

Questions submitted to the BiodivFuture UK webinar 10 September 2026

Refer to the [Announcement of Opportunity](#) document for full details of the call and see the [annex document \(from page 112\)](#) for the additional specific UK application rules. You can also find answers to common call questions from the [BiodivFuture Frequently Asked Questions](#) page maintained by the call secretariat.

No.	Question	Response
1	Are investigator time, staff salaries and FEC eligible for UK organisations?	Yes, for UK organisations eligible to receive UKRI funds, the standard cost types can be requested. You can find full details of eligible costs in the NERC Grants Handbook.
2	Does the RESET requirement for work to be majority-NERC remit , rather than other UKRI councils, also apply to Biodiversa?	Yes. The UK component of the application does need to fit 50% or more of NERC's remit as the UKRI funding council. You are encouraged to include disciplines from other councils (ESRC, AHRC) however this is not a requirement. The project in its entirety (including the components from other partner countries) may focus on other disciplines overall as long as it fits the scope of the call and depending on the rules from the other funding partners. A list of areas NERC funds is available. <i>Related questions: Q15, Q32, Q44 and Q46.</i>
3	Could you please confirm the eligibility status of an IO with HQ in the UK?	The rules for international organisations vary. Please check UKRI Research organisation eligibility. Contact us if you are still not sure: biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org <i>Related questions: Q9, Q24, Q41 and Q49.</i>
4	Which funding model? Can UK lead?	The UK partner can be the Project Partner coordinator and lead the project. UKRI funding applies the full economic cost model for UK components.
5	What is the budget for UK institutions who want to get involved in this call?	Applicants can request up to £375,000 (at 100% FEC, of which NERC will fund 80%) each. The total funds available are £3,750,000.

		Projects requesting more than £312, 500 (at 100%) will need to provide justification for the higher level of funding and show the added value expected to the UK. <i>Related questions: Q10, Q14, Q33, Q38, Q39, Q42, Q52 and Q55.</i>
6	Can a UK SME/software company participate as a funded technology/data-infrastructure partner?	A UK SME or software company can participate as a project partner but can only request minor costs from the Project lead e.g. travel and subsistence costs. We would recommend you check eligibility on the UKRI website. Contact us if you are still not sure: biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org <i>Related questions: Q11 and Q12.</i>
7	Is there an optimal balance between European and Global perspectives ? I am thinking of developing a global Mountain proposal.	A balance of perspectives is not prescribed to allow applicant flexibility. The topic can be global. The funding available for different countries varies and you will need to check the annexes of the call for specific details. If you have researchers from countries not participating in the call, then they will need to find their own funding.
8	Would research focusing on the past be eligible, if it can clearly shed light on pathways/functions of future novel ecosystems?	Yes absolutely. If you are unsure or concerned about scope, please feel free to reach out to the Biodiversa+ team and/or NERC to check. For general questions regarding the call including general eligibility, call scope and assessment, please contact Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat, Agence Nationale de la Recherche biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr For specific questions regarding UK participation in this call including UKRI eligibility and funding rules, please contact NERC: biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org
9	Can institutions outside the UK be involved in this?	Yes, your collaborative project application will need to include a minimum of 3 countries (including the UK) of participating countries and at least 2 EU member states or Horizon Europe associated countries.

