

The Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative

Call for project proposals on species inventories

Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (NBIC) opens the call for project proposals on species inventories that focus on poorly known species groups in Norwegian territory in the Northern Hemisphere. The Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative (NTI) shall strengthen the knowledge about the species in Norway, with special emphasis on taxa where the present knowledge is poor. The long-term ambition of the NTI is to survey all eucaryote, multicellular organisms in Norway. The knowledge obtained from projects funded by NTI must be made accessible to the general public through open data sharing.

Purpose

The purpose of the call is to strengthen the knowledge of species in Norway, with special emphasis on inventories of poorly known taxa.

Academic criteria

- The focus for the project proposal should be to do inventories of one or more poorly known species groups (taxonomic units) of eucaryote, multicellular organisms in Norwegian territory in the Northern Hemisphere. See ["Artsprosjektet. Definisjoner og avgrensninger"](#) and ["Kunnskapsstatus for arts mangfoldet i Norge 2015"](#) (*Only in Norwegian*). Within the NTI, inventories are defined as: "To identify which species that occur in specified geographic areas. For the poorest known species groups this means revealing which species in the taxonomic group that exist in Norway".
- The inventories can be done based on already sampled material (e.g. from museum collections) and/or sampling of new material.
- The application must address how the project will contribute to strengthen the competence and recruitment within the field of biosystematics, promote DNA barcoding and disseminate knowledge of species in Norway.

Application requirements

- The project owner (applicant) must be a Norwegian institution with a named person (project administrator) that has the authorisation to represent and commit the project manager towards NBIC. If the project is granted funding,



the project administrator is legally responsible for the completion of the project and for the fulfilment of the terms specified in the grant letter.

- The application should be written in English, with a summary in Norwegian, and submitted through the online application form of NBIC.
- These *mandatory* attachments have to follow the application: a project description that complements the information given in the application form, a confirmation of approval of the application from the project administrator of the institution, CV for the project manager and key project participants, and confirmations of committing collaborations.
- The project description should be written according to the given template. All parts of the template should be addressed.
- The application should describe how the terms and conditions of the NTI grant, "[Vilkår for tilskudd til kartlegging av arter gjennom Artsprosjektet](#)" will be fulfilled.
- It can be applied for funding up to the amount of NOK 3 500 000 per project.
- The maximum duration of the project period is three years. The earliest possible starting date for a project is 1st of April 2021. The project must be finished within 1st of October 2024.
- Own financing must be included and should be equal to or higher than 5 % of total project budget.

Funding is *not* granted to:

- Project proposals that only applies for funding to taxonomic revisions and publication.
- Projects focusing mainly on ecological research.

Assessment criteria

The project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Excellence**
 - The extent to which the proposed project is of high academic quality, ambitious and novel
 - The quality of the project activities
- **Impact**
 - The extent to which the proposed project will increase and produce new knowledge about poorly known taxa, including their habitat and occurrence
 - The extent to which the proposed project will contribute to strengthen the taxonomic competence in Norway, and contribute to knowledge transfer between taxonomists, e.g. from older to younger taxonomists
 - The plan for communication and utilisation of results
- **Implementation**
 - The joint competence in the group of project participants

- The quality of the organisation and leadership of the project

In addition, the relevance of the project proposals will be evaluated by the NTI Project Group ([Artsprosjektets prosjektgruppe](#)).

- **Relevance**

- Requirements and criteria in the call
- Coordination with other related inventories or research projects in Norway or the other Nordic countries
- Portfolio considerations regarding earlier and ongoing species inventories funded by the NTI

Each of the four criteria will be evaluated according to a [grading scale \(1-5\)](#) and are weighted equally in the final assessment of the project proposal.

Under equal conditions (equal total score), project proposals will be prioritised based on the knowledge status of the taxonomic group in the project proposal. Species groups with a lower taxonomic knowledge will be prioritised higher than species groups with higher taxonomic knowledge, according to «[Kunnskapsstatus for arts mangfoldet i Norge 2015](#)» (*Only in Norwegian*).

Economic framework

The total amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals is NOK 16 000 000. This amount may be adjusted.

Application deadline and procedure

To create, edit and submit the project proposal, go to:
<https://soknad.artsdatabanken.no/>

The applications must be submitted to NBIC **within Wednesday 11th of November 2020, 1 pm**. At deadline, the reception of applications will close. Applications received after deadline will not be evaluated. Applications that do not comply with the terms and requirements specified in the call, will be rejected on formal grounds.

All attachments must be submitted along with the application. Attachments sent after the deadline will not be considered. Support letters from parties not actively collaborating in the project should not be submitted.

Evaluation process



The evaluation of applications will be carried out by NBIC, and conclusions formally done by the NBIC board by the end of February 2021.

The applications will go through a comprehensive evaluation process before deciding which projects are granted funding. NBIC will use an external panel of international experts in taxonomy that evaluates each of the project proposals based on the above-mentioned criteria (excellence, impact and implementation). Afterwards, the NTI Project Group ("[Artsprosjektets prosjektgruppe](#)") will assess the relevance of the proposals. The panel of experts, and the members of the NTI Project Group, are reviewed for impartiality before they are cleared to evaluate grant applications. The NBIC reserves the right to fund projects in order to achieve balance regarding species groups and habitats within this call.

Information regarding which projects are granted funding will be announced on the NBIC webpage after the decisions are made. The granted projects will receive a grant letter. The grant letter must be signed and returned to NBIC to confirm that the terms and conditions are accepted.

Terms and conditions

For projects granted funding, these terms and conditions apply: "[Vilkår for tilskudd til kartlegging av arter gjennom Artsprosjektet](#)" (*Only in Norwegian*).

The grant recipients commit themselves to follow the NBIC "[Generelle regler for tilskudd](#)" (*Only in Norwegian*).

Useful information

The [NTI](#) was established by The Norwegian Ministry for Climate and Environment in 2009. The project is coordinated by NBIC.

The NTI provides an ever increasing knowledge base for the management of Norwegian nature.

Through annual calls for project proposals focusing on inventories of species groups, the NTI gradually strengthen the knowledge and competence in taxonomy and biosystematics.

The inventories contribute to update and revise the NBIC register of species names, the scientific collections at the University Museums, and a better understanding of the distribution of species. Data from the NTI projects also contributes to fill the digital encyclopaedia of NBIC with high-quality information about species, and to build necessary infrastructure for DNA-barcoding and ecological information.

The NTI mandate (*Only in Norwegian*):

[https://www.artsdatabanken.no/Files/30190/Artsprosjektet -
mandat og organisering](https://www.artsdatabanken.no/Files/30190/Artsprosjektet-_mandat_og_organisering)

Definitions and limitations of the NTI (*Only in Norwegian*):

[http://artsdatabanken.no/Files/17843/Artsprosjektet -
_definisjoner_og_avgrensninger_\(v._feb._2017\).pdf](http://artsdatabanken.no/Files/17843/Artsprosjektet_-_definisjoner_og_avgrensninger_(v._feb._2017).pdf)

Overview of earlier projects that have been granted funding from the NTI (*Only in Norwegian*): <http://artsdatabanken.no/Pages/213341>

Knowledge status for species in Norway 2015 (*Only in Norwegian*):

<http://artsdatabanken.no/Pages/213385>

Contact persons

Stine Svalheim Markussen 477 53 714 stine.markussen@artsdatabanken.no

Hauk Liebe 482 41 756 hauk.liebe@artsdatabanken.no