

Call for proposals 2023:

# **Integrating climate change, biodiversity and the need for forest products into forest management**



# The current call at a glance:

## **Thematic focus:**

- Innovative, sustainable and integrative forest management to develop and provide solutions for adapting to or mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity, providing resilient ecosystems services while supplying sustainable forest products.
- Incentives for action and behavioural change to transform the theoretical and abstract values of forest products and services.

## **Support available for:**

- Innovative research projects: with a high potential to foster change in practice. Therefore, the focus of the call is on implementation-oriented projects that need to include stakeholder engagement (see also C 5.) If well justified why no other funding sources are available, basic research projects that have an interdisciplinary approach could be supported.
- Science-practice networks: that co-develop or implement approaches that contribute towards the goals of the program. Support can be for existing or establishing networks.

## **Additional requirements:**

- Knowledge transfer
- Stakeholder engagement
- Interdisciplinarity
- Scalability

Together with project quality, the degree of implementation-orientation and knowledge transfer has an influence on the priority for support.

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**Duration of the projects:** 1 to 4 years.

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**Scale of funding:** Up to CHF 100'000 per year – with at least 10% to be used for knowledge transfer

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**Partnerships:** Are possible. For more information see C 2.

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**Deadline:** 23 September 2023

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**Final decision:** March 2024

Please also read the details of the call: pp. 3-9

# The call for proposals in detail

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# A. The foundation's funding policy

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The foundation aims to contribute to sustainable change and impact for the benefit of humanity. While there are many important and unsolved topics in the supported funding areas, Velux Stiftung focuses on those ideas or challenges which are relevant but have received too little attention from major funding sources, and/or take an interdisciplinary, outside-of-the-box approach and lack alternative funding opportunities.

As knowledge entrepreneurs our grantees have a clear vision of the impact their research could generate and how they can foster the necessary change. Velux Stiftung aims to support researchers who have the path to impact in mind and want to actively transfer their science-based knowledge beyond the academic community into action and impact. This ultimate objective determines which audiences need to be targeted, and in which form the results should be transferred.

We focus on projects which transfer their discoveries to initiate change and create impact.

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Velux Stiftung is a Swiss foundation based in Zurich supporting forestry research in Switzerland and globally.

To learn more about Velux Stiftung: <https://veluxstiftung.ch>

## B. Vision, goals and approach of the forestry program

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### 1) Vision:

- Innovative sustainable forest management practices are used widely and contribute to climate change mitigation, the adaptation of forests to climate change and the fostering of biodiversity without neglecting that there is a global demand for forest products, including timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
- Stakeholders like scientists, forest managers, forest owners, indigenous people and smallholders, policy makers and conservationists communicate and work hand in hand towards resilient forest ecosystems that consider the local context.

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### 2) Goals:

- The program shall contribute to a change of perspective in the use and value of forests and sustainable forest management addressing the pressing issues of climate change and biodiversity loss as well as society's need for forest products, including timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
- The envisioned change of perspective shall be solution-oriented and based on an interaction between science and practitioners.
- Financial innovation and improved framework conditions shall offer leverage to implement sustainable forest management providing forests which can maintain biodiversity, act as a carbon sink and supply forest products.
- The program contributes towards "maintaining and fostering the stability of ecosystems" worldwide, as the statutes of Velux Stiftung claim.

3)

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## Approach:

- A yearly budget of CHF 2 million will be dedicated to the program.
- One call for proposals every year from 2022 to 2026 for:
  - Project funding: For innovative, outside-of-the-box, interdisciplinary, implementation- or transfer-oriented research projects with a high potential to foster change in practice.
  - Science-practice network funding: For establishing or supporting existing interdisciplinary networks to develop or implement the below mentioned research themes.
- Submission deadline in early autumn and a final decision of the foundation board to be expected in March of the subsequent year (for the exact date and further details about the application process please refer to our [website](#)).



# C. General requirements for applications

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## 1) Eligibility

The general eligibility and exclusion criteria for funding by Velux Stiftung apply. Please refer to the corresponding sections on our website ([eligibility](#), [exclusion criteria](#)).

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## 2) Who can apply? Partnerships

We welcome projects with several partners. At least one partner needs to be from a university or a research institution. Other partners can be forest owners or practitioner associations, consulting or (non-) governmental agencies. The PI needs to be a person with a permanent employment status. The PI's organization needs to be tax-exempted.

While we support research worldwide, we also welcome applications from Swiss institutions or transboundary partnerships. We ask that a collaboration is clearly delineated and follows the principles for fair and equal partnership. Please check the [guide for fair research partnerships](#) of the Swiss Academies of Sciences.

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## 3) Possible types of applications

Research projects: Funding for innovative, outside-of-the-box, interdisciplinary, **implementation- or transfer-oriented research projects** with a high potential to foster change in practice. If well justified why no other funding sources are available, basic research projects that have an interdisciplinary approach could be supported.

**Science-practice networks:** Funding to support existing interdisciplinary networks or to establish new networks - to develop or implement the below mentioned research themes.

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## 4) Thematic focus

**Innovative, sustainable and integrative forest management to develop and provide solutions for adapting to or mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity, providing resilient ecosystems services and supplying sustainable forest products, e.g.:**

- Quantify the effect of new integrative management practices on ecosystem services at landscape level to provide different options for stakeholders
- Identify and develop management scenarios for climate change and extreme events aiming to offer decision support for forest owners
- Develop methodological approaches for making projections for robust solutions in long-lived ecosystems in a high-dimensional uncertainty space
- Etc.

