

Wallacea region- understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change - Networking Workshop

**Announcement of Workshop – Call for Participants
6-8 February 2018, Makassar, Indonesia**

**The deadline for applications is 16:00 (GMT) 9 January 2018.
Invited participants will be notified 12 January 2018.**

1. Summary

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is inviting applications from UK scientists to attend the networking workshop for the Wallacea region – understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change programme, which NERC is developing with its partner funding agency in Indonesia. The workshop will be held in Makassar, Indonesia on 6-8 February 2018 (the details of the venue will be circulated in due course) and is being hosted by Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia ([Ristekdikti](#)). The aims of the networking workshop will be:

1. To launch the Wallacea region – understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change funding call and present an overview of the call aims and objectives.
2. To facilitate links between the UK and Indonesian research communities in the area of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning by providing an opportunity for researchers to network and begin to develop ideas to address the aims of the call.

Applications from environmental science researchers working in the fields of biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and services, environmental omics, landscape modelling, Earth Observations and related disciplines, along with applications relevant to the range of ecosystems in Wallacea including the range of forest types from alpine to mangroves and coastal systems at the land-sea interface are welcome. It is expected that approximately 20 UK participants will be invited to attend and NERC will try to ensure a balance of different disciplines/expertise and the number of attendees from the same institution. It is therefore likely that individuals will be asked to represent their institutions and/or specific disciplines at the workshop. Attendance of the workshop is not mandatory for applications to the call.

2. Newton Fund Programme

Funding for the UK contribution to the programme is from the [Newton Fund](#). The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies. The Fund forms part of the UK's **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** commitment which is monitored by the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#).

ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote *long-term sustainable growth* and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of the partner country as its main objective.

3. Background and Aims of the Programme

NERC and Ristekdikti are developing this programme to explore biodiversity of the Wallacea region, and through this understand tensions in land use and the adaptation of biodiversity in response to environmental change. The programme will provide solutions to support effective management, restoration, rehabilitation and exploitation of the region and its biodiversity.

The programme will deliver new basic science data leading to greater knowledge and wider approaches to inform effective management, restoration, rehabilitation, and exploitation of the area's biodiversity and ecosystems, balancing the need for conservation with economic development, and supporting the social and economic stability of the region.

The programme scope is still under development but the research challenges that the programme will address could include, but are not limited to:

- Develop knowledge of Wallacea region biodiversity and ecosystems responses to change;
- Use this knowledge to understand biodiversity connectivity across the region exploring resilience, trade-offs and inform restoration and management;
- Explore the benefits (economic, environmental and social) attached to the region's natural capital assets (via the benefits and services derived) and therefore provide an informed approach to innovation and business activity.

The programme will cover the major ecosystems of the Wallacea biogeographical region, including the range of forest types from alpine to mangroves, and extends into coastal systems at the land-sea interface. It will not cover the aspects of marine biodiversity beyond the land-sea coastal point due to the financial, resource and planning requirements of such work.

Whilst Indonesia is recognised for its above ground plant and animal biodiversity; being considered 3rd or 4th in the ranked list of biodiverse countries, projects will also be encouraged to understand the region's soils – considered some of the world's most fertile soils, - to better understand the role soil health plays in the long-term maintenance of the region's biodiversity and ecosystem health.

NERC has a budget of £3.3m (80% FEC) for this call, which will be matched in terms of research effort by Indonesia.

4. Objectives of the workshop

The workshop has two primary objectives:

1. To launch the Wallacea region – understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change funding call and present an overview of the call aims and objectives.
2. To facilitate links between the UK and Indonesian research communities in the area of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning by providing an opportunity for researchers to network and begin to develop ideas to address the aims of the call.

The workshop will include an overview of the programme scope and application process, the opportunity to present or 'pitch' an area of science, opportunities to network with researchers from Indonesia and begin the development of collaborative research projects, and a field trip.

The Newton Fund Manager in Indonesia has facilitated the development of this programme and will be assisting in the running of the workshop.

5. The workshop – how to apply

The workshop will take place in Makassar, Indonesia on 6-8 February 2018. Further details of the venue will be circulated to successful applicants in due course.

To attend the workshop you must complete the Wallacea region – understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change – networking workshop online application form, following the instructions provided on the form **by 16:00 (GMT) 9 January 2018**. Late applications will not be considered. Invited participants will be notified on 12 January 2018. Submission of the online application form will be taken as indicating availability on the dates of the workshop and as a commitment to attend if selected.

In the online application form applicants should outline how they can contribute to delivering the proposed programme aims and objectives, including why their expertise is relevant, any current overseas collaborations and links (particularly with Indonesia), and their personal rationale for being involved in the workshop.

Please note that the total number of participants from the UK is limited and NERC will try to ensure a balance of different disciplines/expertise and the number of attendees from the same institution. It is expected that approximately 20 UK participants will be invited. Attendance at the workshop does not automatically enable project bids to be submitted or guarantee funding. Conversely, absence does not preclude bidding into the call.

Applicants must be eligible to be a Principal Investigator on a NERC grant¹, i.e. they must reside in the UK and be employed by an eligible UK research organisation (higher education institution, research council institute or a recognised independent research organisation). Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses for UK participants attending the workshop will be covered in line with NERC policy on recovering travel and subsistence.

The full programme of the workshop and further details will be circulated to successful applicants in January 2018.

Attendance at the workshop does not automatically enable project bids to be submitted or guarantee funding. Conversely, absence does not preclude bidding into the call.

6. For further information please contact²:

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¹ [NERC research grant eligibility](#)

² Please note that this mailbox will not be monitored from 21 December to 2 January inclusive.