Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) Announces 2019 Request for Proposals to Fund *Science to Solutions* Teams

Request for Proposals Due Date: **1 May 2019 at 5:00pm, Pacific Time**
Website: https://snappartnership.net/   For inquiries email: proposal@snappartnership.net

The world's biggest conservation and sustainable development challenges demand innovative solutions. The Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) believes successful solutions require more than a single organization or sector acting alone. We now release our **2019 Request for Proposals** to find new cross-sector and interdisciplinary teams willing to do science differently for lasting impact.

SNAPP funds science that leads to rapid, tangible and enduring benefits to conservation and sustainable development. To achieve this, SNAPP funds teams of 12-20 people from diverse organizations to gather for 3-4 collaborative sessions over the course of 24 months. These *working groups* conceive new ideas, synthesize data relevant to their work, and deliver rapid solutions to the most critical challenges facing humans and our planet. Between sessions, members collaborate remotely, work with long-term implementation partners, develop and test tools and products, and publish research. SNAPP teams influence policy at national and international levels and initiate action across sectors.

Each year, SNAPP provides up to US$1 million total across 4-6 approved working groups, led by academic, governmental agency, multilateral, or nonprofit institutions. SNAPP's founding partners include two international conservation organizations and a synthesis science center – The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, which is the standard location for working group meetings. Including members from TNC and WCS in your proposal is strongly encouraged but not required. Prospective applicants from TNC and WCS should reach out to Jessica Musengezi and Kate Mastro (respectively) to discuss proposal ideas.

Please note: SNAPP funds are provided to convene working groups and, in some cases, to support salaries of postdoctoral fellows or research/technical assistants committed to specific projects (see below); funds cannot be used to cover salaries of Principal Investigators or other group members.

SNAPP welcomes proposals for working groups on <u>all</u> conservation/sustainable development topics.

Urgent response "climate, oceans and equity" opportunity: With funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, SNAPP seeks to fund one or more urgent response working group proposals (in addition to those funded through the standard RFP). These proposals should rapidly address critical questions at the intersection of climate, oceans and equity to seek solutions that are also pragmatic, feasible to implement quickly and widely applicable across the globe. Example questions might address:

- What does "climate-smart" management and governance look like for marine conservation interventions (e.g., fisheries, protected areas), particularly if we consider "return on investment" for those interventions?

- How do climate influenced changes in marine food web structures and availability interact with human communities' ability to respond to change and manage cultural practices, identity, and nutrition?

Note: Funded teams will meet 2-3 times over 18 months and collaborate closely with each other and the Coastal Outcomes SNAPP working group.

TO APPLY:
Proposals are due no later than **5:00pm PT on 1 May 2019**. Please download and complete both the Proposal Table template in Microsoft Word and the budget worksheet in Excel. **Applicants for the "climate, oceans and equity" opportunity, please use our urgent response budgeting worksheet.** Please edit these documents to include all information about your proposal. Proposal templates should be formatted to standard letter size (8.5" W by 11" L) with graphics embedded directly in the document. Proposals and budgets should be saved and uploaded as separate files at: http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/snap/rfpform.

You must submit *both* a proposal and a separate budget worksheet. Do not submit compressed collections of files (such as .ZIP files). Please do NOT submit the budget worksheet as a PDF – submit as an Excel file only; a proposal in any other format will be returned as incomplete. Receipt of proposals will be confirmed in email. Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.

Applicants will be notified of final decisions by 31 October 2019. Leaders of approved projects should plan to begin work on the project soon after approval, and to hold their first working group meeting by no later than the first quarter of 2020.

Questions? See the following section or contact SNAPP at: proposal@snappartnership.net

More information to prepare your proposal

What does SNAPP mean by sustainable economic development, human well-being, and nature conservation?

Sustainable economic development refers to the policy and investments that *create the conditions for equitable and inclusive economic growth* and improved quality of life by expanding livelihood opportunities for all segments of society including individuals, business interests, and communities while advancing mutual gain for the public and the private sector.

Human well-being, in the broadest terms, is about the objective and subjective factors that make up a person's health and quality of life. It is context specific. Human well-being can be affected by material and non-material components, such as basic material needs (e.g., adequate income, housing), physical and mental health, social relations (e.g., cohesion, strong social support networks), freedom and choice, governance, and equity and equality.

Nature conservation can refer to either broad issues of conservation that are problem-oriented (e.g., climate change, land-use change, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity offsets, illegal trade in wildlife) or biodiversity conservation efforts directly (e.g., matters related to composition, structure, and function of ecosystems). Nature conservation can also include efforts focused on conserving ecological processes that form the foundation for ecosystem services (e.g., natural flow regimes, fire regimes, nutrient cycling).

What is the model of a good working group?