**Incentives for action and behavioural change by transforming theoretical and abstract values of forest products and services, e.g.:**

- Assessing the economic value of non-commercial goods such as ecosystem services, biodiversity, cultural heritage and the prospective value of damage avoidance
- Specify the impact of timber certification on a local and/or global scale
- Improve the mechanisms of or methods for payments of ecosystem services (PES), such as forest carbon or biodiversity credits
- Etc.

The priority is set on research addressing neglected issues whose results have a high potential to contribute to change.

If you are unsure about the fit of your application to the scope of the call, please send an abstract to [info@veluxstiftung.ch](mailto:info@veluxstiftung.ch).

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## 5) Additional requirements

Without transferring or translating of the research results for the real world, change cannot happen. Therefore, we ask applicants to pay special attention to the following aspects in your proposal:

### **A – Knowledge transfer**

(mandatory for all applications) Knowledge transfer activities addressing the specific information needs of one or more stakeholder groups is essential to ascertain that results have a higher probability for implementation. The knowledge transfer activities should make up 10% of the project budget.

### **B – Stakeholder engagement**

(mandatory for implementation-oriented applications) The perspective or requirements of stakeholders (forest owners, forest stewards, forest managers, policy makers, society, etc.) regarding the question at hand should be included whenever possible. Stakeholder engagement should be more than just informing stakeholders, but rather consulting with, involving or collaborating with stakeholders. See also C 8) for useful links.

### **C – Scalability**

(desirable) The application needs to explain how the proposed approach is scalable. It should clarify how the envisioned approach can be used in different contexts/regions and show the sustainability of the approach. If the approach is not suitable for scaling this should be justified.

### **D – Interdisciplinarity**

(desirable in all, mandatory for basic research applications) Many present-day challenges require the expertise and skills of several disciplines. We welcome interdisciplinary collaborations or approaches (with a special focus on including social sciences).

Together with project quality, the degree of implementation-orientation and knowledge transfer has an influence on the priority for support.



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## 6) Geographical focus

Projects dealing with all types of forests: boreal, temperate, tropical and subtropical forests are welcome. See also point C 2) for partnerships.

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## 7) Use of the funding

Budget of up to CHF 100'000 per year for one to four years

Budget categories that can be requested for research projects and science-practice networks:

- Salaries
- Consumables
- Equipment
- Travel
- Knowledge transfer (travels, conference participation, workshop organisation, communication to stakeholders...) At least 10% of the total budget needs to be planned and used for knowledge transfer.
- Stakeholder engagement (coordination of stakeholder engagement, stakeholder engagement activities, remuneration of stakeholders where applicable and justified)

Note that the foundation generally does not support overhead costs and that an explanation for each budget category needs to be provided.

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## 8) Projects excluded from the call

Projects with the main focus on implementation or community development are excluded from the call and will not be considered. This does not apply if such projects contain a relevant research component.

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## 9) Useful links for the preparation of an application

<https://veluxstiftung.ch/funding-areas/forestry/>

On our website we provide more information about the [application procedure](#) and the [application factsheet](#) gives details on what information is needed for an application.

Please note that all applications must be submitted on our [web portal](#).

Guide for transboundary research partnerships: <https://11principles.org/> or [as PDF](#)

Stakeholder engagement: <https://i2insights.org/primers/stakeholder-engagement-primer/>

# D. Application procedure & selection process

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## 1) When and how to apply

One call for proposals will be open every year from 2022 to 2026.  
A yearly budget of CHF 2 million will be dedicated to the program.

The deadline for application of the current call is 23 September 2023  
The final funding decision is expected end of March 2024

For details what information is needed to apply, please refer to the [application factsheet](#).  
For details about the [application procedure](#) please refer to our website. Applications need to be submitted on our [web portal](#).

## 2) Selection

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### a. Selection process

- **Formal screening by the foundation management**  
Project applications are screened for compliance with the [exclusion criteria](#), and requirements of the call. Applications that do not fulfil these criteria will not be considered and are rejected after confirmation from the board.
- **Preselection by an international and interdisciplinary scientific committee covering science and practice**  
The scientific committee (SC) preselects the applications that are promising based on the impact potential and innovation of the approach
- **Review / prioritisation by the SC**  
All preselected applications are peer-reviewed by one or two members of the SC based on the [funding criteria](#). In a meeting, the committee discusses their evaluations and establish a shortlist of applications that is presented to the board of the foundation for final selection.
- **The foundation board of Velux Stiftung takes the final funding decision among the shortlisted applications.**

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## b. Funding criteria

The text below gives a short overview of the funding criteria:

- Impact (assuming the goals of the project are achieved)
  - Relevance
  - Potential for change
  - Transfer potential & Knowledge transfer
- Scientific quality
  - Novelty and originality
  - Approach
  - Interdisciplinarity
- Resources
  - (Scientific) competence of the applicants
  - Leadership competence
  - Working environment
  - Collaboration & Stakeholder involvement
  - Budget

See the [funding criteria on our website](#) for more information.

# E. Grant and agreement terms and conditions

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The [general funding terms](#) of the foundation apply.  
Please refer to our [website](#) for more information.