Guidelines for LDE Program Climate and Biodiversity Projects

What is the mission of the LDE Program Climate and Biodiversity?

We believe today's challenges on climate change and biodiversity loss should be approached together. The mission of the LDE Program Climate and Biodiversity is to stimulate practice-oriented research and education for challenges on the nexus of climate change and biodiversity loss – for a more liveable planet in the future. We do this by acting as a knowledge director and organizing activities to connect existing initiatives in our growing network of Leiden-Delft-Erasmus universities researchers and educators, with external institutions and partners. Also, we develop and integrate research and education around both themes in existing or new Living Labs through granting Seed Funds and hosting Interdisciplinary Thesis Labs. To achieve our mission, we mainly support projects and initiatives which resonate with our program guidelines.

What is in our perspective a Living Lab?

From our perspective, a living lab is a user-centered research and innovation approach at an outdoor location. A living lab is a place where researchers, students, entrepreneurs, the municipality, the environment, and other relevant stakeholders work toward a landscape of the future based on a transformative vision. At a living lab, these stakeholders research, design, test and validate new products, services, or solutions.

What are our X Guidelines of Living lab Oriented Research and Education?

I. The project activities focus on the nexus of climate change and biodiversity loss.
II. The project activities evolve around a physical outdoor location.
    a. Example Living Labs in South-Holland, but not limited to: Green Village, Polderlab, Buurtlab070, Diergaarde Blijdorp, Flood Proof Holland, Innovation District Delft (IDD).
III. The project activities are society-oriented, and therefore actively try to incorporate solutions for current societal challenges (SDG's) and citizen-science.
IV. The project deliverable is not limited to the scientific domain but is directly useful for the practice partners and/or showcases the potential of the project for societal usability soon.
V. The project deliverables have an open-source character and actively involve science communication in their activities.
VI. The project consortium is interdisciplinary (e.g. climate science, climate adaptation, climate/biodiv. governance, climate/biodiv. economics and finance, climate/biodiv. legal landscape, urban ecology, spatial design, biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem functioning and services, food landscape, and more).
VII. The project consortium consists of a broader stakeholder group, including knowledge institutions (universities and universities of applied sciences) and practical partners (e.g. industrial, governmental, NGO).
VIII. The project activities can be short-term and local but show potential for a continuous and greater impact in the future.
IX. The project activities themselves contribute to a liveable planet and keep in mind sustainability goals; hence their carbon and societal footprint should be minimized (e.g. no unnecessary air travel).
X. The project consortium supports a diverse, inclusive, and socially safe environment.