NCEAS has run synthesis science working groups since 1995 and hosted SNAPP teams since 2013. In an analysis of our outcomes, we have found that effective working groups tend to include the following:

- A trans-disciplinary team of 12-18 individuals from a broad suite of sectors, institutions, and specialties who would not otherwise convene around a science and conservation challenge. Scientists, managers and practitioners, and other experts will work together from the beginning to design the project and co-produce its products and outcomes.

- Contributions of individuals from diverse backgrounds, beliefs and cultures. We encourage applications and participation from all cultures, ethnicities, religions, national or regional origins, ages, disability statuses, sexual orientations, gender identities, military or veteran statuses or other status protected by law.

- A willingness to abide by the [open science and data principles of SNAPP](#).

- Principal Investigators (PIs, or team leads) with demonstrable experience and skills leading diverse teams to achieve both scientific and action-oriented objectives.

- A trained facilitator to plan and manage the first working group meeting (and maybe more), while not required, can help the group launch in a productive way. This can be especially helpful throughout the project for PIs who are new to collaborative, trans-disciplinary and multi-sector working groups.

- Groups are encouraged to consider whether a post-doctoral research fellow could be crucial to the group's success. Several past SNAPP projects have increased productivity with postdocs focused on supporting group analyses and maintaining project momentum between meetings. For more information about budgeting for this option, see the related section below.

- Working group members from WCS and/or TNC are highly recommended, as are representatives from other conservation and sustainable development NGOs (and similar organizations or government agencies). See the related question below about working group composition.

- Three to four working group meetings spread over a 2-year period (except for those applying to the special, "urgent response" opportunity). Each meeting is 4-5 days and focused on data analysis (qualitative and quantitative), synthesis of existing data and information, and ongoing development of implementation products (e.g., policy recommendations, decision support tools, new strategic approaches). Most meetings are held at NCEAS in Santa Barbara, CA, where meeting room facilities, travel and logistical support, and IT (information technology) support are provided by SNAPP. Collaboration and analysis continue between meetings.

- One designated Technical Liaison to work with NCEAS scientific programming and IT staff on the group's computing needs, including collaboration capabilities (project management capabilities and email alias), data entry and organization, database development, statistical analyses, modeling, and metadata development and distribution. This could be one of the PIs, a post-doc, or another working group member who has agreed to fulfill this role.

- One designated Communications Liaison to work with SNAPP Communications staff on the outreach aspects of the project, including the creation of a project website and announcements about products and outcomes. This could be one of the PIs, a post-doc, or another working group member who has agreed to fulfill this role.

Who is eligible to apply for a SNAPP working group?
Researchers and practitioners of any nationality affiliated with an academic, governmental agency, multilateral, or nonprofit institution may submit a proposal. Individuals operating independently are also eligible to apply. Individuals from private sector institutions are fully eligible to be participants of a working group but are not eligible to lead SNAPP working groups as PIs. Individuals and organizations from the humanitarian and development sectors are encouraged to submit SNAPP proposals. Proposals from low- and middle-income countries are especially welcomed.

How should a diverse team of individuals be included in my working group?
Your group should include a trans-disciplinary mix of 12-20 individual experts – scientists and practitioners from the public, private and NGO sectors, including from conservation, humanitarian, and sustainable development organizations; governments; multilateral institutions; and/or corporations.

A significant portion of the group should include individuals whose organizational roles allow them to apply science results to inform policy and practice related to conservation and sustainable development. Proposals that indicate *confirmed* participation of some such individuals will be viewed favorably. SNAPP staff can help identify relevant contacts within TNC and WCS, as necessary. Proposals should include experts from the sustainable development sector; please review participant lists of current and completed SNAPP teams to find examples of organizations from this sector that have worked with us.

Members should work together from the beginning of the project to design and co-produce its knowledge products. Gaining strong participation commitments from the outset will help maximize project success, since the group's proposal and first meeting will set the project research questions and a clear plan for all remaining work.

How should our proposal demonstrate a plan to connect our science results to entities that can use these results to guide policy and practice?
SNAPP aims to deliver innovative science in a practical form that can be rapidly adopted by its intended audiences or partners (e.g., field programs working on linkages of wildlife health and human livelihoods, national governments in eastern Africa focused on forests and sustainable agriculture intensification, or state governments in western US addressing water rights and drought issues). Successful proposals will clearly articulate a likely series of actions and intended outcomes that will ensue as a result of the new knowledge, methods, strategies or tools produced by the working group. (To that effect, the proposal template prompts a brief, distilled articulation of your "theory of change" that suggests how the project's science will lead to solutions.)

To describe your pathway from science to action, please consider:
> 1) What are your proposed products and outputs?
> 2) What are the specific changes to policy or practice that may result from your products and will extend beyond the 2-year life of your SNAPP working group?
> 3) Who are the specific people (decision-makers) who must see and understand your results in order to make the potential policy changes identified above?
> 4) How will you engage those people during the project and as it concludes?
> 5) Can some or all of those key people (or similar representatives from WCS, TNC, other conservation, humanitarian or sustainable development-oriented organizations, government agencies, etc.) serve on your working group, to advise on the types of results they need?

