

Call for Projects

Biodiversity Research Consortium Brazil – Norway

Introduction

The Biodiversity Research Consortium Brazil-Norway (BRC) is pleased to announce a call for projects that align with the BRC mission. Our mission aims to advance research on biodiversity, conservation, restoration, and sustainable mineral activities in the Eastern Amazon of Brazil. For more information and references, please see the BRC Research Program 2024-2028 (<https://www.brcbn.com>). Over its 10 years of existence, the BRC has funded 26 research projects, distinguished by its collaborative management and commitment to science. Now, we invite researchers from our academic partner institutions (MPEG, UFRA, UFPA, and UiO) and researchers from other institutions to collaborate on BRC projects and submit proposals that contribute to our understanding and the preservation of biodiversity.

The BRC aims to develop studies that guide the restoration of the original forest, including its biodiversity. The goal is to integrate academic and scientific knowledge into the operational activities of bauxite mining at all stages, ensuring the highest standards in the rehabilitation of mined areas. Additionally, the climate emergency is recognized as a cross-cutting issue, given both the impacts it generates and those that exacerbate it. Therefore, submitted projects are expected to address the interconnection between biodiversity, the mitigation of negative impacts from natural resource exploitation, and the climate emergency.

Objectives

- 1) To support research that enhances our understanding of biodiversity, its value, and its role in ecosystem health.
- 2) To promote conservation initiatives that protect and restore biodiversity.
- 3) To encourage innovative approaches and technologies that contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- 4) To support research that may contribute to improvement of current mining practices to better manage impacts on biodiversity, and the implementation of more efficient mitigation measures.
- 5) To foster collaboration among researchers, organizations, and communities working in the field of biodiversity

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Themes

The scope of the Research Program is outlined in the BRC Research Program 2024-2028 document (<https://www.brcbn.com>). Projects should align with one or more of the following themes during this call:

1) **Monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services**

- a. Remote and AI methods for measuring biodiversity
- b. Cost effectiveness of biodiversity indicators
- c. Effectiveness of biodiversity restoration techniques
- d. Greenhouse gas monitoring
- e. Monitoring biodiversity in areas with potential direct and indirect impact from mining activities
- f. Enabling real-time biodiversity monitoring
- g. Predictive modeling of biodiversity
- h. Investigating the direct and indirect impacts of mining activities on biodiversity, with an emphasis on understanding ecological connections and causality.

2) **Recovery of degraded areas**

- a. Soil conservation and rehabilitation
- b. Management and enrichment of degraded areas, aiming to accelerating the recovery and return of fauna
- c. Management and enrichment of degraded areas, with an emphasis on the bioeconomy of non-timber activities
- d. Restoration of aquatic environments; stream recovery; processes of colonization and fragmentation of organic matter in streams (assessment of environmental liabilities and recovery of the water drainage network)
- e. Biodiversity restoration in degraded areas
- f. Biodiversity restoration in waste deposit areas

3) **Landscape assessment and management**

- a. Geotechnologies and hydrogeologies applied to the use of water resources
- b. Landscape approach to biodiversity conservation (i.e. watershed protection and ecological corridors)

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- 4) **Applied research to monitoring of species of special interest (e.g. endangered, endemic, key, charismatic and/or exotic species) to support management plans**
 - a. Biology, ecology and dispersal of threatened, endemic, key, charismatic and/or invasive species
 - b. Population and genetic variability studies
 - c. Determination of areas of high conservation or recovery value for preservation and conservation

- 5) **Education, awareness, and coexistence**
 - a. Feasibility of the sustainable collection and production of seedlings by smallholder farmers
 - b. Watershed protection and conservation of riparian areas
 - c. Coexistence between humans and fauna
 - d. Improvement of the restoration value chain in Paragominas
 - e. Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, in the broader landscape of the municipality
 - f. “One health” approach to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

Proponents' eligibility

Researchers from the partner institutions (UFPA, UFRA, MPEG, and UiO) are eligible to **apply as project owners**. Therefore, **the proposal’s coordinator must be a member of one of the institutions that are part of the BRC**. The other team members may be affiliated with different institutions. Proposals based on joint research involving at least two consortium partners are encouraged, but not mandatory, in this call. Researchers are also encouraged to include external actors in their proposal to enhance the quality, scope, and dissemination of the research.

