

Call for proposals 2022:

**Forestry research
with a focus on mitigating
climate change, fostering
biodiversity and sustainable
forest management**



The current call for proposals at a glance:

Thematic focus:

- Trade-offs and synergies of sustainable forest management to develop and provide solutions for mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity, providing resilient ecosystems services while supplying sustainable timber
- Transformation of theoretical and abstract values of forest products and services into incentives for action and behavioural change

Support for two types of applications:

- Research projects: Innovative, interdisciplinary, implementation- or transfer-oriented research projects with a high potential to foster change in practice.
- Science-practice networks: Existing or novel interdisciplinary science-practice networks to develop or implement the mentioned thematic focus.

Additional factors:

Applications need to include some approaches aiming for sustainable change, such as:

- Knowledge transfer
- Stakeholder involvement
- Interdisciplinarity
- Local context

Duration of the projects: 1 to 4 years.

Scale of funding: From CHF 50,000 to CHF 100,000 per year with at least 10% to be used for knowledge transfer

Deadline: 19 September 2022

Final decision: March 2023

The call for proposals in detail

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A. The foundation's funding policy: the path to impact

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.

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

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

B. Vision, goals and approach of the forestry program

1) **Vision:**

- Innovative sustainable forest management practices are used widely and contribute to climate change mitigation and the fostering of biodiversity without neglecting that there is a global demand for timber.
- Scientists, forest managers, forest owners, indigenous people, policy makers and conservationists communicate and work hand in hand towards resilient forest ecosystems that consider local context.

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 timber.
- 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) **Approach:**

Velux Stiftung wishes to achieve these goals by

- Funding innovative, outside-of-the-box, **interdisciplinary, implementation- or transfer-oriented research projects** with a high potential to foster change in practice.
- Supporting existing or novel **interdisciplinary, science-practice networks** to develop or implement the below mentioned research themes.

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

C. General requirements for applications

Each requirement mentioned below should be addressed in the application. All of these points will be considered for the evaluation and the decision-making process.

1) Eligibility:

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

2) Who can apply?

We welcome projects with several partners. At least one partner needs to be from a university or another research institution. Other partners can be forest owners, practitioners, consulting or governmental agencies, etc.

The PI needs to be a person with a permanent employment status.

Applications from consortia, applying with several projects as a bundle (up to 3 projects) will be considered if they can demonstrate synergies and added value. Please be aware that the rejection of one project within the bundle will lead to the rejection the whole bundle. Please [contact us](#) if you have questions regarding an application as a consortia.

3) Geographical focus

We welcome projects dealing with all types of forests: boreal, temperate, tropical and subtropical forests.

4) Thematic focus

- **Understanding the trade-offs and synergies of sustainable forest management to develop and provide solutions for mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity, providing resilient ecosystems services while supplying sustainable timber, 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.

- **Transformation of theoretical and abstract values of forest products and services into incentives for action and behavioural change, 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 global scale
 - Improve the mechanisms or methods of forest carbon offsets
 - 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.

5) **Research topics excluded from the call**

Proposals with the main focus on implementation or community development are excluded from the call and will not be considered.

6) **Additional requirements**

Without transferring or translating of the research results for the real world, change cannot happen. Therefore, knowledge transfer is mandatory, and we encourage you to include more than one of the following aspects into your project:

A – Knowledge transfer

(mandatory) Knowledge transfer activities addressing the specific needs of one or more stakeholder groups is essential to ascertain that results have a higher probability for implementation. The knowledge transfer of the project insights at the end of the project should also include the dialogue with stakeholders.

B – Stakeholder involvement

(optional) 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 should be involved in a participatory manner for some or all project stages.

C – Interdisciplinarity

(optional) 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).

D – Local context

(optional) The local context of the research question should be convincingly demonstrated and explained. Applicants should also clarify if/how the envisioned solution/contribution can be used in different contexts or how it is scalable. The sustainability of the approach should be demonstrated.

7)

Use of the funding

- Budget from CHF 50,000 to CHF 100,000 per year for one to four years.
- Budget categories that can be requested:
 - Salaries
 - Consumables
 - Equipment
 - Knowledge transfer (Involvement of stakeholders, travel, conference participation, workshop organisation...)
- At least 10% of the total budget needs to be planned and used for knowledge transfer.
- Note that the foundation generally does not support overhead costs and that an explanation for each budget category needs to be provided.

D. Possible types of applications

In the current call, the contributions of the foundation can be towards:

- Research projects: Funding innovative, outside-of-the-box, **interdisciplinary, implementation- or transferoriented research projects** with a high potential to foster change in practice.
- Science-practice networks: Supporting existing or novel **interdisciplinary, science-practice networks** to develop or implement the below mentioned research themes.

E. Application process

1) When and how to apply

The deadline for applications of the current call is 19 September 2022.

A call for proposals will be open every year from 2022 to 2026 with a deadline in autumn. The final decision of the board is expected in March following the deadline.

For details about the [application process](#) please refer to our website. For details what information is needed to apply, please refer to the [application factsheet](#).

Applications need to be submitted on our [web portal](#). The webportal will be ready for submissions in forestry by August 2022 at the latest.

2) Selection

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 (see E 2.b)
- **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.**

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
- Where applicable, please highlight the relevance for and the integration in the local context.

We recommend you also read the full version of the [funding criteria](#) on our website.

F. Grant and agreement terms and conditions

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