



Programme on  
Ecosystem Change and Society

## Program on Ecosystem Change and Society **Project endorsement criteria and procedures**

### **1. Endorsement of PECS place-based projects**

New place-based projects (or existing projects that seek PECS endorsement) will solicit endorsement from PECS. Endorsement by PECS obliges a project to conform to the scientific aims, criteria of scientific scope and excellence, principles of openness and free exchange of data, as expressed in the science and implementation plans of PECS. Endorsement status means that the webpage of the endorsed project can be linked from the PECS website, and that the relation between PECS and the endorsed project is mentioned in publications and presentations. This can be done by including an acknowledgement in written publications stating: 'The research reported in this paper contributes to the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society ([www.pecs-science.org](http://www.pecs-science.org))'. We also encourage endorsed projects to include a small PECS logo on the cover slide of your presentations.

When an external project applies for endorsement, initial contact should be with the PECS International Programme Office (PECS-IPO), either directly or via a member of the PECS Science Committee (PECS SC). A formal request for endorsement should be sent to the chair of the PECS SC or the PECS IPO. The PECS SC will make a decision and the PECS IPO will inform the applicant of the decision.

#### Project endorsement criteria

Applications for PECS endorsement will be considered according to the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence
- Contribution and adherence to the framework, goals and approaches of PECS.
- Explicit description of the interdisciplinary methods or models to be used
- Willingness to share data in a transparent way
- Collaboration with other PECS projects and working groups
- Build south-north and gender balance/diversity in advisory committees and research partnerships
- Indicate mechanisms of research dissemination to practitioners and policy makers

#### Project endorsement procedure

1. Contact the PECS IPO or PECS SC member regarding endorsement.
2. Send formal request for endorsement to PECS SC Chair or PECS IPO
3. Upon receiving the request, the PECS SC Chair and PECS IPO will facilitate a decision about the request by the PECS-SC
4. Once a decision is made by the PECS SC, the PECS IPO will inform the external project of the outcome

## 2. Endorsement of PECS working groups

- A short proposal describing the working group should be sent to the PECS-IPO or a member of the PECS SC (maximum 1000 words, not including references), that includes:
  - Name of the working group
  - Name, affiliation and contact details of the working group coordinator (1-2 people)
  - Names, affiliations and contact details of the working group participants (5-15 people)
  - Key research questions the group aims to address (max 5)
  - Explanation of the overarching questions. Why is it a timely and compelling issue? Why is a PECS working group a promising way to address the question
  - Brief description of the proposed approach. What is the expected output from the process? What are the key milestones along the way?
  - Will other participants be added later and if so how will they be selected
- Together with this 1 pager, the group should submit a list of key publications participants have authored or co-authored that demonstrate their expertise in relation to the proposed working group topic (max 1 page)
- The proposal is reviewed by the PECS SC
- If approved, this working group is then officially established as a PECS working group.
- We also propose that working groups be reviewed annually by the PECS science committee (or a sub-committee). This is an opportunity for some working groups to “retire” if they have achieved their aims or haven’t got going. The basis for the review would again be a simple 1-page annual summary of each working group’s activities including:
  - Name of the working group
  - Name of the working group coordinator (1-2 people)
  - Names of the working group participants (5-15 people)
  - Brief summary of activities in the previous year
  - List of publications from working group activities

## Criteria for joining existing PECS working groups

In established working groups, we suggest that it be up to the coordinator of each working group whether they want to include new people. Interested parties should approach the working group coordinators directly. Some guidelines for coordinators to consider include:

- Can the person contribute to the working group topic, as demonstrated by their publication record or other appropriate skills or experience?
- The current size of the working group. As a guideline we suggest working groups not be larger than 15 people.
- Does the person's work adhere to the conceptual framework, goals and approaches of PECS?
- Is the person willing to share data in a transparent way and collaborate with other PECS projects and working groups?

In order to maintain the integrity and innovative ability of the working groups, we feel that it is crucial that the working group coordinators have the autonomy to decide whether new people can join the group or not. If for instance a working group is too large or too far down the road with an existing project to admit new people, we suggest that interested parties be encouraged to establish their own new working groups.

## 3. Benefits of joining PECS

Affiliation to PECS brings the following added values

- Details of each specific project, its Principal Investigator and the contributing team will be widely available through the PECS website
- Outputs from projects – journal articles, reports, books – can be promoted through the PECS website
- Information about workshops, conferences, other meetings and news associated with affiliated projects can be advertised on the PECS website
- PECS affiliated projects play a significant role in contributing to workshops, conferences and meetings organized by PECS providing the opportunity to closely work with other projects and create synergies
- PECS welcomes ideas and suggestions from affiliated projects for workshops, conferences other types of meetings and other types of support
- PECS has a huge access to a wide circle of information related to the funding and the science community that is available through the database