

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I - Context

The Latin American and Caribbean economies are still developing, a process that depends to a great extent on fossil fuels and production techniques that exploit natural resources. Tackling climate change, protecting the biodiversity, preserving non-renewable water resources, and using natural resources responsibly imply that besides achieving the conventional 20th century development goals –still elusive–, new objectives and restrictions should be considered as additional and, in some cases, conflicting challenges for the economic development of the countries in the region.

Notwithstanding, postponing or delaying the protection of the environment can also have consequences on economic development. The increase in temperatures, the melting of glaciers and rise in sea levels, the increasing frequency and intensity of atmospheric phenomena, and the gradual environmental degradation entail significant economic costs. Furthermore, these adverse effects are generally concentrated on least developed countries and the most vulnerable sectors, whose income and wellbeing are directly related to the exploitation of natural resources, sensitive to climate change.

In order to design appropriate public policies to foster sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is crucial to understand the main costs and benefits on growth and welfare that protecting the environment entails. Even though there has been a substantial expansion of this understanding at a global scale, the evidence focusing on the region is still scarce.

II – General objective

The current call for projects aims to support research efforts that contribute to the understanding of the costs and benefits that tackling climate change and preserving the environment entail, as well as the mechanisms and policies that can favor or hinder these goals.

III – Topics

A non-exhaustive list of topics which are of interest for the current call is the following:

- The role of institutions in the preservation of the environment.
- Impact of environmental regulations on trade.

- Relationship between climate change and consumption decisions.
- Productivity and climate change.
- Distributional effects of policies that foster environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.
- Effects of implementing public finance tools (taxes, subsidies, bonds, etc) to mitigate climate change and protect the environment and the biodiversity.
- Energy transition and performance of the energy sector.
- Insurance policies covering climate change risks.
- Climate change and migration.
- Social preferences and policies that foster environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.
- International coordination tools for climate change adaptation and mitigation and environmental conservation.
- Relationship between economic indicators and indicators related to the quality of the environment.
- Geographic distribution of economic activity and climate change.
- Deforestation.
- Sustainable agriculture and land use.
- Carbon capture.
- Economic development and climate change.
- Water resources, wetland protection and biodiversity.
- Sustainable cities.

IV – Budget

A maximum of three prizes will be awarded. Each winning proposal will receive a research grant of up to **USD 15,000** to carry out the project. This grant will be disbursed through a consulting contract signed with any member of the research team or her/their institution. A budget proposal is not required.

V – How to apply

To apply, you should fill this [online form](#) before **February 11**, at 23:59 (Buenos Aires time). (Note that you need a google account in order to apply.) You will have to upload the following three pdf documents:

- (i) Research proposal: it should be **a maximum of 1500 words**. We will value a clearly stated research question, and well-suited models, data, and empirical approaches to address the question. Proposals that surpass the maximum length will not be evaluated. The project must produce novel knowledge. The proposal must describe the stage of the project at the time of submission (initial stage, some advances, very advanced).

- (ii) Research team: this document should list the team members, including full names, affiliations, and email addresses.
- (iii) Lead researcher's CV.

We accept multiple submissions by the same research team. Each proposal will be evaluated independently, and more than one proposal per team may be selected.

VI – Activities, deliverables, and schedule

Winning proposals will have six months to complete the project. The time schedule is:

11-feb-2022	Proposal submission deadline .
25-feb-2022	Notification of winning proposals.
Jun-2022	Submission of the first draft of the working paper, including preliminary results.
Jun-2022	Presentation of the work in progress , in a closed-doors academic seminar organized by CAF. This seminar will be held virtually or in person, subject to the organizer's decision. Should it be in person, CAF will cover the expenses for economy-class air-fare and lodging for one author per project.
15-Sep-2022	Final submission , consisting of a completed research paper and a short policy brief highlighting the main results. The paper will be published in the CAF's working paper series, and after that authors may freely submit their papers to any academic journal. Both the paper and the policy brief should follow a template that will be provided by CAF to each winning team.

VII – Selection committee

The committee in charge of the selection decisions will be composed of Elisa Belfiori (University Torcuato di Tella), Juan Pablo Montero (PUC-Chile), Pablo Brassiolo (CAF), Ricardo Estrada (CAF) and Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF).

VIII – Contact

You can find answers to frequently asked questions in this [document](#). If any questions remain, please contact us at investigacion@caf.com.