

“Support Action for Collaborations with Sub-Saharan Africa”

Call for projects 2021 – CNRS

The CNRS has set itself the ambition of collaborating better and more with the countries of Africa, a booming continent with strong scientific potential. The CNRS Objectives and Performance Contract reflects this ambition. It provides for the CNRS to adopt by 2021 a multi-year cooperation plan with Africa, involving the partners concerned in France and abroad.

Structuring cooperation already exists, in particular with the Maghreb countries and South Africa. The room for improvement is, however, significant, in particular for the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa. Currently, the CNRS has only one IRL (International Research Laboratory) in this area. On the other hand, a study of co-publications between researchers from sub-Saharan African countries and their French counterparts shows that there are cooperation links in a wide range of scientific themes. These relations, however, remain too often off the radar of institutionalized cooperation, thus preventing their development and the creation of new initiatives.

This call for projects is intended to support existing collaborations or in preparation with partners from sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) in any form whatsoever, whether it be individual exchanges between researchers in post in a CNRS unit or an African university or in the organization of a seminar or summer schools. The proposed call for projects is flexible, with allocated amounts ranging from a few thousand euros to 20k€ depending on the project and the needs of applicants and their partners. This call is open to all members of the research units for which the CNRS is responsible. Particular attention will be paid to projects in connection with the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, without excluding projects with other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated on the basis of their scientific relevance, the interest of the collaboration in the scientific field concerned and the prospects for long-term cooperation. The scientific evaluation of projects is carried out by the Institutes, on the principle of peer review, with final arbitration carried out by a committee chaired by the DGDS.

How to apply

The submission procedure takes place by sending your application file using the template below to the address derci_ami@cnrs.fr. For all administrative questions, please contact the Africa, Middle East, India sector of the European Research and International Cooperation Directorate (DERCI): camille.flamant@cnrs.fr

Provisional timetable

- Opening date : December 2020
- Closing date : March 1st, 2021
- Communication of results : April 15th, 2021
- Start of actions : May 2021
- End of actions : December 2022