		<i>Related questions: Q3, Q24, Q41 and Q49.</i>
10	Just to really confirm that 'only' £250K UK contribution per project?	You can request up to £375,000 (at 100%) but if you want to request more than £312,500 you need to provide additional justification. You will need to clearly explain what added value is expected for the UK. Related questions: Q5, Q14, Q33, Q38, Q39, Q42, Q52 and Q55.
11	Can non-research organisations from the UK participate in consortia as partners and/or as subcontractors ?	Yes, non-research organisations from the UK can join as UKRI project partners or subcontractors. Please see the NERC Grant Handbook for details of eligibility and differences of these roles. <i>Related questions: Q6 and Q12.</i>
12	Can a UK research organisation subcontract my SME, which is a limited company, to develop environmental data/software infrastructure needed by the project, and would those software-development costs be eligible?	Subcontracting to develop data/software infrastructure depends on the costs being justified as part of the project. There would also be intellectual property considerations. Note that NERC will not fund a grant where a large proportion of the costs are used in a subcontract. Please contact biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org to discuss further if you are unsure as to whether a subcontract can be permitted. <i>Related questions: Q6 and Q11.</i>
13	Is it possible to combine funding from different countries in one project: let's say £250k from the UK, £50k from Bolzano/Italy and £100k from Switzerland in a whole project?	Yes you can combine funding from different countries for a project. You must have a minimum of 3 countries involved in your whole project. Each country budget must be within the limits of that country as provided in the annex of the BiodivFuture call document. The budget for your whole project should be appropriate to your project's ambitions. Biodiversa+ provides a medium sized project a budget of 1.2M-1.5M€. <i>Related questions: Q17, Q31 and Q47.</i>
14	ECR - £250K FEC will cover a 2 yr postdoc and insufficient for 10% PI time for the three years. Whilst we can offer short postdoc	We would expect the justification for a UK component of over £250k to reflect the activities being undertaken, the need for additional funding and how this fits within the proposal activities of the whole consortium.

	contracts, this isn't good for the science (especially large international consortium), nor ECRs. Is offering a decent length contract, a strong enough justification to go above this informal limit?	Although the UK partner needs to be involved for the full length of the project, staff within the UK partner organisations (research organisations) do not necessarily need to be involved for the full duration. The staff time should be justified based on the activities that your partner is completing. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q33, Q38, Q39, Q42, Q52 and Q55.</i>
15	With regards to applications falling under NERC versus AHRC/ESRC remit, what is the minimum amount of NERC-facing content versus other UKRI councils? Would a majority-ESRC facing application be acceptable?	The project should be at least 50% NERC (i.e. dominant NERC remit) to justify the use of NERC funding. We appreciate that this can be difficult to define so please contact us directly using the mailbox biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org if you are unsure of the fit to remit of your project. Note the 50% rule applies only to the NERC component and not the application in its entirety which will need to consider the remit of the other countries' funders. <i>Related questions: Q2, Q32, Q44 and Q46.</i>
16	RESET info states 'Projects are out of scope if they focus primarily on urban built-up areas, intensive farming or aquaculture, intensive commercial forestry plantations, active mining or oil or gas extraction, major infrastructure including major roads or active railway lines or tracts'. Is this the case for Biodivfuture funds or does this restriction apply only to NERC led strategic research projects?	While there will be general alignment between the BiodivFuture call and the RESET strategic research grants call, you should ensure that you follow the guidance and address the requirements of the specific call to which you are submitting an application. For the BiodivFuture call, <i>intensively managed systems that are highly simplified in their ecological community and processes compared with natural and semi natural ecosystems (e.g. monocultural agricultural systems, intensive aquaculture and plantation forestry)</i> are out of scope. How novel ecosystems interact with and are impacted by these intensively managed systems could be in scope. For further information you should refer to section 2 Objectives of the call. If you are still unsure, please contact the Biodiversa call secretariat: biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr

		<i>Related questions: Q45.</i>
17	For research in countries that are not participating (e.g., tropical rainforest work in Africa), how much of funds awarded from UKRI can go to external partners in those countries (e.g., to pay for local guide support)?	Organisations within countries not participating in this funding opportunity can be included on projects as project partners within your UK component. Only minor costs such as travel costs can be supported. If you are considering substantial participation of international partners that need significant funding you could consider the RESET research grant call where a project co-lead (international) is allowed. Please contact us at biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org to discuss the costs you are looking to include to confirm. <i>Related questions: Q13, Q31 and Q47.</i>
18	What is intended as novel ecosystem? How does is this distinct from an ecosystem that is simply degraded or undergoing rapid environmental change? Is evidence of a persistent alternative state required	There are different definitions of ‘Novel ecosystem’. The BiodivFuture call includes the definition proposed by Hobbs et al. in 2013 as a conceptual framework (Box 1)- “a system of abiotic, biotic and social components (and their interactions) that, by virtue of human influence, differ from those that prevailed historically, having a tendency to self-organise, and manifest novel qualities without intensive human management”. Since the publication of this paper, the limits of this definition have been challenged by different disciplines and other definitions have emerged. Overall, the conceptual framework of novel ecosystems usually comprises of (1) new ecological communities (including species living outside their historical native ranges), (2) which present a suite of interactions and processes consistent with a self-organised, functioning ecosystem, and (3) are unlikely to revert to conditions preceding their emergence, with or without human intervention, due to significant biotic and abiotic changes. Building on this framework and acknowledging the plurality of views and definitions, proposals submitted to this call must demonstrate how they are addressing novel ecosystems.

