



FRB CESAB call for proposals

DataShare 2025 call

FRB-CESAB, in partnership with HEIRS¹, launch a call to fund two types of complementary groups: the IdeaShare and the DataShare. This call aims to advance biodiversity research by supporting the generation of innovative interdisciplinary approaches and the development of accessible high quality datasets, respectively.

- IdeaShare projects emphasize the creation of new concepts, models, and methods through interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together biodiversity experts with specialists from other fields to explore new perspectives and frameworks.
- DataShare projects focus on accelerating the assembly, curation, harmonization, and open sharing of biodiversity-related datasets, ensuring that they are accessible and reusable for future syntheses and analyses.

The work achieved within each group can be seen as a preliminary - but not mandatory - step before submitting a research proposal to more 'classical' calls from Biodiversity Synthesis Centres (e.g. CESAB, sDiv, NCEAS) or elsewhere.

Will be funded within this call **four 2-year projects**:

- Three generic groups funded by the FRB-CESAB with no restrictions on the biodiversity topics;
- One thematic group, co-funded by the FRB-CESAB and the HEIRS, will have to focus on Biodiversity and Human Evolution.

This text relates to DataShare projects.

Context of the call

The sharing of open-access and large-scale biodiversity-related datasets enables successful and more quantitative biodiversity syntheses. However, the considerable effort required to search for, collect, clean, store and, last but not least, make these data easily accessible and reusable, is often insufficiently supported by research funding calls. **The aim of the DataShare call is to accelerate and support these efforts to fuel future syntheses and meta-analyses.**

¹ Hub for Human Evolution Research Synthesis, a unit of the research environment of ICAREHB – the Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behaviour, hosted at the University of Algarve, <https://heirs.icarehb.com/>

The **DataShare** working groups are expected to build, format and ultimately make ecological value datasets accessible, interoperable and easily reusable by others. They will receive dedicated support by the CESAB data scientists.

Any dataset of ecological value², anywhere on Earth and at any time, subject to any level of anthropogenic influence, is eligible for support. Socio-economic-health and/or environmental data will also be considered if clearly linked to biodiversity. Cross-level datasets combining different levels of biodiversity will be most welcome.

A datashare proposal will be considered if it aims to collect mostly unpublished data or is a compilation and curation/harmonization of data from published and/or unpublished sources. Transformation of existing data (if the added value is strong) is also eligible. Acquisition of new data from laboratory experiments or field expeditions carried out during the proposed project will not be considered as eligible.

Working-group composition

Each working-group proposal must:

- be led by **two principal investigators (PIs)**³:
 - one PI must be a researcher with a permanent position in a French research organization or a French university;
 - the other PI must have a permanent position or a contract that runs until the end of the project, within any organization worldwide. He/she must come from a different laboratory than the first PI.
- consist of at most ten members (including the PIs);
- include international members; to reduce the carbon footprint, we advise the group not to have too many participants traveling from locations very far from Europe;
- be well-balanced and diverse in terms of gender, range of expertise and career stage⁴;
- include at least one person clearly identified and nominated as responsible for the management of data within the group. This person will be in direct interaction with the CESAB data scientists; the *thematic* group focusing on Biodiversity and Human Evolution should include at least one member of ICAREHB⁵.

² such as occurrence, abundance, genomic, phylogenetic, functional, biogeochemical, biodiversity-related data on any functions, taxa, communities, ecosystems, etc.

³ There is no hierarchy between the PIs, who must share equally the scientific direction and the animation of the group throughout the project. Their names will appear in alphabetical order on the group presentation materials.

⁴ Please note that the group must be stable in composition for at least three years (including the year of the proposal evaluation), which is incompatible with including too many non-permanent members (we recommend one or two non-permanent researchers at most if justified).

⁵ <https://www.icarehb.com/team/>

Working group timeline and outcomes

Timeline

The *generic* groups are expected to meet three times in person at the CESAB (5-day meeting) during the two years of the project. The *thematic* group focusing on Biodiversity and Human Evolution will meet twice at CESAB in France (first and last meetings) and once at HEIRS in Portugal (second meeting).

All groups are also expected to organize a one-week virtual meeting and regular short virtual meetings throughout the project duration.

Working group outcomes

Expected outcomes, which ultimately should comply with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility and Ethics) principles, include:

- the **release of the metadata on an online public repository** with a structured and fine-grained description (using machine-readable international standards like the Ecological Metadata Language, EML) at the end of the project (Findable, Interoperable);
- the **publication of the dataset** (in a scientific data paper) and the publication of in-depth analyses (if relevant) of this data, are expected within 2 years of the last meeting of the working group. The datasets must be released and made accessible to the widest possible scientific community through a trusted online public repository (Accessible);
- the **release of code and/or workflows** used to preprocess, clean and homogenize the data from raw to final stage will be appreciated. Similarly, the release of software/code (e.g. R, Python, API, Web Interface) to access and explore the data will be an added value (Reusable).

The CESAB offers a unique opportunity for scientists to use their expertise in synthesis and data management, and will provide links to organizations that can facilitate release of the metadata and data submissions.

The working groups will provide **a data management plan at mid-term and a final report**, based on a template provided by the CESAB.

Budget

Each working group of up to ten experts will be funded for 2 years, including:

- **meeting costs** for 3 workshops of 5 days each (10 participants max);

- **publication costs up to 3000 €**; note that if the group is willing to cover its publication fees by other means or publish in journals with no publication fees, this funding can also be used to cover for additional participants⁶.
- technical and administrative support.

The budget will be handled by the CESAB and does not need to be detailed in the project proposal.

The working group will receive help and scientific support:

- **From the CESAB data scientists** for database conceptualization, design (including tools/software recommendations and workflow development), compilation (data curation, data cleaning, data homogenization) and dissemination (data paper).
- **From the PNDB⁷** for structuring the associated metadata.

Selection criteria

Working groups will be selected according to the following criteria:

- the scientific importance, extent, and originality of the dataset assembled;
- the quality of the working group (i.e. expertise matching the topic addressed and overall balance among disciplines, genders, career stages);
- the feasibility of the work program.

Calendar and submission procedure

Deadline for submissions : **8 Sept. 2025 at 13:00 CEST**

Results will be announced mid-December 2025.

1. Request for the proposal form, filling out this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/v5w0qnevRT>
2. Send your proposal in pdf before 8 Sept. 2025 at 1 pm CEST, by email to cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr

Contact

Contact: cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr

⁶ This decision will be taken by the group PIs after the project have been funded.

⁷ Pôle National de Données de Biodiversité, <https://www.pndb.fr/>