

## Call for SNS research projects to start in 2019

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) hereby announces a research project call. SNS is a co-operative body under the Nordic Council of Ministers that strives to enhance benefits for the Nordic region and contribute to development of a sustainable society. Participants in submitted projects should include at least three researchers at research institutions in the Nordic region\*, and successful applicants may receive funds from SNS of approximately 100-350 000 SEK/year for three years, covering at most a third of the total budget for the project.

SNS wishes to support projects exploring ways to manage forests without destroying nature and extract resources sustainably from them without compromising other values such as biodiversity and ecosystem services. Research projects should relate to the following focus areas of the [SNS Strategy Plan](#):

- Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy
- Maintenance and increased utilisation of ecosystem services

Note that applications do not need to cover both strategic areas, and it may be advantageous to focus on narrower, specific topics within the prioritized themes of this call.

Please download the [application form](#) and submit your application to [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se) by 24:00 CET, 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018, at the latest.

\* The Nordic region is defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands.

**The aim of the SNS research project call is to:**

- Interlink projects initiated in the Nordic region
- Increase synergies in forest research in the Nordic countries
- Promote cross sectoral collaboration of sectors within a sustainable bioeconomy
- Bridge gaps between research and forestry in practice

**Scope of the call**

Projects are expected to relate to the following prioritized focus areas of the [SNS Strategy Plan](#):

- Maintenance and increased utilisation of ecosystem services
- Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy

Note that applications do not need to cover both strategic areas, and it may be advantageous to focus on narrower, specific topics within the prioritized themes of this call

**Call conditions**

- Aspects of the prioritized focus areas must be addressed
- Researchers at research institutions in the Nordic region are eligible to apply
- Participants in the project must include researchers from at least three Nordic countries
- Project grants are for no more than three years of activities, and the amount sought from SNS should be approx. 100 000-350 000 SEK/year
- Projects must have national co-financing for at least two thirds of the total budget, with SNS funding covering at most one third. SNS does not cover overhead costs
- The participants in the project must have a 40-60% gender balance
- PhD students and young researchers (in the first 10 years of research activities) must participate in the project
- Cost-efficiency: We encourage applicants to ensure that the cost-per-person is reasonable. In addition to physical meetings we encourage applicants to make use of video-conferences and web-based meetings to reduce travel costs
- Applications must be submitted by email using the [application form](#) available from the [SNS website](#)

**Communication activities and reporting**

- Project participants are expected to keep the SNS informed about their ongoing activities by inviting the SNS secretariat to related events
- Outputs of the project are expected to include publication of findings by SNS in various channels
- Project participants are expected to report their activities annually, and submit both a final report and policy brief based on templates available for download from the SNS website

**Schedule**

- The deadline for submitting applications is 24:00 CET, 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018, at the latest
- The outcome of the call will be communicated to the main applicants in December 2018
- Successful projects can start on 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2019, the first payment will be made in spring 2019
- Project participants are expected to report their activities, including expenditure, annually by 1<sup>st</sup> March in both 2020 and 2021.
- Project participants are expected to submit a final report and policy brief no later than 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

### Evaluation and selection process

The applications will be evaluated by external reviewers with expert knowledge in relevant research areas according to the criteria listed below. The SNS board will take final decisions at the board's autumn meeting in October/November and granted projects can start on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019.

### Evaluation criteria

#### Quality of the application

- Does the project have clear aims?
- Are the planned activities clearly described?

#### Relevance

- Is the project relevant in a Nordic setting?
- Will the project activity increase synergy in the Nordic region?
- Is the project relevant to one or both of the prioritized strategic areas of the call: "Maintenance and increased utilisation of ecosystem services" or "Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy"?

#### Composition of the network

- Does the project include participants from at least three Nordic countries?
- Does the project meet the requirement of a 40-60% gender balance?
- Does the project have a plan for ensuring effective gender equality?
- Does the project include PhD students and young researchers?
- Does the project have a plan to include and integrate young researchers/PhD students?

#### Expected outcome

- Will the project activities generate publishable outcomes?
- Do the participants aim to generate other outputs, e.g. open conferences, large-scale applications, policy recommendations, infrastructure services (websites, databases, statistics using big data) or other practical outputs?
- Is the overall connection between the aims and means viable?

#### Economic framework

- Are the activities in line with the amount sought?
- Is the self-financing component at least two thirds of the total budget?
- Is the budget reasonable considering the aims, means and expected outcomes?

### Contact

For questions regarding the call, please email SNS at [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se)