19	If I am planning on submitting a RESET project , would I be eligible to submit a Biodiversa project on the same topic (but slightly different focus)?	You can submit applications to both calls but we would expect the focus to be substantially different rather than just slightly different as NERC cannot fund duplicative research. Further, the projects must operate independently and not depend on each other nor be hindered should both projects be funded with the same/similar team.
20	Not clear whether RESET is a standalone funding pot or has to be jointly submitted to biodiversa+	The RESET programme consists of the RESET research grants call, the Biodiversa grants call, the RESET Hub and the Nature Security project. These are all standalone investments, brought together under the RESET umbrella and you would need to apply to them separately.
21	The presentation seems almost entirely focused on Theme 1 of the call aside from a subset of Theme 2 on sort of modeled pathways/scenarios and indicators . Is this an accurate understanding? In other words is a quite traditional NERC focus rather than more interdisciplinary work.	There was no intention to focus only on Theme 1 so we apologise if that is how it came across. We welcome applications addressing one or more of the three themes whilst recognising that as NERC is the UK funder, the UK components must have a majority of research within environmental science. If you are unsure whether your proposed project will fit within NERC remit, please contact NERC at biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org
22	Would a research project on the link of consumer information and biodiversity be well nested under any of your research questions ?	It's not clear what the enquirer means by consumer information here. Please contact us with some more detail at biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org
23	The RESET strategic projects calls emphasise relevance to UK security - is this the same for projects under the biodiversa call?	You don't need to focus on UK security specifically on the BiodivFuture call but even without focussing on it, many projects will relate to security as interpreted broadly to include any issue that could cause harm or destabilise the UK and its ecosystems - water, food, resource or biodiversity security.
24	Can an organisation be a part of multiple proposals as the 'Lead' or 'Coordinator'?	For individuals based at UK organisations eligible for UKRI funding, you can only apply to a maximum of two applications and only one as the lead. There is no restriction on the number of applications from different individuals within the same organisation.

		<i>Related questions: Q3, Q9, Q41 and Q49.</i>
25	Can you clarify whether the grants' research objectives need to be influenced by the RESET objectives? I have read both sets of objectives and feel they are distinct, although both complementary and super-important. I don't think we'd do the best research possible if we were forced to address both sets of objectives.	Applications to the BiodivFuture call need to fulfil the objectives of the BiodivFuture call only. You do not need to focus separately on the RESET objectives when applying to this call as the objectives of the BiodivFuture call fit within the wider RESET objectives. The BiodivFuture call expects the funded projects to deliver novel, excellent research, high societal and political impact and significant transnational added value. Your project engaging with the wider RESET programme (and the RESET Hub in particular) would support knowledge exchange with key UK national stakeholders (including Defra) to help deliver resilience, prosperity and security outcomes in the UK and meet the requirements for research impacts in the BiodivFuture call. It is advised that you consider how your BiodivFuture project objectives would complement RESET's objectives to put you in a good position to engage.
26	Can novelty be studied as an emergent property of connected ecosystems — for example where changes in a catchment propagate through freshwater and coastal ecosystems — rather than within a single ecosystem or habitat?	Yes, that is a reasonable interpretation of 'novelty'. The call is intended to support research that improves our understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem novelty, including the processes and drivers through which novelty emerges and propagates. This could include studies such as you describe.
27	Is there any specific overhead percentage set by UKRI for this Biodiversa proposal?	Please contact us with more detail on this question using biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org
28	Would we submit only the costs from the UK side of things or do we include the costs of the other partners in our application too?	You need to submit your proposal to the Biodiversa+ system (EPSS) and should include all the costs for your project (broken down by country/research organisation) when you submit. Should you be successful, you will be required to submit the relevant documentation to UKRI's

