

FBIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme (FBIP)

Concept Notes for FBIP Large Integrated Team Projects

Call year: 2021

Concept notes for FBIP Large Integrated Team Projects are invited.

Programme background information:

The primary focus of the FBIP is to generate, mobilize, co-ordinate and make accessible foundational biodiversity knowledge in line with the needs of society, the Department of Science & Innovation (DSI) Global Change Programme and the bio-economy. The main approach is to fund large, collaborative / integrated team projects which align with knowledge needs, or which involve participants along the entire value chain from knowledge generation to application for decision-making. These projects will also include postgraduate students and emerging researchers, and the up-skilling of researchers and practitioners who use the data generated. The projects will generate or mobilize species occurrence data, DNA barcode data, and descriptive information on species, and will ensure that the knowledge is co-ordinated, managed and disseminated through appropriate structures and systems. Monitoring of the uptake and impact of the knowledge generated will allow the development of an understanding of best practice for ensuring that research outputs do have an impact on global change understanding and decision-making relating to biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

Two-step process:

The application for funding is a two-step process managed through the NRF:

- (i) **Concept Notes:** Evaluation and selection for full development (Review Period 1); Concept Notes will be assessed by a panel within 2 months after the closing date and a limited number (usually 2-4) will be selected for further development into full proposals in the same year.
- (ii) **Development of Full Proposals:** Successful Concept Note applicants will be invited to submit full proposals (Review Period 2); Evaluation and selection of 1 to 2 full proposals for funding for a three-year period (implemented in 2022-2024).

Programme Focus area:

Projects falling within the following seven focus areas have been identified for support:

Environmental sustainability:

- i. Multitaxa surveys, with the geographic area clearly identified on the basis of a large-scale proposed development, or neglected areas for which no spatial plan exists for biodiversity, resulting in potentially poor decisions or management.
- ii. Surveys of the biodiversity of a particular habitat / biome that is neglected and important for ecosystem services, across a broad geographic area.

Agro-biodiversity and food security:

- iii. Crop Wild Relatives (CWR): taxonomy and distribution of crop wild relatives in South Africa.
- iv. Crop and livestock pests, parasites and disease vectors, with a focus on indigenous taxa:

Human health and biocultural diversity:

- v. Vectors of disease, parasites, pathogens, allergens. Documenting diversity – including characterisation, building collections, data mobilisation, species pages, understanding changes in historical distribution and predicting future spread.
- vi. Cultural significance of biodiversity: documenting biodiversity from a cultural diversity perspective in order to promote social cohesion, increase awareness of cultural value of biodiversity, and preserve biocultural diversity. This theme should include indigenous names and classification systems, traditional use for medicinal, food and other uses, and should result in species pages and additional information for species pages where these already exist, as well as occurrence records and DNA barcodes.

Taxonomic revisions of priority South African taxa:

- vii. The purpose of this theme is to substantially shift the taxonomic knowledge of taxa that require large scale revision, and that have a large component of their diversity in South Africa / have high proportion of South African endemics and that include economically or ecologically important species.

Application process:

The NRF publishes the One Call for Applications for funding in February 2021 (Review Period 1). The One Call includes applications for Concept Notes which must be submitted electronically via the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>.

For more information and deadlines for the One Call for Applications for funding, please refer to the **NRF General Application Guide 2022**.

Applicants applying for FBIP grants must read the **FBIP Framework Documents and Funding Guide** to make sure that all the essential information is submitted through the proposals. The FBIP Framework and Funding Guide is available on the NRF website. We recommend that applicants pay special attention to the review criteria and scorecards highlighted in the document.

FBIP Specific Instructions:

For the Concept Note application, please use the standard NRF instructions on the NRF online application template. A few additional important points are highlighted below.

Section: Details of research

Sub-section: Potential Impact and Outputs

- Projects must clearly state the impact of the project on understanding and mitigation of global change and / or the bio-economy.
- Projects must identify specific users of the knowledge generated and information co-ordinated and must indicate how engagement with users has been or will be addressed to ensure that data needs are met in terms of what is generated and mobilized and how it is accessed by users.
- Projects must generate primary biodiversity data sets according to the Darwin Core standard; Projects must contribute to the compilation of species pages according to the specifications provided by the FBIP; Projects must produce DNA barcodes for species, using the recognised barcoding gene/s for the taxon and must submit data to BOLD.
- More information about data standards and data release requirements can be found in the FBIP Framework and Funding Guide in Appendix A (Format and Standards for Data Submission) and Appendix B (Data Release Requirements).

Sub-section: Alignment to National Imperatives

Note: FBIP projects must explicitly align with and contribute to the implementation of one of the following national strategies: The Bioeconomy Strategy of the Department of Science and Technology (2013); Biodiversity Economy Strategy (Bes) for the Department of Environmental Affairs (2015); or South Africa's 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2025.

Section: Financials

Notes:

- Limited seed funding is available as a once off payment in order to assist teams whose concept note is selected for further development into full proposals (R20,000 per team).
- The Financial section on the online template must be completed for the full project (and not for the seed funding). This is to determine the financial viability and affordability of the proposed project. Please provide a provisional budget per category for the running costs of the full project over 3 years.
- For the full large, integrated team projects, the range of funding available is R500,000 to R1.5 million per annum for a three-year period (R1,500,000 – R4,500,000 in total per project. The total amount of funding requested should not exceed R4.5 million in total with a maximum of R1.5 million in any one year.
- Research related costs should be justified and correspond with the scope of the planned project activities and outputs. Please refer to the FBIP Framework Document and Funding Guide for guidelines. Also note that the FBIP does not support Sabbatical costs.
- The grant covers research **operating costs** and **postdoctoral fellowships** and excludes postgraduate student support which will be covered separately by the NRF's Postgraduate Student Funding.

Note: The NRF is phasing out the block grant nomination process as well as the grant-holder linked modalities of funding postgraduate students. All postgraduate students will be expected to apply on the NRF Online Submission System by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>. Potential students for the project can apply for NRF Postgraduate Student Funding through this process and should specify the Project Grant Reference Number and/or the Application Reference Number on his/her application form. If eligible, these students will be prioritised on funding outcome of grant.

-XX-