

Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability

Call One: Medium to Long-Term Projects (3 – 4 Years).

National Annex: South Africa

Partners: This call is supported by [National Research Foundation](#).

Notice: The [National Research Foundation](#) is participating in the Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability for which it commits a total of up to €250,000 (approximately 4.1 Million Rand) for type 2 projects (medium – long-term).

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 Belmont Forum's Thematic Programme Office (TPO) responsible for this CRA. Details of the call and the application process are provided via the [Belmont Forum website \(\[nothing up yet though\]\(http://www.belmontforum.org/opportunities/\)\) \(<http://www.belmontforum.org/opportunities/>\)](#). Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point before starting to prepare proposals for application. For [South Africa](#) National Contact Point, please see 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. Applications should seek to align the objectives of the Belmont challenge to the priorities of the Global Change grand challenge as defined by the Global Change Ten-Year Research Plan and the Marine and Antarctic Research Strategy (MARS) in the relevant themes for this call. Applicants will also be required to meet the specific eligibility criteria as spelt out in the call. All applications will be assessed on the basis of these eligibility criteria as well as the selection criteria described in the call.

Country –specific eligibility

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

- *Full time employees at an NRF recognized research institution¹ in South Africa;*
- *Part-time employees on contract at an NRF recognized research institution in South Africa, but on condition that the 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 university or university of technology or science council on behalf of a third party to fulfill a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.*

¹ A recognized research institution is one that meets all the following minimum requirements:

- Any institution that conducts basic or applied research for the benefit of the long-term knowledge base, whilst being committed to human resource capacity development, including a commitment to equity and redress, the institution ensures that a minimum of reasonable time (6 months minimum) is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development. **See guidelines and list of the NRF recognized institutions as per DST directive.**

- *Successful applicants will be eligible for funding **for the standard THREE (3) - year duration grant**. However, consideration for supplementary funds to cover an additional, fourth-year should other collaborators' grants run for four years a will be considered, based primarily on positive progress made*
- *Retired academics/researchers, provided that they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:*
 - *are resident in SA,*
 - *formally affiliated to a South African Higher Education Institution (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, and*
 - *are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff.*

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 there-of will be according to the principles and guidelines of NRF granting mechanism as stated below.

Country-specific grant conditions

These grants are to be used 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 grant both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. The funds will be awarded against a number of items such as equipment, running costs, travel costs, student bursaries, etc. Bursaries are awarded in line with NRF rules and policy "Guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DST/NRF bursaries and fellowships" (2013). Annual Progress Reports, submitted before the end of March of the following year, are a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit the Annual Progress Reports will result in the cancellation of the project. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

More specifically:

- *Grants will be awarded **for the standard period of THREE (3) years**. However, consideration for supplementary funds to cover an additional, fourth-year should other collaborators' grants run for four years will be considered, based primarily on positive progress made;*
- *The grant will be reflected in both Euro and the Rand values at the going exchange rate at the date of award, distributed and budgeted over the grant period (3years) and **will be paid out in Rand**. The value of the award will not change during the period of the grant;*
- *Grant-holder-linked 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 the successful trans-national collaboration.

In preparing the project budget applicants are advised to check with the National Contact Point (contact details provided below) on the eligible costs that may be covered in this call. A 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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