) and submits the proposal, must be part of an eligible entity for funding. A researcher is allowed to be project coordinator of one proposal within this call and can be involved as project partner(co-PI) in a maximum of one more proposal. A researcher can be involved as a project partner in maximum two proposals without being the coordinator. The project coordinator is in charge of submitting the proposal on the submission platform, he/ she shall specify the selected science questions on the submission website and ensure that the requested funding does not exceed the budgets indicated in the funders' guidelines.
- To be complete and compliant, a proposal must include before the end of the



submission deadline:

- The fully completed online form;
- The Scientific document submitted on the submission website, in accordance with the 20 pages limit;
- Maximum duration of the project is 48 months.
- In-kind contributors mentioned in the proposal must provide a letter of support, as an appendix on the submission website before closing date and time.
- Each proposal must address every specific requirement published in the relevant funder's annex available on the website

3.3. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals declared deemed eligible will be evaluated by scientific experts (Scientific Evaluation committee) according to the following scientific and technical criteriae. The 3 main criteriae will be given equal weight.

Scientific and technical quality of the proposal:

- Scientific excellence in terms of progress of knowledge with respect to the current state of the art, conceptual breakthrough including methodology;
- Innovation level of the project and methods, multi- and interdisciplinary approach;
- Integration of the different disciplinary fields;
- Inclusion of relevant societal and ethical aspects.

Quality of the consortium and feasibility:

- Quality and international competitiveness of participants in the field(s) of the project proposal;
- Quality and efficiency of the project management;
- Quality of the consortium and collaboration;
- Added value of potentials stakeholders involved :
- Feasibility of the project : human, technical and financial resources: adequate work package structure and work plan; adequate equipment and manpower resources; quality of the coordination plan;
- Cost-efficiency of the project. Appropriateness and justification of the requested funding, justification of investments and equipment purchases, justification of the other financial items;
- Probability of success of the project based on description of risks and the contingency plan.
-

Impact:

- Scientific impact
 - Dissemination activities and expected impact for end users: strategy for knowledge transfer and for exploiting the potential of the project results;
 - Potential for utilization or integration of the project results by the scientific, industrial or societal stakeholders; impact of the project in terms of knowledge acquisition;
 - Openness to stakeholders.



- Expected impacts in terms of capacity building
 - Mobility and/or training actions; direct involvement of regional scientists, students, institutions;
 - Education initiatives/courses on new identified skills/to fill an educational gap
 - Specific initiatives (e.g. on-field training) linking human capacities and research infrastructures;
 - Actions supporting jobs, including non-academic, in concerned sectors.
 - Links with existing initiatives and programmes on the South Indian Ocean

The members of the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) prepare an individual evaluation report. During the final meeting of the SEC, the members outline the objectives of each proposal and summarize the evaluations, and then provide their opinion based on the evaluation criteria, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. The collegial discussion allows each proposal to be evaluated in relation to all the proposals evaluated by the committee. The committee's discussions result in a consensus expressed in a ranking of the proposals against each other. A final report summarizes the evaluation and will be sent to the coordinator of each proposal.

3.4. SELECTION OF THE PROPOSALS

Funding organisations of the joint call, as a call steering committee, will aim to fund high scientific quality proposals in order to answer objectives of the joint call. The final selection of the proposals will be based on the scientific evaluation provided by the SEC and available budget for each funding organisation.

3.5. RESULTS

The Call Secretariat will inform each coordinator about the results of the selection and will send the final report of the SEC. The coordinator needs to transfer the final report to each of his/her partners involved in the proposal.

4. FUNDING AND DUTIES OF FUNDED PROJECT

Each eligible project partner will be funded by the relevant funding organisation (FO) to the Terms and conditions set for this call by this organization (see relevant funders annex).

Funded partners of every project will report to the funding partners from which they receive funding according to their relevant "Terms and conditions" and for the scientific content to the Call Secretariat of the SIOMPA joint call.

