

Future Earth Announces 2018 Request for Proposals to support Synthesis Science for Ocean Sustainability

Request for Proposals Due Date: August 6, 2018 at 5:00pm PDT

Website: <http://futureearth.org/pegasus>

Proposal Submissions: <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/submissions/pegasus-2-ocean-sustainability>

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Future Earth is pleased to announce **PEGASuS 2: Ocean Sustainability**, a partnership between [Future Earth](#), the [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis \(NCEAS\)](#), and [Colorado State University's Global Biodiversity Center](#).

Background

The ocean forms a globally connected ecosystem and highly dynamic environment of physical, chemical, and biological interaction. It maintains a great diversity of life, exchanges mass and heat with the atmosphere and modulates our climate. The ocean, including coastal and nearshore areas, thus provides services essential for life on earth and to the history, culture and livelihoods of people across the globe. However, the ocean is also facing multiple challenges from climate change, overfishing, acidification, de-oxygenation and pollution. Accordingly, the United Nations referred to the importance of a healthy ocean in several of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PEGASuS 2: Ocean Sustainability is an open call for research projects that focus on synthesis research for ocean sustainability. Based on the successful model implemented by NCEAS, *PEGASuS 2* will support up to four working groups to convene at NCEAS in Santa Barbara, California. Additionally, one postdoctoral fellow will be supported to engage with selected research teams. For more information on NCEAS, see <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/>.

Thematic Areas

Proposals for PEGASuS-NCEAS Working Groups should address some or all of the following **thematic areas**:

1. Creating sustainable ocean pathways that account for and minimize the negative impacts of global change on the oceans, and determining system limits beyond which further global change will create large scale, negative, and potentially irreversible shifts in ocean systems. Our capacity to sustainability derive services from the ocean depends on our understanding of the multi-scale changes in ocean systems, and the additive, antagonistic, and synergistic effects of the multiple drivers and stressors of these changes. The local, regional, national and international policies and behaviors that set the direction and intensity of human-caused changes in ocean systems should

be informed by a clear understanding of ocean system limits and the risks associated with transgressing those limits. Proposals for this working group should focus on the interactions among changes, stressors, and dynamics including ocean acidification, deoxygenation, circulation, temperature, sea level, overfishing, and pollution. They should seek to define limits beyond which the stability of ocean systems is significantly compromised, and to understand the likely environmental, social, and economic consequences associated with crossing those limits.

2. Predicting, mitigating, and responding to ocean disasters to reduce risk.

Climate change, rising sea levels, changing storm patterns, and the increasing complexity of human use of ocean and sub-ocean resources collectively create a range of risk factors that vary and interact across space and time. Proposals may focus on the prediction, mitigation, adaptation, valuation, and response to ocean disaster risk. We encourage consideration of interactions between global environmental change and ocean related disaster risks, as well as disaster response strategies that reduce vulnerability and increase stability, resilience, and adaptive capacity in social, natural, and physical systems.

3. Assessing governance and policy for ocean sustainability

Ocean governance, and policy in our current time of rapid change are of critical importance. Coral bleaching events, rising sea levels, and stronger storms, among other new (or 'new normal') events, make it clear that we need to be prepared to respond to uncertain, unknown, and/or novel conditions. But are our current ocean governance systems, and policies set up to address this change? Ocean governance research often remains underdeveloped. Work in this area should focus on the effectiveness of governance structures and policy frameworks (at local, regional, national and international scales) in supporting ocean sustainability. Work in this area can focus on decision-making under uncertainty, The role of interdisciplinarity (and multiple sectors) for ocean governance, Ocean climate change communication, Governance, institutions, and ocean climate change, Information/policy transfer, best practices, scaling up and out, Climate justice and equity, and Science-based targets for ocean sustainability.

Working group eligibility

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

Working groups teams are *strongly encouraged* to include at least four individuals (or at least 25% of the total group) representing the Future Earth Global Research Projects (GRPs) and Knowledge-Action Networks (KANs).

All working group members are required to create a profile at <http://network.futureearth.org>

Submission Information

Proposals are due no later than 5pm PT on **August 6, 2018**. Proposals, budgets, and working group participant list should be saved and uploaded as separate files at: <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/submissions/pegasus-2-ocean-sustainability>.

Proposals should follow the format given below and be converted to PDF before uploading. Budgets should use the Excel template provided at this link. Proposals should be formatted to standard letter size (8.5" W by 11" L) with graphics embedded directly in the document. Do not submit compressed collections of files, such as .ZIP files. Receipt of proposals will be confirmed in email. Late or incomplete submissions will be returned without review. Applicants will be notified of final decisions by **September 15, 2018**. Leaders of approved projects should plan to begin work on the project soon after approval, and to hold their first working group meeting ideally by the last quarter of 2018 and no later than early 2019.

Proposals should generally follow the format given here and **should not exceed 5 pages**:

Part 1. Title of the research project. Titles should be catchy and short enough to use for general communication purposes.

Part 2. Brief, compelling, three to five sentence summary, in third person, of the project's proposed work in words that a layperson would understand. This summary will be used in all official Future Earth and NCEAS communications (website, press releases, annual reports, etc.). Use verbiage that is understandable to technical and non-technical audiences and can be used in isolation from the rest of the proposal.

Part 3. Problem Statement: Describe the issue to be addressed and how this team's work will make a significant contribution to and fill a unique niche within sustainability science related to oceans. Explain how the proposed research aligns with the Future Earth Mission: *to accelerate transformations to global sustainability through research and innovation*. In addition, describe how the proposed work contributes to solutions within some or all of the **thematic areas** described above.

Part 4. Research plan: Describe the interdisciplinary research activities that will be undertaken using the [NCEAS Working Group model](#). Describe the proposed working groups activities, expected results, outcomes, and products of this work and explain the metrics of success.

Part 5. Team Composition: Explain why the proposed activity requires an interdisciplinary approach and provide a rationale for the proposed interdisciplinary working group. In general, it is expected that researchers from different disciplines will be required to meet the program's interdisciplinary nature of the thematic areas. Diversity in background, nationality, institutional rank, gender, and expertise will be strongly valued.

Part 6. Describe how an NCEAS-based postdoctoral fellow will add value to the working group.

Applicants are encouraged to use the Open Network (<http://network.futureearth.org>) in order to reach out to community members, form teams, and develop proposals.

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by anonymous external reviewers based on their inclusion of:

- Extent to which the research focuses on one or more of the Thematic Areas
- Direct path to impacting policy or practice and broad applicability of results
- Clear and intriguing science questions, and relation to the [Future Earth mission](#)
- Diversity in sectors, disciplines and members of working groups.
- Cost-effective use of Future Earth funding and leveraging of other funds.

Download the Budget Worksheet document [here](#). Note that you must submit a proposal, a separate budget worksheet, and a list of participants (using [this form](#)).

Working group expected outputs

We expect each working group to produce a summary report as well as at least one article submitted to an academic journal for publication, and to archive data and code in a repository (e.g., [KNB](#)). In addition, we encourage the working groups to focus on practical knowledge generation that can tie directly into policy and/or management action.

Questions?

Contact Future Earth at: craig.starger@futureearth.org