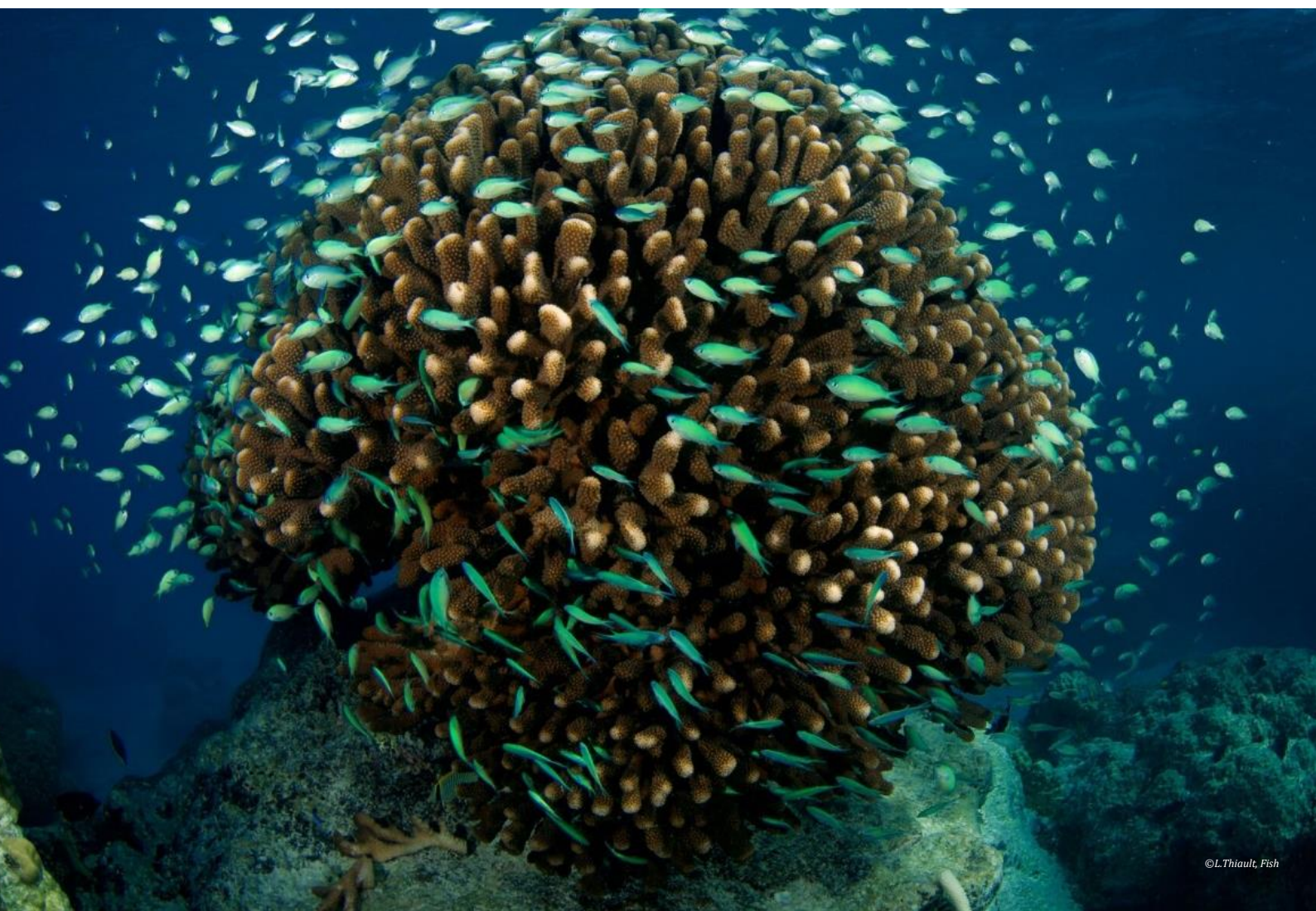




2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS

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CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE



**FONDATION
BNP PARIBAS**

At the heart of BNP Paribas' commitment is a strong ambition for environmental responsibility. Indeed, **climate change and preservation of biodiversity** are a top priority for BNP Paribas as a global leader in sustainable finance.

