



Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability

**Virtual Workshop for African Early Career
Researchers
9-10 September 2020**

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Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: Presentation Outline

1. The Context
2. The thinking & Development of the Call
3. The Call
4. Objectives
5. Expected Deliverables
6. Eligibility



Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: The Context

- In 2015, 193 countries adopted 17 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)**
- These goals encompass a broad range of economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- While significant progress has been made, no country is currently on track to achieve all SDGs (Sachs et al, SDSN, 2018).
- According to the 2019 “Three-Year Reality Check Report” from the SDG Center for Africa, only three of the 17 goals are likely to be achieved on the African continent by 2030 “These include: **SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 15 Life on land.**
- Convergence between **African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda**, the 2030 Agenda needs to be a building block towards achieving Agenda 2063



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: The thinking & Development of the Call

- The 17 SDGs are **highly ambitious and interrelated** so their achievement requires approaches that take into account two key factors.
 - **Interdependencies** between the SDGs: progress made towards one of the goals can have, **positive** (co-benefits, synergies) or **negative** (tensions, contradictions) impact on the others
 - Achieving the SDGs is based on the understanding and taking into account by decision-makers of their complex **interactions** (socio-ecological systems), at various spatial and temporal scales
- Thus, in making decisions on the manner in which SDGs can be achieved, there is a clear need for approaches that **enhance synergies between SDGs, while limiting trade-offs...**

The SDG “wedding cake” (Stockholm Resilience Center)



futurearth

Research. Innovation. Sustainability.



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: The Call

- Today's environmental and social challenges occur at **multiple geographical** scales and are **inter-related** in complex and often unseen ways. Decision makers no longer have the luxury of tackling individual economic or social issues without **accounting for environmental concerns** and **vice versa**.
- The BF and its partners recognize that we currently lack a **truly integrated, comprehensive** qualitative and quantitative understanding of sustainable development pathways
- This call aims to support **transdisciplinary networks** to innovate **solutions and/or synthesize positive and negative inter-linkages** between the economy, technology, institutions and the environment, climate, biodiversity, and human well-being. support the **co-design** of sustainable development pathways.

Only
40%
of the indicators
in the Global SDG
data framework
are accompanied
by data in Africa
(SDG Center for Africa)



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: Objectives

- Encourage the production of knowledge which contributes to the achievement of the SDGs in an integrated and cohesive manner

- **Phase 1:** support for 1 to 2 year projects:

- **Theme 1:** the creation of networks and communities of practice
- **Theme 2** - knowledge syntheses

Interactions
between 3 or more
explicitly identified
SDG's

Approaches
Perspectives
and
Scenarios

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Projects are free to **prioritize the interactions to be explored**, based on their own local, national, regional, or global context as long as they address the **Belmont Challenge** providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating, and adapting to global environmental change.

Possible scenario: SDGs 6 (Freshwater), 13 (Climate), 14 (Oceans) and 15 (Biodiversity) and their interactions with other societal and economic SDGs...



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: Expected Deliverables

- All proposals will be required to identify at least one project deliverable, including but not limited to:
 - **synthesis and scaling** up place-based project outcomes
 - **assessment of local indicators** using comparative approaches within or between regions
 - pathway and scenario development using **participatory approaches**
 - interference/coherence assessment and visualization
 - semantic ontology maps of data sets, archives, web services, and decision-support tools
 - synthesis of potential methodological approaches for **inclusive and integrated pathways**
 - assessment of **SDGs interactions** across spatial scales
 - policy and management analysis documents



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: Expected Deliverables Continued...

- All proposals will be required to identify at least one project deliverable, including but not limited to:
 - assessment of the applicability and transferability of prioritization guidelines
 - feasibility studies
 - stakeholder and project maps across various scales
 - documentation of lessons learned for developing and implementing pathways that involve multiple SDGs
 - establishment of novel research collaboration networks that bring new perspectives and identify research gaps for future competitive transdisciplinary projects on multiple SDG's



Belmont Forum CRA on Transdisciplinary Research for Pathways to Sustainability: Eligibility criteria

• Eligibility :

- Consortia, supported by **at least three participating partner organizations** established in **three different countries**, is mandatory
- Consortium partners that are not eligible for funding from any of the participating funding agencies can **participate in the research project at their own expense**, nonetheless, this type of participation does not count towards the minimum of three supported partner's criterion.

○ Transdisciplinary consortia

Collaborations and partnerships must be **truly transdisciplinary**, thus including researchers from: a) social sciences/humanities and b) natural sciences, as well as c) societal partners (i.e. decision-makers, managers, industry, civil society organizations, etc.)

- Transdisciplinarity should be **clearly demonstrated** in the design, application, allocation of responsibilities, workload and dissemination of the project outputs...

co-design,
co-development,
and
co-implementation
approach





**Thank
You**
Obrigado
Merci

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