Funded projects will have to fill three intermediates reports and a final scientific report, according to a format forwarded to them by the Call Secretariat. Additionally, the coordinators of the funded projects must attend 3 meetings in presence or remotely (kick off meeting, mid-term and final meetings), which could take place either online or in one of the participating African or South Indian Ocean countries. These meetings could be performed to involve stakeholders and representative of national and international organization and members of the Scientific Evaluation Committee. These meetings will involve the scientific community and be linked to other regional/national/international



initiatives (WIOMSA, WIOPAN, BRIDGES) in order to create networking actions and efficiency between programmes. Costs necessary to attend these meetings may be included in the budget requested by each project partner, subject to the eligibility of these costs according to the Terms and conditions of the relevant FO, as available on the webpage of the call: <https://anr.fr/SIOMPA-2023>

Each project will be required to provide a consortium agreement within 6 months of the project launch and a Data Management Plan.

5. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION (GDPR)

All Funding organisations and project partners of the application must comply with the European General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679).

By submitting an application to the SIOMPA Joint call, all project partners in the application give consent to ANR to process their personal data submitted in the application in accordance with the EU Directive on General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679). The consent includes transfer of personal data to third countries (non-EU/EEA-countries).

6. JOINT CALL AGENDA

Action	Scheduled
Launch of the Call	September 18th, 2023
Deadline for submitting project proposals	November 30th, 2023
Eligibility check by Call Secretariat and NCPs	December 2023
Scientific committee (meeting)	February 2024
Funding decision (meeting)	February 2024
Kick-off meeting	June 2024
Start of projects	June 2024

The Call will be announced on the websites of the different funding partners as **SIOMPA Joint Call**

List of annexes available on the website: <https://anr.fr/SIOMPA-2023>

Annex 2 : Guidelines ANR

Annex 3 : Guidelines AFD



Annex 4 : Guidelines NRF South Africa

Annex 5 : Guidelines COSTECH

Annex 6 : Guidelines NRF Kenya

Annex 7 : Guidelines FNI



7. ANNEX 1 : INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSALS

The proposal must be submitted by the project coordinator (or project investigator, PI) through the electronic proposal system accessible through the submission website (see <https://aap.agencerecherche.fr/layouts/15/SIM/Pages/SIMNouveauProjet.aspx?idAAP=1959>), within the application deadline (November 30th, 2:00 PM CET). Leading or partner PIs of each consortium may also be contacted separately by their national or regional Funding Organizations.

General guidance for all applicants:

- Due to the international context, the Call Secretariat strongly recommend proposal submitted in English. PDF documents must be written in Calibri, , at least font size 11, margins (2.0cm side and 1.5cm top and bottom), single line spacing, with page numbering
- The different sections of the application should not exceed the prescribed maximum number of pages / characters. Pages / characters (including spaces) beyond the limit will be removed
- Non-text descriptions such as graphic chart, diagrams, figures, etc., can be presented only in sections 9 (project description) and 10 (management plan).
- Any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal will not be forwarded to the Scientific committee.

DETAILS FROM SECTION 1 TO 7 HAVE TO BE FILLED OUT ONLINE

1. Project title

Indicate the title of the project.

2. Project acronym (max. 30 characters)

Choose a short acronym for the proposal.

3. Duration

Indicate the anticipated start and end date of the project. The project duration is up to four years.

4. Publishable abstract (max. 2000 characters, incl. spaces; to be suitable for public release)

Provide a summary describing the proposed research program and expected impact in plain language suitable for general audiences. This summary will be published if the proposal is selected.

5. Key words



Give at least three and up to ten keywords that represent the scientific content of your proposal. These will be used to assist in identifying reviewers.

6. Principal investigators (PI) and Lead PI or Project coordinator

The Principal Investigator, one per participating institution to the project, is an individual who assembles a team to carry out a project under his/her scientific guidance. The Lead PI (LPI) is the PI that coordinates the project and submits the proposal. A person is allowed to be LPI only in one proposal. Each participant (Lead PI, Partner PI, member) can be involved in a maximum of two proposals.

Provide detailed information on the Lead PI and each Partner PI, including institution and contact details. Add as many team members as needed.

Note that Public Laboratory, Research Foundation Organisation, Other Public Entity, VerySmall Enterprises, SMEs, Other Enterprises than Very Small Enterprises or SMEs, Other Private Entity, or Association are welcome to participate following national regulations.

