



21 March 2018

PEFC Collaboration Fund 2018 Call for Proposals Pioneering technology innovation within forest certification

Building on a PEFC cornerstone of 'Think Global – Act Local', we are pleased to announce the call for proposals for the 2018 PEFC Collaboration Fund.

This year the PEFC Collaboration Fund is requesting project proposals that pioneer the application of technology and innovation within forest certification.

Background

In 2017, PEFC convened its Stakeholder Dialogue on 'Making Certification Smart'. The event brought together 250 participants to share ideas and early innovations that demonstrate how technology can support and enhance forest certification. The event was packed with [examples of technology innovation in action](#) – from the forest, through the supply chain and into the marketplace.

There was no question amongst participants about the potential for forest certification to continue embracing modern innovations and technology. But the challenge is how can we ensure and enhance the alignment of innovation with existing challenges so that it can make transformative impact!

Within this spirit the event called for Purposeful Innovation. To create it, PEFC will require constructive partnerships, innovations that deliver mutual benefits for system users and solutions that ultimately enable certification to deliver more value and impact more forests!

So we will use our 2018 Collaboration Fund to do exactly that – inspire purposeful innovation within forest certification. Through the competitive small grants program, the Fund will support PEFC members and their partners to pioneer new approaches that advance the application of technology and innovation.

We're looking for ambitious solutions to tackle critical issues like making certification more accessible for smallholders, creating innovative approaches for auditing and data collection, or imagining new ways to engage consumers on sustainability.

Proposals will be considered for projects that embody the 2018 Collaboration Fund theme and stand to deliver on the Fund's objectives through the eligible means. From 2011 to 2017, PEFC awarded over 800,000 CHF to 36 projects through the [Fund](#).

Collaboration Fund Objectives

- To stimulate new innovative approaches which contribute to PEFC strategic priorities¹;
- To act as a catalyst for innovations which will enable PEFC to further the progress wheel of certification;
- To encourage the establishment of new partnerships amongst organizations and/or strengthen existing partnerships;
- To provide co-funding that leverages additional financial sources.

Eligible Activities

Projects that pioneer new applications of technology and innovations that show promise of new solutions for:

- Engaging and leveraging society for sustainable forestry;
- Strengthening trust and traceability throughout value chains;
- Creating efficient and accessible sustainable forest management certification;
- Evolving certification processes, data collection and impact measurement.

Technology and Innovation Platform

To encourage cooperation and facilitate ongoing discussions on the topic of technology and innovation in forest certification, we have established an online platform. The platform is designed to enable and encourage ongoing interaction between PEFC International, PEFC members, solution providers and other stakeholders, who are interested in supporting and contributing to purposeful innovation within forest certification.

For the Collaboration Fund specifically, the platform can help connect potential partners. Project proposals must be submitted by PEFC members, but technology solutions providers and other stakeholders will play a critical role as partners in the proposals.

If you wish to join this platform:

- For our Members who are already part of Podio, please follow this [link](#) to access the platform.
- For our Members not yet registered on PEFC Podio extranet, please contact Thorsten at thorsten.arndt@pefc.org.
- For non-PEFC Members, please go on the [PEFC Collaboration Fund webpage](#) and fill in the registration form to sign up and join the platform.

¹ See PEFC Strategic Plan <http://www.pefc.org/resources/brochures/organizational-documents/1244-pefc-strategy-2013-2016-summary>

Eligible Grantees

PEFC Members, both National Members and International Stakeholder Members, are eligible to apply and must be the main project applicant. Project partners may include all kind of organizations including private and public sector organizations.

Grant Amounts

Proposals requesting a PEFC Collaboration Fund contribution of **up to 50,000 CHF** and have a project timeframe up to 3 years will be considered. The fund will support new and additional activities rather than existing, ongoing work and running costs. Grantees must provide evidence of at least 35% co-funding from other sources within the overall project budget. In-kind contributions may exceptionally be accepted as co-funding.

Proposal Guidelines

Eligible proposals will follow the PEFC Collaboration Fund Application Form provided². Proposals will consist of two parts.

Part 1 should contain only the primary information of the proposed project including the title, lead grantee and partner organization(s) information, a budget summary and signature. *Part 1 should not exceed 4 pages.*

Part 2 should contain more thorough information about the project's relevance, implementation, and proposed deliverables. Proponents are urged to keep the proposal concise, offering clear insight into the project idea in a limited number of sentences. *Part 2 should not exceed 6 pages.*

Proposal will be received in A4 format and written in Arial, font size 11, single space. Though it is not encouraged, additional reference information may be submitted in an annex where necessary. Signed letters from the co-funders to confirm their funding contribution to the project are required in addition to the application form.

² You may download it at <http://www.pefc.org/projects/collaboration-fund/2018-competition>

Proposal Assessment

All proposals received will be thoroughly reviewed and assessed against a comprehensive set of criteria. To best fulfil these criteria, ask yourself the following questions before submitting your proposal:

Regarding your project:

- Does the project pioneer innovation and technology that can further forest certification?
- Does the project foster collaboration and bring together new partners?
- Is the project interesting from both local and international perspectives?
- Does the project put forward a plan to leverage funding from other sources and undertake new, additional activities?

Regarding Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification:

- Does the project idea embody innovation while at the same time prove its relevancy and efficiency?
- Does the project activate efficient and accessible sustainable forest management certification?
- Will the project deliver results locally and potentially internationally?
- Are there strong links between the project and PEFC's scope, strategic priorities and ongoing projects?

Regarding PEFC, our stakeholders and our system:

- Does the project put forward new approaches that could enhance forest certification processes?
- Does the project stand to deliver benefit and value?
- In what way would PEFC be involved in the project?

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted using the Application Form. All proposals must be signed by the proponent and submitted to the email address specified below. Signature page can be faxed if necessary. It's preferable that proposals are submitted in English, but where necessary can be submitted in Spanish or French. Proponents will receive written notice confirming receipt and registration of the proposal via email shortly after the submission deadline.

The deadline for proposal submission is **11 May 2018 by 17:00 CEST**. Proposals received after this time will not be considered or issued a confirmation. Final decisions will be announced by August 2018.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to development@pefc.org or by fax at +41 22 799 4550