

CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE ON OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS



2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS: DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS, 4 MAY 2025



IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION
CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE,
WE ARE LAUNCHING A CALL
FOR PROJECTS ON OCEAN AND
COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE,
PLEASE NOTE THE REQUIREMENTS
AND CALENDAR BEFORE SUBMITTING
YOUR APPLICATION.

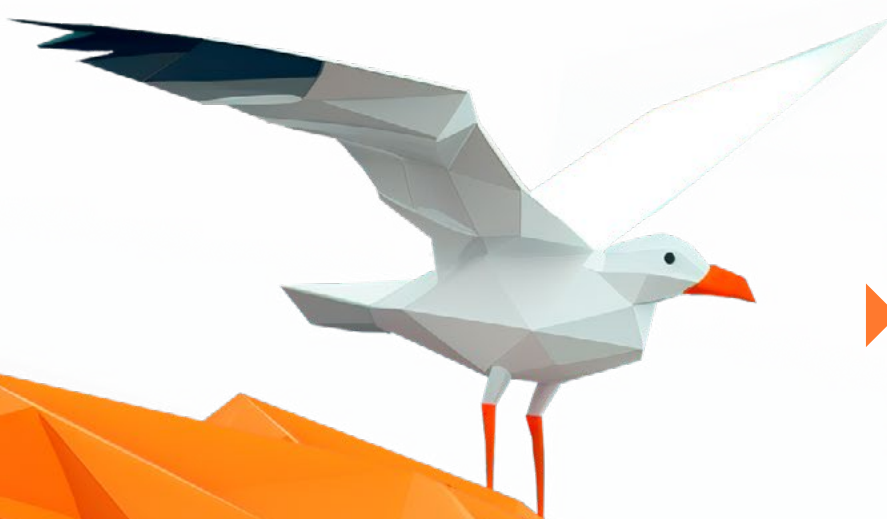


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1. THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

- ▶ **Ocean and coastal ecosystems** are integral to the healthy functioning of the planet, as well as providing essential services to humanity. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **more than 3.8 billion people worldwide live within 150 km of the shore, and many depend on marine ecosystems for their livelihoods and food security.**
- ▶ The United Nations highlights their importance as follows: “The ocean is one of the main repositories of the world’s biodiversity. **It constitutes over 90% of the habitable space on the planet and contains some 250,000 known species of macroorganisms**, with many more remaining to be discovered – at least two-thirds of the world’s marine species are still unidentified.”¹
- ▶ **Moreover, the ocean plays a crucial role in climate regulation, absorbing 26% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions.**²



Yet today ocean and coastal ecosystems are being strongly impacted by human activities. Issues such as acidification, warming and deoxygenation of the oceans, pollution from land-based sources, erosion of coastal areas, artificialization of coastlines, overfishing, biological invasions and flooding from increasingly frequent extreme climate events **threaten to affect not only communities near these ecosystems, but the global economy.**

1-<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/marine-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-underpin-healthy-planet-and-social-well-being>

2-Global Carbon Project 2024

2. ADVANCING RESEARCH ON OCEAN AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

- ▶ The vital importance of marine ecosystems makes it urgent to improve our knowledge of impacts due to climate change and biodiversity loss. **This includes identifying the levers for mitigation and adaptation processes through data collection and analyses, the development of cutting-edge models, and methods that support decision-making.**



- ▶ The significance of this has been underlined by the [Ocean & Climate Platform](#): **“The ocean sits at the crossroads of all major challenges facing humanity today, and climate change and biodiversity loss are no exception.”**

- ▶ In response to the challenges the planet is facing, the BNP Paribas Foundation is committed to contributing to the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)** and to accelerating the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources.
- ▶ **The 2025 call for projects has been recognized in the framework of the Ocean Decade and will contribute to its mission by advancing research on the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss – and their interactions – on ocean and coastal ecosystems.**
- ▶ The research projects selected for funding in this call for projects **can be submitted for endorsement as Ocean Decade actions.**

3. THE 2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS

- ▶ **In the framework of the BNP Paribas Foundation Climate & Biodiversity Initiative, the 2025 call for projects is inviting submissions for scientific research projects** (fundamental and/or applied research) **with a strong focus on climate and biodiversity in connection with ocean and coastal ecosystems.** The proposals must show that the project advances understanding and future solutions in line with both climate and biodiversity.