In the environmental sector, corporate philanthropy has never been more important. Since 2010, the BNP Paribas Foundation has been supporting research on climate change through its philanthropy programme called "Climate Initiative". Based on the observation that climate change is a major driver of biodiversity erosion, in 2019, the BNP Paribas Foundation has made the choice to open the Call for projects to support research on both climate and biodiversity. Therefore, the programme has been renamed the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative". The aim is to deepen our knowledge on climate change, biodiversity erosion and its impact on the environment.

This program has now enabled 27 international research teams to study climate change and biodiversity loss and about 435 researchers, professors and engineers have been involved in the programme. Thanks to their work, awareness on two of the greatest environmental challenges of our times has been raised among 690,000 people, through conferences, exhibitions, documentaries, and public events.

With a budget of 6 million euros over three years, the call for projects consists of a rigorous selection process carried out by recognized personalities in their field of research.

The Scientific committee of the BNP Paribas Foundation

- **Yunne Shin** – Director of Research at IRD and Honorary Research Associate at University of Cape Town
- **Philippe Cury** - Senior scientist at IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement)
- **Philippe Gillet** – Geophysicist, geologist and professor, Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne
- **Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele**, – PhD in physics, climatologist, professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, where he co-directs the environmental management master's program. Member of the Earth and Climate Research Centre
- **Marie-Pierre Ledru** – Director of Research at IRD, working at the Institute of Evolutionary Sciences of Montpellier, 2017 laureate of the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative"
- **Franck Courchamp** - CNRS Research Director at the Systematic Ecology and Evolution Laboratory (ESE-CNRS/Université Paris-Sud), 2014 laureate of the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative"
- **Lydie Lardy** – Director of Research in Soil Ecology at IRD, 2017 laureate of the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative"
- **Jean-Pierre Gattuso** – CNRS Research Director at the the Villefranche Oceanography Laboratory (CNRS/Sorbonne University/Iddri), 2010 laureate of the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative"

Objective

The aim of this call for projects is to select 6 to 9 research projects to improve our knowledge on issues related to both climate change and biodiversity. The Foundation will fund and promote these projects during a period of three years (2023-2025).

Organization of the call for projects

The selection process will consist of three stages:

- **Phase 1: From 10 February to 20 April 2022**, teams whose projects meet the eligibility criteria set out below must complete their application on the online platform dedicated to this call for projects.
- **Phase 2: Between 27 April and 15 June 2022**, BNP Paribas volunteer qualified experts will pre-select applications based on the assessment criteria set out below, with the agreement of the scientific committee's members. On 2 August 2019, the results of the pre-selection phase will be communicated to the project coordinators.
- **Phase 3: From 17 June to end of December 2022**, projects will be examined and classified by the scientific committee, which will make its selection in a meeting scheduled for November. Finally, the winning projects will be voted by the Executive committee of the BNP Paribas Foundation end of November. The results will be communicated to the project coordinators by the end of December 2022.

Candidate teams must designate a project coordinator, who will be the BNP Paribas Foundation's sole contact person during the selection process.

Project coordinators will be informed about their project's status at each stage of the selection process.

Throughout the call for projects, applicants are strongly advised not to contact members of the scientific committee to present their project. If that rule is breached, the BNP Paribas Foundation reserves the right to exclude the projects concerned from the selection process.

For any question regarding the selection process, project coordinators may contact the BNP Paribas Foundation team via the support section of the application's website.

