

Evaluation Criteria for WIFORCE Arena Projects

WIFORCE Arena projects establish and strengthen long-term collaborative platforms where researchers from different disciplines and stakeholders jointly develop knowledge, infrastructure, methods and activities that contribute to future sustainable forest management.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

1. Arena Relevance and Collaborative Excellence

The extent to which the proposed arena creates a strong platform for interdisciplinary research and stakeholder collaboration that advances knowledge relevant to future sustainable forest management.

Assessment questions

- Does the proposal address important knowledge needs related to future sustainable forest management?
 - Does the arena bring together relevant scientific disciplines and competencies?
 - Is there a clear rationale for why the research requires interdisciplinary collaboration?
 - Are stakeholders actively engaged as partners rather than end-users?
 - Is there evidence of co-creation between researchers and stakeholders?
 - Are stakeholder roles and contributions clearly defined?
 - Does the collaboration create added value beyond what individual researchers, disciplines or organisations could achieve independently?
 - Is there a clear mutual benefit for researchers and stakeholders?
 - Does the arena create opportunities for shared learning, data generation, experimentation and knowledge development?
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2. Scientific Quality and Impact Potential

The extent to which the arena provides a strong foundation for high-quality research and scientific development.

Assessment questions

- Does the arena enable scientifically relevant and innovative research?

- Is the proposed scientific approach credible and well justified?
 - Does the arena provide opportunities for new research questions, collaborations and funding initiatives?
 - Is the arena likely to contribute substantially to the scientific development of the field?
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3. Long-Term Value

The extent to which the arena is expected to generate lasting value beyond the project period.

Assessment questions

- Will the arena create infrastructure, datasets, methods, networks or collaborations that remain useful beyond the funding period?
 - Does the proposal build lasting capacity, infrastructure, networks or data resources?
 - Will the arena be relevant and accessible to multiple researchers and stakeholders over time?
 - Is there a realistic plan for maintaining key outputs and relationships established through the arena?
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4. Commitment and In-Kind Contributions

The extent to which participating organisations demonstrate commitment through active participation and in-kind contributions.

Assessment questions

- Are in-kind contributions described and valued?
 - Do the contributions strengthen the arena's capacity and viability?
 - Do the proposed contributions demonstrate commitment from participating organisations?
 - Are resources used strategically and efficiently?
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