		Funding Service. We will provide you with further details of how to do this when outcomes are available.
29	Biodiversa requires 2 EU or AC (associated country) partners for an eligible consortium. UK counts as AC, right? Does the other one have to be EU or can it also be AC?	UK is an Associated Country (AC) and so this counts as one of those 2 EU or AC countries. The other one can either be an EU member or an AC Country. Please refer to the Biodiversa+ rules to confirm the status of each participating country.
30	I was interested in the Ecosystem function and resilience sandboxes , you said they were policy facing, but who is actually attending the sandboxes and carrying out the work? What is the scope for interested researchers to get involved, please?	This is largely an internally run programme of work – i.e. it's being led by Defra scientists and policy teams, although we have commissioned research externally already. We expect to commission further external research in the future however we don't know what or when at this stage.
31	What is the minimum number of international partners/participants in the Biodiversa + call	A BiodivFuture proposal requires a minimum of 3 participating countries . If you are considering the UK as one of those 3 countries, then you will need a minimum of 2 additional international participating countries to be involved in order to be eligible. <i>Related questions: Q13, Q17 and Q47.</i>
32	Does the need for sitting within NERC remit mean that a project including only economists/social scientists in the UK partner would not be funded? Or is it just necessary to show how we will meet the NERC remit, even if only the wider social/economic elements?	Although the UK component does not have to be led by an environmental scientist, we expect the focus to be on environmental science (at least 50% of the proposed research) and so will need to include environmental scientists. Please contact us at biodivesersa@nerc.ukri.org if you are unsure. <i>Related questions: Q2, Q15, Q44 and Q46.</i>
33	Even the upper budget per partner of £375k is very small given UK University overheads - it wouldn't cover a PDRF for 3 years plus reasonable staff time and associated costs at my university. I'm not sure how much meaningful research	The maximum budget we have allowed for this call is in line with other funding partners. The funds you need to request for engagement with the wider RESET programme should not be too great, largely some travel and subsistence to allow one or two team members to attend programme-level activities.

	could be done by UK partners within this constraint, while also contributing to RESET. Can you provide any guidance?	We appreciate that we are also asking you to invest your time in the interaction with the wider programme however this will allow your research to contribute to the impact of the wider programme. Additionally, networking and visibility of active similar research, could be of benefit to your BiodivFuture project and possibly, wider research through shared learning and wider. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q38, Q39, Q42, Q52 and Q55.</i>
34	How many projects will be funded in the UK under the Biodiversa + call?	We expect to fund around 13 UK projects in the Biodiversa+ call. The exact number will depend on the funds requested, quality of the applications and also on the funding country partners' available funds.
35	Will the hub fund knowledge exchange fellows or similar working with a project or should each project fund this separately to maximise impact?	The RESET programme Hub specification is still being developed, and so we can't answer the question now. We certainly would like, and anticipate, having some form of knowledge exchange placements, secondments, etc. When the Hub call goes live, this should become clearer.
36	In the general webinar, it stated that awards would average EUR 1.2-1.5M. Is it expected that each national team member would have a similar share to the UK budget?	No. Each country has different levels of funding available so the award will not necessarily be evenly split. The funds requested from each partner country should reflect the actual research being done by each national team, whilst taking into account the different costs of conducting research in the participating countries.
37	Do you envisage proposals will specifically interact with how the RESET Hub is established given the the BiodivFuture deadline of 10 Nov? How should we refer to this given it is still to be setup?	The Hub specification should be fully developed and finalised by the 10th November, so BiodivFuture projects won't need to input into how the Hub is established. More details of the activities the BiodivFuture projects will need to interact with should be available before the full bid BiodivFuture closing date and applicants should indicate a broad willingness to engage with the Hub in their applications. UK biodiversa+ project teams should also include costs in their application to this call for