Eligibility criteria

- The project must be related to a scientific research project (fundamental and/or applied research) and its subject must be on both **climate and biodiversity**.
- It can for example address the impact of climate change on biodiversity and/or the influence of biodiversity on climate change, whether on its mitigation or on the adaptation of ecosystems and human activities to this phenomenon.
- **Examples of climate change themes:**
 - ❖ Climatology, physics, geology, oceanography, glaciology, hydrology, atmospheric sciences, volcanology, economic and social sciences related to climate etc.
- **Examples of biodiversity issues:**
 - ❖ **Biodiversity & Ecosystems**
 - Oceans
 - Agroecosystems
 - Poles
 - Mountains
 - Urban territories
 - ❖ **Adaptation to climate change:**
 - Biodiversity scenarios
 - Adaptation of biodiversity
 - Conservation of biodiversity
 - Mitigation of climate change through biodiversity
 - Afforestation and stopping deforestation; win-win solutions for biodiversity and climate
 - Ecosystem restoration (including reforestation)
 - Increasing biodiversity to improve the functioning of ecosystems
 - Biodiversity in the city (eg. mitigation of heat island effects)
 - Societies and innovations (international law, economics, technology, etc.)
 - Social, institutional and technological innovations for biodiversity and climate
 - Synergies and trade-offs between actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the conservation of biodiversity
 - Exploration of future actions in favour of biodiversity, climate and well-being with scenarios and models, etc.
 - ❖ **Ecosystem Services**
 - Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
 - Impact of climate change on ecosystem services and functioning

Previous projects supported [here](#).

- **The project leader must not already have received support/grants from the BNP Paribas Foundation** for a project that he/she coordinated, although he/she may be connected to a laboratory that has already received a grant or may have taken part in a project that has already received support.
- **The project submitted must not be a personal project** (no bursaries will be awarded).

- **The public-interest organization under which the project will take place must be non-profitmaking and based in a European Economic Area, although it may work in collaboration with laboratories that are not located in those countries.**
- **The project must involve other organizations from at least two different countries abroad.**
- **The organization must be capable of providing supporting documents related to:**
 - Its identity (copy of its articles of association, copy of the notice published in France's official journal, official document from the country in which the organization has its head office confirming its existence etc.),
 - Its composition and management (list of members of its Office and Board of Directors, copy of minutes from the general meeting relating to management remuneration etc.),
 - Its activities (last three activity reports and last three financial reports)
- **The requested grant:**
 - Must not exceed €800,000
 - Must represent between 25% and 60% of the project's total budget
 - May cover all types of expenses (wages, equipment, consumables, travel expenses, event costs etc.)
 - In the budget the percentage for the overhead expenses can't exceed 7% maximum

Assessment criteria

- **The project's scientific merit:** the project's degree of innovation, potential for advancing research and the understanding of the subject concerned, interest in the subject among the international scientific community.
- **Publicizing and developing interest in the project:** quality of planned educational initiatives, potential for communicating with the general public regarding the project, and the innovative nature of initiatives planned in this area.
- **Project schedule:** the project's ability to deliver tangible results over the three years of funding.
- **Project organization and characteristics of the teams involved:** CVs of the project leader and members of the project team, diversity in terms of age, experience, disciplines etc. Please note that teams who will include a significant number of young researchers are welcomed.
- **International dimension:** nature and number of collaborations with teams in different countries, number of geographical zones interested in the project and/or its results.
- **Impact of funding:** importance of the funding requested for launching or continuing the project.
- **Assessment of potential risks:** transparency of the project on the technological means used and the treatment of the associated potential risks, budget security outside the amount sought in the framework of this call for projects.

Application form

Link to the application platform: <https://bnpp.lk/bl0Qgo>

The project coordinator must complete the on-line application form exclusively on the platform dedicated to this call for projects (NB: it is not possible to upload documents, only fill-in fields). Applications sent by post or email will not be accepted. The grant application must be in English. Since the Scientific committee's members are English-speakers, requests in languages other than English will not be considered.

The full application must contain the following information:

- **Identity and contact details of the project coordinator**
- **Legal form and contact details of the organization under which the project will take place**
- **Description of the project:** the project's objectives and planned experiments, the overall schedule, the project's location (places where experiments will take place), information already available about the project (website, articles etc.)
- **Agenda of the project:** major milestones of the upcoming three or four years.
- **Organization of the project:** organization of the team and responsibilities of the project's partners, presentation of the main scientists (full CVs), presentation of partners.
- **Budget detailed three-year budget:** breakdown per year over the three years of financing, per partner.
- **Presentation of how the project meets the « Climate & Biodiversity Initiative » program's selection criteria:** scientific value, publicizing and developing interest in the project, team organization and credibility of partners, timetable, international nature of the project, impact of financing, assessment of potential risks related to the project.