The project must focus on the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on marine ecosystems, and/or potential solutions to mitigate these impacts. It can also investigate the influence of climate change on biodiversity and/or of biodiversity on climate change, or on the adaptation of marine ecosystems and human activities to global changes.

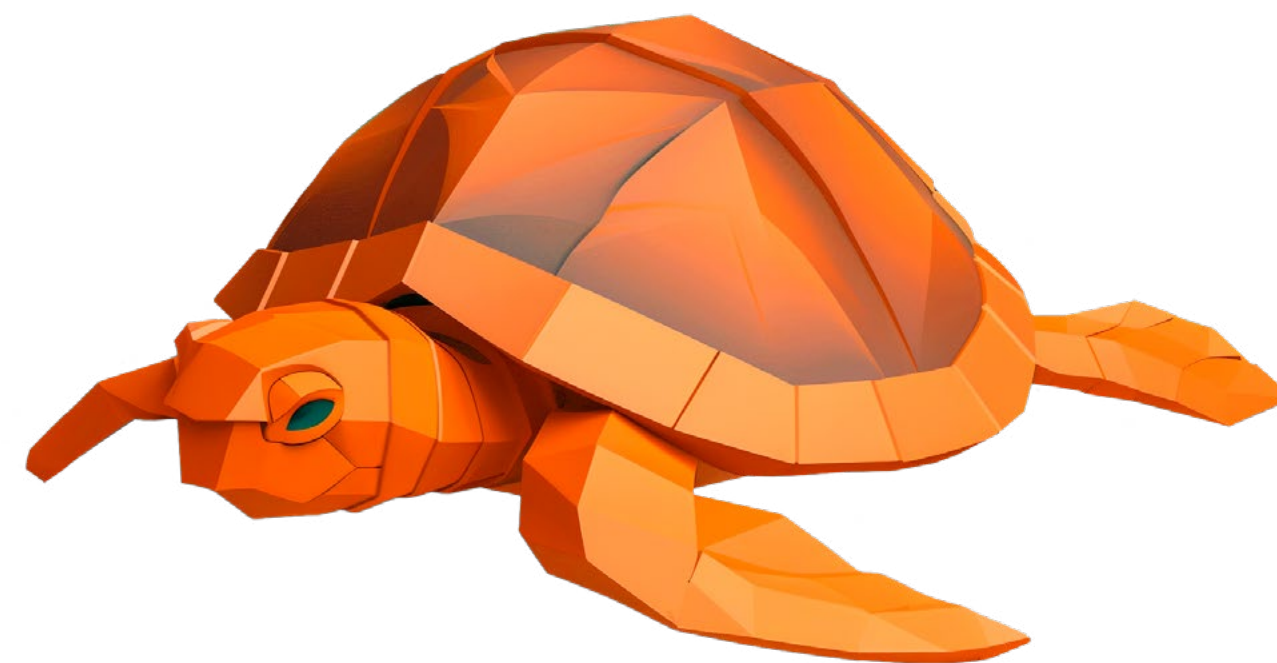


- ▶ While not mandatory in the scope of the project, **synergies related to social issues and inclusion** (e.g. economy, health, food security, gender, education, poverty, etc.) **related to climate change and biodiversity loss may add interest to the proposal.** In a context in which significant and rapid action is required, aspects that benefit communities will be positively evaluated.

RELEVANT TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

- **Climate change drivers** (ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation, sea level rise, global ocean circulation, extreme events, etc.) and their impact on biodiversity and ocean systems.
- **Human activities** (all types of pollution, eutrophication, maritime infrastructure and transportation, etc.) and their interaction with climate change stressors.
- **Biodiversity loss and ecosystem shifts** (including biological invasions, overexploitation, etc.) in the context of climate change.
- **Coastal systems and climate-driven changes** (including the impact of coastal erosion/artificialization/degradation in the context of climate change).

- **Innovative remediation solutions to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss in ocean and coastal ecosystems** (including nature-based solutions, active habitat restoration, marine protected areas and other conservation measures, solutions at the climate–biodiversity–society interface to achieve transformative change, etc.



