

**FOUNDATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION PROGRAMME (FBIP)
LARGE GRANT FULL PROPOSAL – APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
2026 CALL
Closed Call Year: 2026**

Proposals for FBIP Full proposal I, strategic projects that address critical gaps relevant to foundational biodiversity information and knowledge are invited.

Programme background information:

The primary focus of the Programme is to generate, mobilize, coordinate, and make accessible foundational biodiversity knowledge in line with the needs of society, the Department of Science & Innovation (DSTI) Global Change Programme, and the bioeconomy. The priority knowledge needs relate to species occurrence, species identity, population abundance, and DNA information, particularly barcoding. This type of information is often referred to as “fundamental” or “foundational” because it forms the basis of so many other aspects of biodiversity research and decision-making.

The NRF will publish the One Call for Applications for funding in February 2026 (Review Period 1). The One Call includes applications for FBIP Large grant Concept Grants (Review Period 1) which must be submitted electronically on the new NRF Connect system at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>. On the second call, it's a closed call for FBIP full proposal.

Applicants applying for FBIP grants must read the **FBIP Framework Document and Funding Guide** to make sure that all the essential information is submitted through the proposals. The FBIP Framework Document and Funding Guide is available on the NRF website.

Applications must reach the NRF by the cut-off dates as indicated in Appendix 1 of the **NRF General Application Guide 2026**.

FBIP-Specific Application Guidance

Applicants should follow standard NRF procedures together with FBIP-specific requirements. Careful attention must be given to the evaluation criteria and scorecards in the FBIP Framework and Funding Guide.

CRITICAL HURDLE REQUIREMENT

Evaluation Criteria and Weightings

Feasibility (20%): Workplan (10%), Budget (10%).

Outputs and Impacts (30%): Outputs (15%), Impacts (15%).

1. Workplan (10%)

Must include clear activities, timelines, responsible team members, and demonstrate feasibility within 3 years. Inclusion of HDIs is encouraged.

2. Budget (10%)

Budget must align with activities, including detailed costs, and demonstrate value for money.

3. Outputs (15%)

Clearly define expected outputs (records, species pages, barcoding outputs).

4. Impacts (15%)

Describe the expected impact on global change understanding and the bioeconomy.

Summary

Proposals must be feasible within 3 years, aligned with FBIP priorities, and meet minimum evaluation thresholds.