



# Virtual Office Hour: Biodiversity on a Changing Planet - International aspects

(NSF 23-542)

Please submit questions via the Q&A button available to you on Zoom.  
Please set to "Send anonymously"

# Welcome!

## Biodiversity on a Changing Planet Program

Program Officers in attendance today:

All can be reached at [biodiversity@nsf.gov](mailto:biodiversity@nsf.gov)

- Matt Carling – Division of Environmental Biology
- Colette St. Mary – Division of Integrative Organismal Systems
- Andrea Porras-Alfaro– Division of Environmental Biology
- Jean X. Gao– Division of Biological Infrastructure



# DEB Blog posts summary of previous VOH

<https://deblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/>

JANUARY 17, 2023 BY DEB SCIENCE STAFF

## 1/9/23 Virtual Office Hours Recap: Biodiversity on a Changing Planet Solicitation

The Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) held its latest [Virtual Office Hour](#) on January 9, 2023. Program Officers discussed the updated Biodiversity on a Changing Planet solicitation ([NSF 23-542](#)). We host these office hours 1-2pm EST on the 2nd Monday of every month. There is a designated theme each time, but attendees are welcome to ask about other NSF-related topics. Program Officers (POs) from different research areas are present at each Virtual Office Hour, so a wide range of scientific perspectives are represented.

The presentation and other documents are available here:

[Slides \(PDF\)](#)

[PAPPG 22-1](#)

[PAPPG 23-1](#) (effective for proposals submitted on or after Jan 30, 2023)

Here is a link to a [recording of the presentation](#) and the [transcript](#). Please note that the question-and-answer portion starts at the 28-minute time mark.



# Biodiversity on a Changing Planet (BoCP) (NSF 23-542)

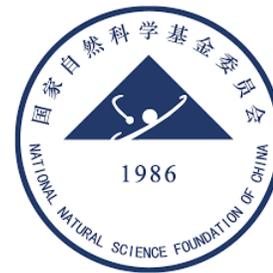
The main focus of the program is the connection between functional biodiversity and biodiversity dynamics on a changing planet

Proposals due: March 29, 2023



# Biodiversity on a Changing Planet – Partnerships

- **NSF Biological Sciences Directorate**
  - Division of Environmental Biology
  - Division of Integrative Organismal Systems
  - Division of Biological Infrastructure
- **NSF Geological Sciences Directorate**
  - Division of Earth Sciences
  - Office of Polar Programs
  - Division of Ocean Sciences
- **International Agreements**
  - National Natural Science Foundation China
  - FAPESP (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
  - National Research Foundation South Africa



# Biodiversity on a Changing Planet - Proposals

## Types of Proposals

- US-only collaboration funded by NSF
- US-only collaborative proposal with international collaborators
- International collaboration - US researchers funded by NSF; Chinese, South African, Brazilian collaborating institutions funded by partner agencies

## Two Funding Tracks

### Design Track:

- Build teams with no prior collaboration
- Develop creative research and technical approaches
- Up to \$500,000/3 years

### Implementation Track:

- Teams ready to implement large-scale project
- Substantial research advances in understanding functional biodiversity on a changing planet
- Up to \$2.5 million/5 years



# Many types of integrative research are welcome in BoCP

- Successful BoCP proposals will test novel hypotheses about functional biodiversity and its connections to shifting biodiversity dynamics on a changing planet, considering climatic, geological, paleontological, and biological processes.
- Integrative research is likely to combine multiple perspectives--including organismal, species, ecological, evolutionary, phylogenetic, geological, and/or paleontological approaches-- at various scales.
- Proposals that seek to improve predictive capability about functional biodiversity across temporal and spatial scales by considering the linkages between past, present, and future biological, climatic, and geological processes are also encouraged.



# BoCP encourages the use of new technology and team science approaches

## Data Infrastructure

- Proposals that add to or use existing data infrastructure are encouraged
- Proposals based entirely on data reuse are welcomed

## Polar and/or Marine Field Work

- Discuss with BoCP Program Officer before submission: [biodiversity@nsf.gov](mailto:biodiversity@nsf.gov)



# Thinking about including international work?

- Think about the mutual goals and benefits of working with people inside and outside the U.S.
- What interests, resources and skills does each party bring to the partnership?
- How can the partnership best be structured?



# Three types of international work in BoCP

1. **Working in a location outside the U.S.**
  - Permitting, environmental compliance
  - NSF funds for international travel in budget line E.2.
2. **Some international collaboration**
  - NSF funds are going to an international collaborator or international infrastructure
3. **Strong international collaboration, equal partners**
  - China, South Africa, and Sao Paulo partnerships with BoCP
  - Each part of collaboration is funded by respective science agency



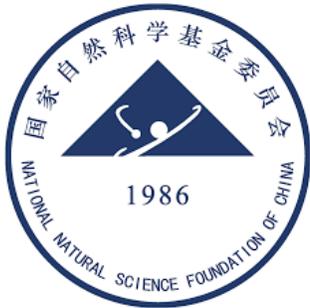
# Second type of international collaboration