Applicants are encouraged to consider how their research proposals are aligned with the Ocean Decade, including the proposal's contribution to the [Ocean Decade Challenges](#) and its alignment with existing endorsed [Ocean Decade programmes and projects](#).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS



- ▶ **The project leader must not have previously received support/funding from the BNP Paribas Foundation** for a project that he/she coordinated. However, he/she may be connected to an entity that has received funding or may have taken part (other than as a project coordinator) in a project that has received support.
- ▶ Bursaries are not eligible, and the proposal should be issued by an organization (research institution, university, laboratory, etc.).
- ▶ **The entity hosting the project must be a not-for-profit, public interest organization based in the European Economic Area, although it may work in collaboration with laboratories located outside this area.**
- ▶ **The project must involve organizations from at least two countries.**
- ▶ **The organization must be able to provide 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 organization has its head office confirming its existence, etc.).
 - Its composition and management (list of members of its head office and board of directors, copy of minutes from the general meeting relating to management remuneration, etc.).
 - Its activities (activity report and last financial report).

5. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

FOR THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROJECTS 2025

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE EXPLANATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING:

► SCIENTIFIC MERIT OF PROJECT (50% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

- **What is the scientific interest of the project?** How does it relate to the latest research and what is its purpose? For instance, its importance to the field, its rationale, the level of innovation, its interest for the international scientific community, how it investigates the interaction between climate change and biodiversity loss, etc.
- **Methodologies and working packages:** provide a detailed description of the working packages, their objectives, and the key milestones planned to track progress.
- **What are the expected results?**

► OUTREACH (20% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

- **Dissemination and communication of results:** how the results will be disseminated, which audience this will aim to reach, and the outreach strategies to maximize the project's impact on its target audience.

► PROJECT ORGANIZATION & TEAM (15% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

- **Describe the profiles of the team involved** (provide the credentials/CVs of key team members) and include their roles and their experience with similar projects.
- **In terms of project organization, describe the interactions between the different teams/institutions/universities** involved in the project, and whether the project will adopt a transdisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach.

► IMPACT OF FUNDING (5% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

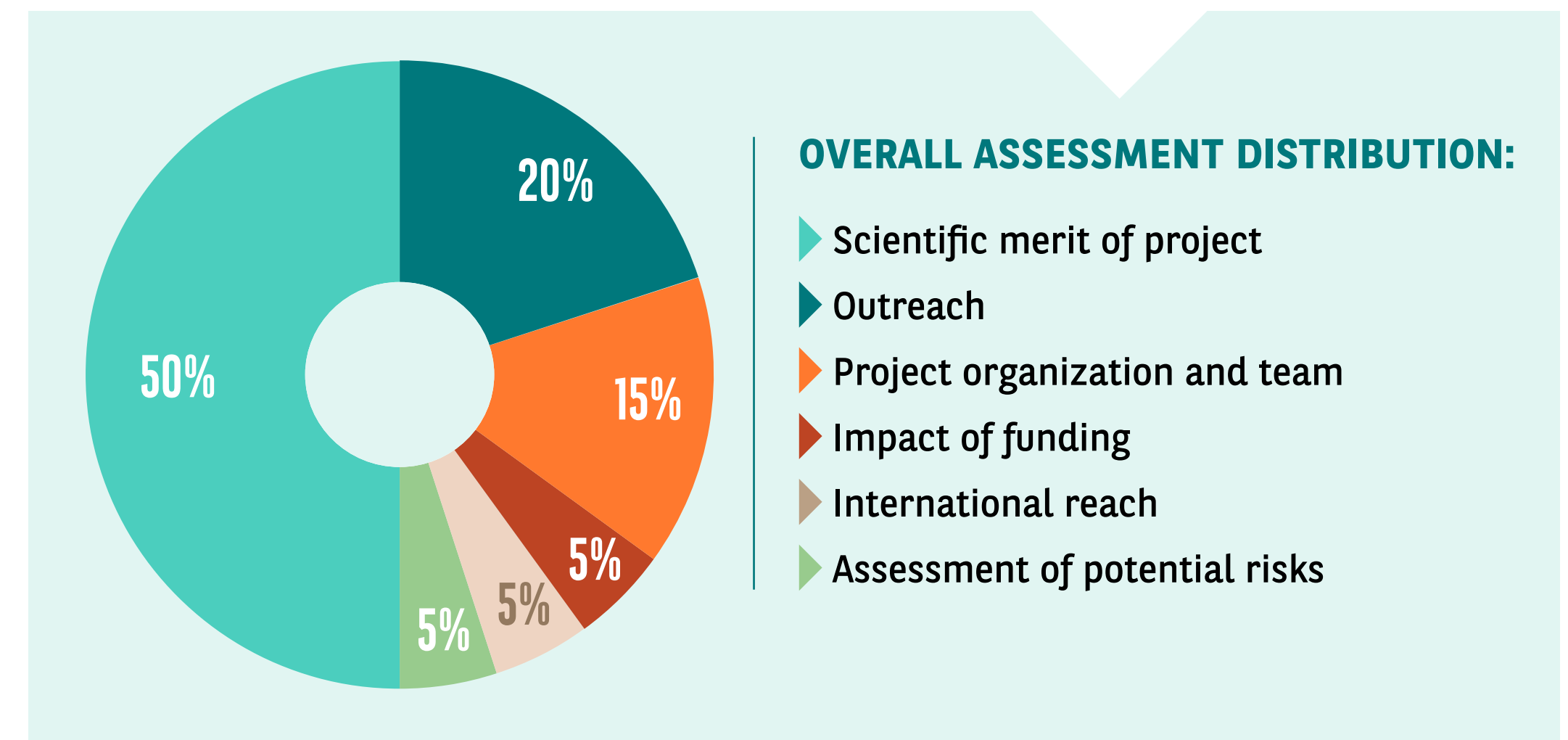
- **What is the importance of the requested funding for launching or continuing the project?** Explain the relevance of funding from the BNP Paribas Foundation Climate & Biodiversity Initiative for your project on ocean and coastal ecosystems: for example, why the project might not be eligible for traditional funding.