As mentioned in the "Eligibility criteria" section above, to complete its grant request, a candidate must also ensure that it has the following documents or their equivalents: articles of association; a copy of the notice in France's official journal or official document from the country in which the organization has its head office confirming its existence; the list of members of its Office and Board of Directors; the banking details and the last three activity reports and financial reports of the organization under which the project will take place.

Projected timetable

<u>First stage:</u> open to all eligible candidates Application	10 February – 20 April 2022
<u>Second stage:</u> Pre-selection of application files Announcement of pre-selected projects	27 April – 15 June 2022 16 June 2022
<u>Third stage:</u> Final selection of projects by the Scientific committee and vote of the Executive committee of the Foundation Announcement of selected projects First instalment	17 June– End of November 2022 December 2022 / January 2023 Early 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

1. General questions

IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION OUTSIDE THE “CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE” CALL FOR PROJECTS?

NO. The BNP Paribas Foundation will only support the projects that will be selected by the Scientific Committee at the end of this Call for Projects.

IS THERE ANY MINIMUM AMOUNT GRANTED WITHIN THE “CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE” CALL FOR PROJECTS?

NO. There is simply a maximum amount of €800,000 per project over the 3 years. In addition, the grant from the BNP Paribas Foundation must represent between 25 and 60% of the total budget of the project.

ARE THERE ANY SPENDING CONSTRAINTS WITH A GRANT?

NO. The grant may be used to cover all types of expenses, including wages, equipment, consumables, travel expenses, event costs etc. However, as the objective is to give most of the funds for research purpose, it is not the intention of the BNP Paribas Foundation to help finance a major proportion of management/administrative fees (typical overhead supported by BNP Paribas Foundation is about 7%)

CAN THE FUNDING BE USED TO PAY FOR SOME OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS' EXPENSES?

YES. For legal reasons, BNP Paribas Foundation can only transfer the grant to a non-profit entity based in the European Economic Area and that has been established for at least 3 years. The reallocation of funds between the project member organisations (e.g. to cover the expenses of the partners involved) must be detailed and managed by the non-profit entity itself.

CAN IN-KIND RESOURCES, SUCH AS SALARY COSTS, BE REGARDED AS COFUNDING FOR A PROJECT?

YES. In-kind resources such as the salary cost of permanent staff (researchers, ...), may be included in the project budget and those costs treated as co-funding. The Foundation does however require that the breakdown of the various costs attributed to the project should be balanced and consistent.

WHAT ABOUT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS?

The BNP Paribas Foundation guarantees that information about every research project candidate will be treated in strict confidentiality. Only the relevant people involved in the selection process will have access to the information provided through forms submitted via the website. At the end of each stage, all information concerning non-selected projects will be deleted entirely from the databases.

WHAT WAS THE SUCCESS RATE FOR PREVIOUS CALLS?

Since 2010, four calls for projects have been issued as part of the “Climate & Biodiversity Initiative”. In 2019, 61 eligible projects were put forward for the first stage, 27 projects were selected to go forward to the second stage and 9 projects finally received a Foundation grant.

2. Projects’ eligibility

CAN AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS ALREADY OBTAINED A GRANT FROM THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE “CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE” PROGRAM SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AGAIN?

YES. But the principal investigator must not have already benefited from the support of the BNP Paribas Foundation for a project they coordinated. On the other hand, they can be attached to a laboratory that has already received a grant or participated in a project already supported.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROJECT TO THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS?

YES. Different projects led by the same institution may be submitted. One scientist could be involved in various submitted research projects.

REGARDING THE FUNDING CRITERIA, IS IT POSSIBLE TO APPLY EVEN IF THE PROJECT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY OTHER FUNDING?

YES. The funding scale indicated in the documents concerning the proportion of philanthropy funding should be understood as follows: the BNP Paribas Foundation aims to contribute significantly to the project’s funding (25% up 60% maximum), but does not wish to be the exclusive funder. However, projects that do not yet have any other committed funders are not excluded. It is therefore permitted for a candidate to apply, even if some other funding requests have not yet been finalized (for example other calls for projects).

CAN I SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A PROJECT THAT HAS ALREADY STARTED?