		1-2 team members to attend up to 3 UK RESET programme in-person events.
38	Simon mentioned earlier that the recommended ask for the total proposal budget should be £250k. If we're asking for the full £375k, what sort of extra justification should we provide and in what form?	To request more than £250k (80%FEC), applicants need to show how the additional funds will enhance the grant and the expected added value to the UK. For example, this could be to support UK leadership in the transnational project where the UK Partner is the Project Partner coordinator. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q33, Q39, Q42, Q52 and Q55.</i>
39	You mentioned hoping to keep projects to around £250k funding . Will projects asking for more than this be frowned upon?	You will not be penalised at all for asking for higher than the £250k guide value. We just ask that the higher level of funding requested has a strong justification. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q33, Q42, Q52 and Q55.</i>
40	Could Indigenous or Community-Based Organisations be permitted to be a consortium partner? Even if they are small-scale and do not have necessarily very established finance or admin capacities?	If indigenous or community-based organisations are based in participating countries and would like to be a funded consortium partner then they will need to check the eligibility rules of the country partner. Such organisations can be a non-funded consortium partner. If such an organisation is to be included within the UK component, then they can only be a project partner on the UK component and receive small costs (e.g. travel costs).
41	Can 2-3 universities in the UK be involved in one proposal?	Yes. There is no restriction on the number of eligible organisations that can be named on a UK proposal. <i>Related questions: Q3, Q9, Q24 and Q49.</i>
42	Could you explain " added value " for larger funding requests?	We would expect the justification for a UK component of over £250,000 (at 80%FEC) to reflect the activities being undertaken, the need for additional funding and how it fits within the proposal activities of the whole consortium. Your justification should show the expected added value to the UK. The research could be transformational, a step change in impact or a unique opportunity. For example, there would be added value in the UK taking on

		the leadership role as the Project Partner coordinator or in securing access to unique data, sites, infrastructure or capability present in partner countries but not available in the UK <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q33, Q38, Q39, Q52 and Q55.</i>
43	Does NERC have any say on the projects that are funded or is it based on the overall EU team?	The call assessment process is led by the Biodiversa+ call secretariat. NERC (representing UKRI) is a full member of Biodiversa+ and we are represented on the Call Steering Committee (CSC) consisting of the call secretariat and all funders financially contributing to the call. All CSC members suggested independent academic and policy/management experts to be invited to join the Evaluation Committee (EvC). The EvC will assess and rank the applications according to the set criteria and will recommend which grants should be funded. The CSC will make the final funding decision based on recommendation of the EvC and budgets available from all participating funding organisations. See the full details of the evaluation process, with assessment criteria, on the Biodiversa+ website.
44	These projects are intrinsically interdisciplinary, but a 50% NERC remit is expected . This is a contradiction. What is your suggestion on how to scope these applications?	NERC is the funding council for UK applications so the expectation is that at least 50% of the research on the UK component will fall within our environmental science remit. Many other disciplines contribute to answering environmental questions such as data science, maths, chemistry, biology as well social sciences, arts and humanities. Interdisciplinary research does not necessarily require that all disciplines are equally 'represented' and we encourage the involvement of other disciplines where this is appropriate to address the objectives of the proposed research. <i>Related questions: Q2, Q15, Q32 and Q46.</i>
45	Did Magnus say that urban ecosystems are out ? Or did he say that they are in?	For further information on which ecosystems are not in scope you should refer to section 2, Objectives of the call.

		Intensively managed systems that are highly simplified in their ecological community and processes compared with natural and semi natural ecosystems (e.g. monocultural agricultural systems, intensive aquaculture and plantation forestry) are out of scope. How novel ecosystems interact with and are impacted by these intensively managed systems could be in scope. Please get in touch with the Biodiversa secretariat for guidance on the scope of the call: biodiversa.cs@agencerecherche.fr <i>Related questions: Q16.</i>
46	Another question on NERC alignment - if a UK partner was led by a social scientist could that still work as long as the overall package of work by the UK team is strong NERC-relevant?	The Project-lead could be a social scientist but the majority of the UK component must fall within NERC remit and the project lead must be in a position to lead on and deliver strong environmental science research. <i>Research questions: Q2, Q15, Q32 and Q44.</i>
47	Is UKRI saying the research can only take part in consortium partner countries? As the Biodiversa+ indicated the research site could be anywhere in the world.	The research can very much be global and take place in any part of the globe. However, funding for research teams is only available from participating partners. Should you wish to include consortium partners from non-participating countries/regions then they will need to cover their funding requirements. <i>Related questions: Q13, Q17 and Q31.</i>
48	Does this mean that “restoration” would be out of scope?	Restoration is not necessarily out of scope provided it fits under the broad question of how do we manage or restore ecosystem function, or restoration focusing on resilience. The emergence of novel ecosystems raises important questions for biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration, including how human influence can be adequately considered as a shaping factor, how restoration goals and baselines can be defined under changing conditions, and how ecosystem

