

## Specialist Advisory Groups

### Open call – February 2023

SEFARI Gateway is the Centre of Expertise for Knowledge Exchange and Innovation for the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Portfolio for Environment, Rural Affairs and Agriculture (ENRA) 2022-2027.

SEFARI Gateway provides bespoke access to the Portfolio's research and, via commissioning of wider expertise, ensures scientific evidence helps inform policy and practice across Scotland's environment, land use, agriculture, food, and rural communities. As one of the Gateway's core funding programmes, we are pleased to launch our Specialist Advisory Groups.

These Groups are designed to provide added capability by drawing upon the breadth and depth of disciplinary expertise within the Portfolio. They are interdisciplinary partnerships responding to 'wicked issues' at appropriate scales and pace in partnership with key stakeholders.

This is an **open call**, but we welcome applications that respond to an evidenced/endorsed stakeholder need that sits within the themes and topics as part of the Portfolio.

## Call Details

**The maximum budget available for each Group is £20K** and we expect to be able to award three projects.

It is up to the individual submission to decide the most appropriate focus and working approach of the Group. However, the chosen format should be justified within the application.

All activities as part of the Specialist Advisory Group related to this call **must be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024**.

Gateway will transfer these funds to the Institute of the successful lead applicant who will be responsible for managing the budget. Please note that costs **must** be submitted net of VAT recovered by the applicant. Applicants should seek advice on appropriate VAT treatment of proposed funding.

Funds are available for staff within the Strategic Research Portfolio **and** Higher Education Institutes to cover their time, travel, and subsistence expenses (where these are necessary and permitted by relevant COVID-19 restrictions). All project team members should follow their institute's grant procedure for claiming time and expenses.

Some flexibility may be afforded to applicants of the Specialist Advisory Groups directly engaged in work as part of the Strategic Research Portfolio. Successful applicants should discuss their projects with the relevant RESAS science leads.

**If you have any questions about this or any aspect of the Specialist Advisory Group, please contact the Gateway via [andrew.kelloe@sefari.scot](mailto:andrew.kelloe@sefari.scot)**

### Application Details

The following are important considerations for applications:

- Specialist Advisory Group involvement is open to researchers funded as part of the Strategic Research Portfolio. As such, we welcome applications **led** by SEFARI staff (BioSS, James Hutton Institute, Moredun Research Institute, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Rowett Institute and SRUC); and the Centres of Expertise (ClimateXChange, CREW, EPIC, and Plant Health Centre).
- Applications may also involve staff from UK Higher Education Institutes as part of the delivery team. **Please note**, these staff do not require to be previously funded by Scottish Government via the Portfolio to qualify for Gateway funding.
- Project teams **must** involve staff from more than one Portfolio organisation.
- Teams involving early career researchers and with collaborations across the Portfolio are encouraged.
- Completed application forms will be judged on whether they identify an interdisciplinary challenge; are relevant and add value to Strategic Research Portfolio work; clearly explain outcomes and outputs, including how impact will be enhanced, measured, and communicated, demonstrate value for money; are cross-institutional and portfolio; and involve relevant key external stakeholders.

**Applicants are requested to return their application to the Gateway (email: [info@sefari.scot](mailto:info@sefari.scot)) by the end of play on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of March.**



A panel composed of SEFARI Gateway Team Members will review applications shortly after the deadline. Decisions will be communicated to applicants within two weeks of the application deadline.

The Gateway will support and offer guidance to successful applicants who will be expected to update the Gateway on their progress, acknowledge funding (including in wording and by the use of appropriate logos – SEFARI & the Scottish Government), link up with SEFARI twitter ([@SEFARIScot](https://twitter.com/SEFARIScot)), share events details and write a [blog post](#) for the SEFARI website.