



International  
Long Term  
Ecological  
Research

## **ILTER Call for Bottom-Up Initiatives**

The International Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER) network launches a two-stage call for Research & Development ideas for LTER teams, interested in similar scientific topics and societal challenges, to initiate and to broaden worldwide collaboration within the network.

This is a call for bottom-up scientific collaboration initiatives. The proposers of up to three excellent initiatives will be offered Travel Grants to participate in the ILTER Open Science Meeting 2016 (9-13 October) in Kruger National Park, South Africa.

More detailed information concerning the original call description can be found below:

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ILTER BOTTOM-UP INITIATIVES**

### **CONTEXT**

ILTER, as a global network of national networks of scientists engaged in site-based ecosystem and socio-ecological research, has a dual purpose of providing a forum for collection of continuous, long-term ecological data, and supporting question- and problem-driven scientific research to help solve known and unknown environmental problems (<http://www.ilternet.edu/>). This mission paves the way for jointly addressing important societal and environmental challenges at a global scale.

The four main goals of ILTER are:

- to foster collaboration and coordination among ecological researchers and research networks at local, regional and global scales.
- to improve comparability of long-term ecological data from sites around the world, and facilitate exchange and preservation of this data.
- to deliver scientific information to scientists, policymakers, and the public to meet the needs of decision-makers at multiple levels.
- to facilitate education of the next generation of scientists devoted to long-term research.

In pursuit of these goals, ILTER launches a call for ecosystem R&D ideas for LTER teams, interested on similar strategic topics and societal challenges, to initiate and to broaden worldwide collaboration by use of multiple LTER sites, their LTER sites research teams and LTER data

ILTER offers Travel Grant(s) to present and discuss the best three bottom-up R&D initiatives at the ILTER Open Science Meeting 2016 (OSM, 9-13 October 2016) in Kruger National Park, South Africa. This seed fund aims at to get further support among LTER members to develop new research ideas under a specific theme of global interest that can be further explored through a research proposal to be submitted to existing calls, collaborative publications, development of common protocols, or other initiatives.

## **CALL TIMING**

This call involves a **two-stage submission scheme**, where a 'short outline proposal' (4 pages max) must be submitted and a maximum of ten proposals passing this first-stage evaluation will be invited to submit a 'full proposal' (max 10 pages) for the second stage. The full proposal must be consistent with the short outline proposal and may not differ substantially.

*Call launch date:* January, 25th, 2015

***EXTENDED*** *Deadlines for submission of applications:*

1<sup>st</sup> Phase – March 21st, 2016 – 17:00 UTC

2<sup>nd</sup> Phase – May 7th, 2016 – 17:00 UTC

*Evaluation results:* communicated by the beginning of June 2016

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Application has to be submitted by team members representing at least three LTER networks demonstrating wide geographic coverage within the ILTER network;
2. Applicants should be LTER researchers (participation of early career scholars and postgraduate researchers is highly encouraged), although the idea to be proposed may involve LTER stakeholders and partners.
3. Topics addressed should be related to emerging issues and challenges for socio-ecosystem research at a global scale, and leading themes of the OSM 2016 conference (<http://www.ilternet.edu/content/ilter-open-science-meeting-2016-first-announcement>) could be used as orientation for new R&D initiative topics.
4. The proposed activity has to demonstrate a high potential for application and for broad involvement of LTER researchers.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **1. Relevance (weight 1/3)**

*Relevance of the thematic topic of the action:* the topic matches global ecosystem research priorities and societal challenges.

### **2. Excellence (weight 1/3)**

*Scientific or innovation excellence of the team:* critical mass of the R&D team.

### **3. Impact (weight 1/3)**

*Level of visibility /outreach of the proposed activity:* potential of the proposed activity to stimulate further collaboration within the ILTER network and to promote ILTER outside the network.

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The application will be evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of at least three ILTER senior scientists. All evaluators shall declare the absence of a conflict of interest.

## **HOW TO APPLY?**

Fill in the first-stage application form in the attachment, in English, and send it by email, in PDF format, before **March 21st 2016 – 17:00 UTC time** to Margarida Santos-Reis ([mmreis@fc.ul.pt](mailto:mmreis@fc.ul.pt)) and to the ILTER secretary Haubold Herbert ([Herbert.Haubold@umweltbundesamt.at](mailto:Herbert.Haubold@umweltbundesamt.at)). Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

## **RESULTS OF THE CALL**

Applications that comply with the eligibility criteria will be informed of their acceptance by email in the third week of March 2016.

Results of the first-stage applications will be announced by e-mail at the end of March 2016 and those invited for the second-stage (max 10) have to submit the full proposal by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Winning proposal(s), maximum of three, will be notified about the results by the beginning of June 2016. The selected applicants will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with ILTER that will define the eligible maximum costs that can be reimbursed, and the reimbursement process.

The beneficiary(ies) must prepare a summary and a Power-Point presentation for the OSM, at a day and hour to be defined by the OSM scientific committee, and provide a short announcement of the initiative for the ILTER web page.