Please check the relevant National Guidelines or contact the relevant National Contact Point for eligibility requirements and any limits on the number of official Partner PIs. Fully self-financed partners who bring their own secured budget are allowed from any country.

Details of personnel who are not listed as a Lead / Partner PI but will work on the project should be provided here. Such personnel might include individuals within the Lead / Partner PIs institution, department, etc. The Lead / Partner PI should check the policies and guidelines of the relevant Research Funding Organisation.

DETAILS FROM SECTION 7 TO 19 (EXCEPT SECTIONS 14 AND 15) WILL NEED TO BE UPLOADED IN THE FORM OF A PDF DOCUMENT AND WILL CONSTITUTE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENT. THE PDF DOCUMENT CANNOT EXCEED 20 PAGES TO BE UPLOADED ON THE PLATFORM. THE PDF DOCUMENT FOR SECTION 14 MUST BE UPLOADED ON THE PLATFORM IN THE SECTION "ANNEXES". FOR SECTION 15, SEE DETAILS BELOW.

7. Executive summary (max. 2 pages)

Give an overarching summary of the goals of the research project. Describe the added value to be expected from the international collaboration with reference to the competence and expertise of the team and the complementarities of the consortium. Explain how users have been engaged in the proposal and the potential impact of the research on society, policy, economy, etc. as well as the complementarity to other initiatives.

8. Project description (max. 10 pages)

Describe the research plan of your consortium, including the goals and objectives. Graphics may be included in this section.

8.1 State-of-Art



Give the scientific basis and technical background for your proposal and describe the present state-of-the-art and the references on the feasibility of the proposed processes (complete description of the bibliography carried out, reference of existing processes in other countries). Identify important gaps to be filled in the current knowledge. Include reference to the significance of preliminary studies, describing how the proposed project is embedded within the research currently funded and the techniques and/or processes already tested or developed in the consortium institutes and how it adds value to this broader program.

8.2 Research and R&D plan

Give an overall description of the general approach and methodology chosen to achieve the objectives. Highlight the particular advantages of the methodology and pool of technologies / processes chosen; quantify the expected project result(s).

Break down the research and R&D program into Work Packages (WP) and individual Tasks, showing the interrelationship between the tasks (Workplan, WP structure, time plan, and involvement of participants in each WP...). Explain why there is synergy between different tasks of the project and how this is going to be exploited.

8.3 Complementarity of the team (added value of the consortium)

Describe clearly the contribution and role of each partner to your project. It is expected that unless the participation is at the level of sub-contracting for specific tasks, individual applicants will be true research and technical partners in the consortia and will contribute significantly to the development of the research and R&D program. Evaluators will be asked to comment on and rate the value added by the involvement of all partners in order to assist the assessment of these projects. All projects must involve providers and users.

Demonstrate how the project will increase synergy between teams across partner countries and how transnational collaboration adds a particular value.

8.4 Regional collaboration and embedding,

Describe collaborations with regional (Southwest Indian Ocean) scientists, institutions, public or private partners and stakeholders. Indicate clearly how this project will contribute to capacity building and/or regional engagement.

8.5 Subcontracts

please list the basic information, description of the subcontracted activity and offer (if available). Please check the National Guidelines for subcontracting rules.

9. Management Plan (max. 4 pages)

Graphics can be included in this section.

9.1 Overall coordination, monitoring and control of the project

Describe how the overall coordination, monitoring and control of the project will be implemented. Outline the management processes foreseen in the project (decision boards, coordination meetings, etc) and clearly indicate the distribution of tasks among consortium members. It is recommended that milestones be presented in a detailed diagram (e.g. PERT or Gantt charts) providing the time schedule of the tasks and marking their interrelationships; add when decisions on further approaches will have to



be made; indicate a critical path marking those events which directly influence the overall time schedule in case of delays. Explain how information flow and communication will be managed and enhanced within the project (e.g. collaboration and task meetings, exchange of scientists, dissemination of results and engagement with stakeholders).

Please mention the kick-off, mid-term and end-of-term meetings organized by the call secretariat for the funding organisations and how your proposal will interact with these over-arching activities, particularly in terms of timing and individual milestones.

