| **SLU Forest Damage Centre** | **Application template** SLU ID:.SLU.sfak.2024.1.1.1-423  19/12/2024 |
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Application template for project support within forest damage

The SLU Forest Damage Centre announces a call focused on forest damage with the explicit purpose of strengthening collaboration with other authorities or institutions, such as the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, the Forestry Research Institute or the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The call is open for research or other projects, including communication efforts, workshops, visiting researchers, or researcher exchange (Appendix 1). Project duration: 2025-2027, with a maximum length of 24 months.

Collaborations and co-development of projects with other authorities or institutions, or between researchers from different departments at SLU, are explicitly encouraged. In addition, projects including a social science perspective are especially encouraged. Internal or external co-funding, whether financial or in kind, is also strongly encouraged. The SLU Forest Damage Centre can assist applicants with contacts to other authorities or institutions on request. Collaborative projects with other authorities or institutions need to include a letter of intent from the external partner, outlining their commitment to co-finance the project (either financially or in kind).

Applications will be evaluated according to below grounds of assessment (*project question, method and performance, relevant competence, societal relevance and communication*). Collaborative projects that are co-funded by external partners either financial or in-kind, will be given priority if two projects have the same scientific quality. Also, projects including a social science perspective will be given priority if two projects have the same scientific quality.

Projects for the research school as well as long-term monitoring projects will be handled separately and should not be included here.

The main applicant needs to be employed at SLU. The total budget for this call is 3 million SEK. The maximum budget that can be applied for is 700 000 SEK. Please find more detailed information on type of support and funding categories in Appendix 1. Funded projects are required to submit a short status report after 12 months and a final report upon project completion

Please note that the project funds will be transferred to the main applicants department in 2025 and 2026, even if the project continues in 2027.

Please read below how to apply.

## Grounds of assessment

### Project question

- Relevance of the project, in relation to scientific novelty, methodological advancement or other needs specified

- Quality of intended output

### Method and performance

- Feasibility and suitability of the methods

- Well-defined and realistic work plan

- Ethical considerations when relevant

- Reasonable budget in relation to the intentions

### Relevant competence

- Ability to carry out and coordinate the project and the research group

- Communication skills (dissemination of results to stakeholders/end users)

- Strength and competitiveness of the research group

### Societal relevance and communication

- Connection to social/sectoral issues

- Short- or long-term practical application

- Stakeholder/end user needs accounted for

- A concrete and realistic plan for communication and other output

## How to apply

Applications should be written in English with a popular summary in Swedish.

To apply, use **this application template and attach the main applicant’s CV**, along with a **letter of intent from the external collaborative partner** (if applicable). The CV should be no more than two pages and include the 10 most relevant publications.

Please adjust the box sizes below according to the length of your answer but ensure that the total text does not exceed the specified character limits for each box. Note that the **character count** includes spaces.

Applications need to be signed **electronically via EduSign** and shall be submitted digitally to [applyFDC@slu.se](mailto:applyFDC@slu.se)

**The deadline for this call is the 21 March 2025.**

## Timeline of this call

After the submission deadline (21March 2025), an evaluation committee that is independent from the SLU Forest Damage Centre staff and not part of its steering group, will assess all applications.

Based on the comments from the evaluation committee, a final decision will be made by the centres steering group in April 2025.

## Questions

For questions, please contact the administrative coordinator of the SLU Forest Damage Centre, [katja.fedrowitz@slu.se](mailto:katja.fedrowitz@slu.se).

| **1. Project title:**  (max 100 characters) |  | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2.**  **a) Funding category:**  (see Appendix 1 for more information) | Research project  Communication project  Researcher exchange  Visiting researcher  Other (specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Type of support:  Continuation of a project previously funded by the SLU Forest Damage Centre  New |
| **b) Collaboration with other authorities or institutions** | The project has been developed and will run in collaboration with one or more other authority or institution.  The project has been developed and will run in collaboration between different departments or faculties at SLU.  There is no explicit collaboration with other authorities or institutions or other departments at SLU included in this project. | |
|  | Name of the external stakeholder(s) and/or other departments at SLU, if applicable:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |

| **3. Project coordinator** |  |
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| Name: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Department: |  |

| **4.** **Popular summary in Swedish:**  (max 1500 characters) |
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| **5.** **Description of the project sorted under the following headings** (max 5000 characters)  a) The purpose/background of the project/main problems/hypothesis addressed  b) For continuation, explain why there is a need for this, e.g. preliminary results c) What will the benefits including the practical applicability be for:   * the SLU Forest Damage Centre and its development, * science (the scientific needs and achievements), * society in general, and * the forest sector specifically.   d) Describe the cross-disciplinarity and the roles of all collaborative partners (internal and external) in the project e) Describe how gender equality is considered |
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| **6. Methodology and time plan (include start and ending date)** (max 1500 characters) |
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| **7. List the expected outputs, including communication outputs** (max 1000 characters) |
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| **8. Competence of the applicants and other relevant information** (max 1000 characters) |
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| **9. Budget summary (find SLU’s project calculator** [**here**](https://internt.slu.se/en/support-services/external-funding/regler-och-verktyg/project-calculator/)**)** | | | | | | | |
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| **in SEK** | **Applied for from the SLU Forest Damage Centre in this call** | **Co-financing**  **(if applicable)** | | | **Co-financing by external partners**  **(if applicable)** | | **Total** |
|  |  | **In money** | **In kind** | **In money** | | **In kind** |  |
| Salary and OH |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Meeting costs |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Communication |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Travel and accommodation |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Other costs (specify e.g. equipment) |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| **Total SUM (SEK)** |  |  |  |  | |  |  |

| **10. Explanations to the budget**(max 1500 characters) |
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| **Signature of the project coordinator via EduSign** |
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| **Signature of the head at the department for the project coordinator via EduSign** |
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Appendix 1

Explanation to funding categories and type of support:

*Research projects*

Research projects are projects with the explicit purpose of filling crucial knowledge gaps in any of the centres’ areas of interest. Projects can span over one to two years.

*Communication projects*

These projects include all kind of communicative initiatives that enhance communication in any of the centres’ areas of interest, e.g. book or film projects, workshops or other communicative initiatives.

*Visiting researchers or researcher exchange*

The support is for researchers at any level to visit SLU or to stay at another university or research institute. It can be used for internships for PhD students, post docs, guest professors or for other strategic exchange within scientific areas of interest for the centre. Support for participation in conferences or courses is not included. Granted support may be used for travel expenses and accommodation costs for visiting guests while in Sweden or outgoing researchers while abroad. Support will typically range from 10 000 – 300 000 SEK.

*Other*

It is possible that there may be a need for other types of support not specified in the list. After discussion with the centre leadership it is possible to specify that here.

*Type of support*

It is possible to apply for support for a new or continuation of an already started project. This is primarily going to be relevant for research projects.

If not stated otherwise above, granted support may be used to cover salary (including overhead costs), travel expenses, accommodation costs, or equipment.