► INTERNATIONAL REACH (5% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

- **Where will the project and/or field work take place?** Describe, for example, if several countries will be involved, and also if any local communities will be involved (e.g. fishing communities, Indigenous communities, people with specific local knowledge, etc.).

► ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RISKS (5% OF OVERALL ASSESSMENT)

- **Are there any risks that could impede the project?** Describe, for example, if there are any geopolitical, economic, social or environmental risks, data or methodological risks, ethical issues, etc.



6. SELECTION PROCESS & CALENDAR

Candidates must designate a project coordinator, who will be the BNP Paribas Foundation's sole contact during the selection process. The project coordinator will be informed about the project's status at each stage of the selection process.

During the call for projects, applicants are strongly advised not to contact members of the scientific committee 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 questions regarding the selection process, project coordinators may contact the BNP Paribas Foundation team via [the support section of the application website](#) or directly by writing to GROUP.fondation.climateandbiodiversityinitiative@bnpparibas.com.



THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL CONSIST OF THREE STAGES:

1 | Application phase:

- The call for projects will be open for applications for the scientific community throughout the European Economic Area **from 21 January to 4 May 4, 2025**.

Applications must **ONLY** be submitted on the online platform: <https://climate-and-biodiversity-initiative.fondation.bnpparibas/en/>

2 | Evaluation and pre-selection phase:

- **From 15 May to 15 June 2025**, BNP Paribas qualified experts will pre-select applications based on the assessment criteria, with support from the scientific committee.
- **On 25 June 2025**, the results of the pre-selection phase will be communicated to the project coordinators.

3 | Shortlist and final selection phase:

- **From 1 July to end of November 2025**, projects will be examined by the scientific committee, which will make its shortlist in a meeting scheduled in September. The final selection will be made from these shortlisted projects in a vote by the BNP Paribas Foundation Executive Committee in November. The eligibility of the final selected projects to be endorsed as Ocean Decade projects will be analysed in parallel to this process. The results will be communicated to the project coordinators in November 2025.
- **In October 2025**, the shortlist from the selection phase carried out by the scientific committee will be communicated to the project coordinators.
- **In November 2025**, the final selected projects will be communicated to the project coordinators.

▶ **SEE THE SELECTION TIMELINE ON PAGE 17**

7 . FUNDING

THE REQUESTED FUNDING:

- ▶ must not exceed **€800,000** (if you have specific needs for additional funding beyond this – up to €1,000,000 – describe why you think this is essential to the success of your project).*
- ▶ must represent between **25% and 60% of the project's total budget** (describe how the rest of your project is funded: for example, by in-kind resources, from other organizations, foundations, etc.).
- ▶ may be used to cover all types of expenses, including wages, equipment, consumables, travel expenses, event costs, etc.

