

DIVERSITAS' project endorsement procedure

Procedure

Projects submitted to DIVERSITAS for endorsement should make a significant contribution to the science plans of the DIVERSITAS Core Projects or Cross-cutting Networks.

A 5 pages max executive summary would be required for all such requests, pointing out in specific terms how the project would contribute to the science plans of DIVERSITAS or of its Core Projects and Cross-cutting Networks, with the following headings:

1. Background
2. Goals
3. Activities/Research proposed
4. Relevance to DIVERSITAS scientific priorities
5. Expected outcomes/deliverables.
6. Leadership
7. Contributing research groups
8. Timetable
9. Plans for funding

Process:

1-The proposal is first sent to the DIVERSITAS secretariat (secretariat@diversitas-international.org) to ensure that the project fits into the DIVERSITAS objectives and framework.

2-The Secretariat sends the eligible proposals to the members of the DIVERSITAS Scientific Committee (SC) or to the Chair of the Scientific Committees of the relevant DIVERSITAS Core Projects or Cross-cutting Networks, asking for comments and endorsement. A couple of members are targeted, depending on the topic. A time deadline and a no-objection approach are used to streamline the process.

3-The Secretariat, or the relevant Core Project or Cross-cutting Network office, writes an endorsement letter (if the project is accepted) on behalf of the SC-DIVERSITAS (or on behalf of the appropriate Core Project SC or Cross-cutting Network SC).

Endorsement Criteria

A project will be endorsed for a specified duration. It should have some or all of the following characteristics:

- Be science-driven

- Be in line with the goals of one of the Core Projects or Cross-cutting Networks of DIVERSITAS
- Have an international component.

Encouragement will be given to projects that foster:

- Interdisciplinary approach
- Multi investigators and international collaboration
- Ties with the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) projects.

Requests to endorse "project proposals" to be submitted for funding will be treated in the same way as funded projects.

The Secretariat will keep a copy of all endorsed project proposals. The list of endorsed projects with links to the project's webpage will be posted on the DIVERSITAS website.

Benefits & Obligations

Benefits for the endorsed projects include:

- Recognition as being part of the international biodiversity programme DIVERSITAS
- Listed as an endorsed DIVERSITAS project (featured on the web site and selected publications)
- Open invitations to participate in DIVERSITAS workshops and to co-organise activities with DIVERSITAS and its scientific community.
- Donor recognition that the project is part of the global DIVERSITAS effort
- Opportunity for project to be associated with the policy fora with which DIVERSITAS collaborates: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the European Platform of Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), the consultation on the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB), the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), etc.

Obligations include:

- Provide an annual report (5 pages max) on progress suitable for publication on the DIVERSITAS web site and publications
- Acknowledge DIVERSITAS support (or endorsement) in publications and other outreach products. In the case of scientific publications, make an explicit reference in the acknowledgements as follows: e.g., "This paper contributes to the implementation of Focus X "... in the Science Plan of the DIVERSITAS Core Projects Y"
- Allow DIVERSITAS to use results from endorsed projects (with appropriate acknowledgement of the principal investigators) to showcase its diverse research agenda.