



## Pre-announcement of the Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action on Sustainability of Soils and Groundwater

The [Belmont Forum](#) is pleased to announce the launch of the joint Collaborative Research Action (CRA) on the theme *Sustainability of soils and groundwater through and for societies*. The call is planned to be launched by the end of February 2020, with a closing date in June 2020 [Indicative schedule].

The goal of this CRA is to produce the knowledge and propose solutions to maintain well-functioning soils and groundwater systems in the Critical Zone<sup>i</sup>, or rehabilitate them where degraded, through:

- 1) Better understanding the long- and shorter-time dynamics and functioning of soils and groundwater, impacts from societal (including economics) decisions, integrative management practices, public policies, and how these socio-ecological systems have been transformed; and,
- 2) Providing avenues, pathways, and narratives toward transformation of management practices of the whole soil and groundwater systems through a fundamental shift of socio-economic actors' practices and related-decisions making processes.

Development of research consortia, supported financially by at least three participating partner organizations established in three different countries, is a key criteria. We encourage global geographic diversity to increase the scalability and applicability of the project outcomes. Consortium partners that are not eligible for funding from any of the participating funding agencies can participate in the research project as self-funded partners. Research consortia must address one or several topics described above.

Given the complexity and scope of the challenges, research consortia must be truly transdisciplinary, thus including researchers from: a) social sciences/humanities/economy and b) natural sciences/technology, as well as c) societal partners (i.e. citizens, industry, civil society organizations), using a co-design, co-development and co-implementation approach. Having inter- and trans-disciplinary consortia will be part of eligibility criteria.

Proposals should also clearly demonstrate the benefit of the international nature of the projects and of the level of collaboration between teams from different countries.

At this stage, the following countries have expressed a preliminary interest to participate in this CRA: XXX, XXX, XXX

XXX, XXX, XXX are also likely to participate in the call (their participation however still needs to be confirmed). The updated list of participating countries will be published on the Belmont Forum website. We invite you to regularly consult the [Belmont Forum website](#), on which information on the call will be regularly updated.

**Comentado [A1]:** Please let us know if this title is fine with you or should be modified

**Comentado [A2]:** See question above

**Comentado [A3]:** Please complete with your country if this is possible at this stage

**Comentado [A4]:** Please complete with your country if this is possible at this stage



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<sup>1</sup> The Critical Zone concept promotes a holistic, systems approach to better understand how this system responds to human activities, to ensure the identification of pathways and transitions to its sustainable management for the benefit of current and future generations.