- NSF funds can be used to support collaborators outside the U.S. in special circumstances
  - Local (U.S.) support is not feasible **AND** the foreign organization will carry out the activity more effectively
  - **AND** the foreign organization contributes a unique organization, facilities, geographic location and/or access to unique data resources not generally available to U.S. investigators or other resources that are essential to the success of the proposed project
  - **AND/OR** the foreign organization to be supported offers significant science and engineering education, training or research opportunities to the U.S.
- These funds can be requested in G3. Consultant Services or G5. Subawards
- International collaborators can also be supported as participants in budget category F. Participant Support Costs



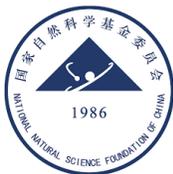
# Submission of international collaborations

- Submission of NSF and International Collaborative Proposals are described in the BoCP solicitation (NSF 23-542)
- Separate agreements for NSF lead agency review with:
  - 1) National Natural Science Foundation China
  - 2) FAPESP (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
  - 3) National Research Foundation South Africa



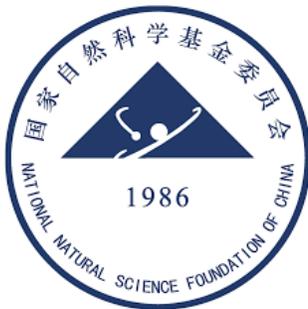
# International partnerships with BoCP

- International collaborative proposals are expected to adhere to the eligibility requirements, remit, funding limits, and grant durations for the agency from which funding is sought (NSF) and must represent an integrated collaborative effort.
- If an international collaborative proposal is awarded, the U.S. researchers will receive funding from NSF and the international researchers will receive funding from the international partner agency.
- These agreements do not preclude other international collaborations.



# International partnerships with BoCP

- Multilateral projects – those that will be supported by NSF and FAPESP, NRF, and/or NSFC – will also be considered.
- Contact information
  - NSFC
  - FAPESP
  - NRF



# Submitting a proposal with international work

THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW

BEGINNING INVESTIGATOR

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

PROPRIETARY & PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

HISTORIC PLACES

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS IACUC App. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF PROPOSAL Research

HUMAN SUBJECTS Human Subjects Assurance Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exemption Subsection \_\_\_\_\_ or IRB App. Date \_\_\_\_\_

FUNDING OF INT'L BRANCH CAMPUS OF U.S. IHE

FUNDING OF FOREIGN ORGANIZATION OR FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES: COUNTRY/COUNTRIES INVOLVED  
**KE SF**

COLLABORATIVE STATUS  
A collaborative proposal from multiple organizations (PAPPG II.D.3.b)

Check one box

Or

THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW

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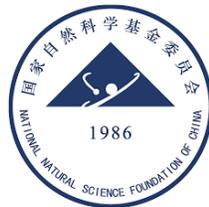
COLLABORATIVE STATUS  
A collaborative proposal from multiple organizations (PAPPG II.D.3.b)

Check two boxes



# International partnerships with BoCP

- A complete proposal must be submitted to NSF by **March 29, 2023**
  - Please note that additional documents are needed to describe the nature of the international partnership(s) (i.e., budget, biosketches, letters of collaboration, and institutional endorsement for the international component)
- Identical proposal and additional materials must be submitted to the partner agencies by eligible PIs
  - **NSFC**: March 29, 2023
  - **NRF**: March 24, 2023
  - **FAPESP**: March 30, 2023 (eligibility by March 4)
- Proposal review occurs using the Merit Review Criteria in an NSF-led panel



**Additional slides after here  
to help clarify questions  
about the BoCP solicitation**

# Two Additional Required Documents

## 1. Plan for Safe and Inclusive Working Environments

- NSF BIO and GEO require that proposals with off-campus or off-site research submit a Plan for Safe and Inclusive Working Environments. This is in addition to the new certification required of all proposers submitting to NSF in which off-campus or off-site research is proposed (see Chapter II.E.9 in the PAPPG, NSF 23-1).

## 2. Project Management Plan (2 pages)

- All proposals to BoCP must describe strategies for developing collaborative teams that include diverse perspectives, facilitate effective and timely accomplishment of goals, develop leadership capacity, and foster teamwork skills.

(NO Recruitment, Training and Mentoring Plan)



# Review Criteria

- **Intellectual Merit** – What is the potential to advance knowledge?
- **Broader Impacts** – What is the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes?
  - Plan for Safe and Inclusive Work Environments
  - Postdoc Mentoring Plan if applicable



# Solicitation-specific Review Criteria

- How does the proposal describe a collaborative, comprehensive and integrative approach to significantly advance our understanding of biodiversity on a changing planet?
- To what degree does the Project Management Plan engender confidence that the research team will effectively coordinate activities and achieve the goals of the proposed project?
- For the US-China, US-São Paulo, US-South Africa and multilateral collaborative research projects, to what extent do they demonstrate substantial collaboration between the US and China, São Paulo, and/or South African partners? The most competitive projects will be those in which the international collaboration brings substantial additional value to the project.