Typical overhead supported by the BNP Paribas Foundation is about 7%.

*The Foundation reserves the right to modify the grant amount.



8. SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS

In the selection process, the BNP Paribas Foundation will call upon the expertise of a scientific committee recognized by their peers in their field of research. These eminent researchers will bring a wealth of experience to studying the candidate projects to ensure the selection of those that are the most promising.

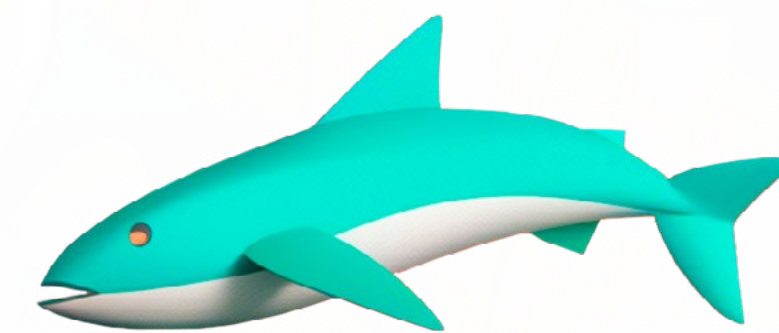
- ▶ **Franck Courchamp** – Director of research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in the Systematic Ecology and Evolution Laboratory (ESE-CNRS/University Paris-Saclay) and a 2014 laureate of the Climate & Biodiversity Initiative.
- ▶ **Philippe Cury** – Emeritus senior scientist in marine ecology at the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD).

- ▶ **Bruno David**, former CEO of the French National Museum of Natural History, and former research director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).
- ▶ **Cécile Fauvelot** – Research director at the French National Institute of Sustainable Development (IRD) in molecular ecology, marine ecology and population genetics.
- ▶ **Frauke Fischer** – Director of the department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology at the University of Würzburg.
- ▶ **Marina Levy** – Research director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), ocean advisor at the French National Research Institute of Sustainable Development (IRD).

- ▶ **Yunne Shin** – Research director in marine ecology at the French National Research Institute of Sustainable Development (IRD).
- ▶ **Jean-Pascal van Ypersele** – Professor of climate and environment sciences at the Universities of Louvain (UCLouvain) and Liège (ULiège), former IPCC vice-chair, and founder of the [Plateforme wallonne pour le GIEC](#).



9. BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION



- ▶ As a global leader in sustainable finance, [climate change and biodiversity](#) are a top priority for BNP Paribas. **The BNP Paribas Foundation is committed to supporting action for the environment in these areas.**
- ▶ Since 2010, the Foundation has been supporting research through our international [Climate & Biodiversity Initiative](#). Its goal is to improve knowledge of the interactions between climate and biodiversity to assess the impacts of their disruption on our environment and societies.

- ▶ The programme has a **three-year budget of €7 million to fund between 7 and 15 projects** selected from a call for projects launched every three years. The rigorous [selection process](#) is carried out by leading experts in the relevant fields of research to select the most innovative projects with the greatest impact.
- ▶ By 2025, the Foundation will have supported **a total of 35 scientific research teams with a total budget €24 million**. [Find out more about the projects here.](#)

- ▶ The BNP Paribas Foundation regularly organizes [conferences](#) to [raise awareness](#) and give the public a **better understanding of the phenomena associated with climate change and the impact on biodiversity**. These lectures are given by the researchers leading the selected [Climate & Biodiversity Initiative projects](#).



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Applications can be submitted
for the 2025 call for projects
from 21 January
to 4 May 2025.

10. OCEAN DECADE ENDORSEMENT (OPTIONAL)

IF AN APPLICANT WISHES TO PRESENT THE PROJECT FOR OCEAN DECADE ENDORSEMENT, THE APPLICATION WILL NEED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE PROPOSAL:



- ▶ **1.** Contributes to one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges.
- ▶ **2.** Accelerates the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the UN SDGs and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.
- ▶ **3.** Is co-designed and/or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, thus facilitating the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision-making, management and/or innovation.
- ▶ **4.** Ensures that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner.
- ▶ **5.** Strengthens existing or creates new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.
- ▶ **6.** Contributes toward capacity development, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in small island developing states (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).
- ▶ **7.** Overcomes barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational and geographic diversity.
- ▶ **8.** Collaborates with and engages local and Indigenous knowledge holders.

