Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) Announces 2018 Request for Proposals to Fund *Science to Solutions* Teams

Request for Proposals Due Date: 6 June 2018 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) takes on this key challenge and believes that successful solutions cannot be achieved by a single organization acting alone. SNAPP announces its **2018 Request for Proposals** to convene interdisciplinary teams and invites you to be a part of the solution!

Just as human and natural systems are bolstered by biodiversity, people tackle complex problems more readily in diverse environments. SNAPP provides funding to bring together teams of 12-18 people from diverse organizations that we refer to as *working groups.* SNAPP working groups meet intensively in 3-4 in-person collaborative sessions (lasting 3-5 days each) over the course of 18-24 months. Strong leaders with open minds and flexible facilitation styles guide the teams to deliver rapid solutions to the most critical challenges facing humans and our planet. Between sessions, team members collaborate remotely to publish research, develop implementation tools and products, and support decision-makers' use of the results. Each year, SNAPP provides up to US$1 million total across 4-6 approved working groups, led by academic, governmental agency, multilateral, or not-for-profit institutions.

We fund science that makes things happen. SNAPP working groups include experts from diverse disciplines to synthesize data relevant to their work, as well as key people poised to make changes in the humanitarian, sustainable development and conservation sectors and to influence policy at national and international levels.

More information on proposal preparation can be found below in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. *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 FAQ); funds cannot be used to cover salaries of Principal Investigators or other group members.

SNAPP's Science Advisory Council & Board of Directors evaluate proposals based on their inclusion of:
- Robust plan to connect science results directly to the programs and entities that can use these results to guide policy and practice
- Clear, intriguing science questions at the intersection of sustainable development & conservation
- Team diversity in sectors, disciplines and members (see FAQ for additional guidance)
- Cost-effective plan for use of SNAPP funding, including efficient budgets and matching or leveraging other funds

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. Including members from TNC and WCS in your proposal is strongly encouraged but not required. The standard location for meetings of working groups is NCEAS in Santa Barbara, CA.

Apply for funding from now through **6 June 2018, 5pm PT** and join the ranks of SNAPP leaders whose influential science to solutions include (as four examples):
- the science behind the Chinese government's elephant ivory trade ban
- an online tool co-created for and by data-limited fisheries managers across the globe
- a World Bank guide to win-wins for human communities and coastal ecosystems in danger
- persuading the Indonesian government to adopt a Reduced Impact Logging for Carbon protocol as a national standard

TO APPLY:
Proposals are due no later than 5pm PT on **6 June 2018**. Please download and complete both the Proposal Table template in Microsoft Word and the budget worksheet in Excel. 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 PDF 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). 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 31 October 2018. 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 2019.

Questions? See FAQ below or contact SNAPP at: proposal@snappartnership.net Tel.: (805) 893-7551

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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 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. 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 continues 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 12-18 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 the 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 describe your pathway from science to action, please consider your project's: a) proposed outputs or products; b) programs and entities who are asking for these products and are represented in your group (e.g., WCS, TNC, other conservation, humanitarian or sustainable development-oriented organizations, natural resource governmental agencies); and c) the projected outcomes that will extend beyond the 2-year life of SNAPP working groups. 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:

- Some working group and project management advisory support, informed by SNAPP staff's experience with successful working groups
- Some support connecting to related partner organizations and agencies that may either send a representative to join your group or engage with the group as it enters the implementation phase
- 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
- Some contract development support, as necessary
- Meeting travel and logistics support

How do I consider whether to include postdoc support in my proposal?
Some projects greatly benefit from the participation of a postdoc, who can help guide the analytical components of your project. SNAPP may fund a project's postdoc 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 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 or Data Intern. 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. 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.
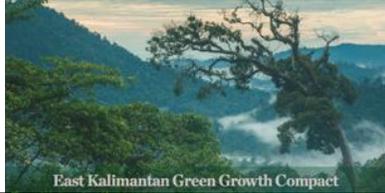
SNAPP funds may be used to defray costs associated with convening working groups, engaging a facilitator, acquisition and integration of existing data, and publication of results. In general, we do not fund collection of new primary data. Please remember that SNAPP funds may not be used to pay salaries 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 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. They will be reviewed by SNAPP science advisors, Director and Management team, with final decisions made by the Board of Directors.

Table 1. Examples of outputs and products from current and completed SNAPP working groups

	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)