Projects’ eligibility

- 1) Research/projects that complement existing studies and programs in MPSA, pipeline, and surrounding areas.
- 2) Innovative research/projects within themes not covered in previous calls.
- 3) Proposals focusing on the maintenance and restoration of habitat areas, as well as the preservation of gene flow for species identified in the target areas.
- 4) Proposals aimed at advancing ongoing research by addressing new objectives that

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complement and expand existing knowledge on the study topic.

- 5) Projects that integrate ecological restoration with sustainable value generation from Amazonian biodiversity.
- 6) Proposals that engage multiple fields of knowledge, including materials science, biotechnology, and engineering, alongside traditional environmental sciences.
- 7) Initiatives demonstrating practical, scalable potential with long-term positive impact for communities.
- 8) Projects that adopt sustainable socio-economic models, fostering inclusion and income generation

Evaluation Process and Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance to the call's objectives, scientific merit, feasibility, and potential impact. The process and criteria for evaluation of the proposals are presented in Chapter 12 of the BRC Research Programme 2024-2028. See the documents related to the call on the BRC website - menu "Call for Projects" - <https://www.brcbn.com>. Successful applicants will be notified by **October 3, 2025**.

Funding

- The amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals is R\$ 11.000.000,00 (Eleven million reais), equivalent to U\$ 1,900.000,00 (One million nine hundred sixty thousand dollars).
- A minimum of 4 projects will be approved in this call, based on the criteria described in the BRC Research Program 2024-2028. This implies that at least one project proposal from each of the four BRC academic institutions will be funded. Reduction in the amount of funds requested by the proposals may apply.
- Project duration: 24-60 months.
- Funding can be used for research expenses, fieldwork, equipment, capacity building, and other project-related costs.
- The guide for preparing the project budget is attached to this call and can be accessed at <http://www.brcbn.com>
- Ineligible: Payment of debts, purchase of land, and administrative expenses that are not directly related to the project.

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Application Process:

Applications must be submitted by sending the complete proposal in English (PDF format) and the budget in English (Excel spreadsheet) to the email flora@peabiru.org.br within the deadline specified in this Call.

To prepare the proposal and budget, please use the templates available on the BRC website - menu “Call for Projects” - <http://www.brcbn.com>.

Full Proposal: a detailed project proposal including: i) date of submission; ii) title of the project; iii) a brief outlining the project's objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes; iv) main goal and specific goals; v) responsible team; vi) rationale; vi) expected products and results; vii) methodology; viii) timeline; ix) budget; x) additional relevant information; and xi) references.

Proposals should refer to the BRC research program priorities, address how the proposed project fills important gaps, and explain its alignment with previous or ongoing BRC projects. The budget should detail funds requested from Hydro, in-kind contributions from partners, and funding from other sources. Hydro provides a document listing equipment for personal protection, medical examinations, and other logistics required for projects in mining areas. See the BRC website for details.

Timeline

Description	Date
Call for Projects Announcement	May 19, 2025
Deadline for Full Proposal Submission	July 31, 2025
Award Notification	September 30, 2025

Relevant documents at the BRC website - menu “Call for Projects” (<https://www.brcbn.com>)

- BRC Research Program 2024-2028
- Full Proposal (template form)
- Budget Form (template)
- Budget Preparation Guide
- Hydro logistics requirements for projects

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Counterparts and Responsibilities

- Possible financial or non-financial counterparts from the proposers.
- The contract negotiations will begin once the list of approved projects is available. The start date of a project will depend on how long these negotiations take.
- Consortium obligations:
 - o Release of resources according to the schedule.
 - o Technical and administrative monitoring.
- Beneficiaries' obligations:
 - o Periodic reporting (financial and technical).
 - o Progress reports and final report.

Ethical and Legal Guidelines

- Compliance with Brazilian environmental and mining legislation.
- Commitment to ethics, transparency, and community participation.
- Guarantee of free, prior, and informed consent of local communities.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation methodology defined.
- Performance indicators (environmental, social, economic)
- Periodic reporting of key performance indicators.

Contact Information

For inquiries and submission, please contact **Flora Bittencourt** (BRC Executive Secretary) at flora@peabiru.org.br

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