



UK-Colombia Networking workshop 2017

Date of Workshop: 22 – 23 February 2017

Location: Bogota, Colombia

Closing date for Expression of Interest: 13 January 2017

The UK's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) jointly with the Colombian Administrative Department of Science Technology and Innovation – Colciencias expect to issue a joint call for research proposals in Spring 2017. In preparation for the call, NERC and AHRC are inviting expressions of interest for eligible UK researchers to attend a two-day workshop on 22-23 February 2017 in Colombia to explore UK-Colombian opportunities for collaboration.

The aim of the workshop is to facilitate new collaborative working relationships between UK environmental and arts/humanities researchers and Colombian researchers, and to inform researchers about the scope of the call and the evidence needs of the supporting Colombian departments (regions).

The call will focus on exploring the Colombian biodiversity in different ecosystems, understanding its functional role in ecosystem services, the benefits derived by humans, and resilience in order to develop regional management plans and other inputs for decision-making. Research will inform and support the socially inclusive sustainable management of ecosystems and biological resources, recognising the value of traditional knowledge, historical perspectives, cultural values and heritage as a way to stimulate community engagement, particularly in post conflict territories. Participating Colombian departments (regions) will be confirmed in the call, but are likely to include Cundinamarca; Nariño (Tumaco); Boyacá; Risaralda; San Andres and Bolivar.

Anticipated environmental research skills would be those in biodiversity; ecosystem functioning and services; environmental omics; landscape modelling; and Earth Observation; with applications relevant to coastal marine, upland, tropical dry-forest, wet forest and agri-environment, agro-biodiversity and soil systems. Perspectives from the arts and humanities may include the environmental humanities; livelihoods, social and economic alternatives for the sustainable use of biodiversity in post-conflict scenario; community engagement with environmental issues; the role of the history of a region in understanding its human/nature relationships; how language, culture, ethics, faith and belief contribute to the understanding of biodiversity and the roles people play within ecosystems (traditional knowledge) and the unsustainable use of biodiversity and natural capital in the eyes of violence and peace construction.

It is hoped that these research collaborations will work together to apply for the UK-Colombian call for proposals which is expected to launch in Spring 2017. Through this call, NERC and AHRC are intending to provide approximately £6 million to support the UK side of joint research projects in these topic areas. **It is not a requirement to attend the workshop to be able to apply to the call for funding.**

Background of the Newton Fund

The planned UK-Colombia call for proposals which is expected to launch early 2017 is funded through the Newton Fund. The Newton Fund was launched in 2014 and originally consisted of £75 million each year for 5 years. In the 2015 UK Spending Review it was agreed to extend and expand the Fund. The Newton Fund was extended from 2019 to 2021 and expanded by doubling the £75 million investment to £150 million by 2021, leading to a £735 million UK investment to 2021, with partner countries providing matched resources within the Fund. The Newton Fund requires that the UK funding is awarded in a manner that fits with [ODA guidelines](#). All applications under this call must therefore be compliant with these guidelines and demonstrate this compliance within the written proposal.

Who Should Attend?

We would like to see expressions of interest from UK researchers who are eligible for funding from the Research Councils and are interested in applying for the research grant funding call. Colciencias will be responsible for the selection process of researchers from Colombia. The event will provide an opportunity to hear more about the call and to network with potential collaborators. It is not a requirement to attend the workshop to be able to apply to the call for funding. Reasonable costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence would be covered by the Research Councils.

Researchers from both NERC and AHRC communities are invited to submit expressions of interest. We would expect the balance of attendees from these communities to reflect the balance of the respective research areas outlined in the call.

Applying to Attend

Those who wish to attend should register their interest by completing this Survey Gizmo [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#).

Selection of the participants will be made by the respective funding agencies; NERC and AHRC in the UK. The deadline for UK researchers to submit an Expression of Interest Form is **16:00GMT on 13 January 2016**.

The UK expect to support 15-20 attendees to the workshop (covering flight and hotel costs). Due to a limited number of spaces, the numbers of attendees from a given organisation may have to be restricted in the event of multiple applications. **Therefore, attendees will be expected to represent the wider interests of their institution as well as their individual interests.** We will not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants. **If you are not selected for the workshop you can still apply to the call.**

An application will be considered as confirming availability for the workshop and as a commitment to attend if selected.

Key dates

- Workshop EOI deadline - 16:00 GMT on 13 January 2017
- Confirmation of attendance to applicants – by 23rd January 2017
- Workshop 22-23 February 2017

Contacts

For further information, advice or queries regarding event or application procedure please contact ColombiaBio@nerc.ac.uk (however, please note that due to the Christmas holidays this mailbox will not be monitored until the 4th January).