



International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*)
www.icipe.org

Call for Proposals
for
Data-enabled Climate shock absorbance and ecosystem resilience through Agroforestry
(Agrof4resilience) Project

Opening date: 5th October 2023
Closing date: 17 October 2023

Summary:

1	Grant type	Research and Development
2	Call thematic focus areas	Agroforestry
4	Grant size per project	Maximum of US\$30,000
5	Project duration	1 year
6	No of grants to be awarded	One (1)
7	Eligible applicants	Universities, research institutes, or firms that are resident in Kenya
8	Eligible countries	Kenya
9	Call deadline	17 October 2023 @ 11:00 hrs East Africa Time

1. BACKGROUND

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (www.icipe.org), is a world-class research institution whose mission is to conduct insect science and design strategies for its practical application, to contribute to better health, food security and, ultimately, enhanced livelihoods across Africa. *icipe* was established in 1970 by the late internationally renowned Kenyan scientist, Prof. Thomas Risley Odhiambo, at a time when the very notion that insect science – or indeed, the then woefully small indigenous scientific communities – could contribute to a prosperous future for Africa must have seemed audacious to say the least. But *icipe* has progressed and flourished just as envisioned. Today, the Centre stands as a source of pride for Kenya and for Africa, with well-deserved regional and international acclaim as the only institution on the continent working primarily on insects and other arthropods, and a hub of scientific excellence and capacity building. This esteem has been achieved through unwavering commitment to the Centre’s original vision of elevating the lives of communities across Africa, by providing solutions that are environmentally safe, pre-empt the use of harmful chemicals, are affordable, accessible and easy-to-use, for the management of pests of crops, and disease transmitting insects.

The Centre's vision is to pioneer global science in entomology to improve the well-being and resilience of people and the environment to the challenges of a changing world, through innovative and applied research, alongside deep exploratory study, impact assessment, evaluation and sustainable capacity building. Our research focuses on 4 main areas: Human Health, Animal Health, Plant Health & Environmental Health:

Animal Health research focuses on development of integrated strategies and tools for control of vectors of animal diseases to enhance livestock health and productivity and welfare of livestock keepers. Research activities are geared towards detailed understanding of vector behaviour, population ecology and vector–host and vector–parasite interactions. The **Animal Health** theme has primarily conducted studies on tsetse flies (vectors of animal and human trypanosomiasis), and ticks (which among others transmit East Coast fever).

Human **Health** research at *icipe* aims to contribute towards the reduction, elimination and eradication of vector-borne diseases. The Centre aims to achieve this goal by generating knowledge and developing sustainable tools and strategies that control vectors, break the cycle of transmission, and which can be integrated into other disease management efforts. The focus of Human Health research is malaria, leishmaniasis and some arboviral diseases.

Environmental Health research broadens the knowledge base on arthropods, their diversity and role in ecosystems. It also contributes to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity, and defines strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Plant Health research at *icipe* aims to contribute towards improving agricultural production in Africa, with the overall goal of contributing to food security, human and environmental health, and to household and national economies. It endeavours to achieve these objectives through the development of integrated pest management (IPM) options for pre- and post-harvest pests, and for parasitic weeds in staple food crops; horticultural crops and commercial crops. *icipe's* IPM strategies and technologies eschew the use of the often expensive and harmful pesticides, utilising instead, biological control, biopesticides and habitat management strategies.

Another key function at *icipe* is **Capacity Building** which is deeply integrated into the organization's Research and Development programmes. The centre has a proud tradition and an excellent reputation as an incubator of some of Africa's best young scientists. Building the capacity of people and institutions is achieved through high-level training at postgraduate and postdoctoral levels Institutional development; nurturing and strengthening of African research and development organizations and institutions; dissemination of technologies to national agricultural and health research and extension systems through training.

2.0 The Call

This call is intended for scientists from universities, research institutes, and government agencies to collect a huge agroforestry systems (AFSs) dataset and provide documentation to guide the public on how to access and use it. These datasets will then be utilized for mathematics and machine-learning modelling for purposes of AFS optimization, species identification, and sequestration valuation.

