

BRC Research Program - Call for project proposals

With reference to the BRC Research Program 2018-2023 (<https://www.brcbn.com>), BRC opens for new project proposals to fill important knowledge gaps related to restoration of mining areas in tropical rainforest environments in the Amazon. The proposals must be submitted by one of the four academic BRC partner institutions (MPEG, UFRA, UFPA, UiO) and should include at least two BRC partner institutions. When appropriate, researchers from other institutions may also be collaborators in BRC projects.

Deadline for submission of proposals is: **21 October 2018.**

The scope of the Research Program is outlined in the document BRC Research Program 2018-2023 (<https://www.brcbn.com>). The prioritized research themes open for proposals during this call are:

- New techniques and technologies to restore areas that compose tailing dams, (compatible with the physical and chemical characteristics of the substrate, integrating soil restoration and biodiversity (fauna, fungi, microbiota, etc).
- Dispersal of wildlife due to mining activities.
- Re-colonisation of wildlife in replanted areas subjected to mining.
- Comprehensive inventory of the herbaceous stratum, epiphytes and / or fungi in forested areas surrounding the Paragominas mine.
- New biodiversity monitoring techniques, for example DNA metabarcoding.
- Techniques for improving estimates of forest aboveground biomass and carbon stock to be applied in restoration areas.
- Effects of mining on hydrological resources (chemical, physical and biological).

The application process

Applications should use the form available at the BRC web-site (<https://www.brcbn.com>).

It is important that the proposal refers to the BRC research program priorities, how the proposed project is addressing important gaps, and how it supplements previous or on-going BRC projects (see the BRC web-site, <https://www.brcbn.com>). The budget should include funds requested from Hydro and in-kind funding from partners and funding from other sources.

Hydro provides a document that lists equipment for personal protection, medical examination and other logistic requirements that all projects working in the mine area have to consider in the budget for the proposal. See the BRC web-site (<https://www.brcbn.com>).

Procedures for evaluation of proposals

Only proposals addressing the themes listed in the call will be considered. Incomplete proposals and proposals not following the guidelines in the application form will not be accepted.

In evaluations of proposals, the following criteria will be assessed:

- Addressing important gaps identified in existing knowledge, not covered by current projects
- Scientific quality (note from external committee), including innovativeness, clear objectives and research questions, and proper data collection methods and statistical analysis to obtain reliable results.
- Projects based on joint research, including two or more consortium partners.
- Projects mainly carried out in Eastern Brazilian Amazon.
- Projects with a high academic impact, both in terms of scientific publications and increased qualification of students and researchers.
- Feasibility of proposed activities and deliverables
- Adequacy of deliverables/products.
- Budget plan (Budget should be compatible with activities and deliverables)
- In-kind budget contributions from BRC partners and/or partial external funding

The BRC scientific committee has the main responsibility for evaluation of proposals.

The evaluation of proposals follows two lines:

1. A technical committee will evaluate the project proposal in relevance to the Research Program, feasibility, logistics, budget plan etc. A pre-selection of the proposals will be made that eliminates proposals that are considered not relevant for funding. Only proposals addressing the themes listed in the call will be considered. Incomplete proposals and proposals not following the guidelines in the application form will not be accepted.
2. An external committee will evaluate the scientific quality, and potential for gaining important new knowledge on restoration and biodiversity of the proposals, and rank the proposal based on scientific merit.

As a principle, SC members are not allowed to be project coordinators of new proposals.

The scientific committee will propose a ranked list of proposals recommended to be funded by Hydro.

All proposals should be sent to:

The BRC Secretariat, André Carvalho, anc.ambiental@gmail.com