These criteria will be used to determine if a project will be endorsed as part of the Ocean Decade actions. Although not all the criteria are mandatory, applicants should explain why the project does not align with any given criteria.

11. FAQs

1 - GENERAL QUESTIONS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION OUTSIDE THE CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROJECTS?

NO. The BNP Paribas Foundation will only provide support for the projects selected by the scientific committee at the end of the call for projects.

IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR FUNDING IN THE CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROJECTS?

YES. There is a €100,000 minimum, and a maximum amount of €800,000 per project over three years. The grant from the BNP Paribas Foundation must represent between 25% and 60% of the total budget of the project.

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

YES. For legal reasons, funding granted to a successful project can only be transferred to a non-profit entity created at least three years ago and based in the EU, Norway or Iceland. The detailed allocation of funds between the project members must be described. These funds may be used to cover the expenses of the partners involved in a way decided by those coordinating the research project.

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

YES. In-kind resources such as the salary costs of permanent staff etc. may be included in the project budget and these costs treated as co-funding. However, the Foundation requires that the breakdown of the various costs attributed to the project should be balanced and consistent.

WHAT ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY CONCERNING THE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS?

The BNP Paribas Foundation guarantees that every research project application will be treated in strict confidence. Only the relevant

people involved in the selection process will have access to the information provided in the online application. At the end of each stage, all information concerning non-selected projects will be deleted entirely from the database.

WHAT WAS THE SUCCESS RATE FOR PREVIOUS CALLS FOR PROJECTS?

Since 2010, 5 calls for projects have been held as part of the Climate & Biodiversity Initiative. In the 2023 call for projects, a total of 49 project applications were received, 12 projects were shortlisted, and 8 were selected to receive a Foundation grant.

2 - PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

CAN AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ALREADY OBTAINED A GRANT FROM THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE SUBMIT ANOTHER PROJECT?

YES. However, the project leader must not have previously received support from the BNP Paribas Foundation for a project he/she coordinated, although he/she can be connected to a laboratory that has received a grant or participated in a project (other than as a project coordinator) that has been supported.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROJECT TO THE CALL FOR PROJECTS?

YES. Different projects hosted by the same organization may be submitted. It is also permitted for one scientist to be involved in various candidate research projects, but he/she can only be the coordinator of one of the projects submitted.

REGARDING THE FUNDING CRITERIA, IS IT POSSIBLE TO APPLY EVEN IF THE PROJECT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OTHER FUNDING?

YES. The BNP Paribas Foundation aims to contribute significantly to the project's funding but does not wish to be the exclusive funder. A target funding scale concerning the proportion of philanthropy funding is provided in the documentation. However, projects that do not yet have any other committed funders are not excluded. It is permitted for a candidate to apply even if other funding requests have not yet been finalized (for example, other calls for projects).

11. FAQs

2 - PROJECT ELIGIBILITY (cont.)

CAN I SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A PROJECT THAT HAS ALREADY STARTED?

YES. The proposed start date will then correspond to either the actual start date of the project or the start date of a new phase of an existing project. In the latter case, the project presentation must include an outline of the phases already carried out, even if the BNP Paribas Foundation did not contribute to financing these actions. Note that since BNP Paribas Foundation funding lasts three years, the project must continue at least until 2028.

DOES THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION FUND SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE?

NO. The Foundation does not provide scholarships or bursaries in the framework of this initiative.

DOES THE FOUNDATION FINANCE PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, TRANSLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS?

YES. The Climate & Biodiversity Initiative is intended to finance these types of actions, but only in the framework of the research project. Its purpose is to fund concrete projects implemented in planned intervention zones. Communications or events (conferences, exhibitions, etc.) can be planned throughout the implementation of the project, but a project exclusively focused on communication is not eligible.

CAN A YOUNG RESEARCHER WITH NO PERMANENT POSITION APPLY AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR?

YES. Young researchers with no permanent position (junior scientists, postdoctoral students, etc.) may apply to this call for projects on behalf of their university or laboratory. Young researchers are welcome, and diversity in age and/or experience will be regarded as an asset during the project assessment and selection process.