2.1 Key activities and deliverables

No.	Deliverable	Timeline
a)	Recruit one MSc student.	January 2024
b)	Develop metadata documents for all datasets.	February 2024
c)	Data collection, data cleaning, data cleaning and labelling, data quality checks, and upload (the machine learning-ready data; with guidance for other partners) to the icipe data warehouse (https://dmmg.icipe.org/dataportal/).	April 2024
d)	Participate in the interpretation of mathematical and machine learning modelling; scientifically sound prediction model of the impact of climate change on Agroforestry in Kenya.	June 2024
e)	Participate in developing exploratory visualizations: pie charts, bar graphs boxplots, and exploratory summaries produced.	July 2024
f)	Publish at least one scientific paper in peer-reviewed journals.	November 2024

2.2 Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are scientists working as employees of legally recognised universities, research institutes or firms (private sector companies) actively operating in Kenya. In call, “scientist” includes all individuals qualified in and/or creatively practising physical, natural and engineering sciences, medicine, business, social or other related disciplines. Furthermore, a scientist and the organisation he/she represents are jointly regarded as a “project partner” in a collaborative project. The scientist(s) should demonstrate experience relevant to the assignment.

2.3 Grant size and duration.

Each partner will be funded up to US\$ 30,000 (thirty thousand only) for a maximum period of one year.

3.0 Evaluation

3.1 Selection process

When the proposals are received, they will be automatically assigned registration numbers. The proposals will then be screened by the Tender evaluation Committee (TEC) to ensure that they are complete and meet the eligibility requirements. Incomplete proposals and those which fail the eligibility check will be automatically disqualified.

Each full proposal submitted will be evaluated by an internally appointed Technical Committee (TC). The TC will then convene to make the final decision on proposals to be funded based on the evaluation comments on each proposal and their own assessment of the quality, feasibility, and potential impact of the proposal.

3.2 Evaluation criteria

The proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria. Each criterion is marked out of 10 points.

No.	Criterion
a)	Technical capacity of the team in terms of qualifications and competencies for the assignment
b)	Innovativeness of the proposed solution (scientific and technical aspects)
c)	A well-articulated and technical methodology demonstrating a scientifically sound understanding of the assignment
d)	A demonstration of similar works done in Kenya
e)	Work plan clearly indicating the maximum time/duration required for the assignment
f)	Team composition and motivation of the team members (gender balance in the team is highly encouraged)

All decisions of the TEC on the proposals are final and shall not be subject to further claims or revisions. Furthermore, the TEC reserves the right to revoke its decision on a selected proposal if it is established that the information provided by the applicant is false.

4.0 Ethical issues

In the process of preparing the project grant application, the project team is obliged to observe ethical principles and rules and describe how ethical issues in the application will be addressed. The applicant should indicate plans to obtain ethical approval from relevant bodies.

5.0 Key requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

- a) A fully completed proposal of a maximum of five pages excluding references, CV(s), and other testimonials. The proposal should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, margins normal (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins), and orientation portrait. The structure of the proposal should be as follows:
 - Title
 - Introduction
 - Materials and Methods
 - Expected Outcomes
 - Conclusion
- b) Proof of legal status of the organisation, e.g., a certificate of registration or incorporation, statute, gazette, etc.
- c) A signed letter of support from the head of the organization.
- d) Two-page CV of each project team member.

6.0 How to apply

6.1 Application guideline:

Applications should be prepared in English language in format outlined under 5.0 above.

6.2 Submission deadline

Proposals should be submitted in soft copies via e-mail to: icipetenders@icipe.org on or before **17 October 2023 at 11:00 hrs East Africa Time**. Late submissions will be rejected.

6.3 Conditions for submission

By submitting a proposal the applicant agrees to the following:

- a) to abide by all rules for participating in this call process as outlined in the call and related documents.
- b) that the *icipe* decision on the proposal is final.
- c) that if successful, the names, and organisation of affiliation of members of the project team, and title, objectives and total budget of the project will be shared on the *icipe* web site (*The applicant should notify icipe Grants & Partnerships Office if there are any proprietary and confidential business information, which should not be publicly shared*).
- d) that the names of TC shall be kept confidential and will not be released to applicants under any circumstances. However, feedback based on the review comments will be provided to the applicant.
- e) that a prospective applicant can participate in and make only one application in this Call category, and further that an applicant who is project team Leader in a project in this Call category cannot lead a project in the other Call categories.
- f) that the call timelines and schedules of fund disbursement to selected project proposals may be adjusted without prior notice in the event of uncertainties in funding.
- g) That the obligation to make payments of any sums to under this call for proposals will be conditional upon the funder's continued support for the Grant.

7.0 Important dates to watch

	Activity	Date/Month
1	Call open	5 October 2023
2	Call closed	17 October 2023
3	Shortlisted proposals	19 October 2023
5	Announcement of selected proposals	27 October 2023

8.0 Further information

Please, visit www.icipe.org for more information about *icipe*. All enquiries about this call should be addressed to the *icipe* Procurement Manager in writing at icipetenders@icipe.org.