

Belmont Forum and JPI-Climate Climate Services Collaborative Research Actions on Climate Predictability and Inter-Regional Linkages

National Annex: United Kingdom

Partners: This call is supported by the Natural Environment Research Council.

Notice: Depending on all conditions of eligibility and peer review being met, the budget earmarked by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for this call will be up to £1.2m (equivalent to €1.5m - €1.7m according to exchange rates) at 80% full economic cost or £1.5m at 100% FEC. It is hoped that NERC will fund the UK participation in three projects, subject to the quality of proposals received, each of up to £400k (80% FEC).

The official national call announcement for the UK has been published on the NERC website <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/>. Details of the call and the application process are provided via the <http://bfgo.org/> website. Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point before starting to prepare proposals. For UK enquiries please see below.

Eligibility and national funding modalities:

Only topics 1 and 2 are eligible for NERC funding although projects can collaborate with international partners who are also addressing topic 3.

Topics 1 and 2, which are defined in more detail in the call document, are:

1. Understanding past and current variability and trends of polar and tropical climate.
2. Predictability and prediction skill for near - future variability and trends of polar and tropical climate.

NERC funding is only eligible for research whose aim is to improve some aspect of our understanding of linkages (tele-connections) between the climate in the polar regions and the tropics, particularly in relation to the monsoon systems, with the aim of improving the prediction of monsoon rainfall on sub-seasonal to decadal timescales and/or future changes in the polar regions. The tropics is taken to include the wider Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), spanning the entire tropical region including areas of North and South America, Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the western north Pacific and Australia.

The work can include:

- pole to tropics drivers, such as the effect of polar warming on the tropical monsoons;
- tropics to pole teleconnections such as the role of long-term changes in tropical diabatic heating on regional polar climate or the role of tropical variability on polar climate.

The scope does not include the role of initialised sea-ice distribution on the prediction of regional monsoon precipitation. The scope for the UK work also does not include the making of new observations and therefore projects will be expected to make use of existing observational data.

Funding will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost, where NERC contribution will be at 80% of the full economic cost. NERC will fund up to £400k (at 80% FEC) per proposal.

Standard NERC eligibility rules apply.

In line with the Belmont Forum's aim of leveraging members commitments, NERC aims to support scientific activities that build upon its existing investments, strategy and collaborations relating both to the monsoon and tropical climate, and the polar regions. For example NERC, in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences, has undertaken work on the Changing Water Cycle in South Asia and is planning a major observational campaign in India in 2016 to study the monsoon. NERC's Arctic programme has been working on the understanding and attribution of the current rapid changes in the Arctic, and has undertaken a number of observational campaigns. The British Antarctic Survey delivers a world class programme of scientific research, national capability and long-term observations in the Antarctic. The Cryosat programme has been compiling critical data on ice thickness at both poles since 2010. The RAPID programme and its successors RAPID-WATCH and RAPID-AMOC are delivering a unique dataset of deep ocean currents in the north Atlantic.

Applications to this call must be Collaborative Research Grants with the consortium composition as defined in the call document. NERC will fund eligible UK partners of any successful trans-national collaboration.

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