IS THERE A SET MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTNERS INVOLVED?

NO. The number of partners will depend on the type of scientific research undertaken and the range of expertise required to run the project. An approved project will receive funding directly via the entity hosting the project (which must meet the eligibility criteria: see the information document). It is entirely up to the partners to decide how the grant is distributed.

CAN A GRANT APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED RELATING TO RESEARCH THAT FALLS OUTSIDE THE 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 the ocean, in the context of climate change and biodiversity issues. If any of the projects pre-selected by the BNP Paribas Foundation deal with scientific issues that fall outside the scope of the scientific committee's expertise, specific experts will be appointed to help the Foundation assess these projects.



11. FAQs

3 - EXAMPLE BUDGET

▶ REQUESTED FUNDING FROM BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION BREAKDOWN

CATEGORY OF SPENDING	AMOUNT (€)			TOTAL
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	
...				
...				
...				

▶ HOW DO YOU FINANCE THE REST?

AMOUNT (€)	FUNDING ORGANIZATION	STATUS			COMMENT
		IN PROGRESS	GRANTED	IN-KIND	
...					
...					
...					

▶ BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION GRANT SPLIT PER SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS

BENEFICIARIES	AMOUNT (€)			TOTAL
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	
...				
...				
...				

4 - PROJECT TOPIC: CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY

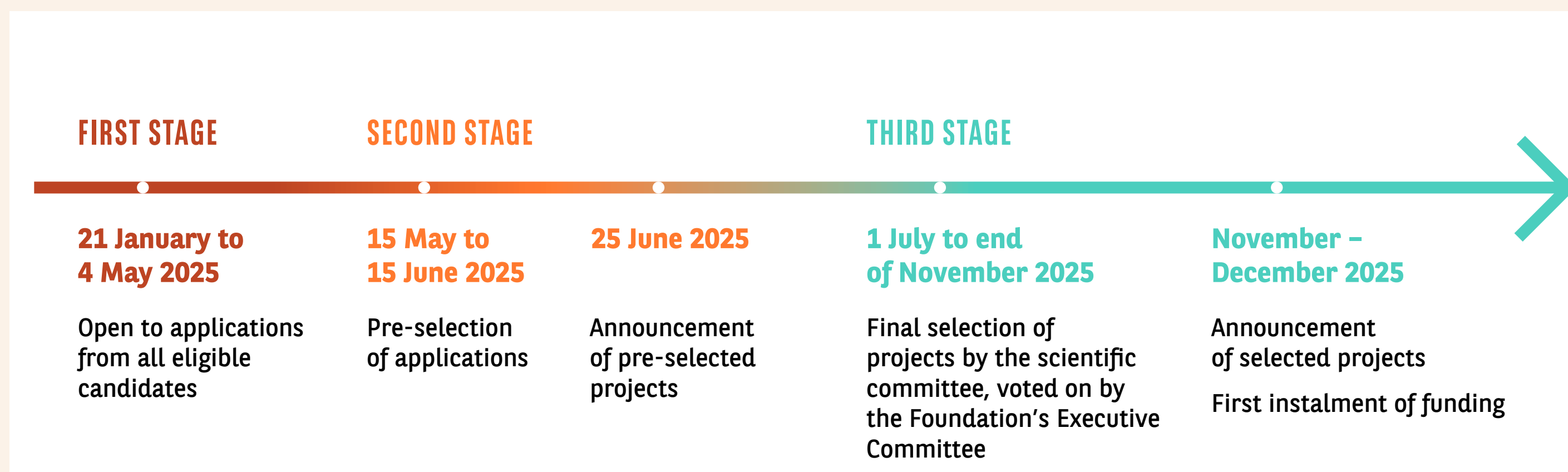
CAN THE RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUS ON EITHER CLIMATE OR BIODIVERSITY?

NO. The research project must focus on both climate and biodiversity. However, it can prioritize either subject, as long as it investigates the issue of the interactions between climate and biodiversity: for example, the impact of climate change on biodiversity or the influence of biodiversity on climate change (attenuation or adaptation of ecosystems and human activity).



11. FAQs

5 - TIMELINE



6 - TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

IS THERE A SPECIFIC BROWSER TO USE FOR THE ONLINE APPLICATION?

NO. The website works on any browser: Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari.