Please note that while scientific papers are expected outputs of SNAPP working groups, these papers alone are insufficient products for a competitive SNAPP working group. See Table 1 below for examples of products from existing SNAPP working groups.

Successful working group proposals will include a letter or email endorsement from one or more program or entity (whose staff will participate in the working group), stating why the working group's efforts are important and outlining how they intend to use the results.

What support, in addition to funding, does SNAPP provide to funded working groups?

SNAPP staff and program representatives will provide various support throughout the project, including:
- Meeting travel, logistics and reimbursement support
- Contract development support, as appropriate
- General data analysis support provided by the SNAPP Scientific Programmer and data interns
- Communications and outreach support, including in the development of a project webpage and promotion of resulting products
- Working group and project management advice, as appropriate, informed by SNAPP staff's experience with successful working groups

How do I consider whether to include postdoc or graduate research assistant support in my proposal?

Some projects greatly benefit from the participation of a postdoc or other research analyst, who can help guide the analytical components of your project. SNAPP may fund a project's postdoc or graduate research assistant for 1-2 years in cases when the project proposal makes a clear and effective justification for their need, and when the budget indicates reasonable cost estimates. Please remember that each proposal is evaluated for its "cost-effective" estimate of use of funds. One way to demonstrate cost effectiveness is to indicate cases when significant funding for postdoc or other research analytical support has been already secured through other means, through third-party funding or pre-existing working relationships.

Alternatively, some projects may not need the full analytical support of a postdoc and may instead have need for tasks such as data harmonization or related research support. In those cases, SNAPP may fund a Research Assistant, Data Intern or a third-party contractor, as appropriate. This should only be necessary if/when the standard data support provided by SNAPP's Scientific Programmer and data interns are insufficient (see above).

How do I prepare a SNAPP budget?

Proposals should include an estimated budget, prepared using the budget worksheet template (see detailed instructions therein). NCEAS' location in Santa Barbara, California is used by default to calculate participant costs for domestic meetings in the US, including standard estimates for travel, lodging, and food. For meetings scheduled outside of the US, use the "International" worksheet tab and provide estimates for approximate travel, lodging, and food costs in that location.

SNAPP funds may be used to defray costs associated with convening working groups, engaging a facilitator, acquisition and integration of existing data, and publication of results. In general, we do not fund collection of new primary data. Please remember that SNAPP funds may not be used to pay salaries of working group leads or participants, or to cover overhead expenses. We may provide full or partial funding for postdoctoral fellows focused on data management and analysis when clear justification for these costs has been included in the project proposal. Approximate costs for such support are shown in the budget template.
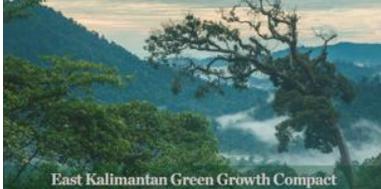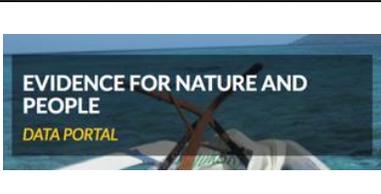
Are matching sources of funding required for a successful application?

Matching sources are not required but are strongly encouraged; proposals that have secured funding in addition to SNAPP funding will be given preferential consideration in the proposal review process.

We welcome proposers (e.g., foundations, agencies, other non-governmental organizations) with their own funding who want to use the SNAPP neutral space, intellectual infrastructure and NCEAS informatics and convening support to tackle projects at the intersection of human well-being, sustainable

economic development and nature conservation. These proposals can be flexible in format and can be submitted anytime to SNAPP, including outside this Request for Proposal period.

Table 1. Examples of outputs and products from current and completed SNAPP working groups.
(Note: you should not reproduce this table for your application unless desired. Please see the SNAPP website for other examples of products that have come out of past working groups: snappartnership.net/our-work/solutions)

	Implementer Cultivation - connecting science results directly to programs and entities ready to apply results to policy and practice **Example**: Indonesian government's decision on Reduced Impact Logging (Forest Sharing or Sparing group)
	Journal article (peer review) - also would include peer-reviewed or academic-audience book chapters **Example**: Mapping the global potential for marine aquaculture (Offshore Aquaculture group)
	News Coverage - newspapers, television, periodicals, blogs, video and animation clips intended for non-technical audiences **Example**: Natural barriers are a key defense against storms like Harvey and Irma (Coastal Defenses group)
	Online tool/application – for decision support, visualization of data or results; may include proprietary data sets that cannot be published outright **Example**: Evidence for Nature and People Data Portal (Evidence-based Conservation group)
	Technical guidelines - formal document hosted by a third-party with authority to require or influence the target audience to comply with the principles therein **Example**: Fisheries Management Guidebook for Non-Fisheries Managers (Data-limited Fisheries group)