

Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Pathways to Sustainability

Phase One Call: Short-Term (1 to 2 Years).

National Annex: South Africa

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

Notice: The [National Research Foundation](#) is participating in the Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Pathways to Sustainability for which it commits a total of up to \$300 000 USD (approximately 5 Million Rand) at a maximum of up to \$50 000 USD per application, (short to medium term) the award will be based on the exchange rate at the time of award.

The official national call announcement for [South Africa](#) will be published on the [National Research Foundation website \(<http://www.nrf.ac.za>\)](#). Details of the call and the application process are provided via the [Belmont Forum website \(<http://www.belmontforum.org/opportunities/>\)](#). Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point before starting to prepare proposals for application. For the [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 who meet the general eligibility criteria and requirements.

Applications should seek to align the objectives of this Belmont CRA to national priorities of South Africa as contained in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Department of Science & Innovation's (DSI) White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation. In addition it is recommended that any application also prioritises a 'systems' approach which is multi-sectoral (natural, environment, society, economic etc.) and involves a number of specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within a local/regional context.

The application should also take cognisance of the Global Change grand challenge as defined by the Global Change Ten-Year Research Plan. 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*

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 DSI directive.**

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.

- *Successful applicants will be eligible for funding **for the duration of their awarded grant.***
- *Applicants that prioritize the involvement of emerging researchers and elaborate the modalities of this involvement will have an advantage.*
- *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, etc. 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.

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) fund the associated activities of successful **South African** participants collaborating in (for all the successful) trans-national research collaborations, in accordance with the relevant NRF rules and policies.

Applicants are encouraged to also engage with researchers from other African countries, African applicants can also access funding to participate in this call through Future Earth. Future Earth will be contributing up to USD 300 000, to support African institutions participating in this CRA. For more information on how African institutions can access the Future Earth funding support please contact the Future Earth Regional Office for Southern Africa (FEROSA) at thabo.dikgale@nrf.ac.za

In preparing the project budget, applicants are advised to check with the **South African 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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