

Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action: Soils and Groundwater

National Annex: KAUST (Saudi Arabia)

Partners: This call is supported by King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST).

The primary interest of KAUST on this call relates to its interest in the recovery and sustainability of desert soils and sabkha environments to support desert ecology and agriculture. The human impact backdrop that are of most interest include increasing coastal population, industries and mega-development projects. Our interest in groundwater sustainability focuses on the linkage between groundwater recharge and its connection with human activities and meso-climatic shifts caused by regional and global drivers. KAUST will set aside up to \$500,000 per year over three years for this initiative, with funding for up to \$100,000 per project over three years. Consistent with the Belmont Forum aims of leveraging members' existing commitments, KAUST will only support scientific activities that demonstrably build upon ongoing investments of the type described under the CRA. KAUST will provide direct funding to eligible KAUST researchers to participate in all topics of the CRA. KAUST will provide funding of up to 50% of the total in order to support this collaboration and will assist external researchers in their entry and logistical needs inside Saudi Arabia. Logistical needs have to be spelled out in the joint proposals. Each funded group must consist of at least one academic participant from a minimum of three different countries represented by the participating partner organizations. Each group must show clear links to users and include collaboration between the natural and other sciences where relevant. Contact: T. Abrajano Address: Office of Sponsored Research, KAUST Administration Building (Building 16), Room 3442 Thuwal 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia