
WUN Responding to Climate Change Global Challenge Research Project Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Introduction

The Responding to Climate Change Global Challenge Steering Group (RCCSG) has concluded that WUN is particularly well-placed to pursue one or more collaborative research projects on *Regenerative by design—Addressing climate change and reducing inequality in a post-pandemic world*.

To help the identify the best project opportunities within this domain, and to ensure that it engages interested researchers, the RCCSG is inviting expressions of interest from potential participants. This document outlines the initiative and proposed steps in the development of a project plan.

Background

We recognize that climate change is a central driver of many global challenges, including resilience after natural disasters, poor health and disease, the availability of clean and affordable food and energy, forced displacement and migration, etc. Regenerative approaches offer potential for addressing these challenges in a way that gives rise to thriving and sustainable societies and economies.

The drive to achieve a sustainable recovery following the Covid-19 disruption provides a unique opportunity to influence how unprecedented amounts of money will be invested in economies around the world. Within the theme of *Regenerative by design—Addressing climate change and reducing inequality in a post-pandemic world*, the RCCSG has identified the following focus areas in which WUN has both the research strength and the opportunity to pursue collaborative work with distinction:

- Environmentally sustainable and/or drought- resistant/resilient land agriculture, and clean food from oceans
- Environmentally sustainable energy - solar, wind, tidal and wave power, electro-fuels for transport, cooking fuels, and carbon capture and storage (CCS)
- Climate induced migration, changing behaviours (of those with little power who are forced to adapt and those with the power to adapt but often not the will)

The group would like to refine the initiative through consultation with interested researchers from member universities, and has developed the following steps:

1. Through a call for expressions of interest, identify researchers/institutes at WUN member universities who might be interested in collaborating on projects that address, within one or more of the three focus areas noted above.
2. Following receipt of expressions of interest, organize a virtual workshop(s) to more sharply identify the most promising research questions and approaches to them. The workshops will bring together people from across the network to present relevant work and to explore opportunities for collaboration.
3. Following the workshops, and based on them, the RCCSG will develop a detailed plan for the pursuing the most promising collaborative research initiatives.

Project aims

The project aims to build towards the kind of collaboration that could attract significant funds (e.g., UK GCRF), and impact public discourse and policy through a potential event at COP 26 and/or another major international conference.

Expressions of Interest (deadline: 14 April 2021)

To help it refine its focus in developing a research plan, the RCCSG is now inviting EOIs from established institutes, centres, programmes, or investigators who have projects under way (or in development) that address aspects of *Regenerative by design—Addressing climate change and reducing inequality in a post-pandemic world*, and would be interested in contributing to the development of one or more collaborative WUN-wide initiatives.

In your expression of interest (500 words maximum), please:

1. Include a summary of your active project or project idea.
2. Identify existing or potential collaborating researchers or organizations.
3. Where relevant, identify existing or potential sources of sponsorship or financial support.
4. In order to determine if we can build larger collaborations, please confirm that we have your permission to circulate your proposal to other applicants.

The expression of interest form can be found on the next page of this document.

The RCCSG will respond to all expressions of interest. It will use them to help in assembling programs for the workshops.

Please complete and send the expression of interest form no later than 14 April 2021 to Dr Aoiffe Ficklin, WUN Program Manager at aficklin@wun.ac.uk.

For further information contact:

- Prof Susan Gourvenec (University of Southampton), Chair of RCCSG
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1. Participant Information

Name & Title:	Department/Unit:
University:	Contact Email:

2. Project Information

Project Research Priorities (choose one, or more if relevant)	<i>Regenerative by design—Addressing climate change and reducing inequality in a post-pandemic world</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentally sustainable and/or drought- resistant/resilient land agriculture, and clean food from oceans <input type="checkbox"/> Environmentally sustainable energy - solar, wind, tidal and wave power, electro-fuels for transport, cooking fuels, pollution, CCS <input type="checkbox"/> Climate induced migration, changing behaviours (of those with little power who are forced to adapt and those with the power to adapt but little will)
Potential for Larger Collaborations	To help us to determine if we can build larger collaborations, we request your permission to circulate your proposal to other applicants. Please check the box if you consent. <input type="checkbox"/> I consent to my proposal being circulated to other applicants.
Project Title:	
Project Description: (max 500 words) - Please include a summary of your active project or project idea. - Please identify existing or potential collaborating researchers or organizations. - Where relevant, please identify existing or potential sources of sponsorship or financial support.	