



Climate Initiative

—
Call for projects
2016



**FONDATION
BNP PARIBAS**

Since 2010, the BNP Paribas Foundation has been developing its Climate Initiative, a corporate philanthropy programme to support scientific research aimed at increasing our understanding about the climate and climate change, and to assess their impact on our environment. The programme has a budget of €3 million over three years, and involves a call for projects followed by a rigorous selection process led by people who are well known within their area of research and representing a large scope of climate related research fields.

Members of the scientific committee

- **Philippe Gillet**, Vice-Chairman of Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Mr Gillet leads the scientific committee and is a member of the BNP Paribas Foundation's executive committee.
- **Joanna Haigh**, Professor of Atmospheric Physics at Imperial College London, Co-Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and Environment.
- **Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele**, Professor of Climatology and Environmental Sciences at the Université Catholique de Louvain, where he co-directs the Master programme in Science and Management of the Environment. He is a member of the Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research and was Vice-Chairman of the IPCC between 2008 and 2015.
- **Thomas Stocker**, Professor and Head of the Climate and Environmental Physics department at the University of Bern.
- **Riccardo Valentini**, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Tuscia, Italy.
- **Corinne Le Quéré**, Professor of Climate Change Science and Policy at the University of East Anglia, Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

Objectives and organisation of the call for projects

The aim of this call for projects is to select 4-7 research projects that will increase our understanding about issues related to climate change. The projects will receive financial support from the BNP Paribas Foundation for a three-year period (2017-2019).

The call for projects has two stages.

From 1 March to 2 May 2016 included, teams whose projects meet the eligibility criteria set out below must submit a concept note via the BNP Paribas Foundation's website: climate-initiative.bnpparibas.com.

After that first stage, depending on the number of applications received, the BNP Paribas Foundation will pre-select applications on the basis of the assessment criteria set out below, with the agreement of the scientific committee's members. Teams may be contacted in order to supplement their applications.

Between 1 July and 15 September 2016, teams whose projects have been pre-selected must submit their full proposals.

Projects will then be examined and classified by the scientific committee, which will make its final selection in a meeting scheduled for November 2016.

Candidate teams must designate a project co-ordinator, who will be BNP Paribas Foundation's sole contact person during the selection process. Project co-ordinators will be informed about their project's status at each stage of the selection process.

Throughout the call for projects period, applicants are strongly advised not to contact members of the scientific committee in order 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 co-ordinators may contact the BNP Paribas Foundation team via the relevant area of the Foundation's website.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The project must be related a scientific research project (fundamental and/or applied research) and its subject must be the climate, climate change, the impact of climate change on our environment, or the adaptation of ecosystems and communities around the world. It may therefore address one or more research themes including climatology, physics, geology, oceanography, marine or terrestrial biology, glaciology, hydrology, atmospheric sciences, volcanology, and economic and social sciences.

- The project leader must not already have received support from the BNP Paribas Foundation for a project that he/she co-ordinated, 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 organisation under which the project will take place must be non-profit-making and based in a European Union country, Iceland or Norway, although it may work in collaboration with laboratories that are not located in those countries.

- The organisation must be capable of providing a French or English version of 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 organisation 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),
 - its resources (last three balance sheets and financial reports),
 - its tax regime (declaration or any other official document from the tax authorities of the country in which the organisation has its head office establishing that gifts and payments received by the organisation are eligible for a tax regime that encourages corporate philanthropy)

- The grant requested:
 - Must not exceed €800,000
 - Must equal between 25% and 60% of the project's total budget
 - May cover all types of expenses (wages, equipment, consumables, travel expenses, event costs etc.)

**ASSESSMENT
CRITERIA**

- The project's scientific merit: the project's degree of innovation, potential for advancing understanding of the subject concerned, interest in the subject among the international scientific community.

- Publicising 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 organisation 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.

Application pack

The project co-ordinator must complete the application pack exclusively on the BNP Paribas Foundation website (climate-initiative.bnpparibas.com). Applications sent by post or email will not be accepted. The grant application requires a concept note, then a full application pack for projects pre-selected after the first stage.

The concept note has 7 sections:

- Identity and contact details of the project co-ordinator
- Legal form and contact details of the organisation under which the project will take place
- Brief 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.)
- Brief presentation of the team: mini-CV and main publications of the project leader, functions and responsibilities of partners/other team members
- Summary of the project's budget over three years
- Presentation of how the project meets the Climate Initiative programme's selection criteria: scientific value, publicising and developing interest in the project, team organisation and credibility of partners, timetable, international nature of the project, impact of financing

The full application pack consists of the updated concept note plus the following additional information:

- Project timetable: the project's main phases in the three-year period from 2017 to 2019
- Project organisation: organisation of the team and responsibilities of the project's partners, presentation of the main scientists (full CVs), presentation of partners
- Detailed three-year budget: breakdown per year over the three years of financing, per partner

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, the list of members of its Office and Board of Directors, bank details and the activity report and financial statements for the most recent accounting period of the organisation under which the project will take place. 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 taken into account.

FAQ

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, but does not wish to be the exclusive funder. This is why the target scale is provided. 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 finalised (for example other calls for projects)

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

YES

For legal reasons, funding granted to a successful project can be transferred only to a non-profit entity based in the EU, Norway or Iceland, which was created at least 3 years ago. The detailed allocation of funds between the project members must be described. These funds may naturally be used to cover the expenses of the partners involved. The way in which that happens is a matter for the partners involved, depending on the financial engineering of the research project.

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 confidence.

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.

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. It is also permitted for one scientist to be involved in various submitted research projects.

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, it is not the intention of the BNP Paribas Foundation to help finance a major proportion of permanent staff costs or management/administrative fees.

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 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.

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

YES

In-kind resources, such as the salary cost of permanent staff, etc., 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.

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: see the information document and the question above). It is entirely a matter for the partners to decide how the grant is distributed. However, in the event that the project is short-listed following the first stage of the assessment process, you will need to provide full details of this in the full selection pack.

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

YES

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

WHAT WAS THE SUCCESS RATE FOR PREVIOUS CALLS?

Since 2010, two calls for projects have been issued as part of the Climate Initiative. For the previous call, issued in 2013, a total of 65 projects were put forward for the first stage, 19 projects were selected to go forward to the second stage and 5 projects finally received a Foundation grant.

HOW LONG IS THE CONCEPT NOTE?

We recommend that all researchers interested in this call for projects should create an account on the web portal as soon as possible. Once your account has been created, you will be able to obtain access to the Concept Note that has to be filled in. The Concept Note has been designed to correspond to a document four A4 pages in length. A limit on the number of permissible characters (including spaces), which must not be exceeded, is indicated for each section of the Concept Note.

Projected timetable

First stage: open to all eligible candidates Receipt of concept notes Announcement of pre-selected projects	1 March - 2 May 2016 Late June 2016
Second stage: for pre-selected candidates Receipt of full application packs Announcement of selected projects	1 July - 15 September 2016 Early December 2016
Payment of the first tranche of project funding	Early 2017

Fondation BNP Paribas
16 rue de Hanovre 75002 Paris France
www.fondation.bnpparibas.com



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