YES. The proposed start date will then correspond to either the actual start date of the project or the start date of a new characteristic phase of an initiative that has already started. In this case, the presentation of the project must include a presentation of the actions already carried out, even if the BNP Paribas Foundation will not have contributed to the financing of these actions. However, since the funding of the BNP Paribas Foundation lasts three years, it is necessary that the project takes place at least until 2025.

UNDER THE “CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE” PROGRAM, DOES THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION FUND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECTS, THESES, DOCTORATES OR GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS?

NO. The Foundation does not fund such projects and does not provide scholarships under this Program.

DOES THE FOUNDATION FINANCE PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, TRANSLATIONS, AND EXHIBITIONS?

NO. The “Climate & Biodiversity Initiative” call for projects is not intended to finance only this type of action. It will only finance concrete projects implemented in the planned intervention zones. However, communication events (lectures, exhibitions, etc.) should be planned throughout the implementation of the project as dissemination & outreach are important criteria of selection.

CAN A YOUNG RESEARCHER WITH NO PERMANENT POSITION APPLY UNDER THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR?

YES. Young researchers with no permanent position (junior scientist, postdocs, etc.) may respond to this call on the behalf of their university or laboratory. Young researchers are welcomed and diversity in age and/or experience will be regarded as a positive asset during the assessment process.

IS THERE ANY PRECISE EXPECTATION REGARDING THE MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTNERS INVOLVED?

NO. There is no precise expectation regarding the minimum or maximum number of partners involved. The number of partners will naturally depend on the type of scientific research undertaken and the range of expertise required to run the project. A grant-approved project will receive the funding directly via the administrative supporting entity (which must meet the eligibility criteria). It is entirely a matter for the partners to decide how the grant is distributed.

CAN WE SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION RELATING TO RESEARCH THAT FALLS OUTSIDE THE LIMITED SCOPE OF THE EXPERTISE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE?

YES. A deliberate decision was taken not to restrict the eligible research themes. However, the research project must be scientific and related to climate change and biodiversity issues. If, at the end of the first stage, some of the projects pre-selected by the BNP Paribas Foundation deal with scientific issues that are not within the scope of the Scientific Committee members’ expertise, specific experts will be appointed to help the Foundation assess these projects.

3. Climate & Biodiversity

CAN THE RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUS ON EITHER CLIMATE OR BIODIVERSITY?

NO. The research project must focus on both climate and biodiversity. However, it can have a major on either subject, as long as it delves into the issue of the interactions between climate and biodiversity. For example: impacts of climate change on biodiversity, contributions of biodiversity to climate regulation, biodiversity adaptation to climate change, nature-based solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change, including the role of biodiversity on terrestrial and marine carbon stocks, solutions and challenges at the climate-biodiversity-society interface for achieving transformative change,

SHOULD THE PROJECT RATHER ADDRESS A SPECIFIC TYPE OF BIODIVERSITY?

NO. Forests, urban biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, coastal ecosystems, deserts, oceans, water, tropical lands, poles..., any kind of ecosystem, fauna, flora, in any part of the world, at any scale, can be eligible to the "Climate & Biodiversity Initiative" if it is studied with regard to climate-related stakes.

SHOULD THE PROJECT RATHER ADDRESS A SPECIFIC THEME OF THE CLIMATE SCIENCE?

NO. Any aspect of the climate science is eligible to the Initiative if it is studied with regard to biodiversity-related stakes. Although not being part of the climate system as such, ocean acidification is also eligible because of the modification to the carbon cycle.

4. Technical questions

IS THERE ONE BROWSER IN PARTICULAR THAT I SHALL USE TO APPLY ONLINE THROUGH THE WEBSITE?

NO. The website works on any browsers: Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari.

CAN I RESUME MY PROJECT APPLICATION TO MAKE SOME CHANGE(S) BEFORE SUBMITTING IT DEFINITELY?

YES. Changes can be made any time before the deadline. All applications shall be submitted before 20 April 2022 at midnight (Paris time).

WHY IS THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS DISPLAYED ON THE WEBSITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF MICROSOFT WORD?

The difference can be the invisible characters accidentally or automatically copied from Microsoft Word and pasted on the website.