		functions can be maintained or restored in highly modified environment. Your proposal should address the call theme(s) and critically reflect on what “restoration” would mean in this context.
49	Are there are any organisational limits on leading a project? I see the individual PI limits.	No, individuals can only be on two applications but the number of different individuals within the same organisation is not limited. <i>Related questions: Q3, Q9, Q24 and Q41.</i>
50	Where and when will the slides and Q&A be available?	The slides and webinar recording will be available as soon as possible on the Funding finder page under ‘Additional information’.
51	Will there be any pre-screening prior to submission to the Biodiversa+ portal to ensure e.g. fit to NERC remit, adherence to UK budget limits, etc.?	No, there is no pre-screening. The first check done by funding countries when you submit the pre-proposal will be the eligibility checks and you will be informed if your application is not eligible. If you have any questions about fit to NERC remit or UK budget, you should contact NERC at biodiversa@nerc.ukri.org
52	What estimated amount should we set aside for attending the RESET events in the proposal budget? Just a rough figure would do for clarity.	You should include costs to cover attendance of one or two team members at two or three UK events in person. A good estimate would be to assume that these will be day-long events (although overnight accommodation may be required for one). It is difficult to be certain at this time and flexibility will be important. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q33, Q38, Q39, Q42 and Q55.</i>
53	I think to build on the previous question, the timeline given by Biodiversa+ did not seem to have any stage where the NERC representatives could in fact reject the proposal on cost grounds. I thought NERC would only be asked to check the fit to call?	NERC, as per other participating funders, will check remit and eligibility (including costs) for the UK components of all proposals when submitted at pre-proposal and full proposal stage. This step is through the Biodiversa+ EPSS system and is completed prior to the evaluation of proposals. If your UK overall cost is higher than the limit given (£375,000 at 100% FEC) then your proposal will be marked as ineligible. You must also ensure all requested costs are fully justified in your proposal.

54	Regarding cost indicative NERC value, and the Biodiversa fact projects will be evaluated by an independent international Biodiversa convened panel, who would frown upon that "extra 125K on UK budget?" Are you considering share to NERC funding as part of eligibility check at stage 1 or 2?	If NERC consider at eligibility checks stage that you have fully justified the 'extra £125,000', then your proposal will be marked as eligible as normal and will be evaluated as normal. If you have requested costs above the £312,500 (at 100%FEC), but within the top amount of £375,000 and NERC require further justification from what you have provided at submission, then NERC will reach out to discuss and provide any instructions so that we are able to mark as eligible and it can move onto 'evaluation' stage.
55	If multiple UK-based organisations are part of the same proposal, will the 250-375k budget be split between these organisations?	Yes. The maximum UK budget available is for all UK-based activities in the same proposal, whether from one or multiple organisations. <i>Related questions: Q5, Q10, Q14, Q33, Q39, Q42 and Q52.</i>
56	Given around 30-35 projects may be funded under Biodiversa, how will NERC intervene if the majority of those proposals include a UK component , when NERC are capping proposals at around 6-8? How will final decision be made?	Following the evaluation of the applications by the Evaluation Committee (EvC), the Call Steering Committee (CSC) consisting of all participating funders (including NERC) will make the final funding decision based on recommendations of the EvC and budgets available from all participating funding organisations. Exactly which projects are funded will depend on the total funding available from each of the partner countries involved. With a total budget of £3,750,000 (at 100% FEC) NERC expects to fund up to 13 grants but this depends on the funds each project requests, the quality of the applications and the availability of remaining funds from the partner countries. The most highly ranked projects involving the UK will be funded by NERC, unless a proposed partner country has no remaining funds.