CAN I MODIFY MY PROJECT BEFORE THE FINAL SUBMISSION?

YES. Changes can be made at any time before the deadline. All applications must be submitted before 4 May 2025 at midnight.

WHY IS THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS INDICATED ON THE WEBSITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN MICROSOFT WORD?

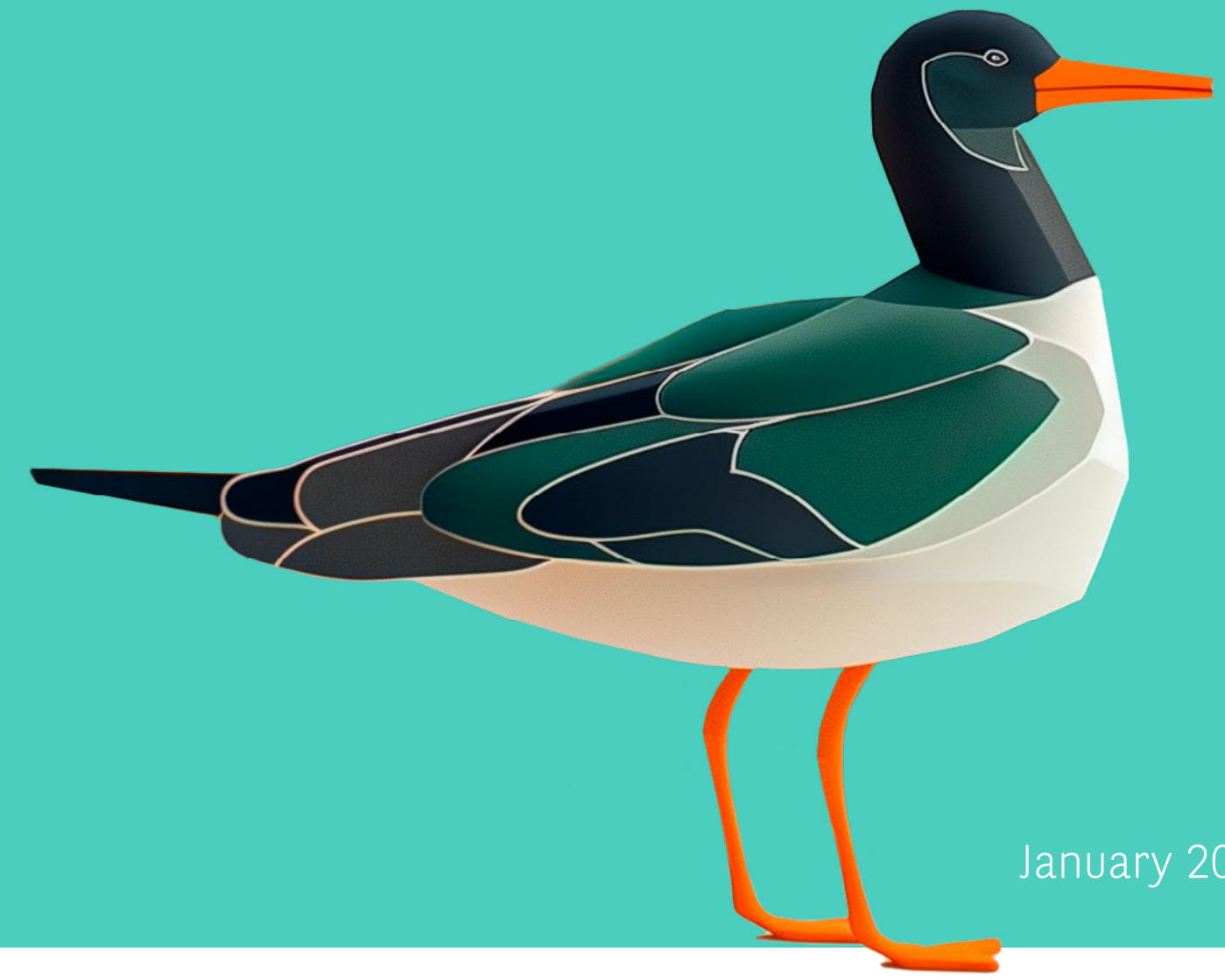
There may be invisible characters copied from Microsoft Word into the online application.

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[▶ VISIT THE BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION WEBSITE](#)



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