Risk management: Indicate where there are risks of not achieving the objectives and describe potential solutions, if appropriate.

NOTE for funded proposals: a Consortium Agreement (including Intellectual Property Rights) must be signed among the partners of a research consortium. The consortium agreement must be signed and submitted within six months following the funding decision. The signatures must to be provided in accordance with the procedures specified by each funding agency.

It is the LPI's responsibility to ensure that this agreement clearly specifies:

- the distribution of the tasks, human and financial resources and deliverables;
- the sharing of the intellectual property rights linked to findings obtained within the framework of the project;
- the project start and end dates;
- the conditions of publication / dissemination of the results;
- the application and transfer of project findings;
- ethical issues.

9.2 Open Knowledge plan

Applicants must describe how information generated in the course of the project will be captured, stored and managed. Plans for long-term archiving and meta-description of data should be detailed, as should the communication and access plans. Please check the relevant National Guidelines or contact the relevant NCP for specific Data Management Plan requirements.

10. Impact, engagement and dissemination plan (max. 4 pages)

All proposals shall demonstrate user involvement. Please detail how users will be engaged in the project: who may benefit from or make use of the research and/or R&D program, how they might benefit from and/or make use of the research, and methods for engaging with users and exchanging / disseminating data / knowledge / skills in the most effective and appropriate manner.

Describe how the consortium will deal with the dissemination, publication and management of results generated in the project. Following the open access regulations, the access rights for academic and/or private research purposes to the research results,



the delay before research results to be publicly available, strategy of open innovation or open source approaches must be described. Please check the Nationals Guidelines for specific Open Access Requirements.

It is expected that arrangements will be made for timely release of information and resources from publicly funded research projects.

11. Funding justification

In this section, a summary of the total funding requested from this call together with that from external sources should be included. Applicants should provide clear evidence of how the funds requested will be used to fulfill the activities of each partner and a clear justification that the requested funds together with any funds / support provided by external sources are sufficient to achieve the work proposed¹.

In addition to the summary, some Research Funding Organisations require a detailed budget specification according to national funding rules¹. For the appropriate forms and any other questions you should contact or refer to the website of your National Contact Point (see the funding organisation annexes at (<https://anr.fr/SIOMPA-2023>)).

12. External Funding from other sources (including current and pending support)

In relation to Section 14 (Funding plan), please indicate if funding / support from these external sources (including in-kind contributions) will be used to increase resources provided through the grant. Please also indicate any additional support that is currently being sought, where the funding decision on that support is independent of this Call.

Provide details of any proposal related to this one, which you or another project partner may have submitted to other funding opportunities, including title, funding source, extent of overlap and expected decision date. Duplication of funding is not allowed for the same (whole or part) research project.

When funding from external sources is expected / being sought, the relationship between these various funds and the proposed project should be explained (e.g., what role do the funds play in achieving the goals and expected outcomes of the proposed project; what value will these funds add to the proposed project?). Check with your national contact point if further details are necessary.

Letters of Support and commitments letters should be included from these external sources of funding (including providers of in-kind contributions and partners) who are ineligible for this Call, but who are providing a contribution to this proposed project; they should be sent to the Joint Call Secretariat by email at the same time as the Proposal Form is uploaded and before the closing date and time.

Letters of Support should be on headed paper and should provide information on the level of funds committed and how firm that commitment is. Where the contribution is in-

¹ In relation to the 'Travel' requested to attend the mid-term and end-of-term Project Meetings, reviewers and panel members will be advised of the necessarily provisional nature of these requests and to view them accordingly.



kind, a monetary value of that contribution alongside details of what the contribution is should also be provided.

13. Funding plan

Each Leading and Partner PI should provide details of his / her funding plan. Funding information should be entered in Euros (€). Disbursements set against the different categories of expenditure in the funding plan should be provided according to the standard guidelines for each Leading and Partner PI's relevant Funding Organisation.

