

Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative

Call for project proposals on taxonomic inventories of poorly known species

Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre (NBIC) now opens the call for project proposals on taxonomic inventories that focus on poorly known species groups in Norwegian territory in the Northern Hemisphere.

The aim of the Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative (NTI) is to strengthen the knowledge about species in Norwegian nature, with a special emphasis on taxonomic groups where our knowledge is poor. The long-term ambition is to map all eucaryote, multicellular organisms in Norway. The knowledge obtained from projects funded by NTI must be accessible to the general public through sharing of open data.

Purpose

The purpose of the call is to strengthen the knowledge of species in the Norwegian nature, with special emphasis on taxonomic inventories of poorly known species groups (taxonomic units).

Academic criteria

- The focus for the project proposal should be to perform 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.
- The following *mandatory* attachments must follow the application:
 - a project description (using given template) that complements the information given in the online application form,
 - budget (using given budget template),
 - a confirmation of approval of the application from the project administrator of the institution,
 - CV for the project manager and key project participants,
 - confirmations of binding collaborations,
 - confirmation of agreement with a university museum for long-term repository of collected material.
- 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 2022. The project must be finished within 1st of October 2025.
- 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
 - Description and choice of methods and study design
 - Description of taxonomic status and habitat of the relevant species group(s)
- **Impact**
 - The extent to which the proposed project will strengthen and produce new knowledge about poorly known species groups (taxonomic units), including their habitat and occurrence
 - The extent to which the proposed project will contribute to strengthen the taxonomic competence in Norway
 - Potential for knowledge transfer between taxonomists, e.g. from older to younger taxonomists, and recruitment into the field of biosystematics
 - The plan for communication and utilisation of results

- **Implementation**

- The joint competence in the group of project participants, and the quality of the organisation of the project
- Feasibility of progress plan and budget
- National/international collaborations

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

- **Relevance**

- Compliance with the academic criteria and focus of the call
- Compliance with the goal and ambition of the NTI (cf. NTI mandate)
- Coordination with other related inventories or research projects in Norway or the other Nordic countries

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

Under equal conditions (equal total score), project proposals will be prioritised after:

1. 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 artsmangfoldet i Norge 2015](#)» (*Only in Norwegian*).
2. Portfolio considerations regarding earlier and ongoing species inventories funded by the NTI

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 finished and submitted to NBIC **within Wednesday 10th of November 2021, 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 requirements specified in the call, will be rejected on formal grounds. All necessary 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.

Applicants from institutions must contact a university museum early in the application process, to make an agreement on the transfer of material from the project for long-



term repository. Costs in connection with this must be entered in the application's budget.

Evaluation process

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 assess each of the project proposals based on the three above mentioned criteria (excellence, impact and implementation). Thereafter, the project proposal's relevance is assessed by the NTI project group ("[Artsprosjektets prosjektgruppe](#)"). The NTI project group make a proposal to the NBIC board for for which applications that should receive grants within the total budget of the call. This proposal is based on the experts assessment and the relevance assessment.

The final formal decision on whether an application is granted or rejected are made by the NBIC board by the end of February 2022. The NBIC board shall ensure that the applications that are granted in total cover the purpose of the NTI.

Information regarding which projects that are granted funding will be published on the NBIC webpage. 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 for the grant are accepted.

The panel of taxonomic experts and the members of the NTI project group are reviewed for impartiality before they are cleared to assess grant applications.

Terms and conditions

For projects that are 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 and is an important element that contribute to strengthen the knowledge base for management of Norwegian nature.

Through annual calls for project proposals focusing on inventories of species, the knowledge and competence of Norwegian biodiversity gradually improves. The inventories contribute to update and revise the NBIC register of species names, the scientific collections at the University Museums and improve the knowledge about the distribution of species. Data from the NTI projects also contributes to fill the digital encyclopedia of NBIC with high-quality information about species, and at the same time builds 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 with 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 person

Stine Svalheim Markussen

477 53 714 stine.markussen@artsdatabanken.no