It is anticipated that all partners involved in the project, should it be funded, will travel to one mid-term and one end-of-term meeting. A provisional funding request (of up to €2000 per partner per meeting, under 'Travel') should be included in the funding plan and should be within the current financial limits of the funding plan since the Call will support these activities. In addition, funding for one (max. two) person per project attending mid-term meetings should be included in the budget. Remote participation to these meetings will be feasible.

Mid-term one and end-of term Project Meetings are likely to be held alongside other major international conferences and the Joint Call Secretariat would welcome suggestions as to which international conferences might be appropriate for this purpose(see section 18). A decision on this will be made by the Funding Organisations.

Final details will be made available by the Joint Call Secretariat, should the proposal be funded. After the funding decision has been taken, individual Funding Organisations may contact Lead and Partner PIs to confirm the exact amount available for 'Travel' to these Project Meetings. PIs ineligible to request fundings should indicate under 'Total costs' (Requested + External) the value of the funding (including all in-kind contributions) that they are committing to the proposal.

Fully self-financed partners who bring their own secured budget are allowed from any country.

Please note the following definitions:

Requested funding: the funds requested from Funding Organisations (i.e. what each Lead / Partner PI is requesting from their Funding Organisation). Not all funding organisations can fund permanent positions and overheads as a flat rate under certain circumstances. Please check with your national contact point before filling out the form.

External funding / support: please indicate in section 13 any funding / support you expect to be committed to the proposed project, which is not being requested from the participating Funding Organisations. This includes, for example, institutional or national funding, the value of contributions from partners who are ineligible to request funding from this Call and are therefore providing their own funding/ in-kind contribution, etc.

Total Costs = Requested funding + External funding



Time dedicated to this project is to be reported as the number of months in a calendar year that will be dedicated to this project. For example, 1 day per week over a year would represent 52 days/365 days or approximately 1.7 months.

14. Curriculum Vitae

For each PI (and Co-PI), please upload a CV (max. 1 page), including title/position, highest academic qualification, full address (country, city, street, no.), department, area of interest, key achievements that are relevant to the research and R&D proposed, as well as up to 5 recent relevant publications or works.

Please upload those CVs as an appendix to the proposal.

15. Supporting/commitments Letters

Supporting and/or commitments letters from partners not listed in the proposal including stakeholder groups involved in the project may be provided to the Call secretariat, before the closing of the submission website.

Please upload those supporting/commitments letters as an appendix to the proposal.

16. Ethical Issues

Projects must follow Horizon Europe rules and guidelines of the EC regarding ethical issues:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

When applicable, please address ethical and legal issues here (e.g. ethical permits, data protection...). Please specify if the project requires statement by an ethics committee or an animal experimentation permit or equivalent statement or permits. Please check the National Guidelines for specific requirements.

17. Nagoya's protocol Issues.

The Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanism aims at organizing the relationship between a user and provider of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. The Nagoya Protocol lays the foundation for this mechanism. The ABS mechanism should be a tool to foster the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, knowledge, research, innovation, economic development as well as preservation of associated traditional knowledge. Please specify if the project requires that statement and check the requirements of the relevant funders in relation to the Nagoya Protocol..

18. Suggested International Conferences

Please provide suggestions for major international conferences, alongside which it would be appropriate to hold mid-terms and end-of-term Project Meetings for this Call.



19. Declaration of parallel submissions (whole or parts) to other funding programs

Provide details of any proposal related to this one, which you or another project partner have submitted to other funding opportunities, including title, funding source, extent of overlap and expected decision date.

Duplication of funding is not allowed for the same (whole or part) research project. Some funding organizations may forbid double applications. Please check national Terms and conditions.

20. References Cited

Please list the references that were cited in the proposal.

DETAILS OF SECTION 21 WILL NEED TO BE FILLED ONLINE

21. Potential reviewers to avoid for direct competition reasons or conflict of interest

List the names (and provide his/her country and affiliation) of potential reviewers who, you think, should not be asked to evaluate the project for reasons of direct competition and partiality. Also provide the names of significant collaborators that should not be used as reviewers due to conflicts of interest.

When preparing the Proposal it is useful to remember the Selection Criteria on which it will be evaluated – please see the Call for Proposals for details. For questions, contact your National Call Contact Points, as indicated in the national annexes at <https://anr.fr/SIOMPA-2023>