



PhD Project Proposal form for approval by the WIMEK Graduate School

Version date of this proposal (dd/mm/yyyy): May 16, 2024

Main research group involved: INSERT HERE

Other research group(s) involved:

1 PhD CANDIDATE details

Full name of PhD candidate (as in passport): Jane Doe

Gender (F/M): E

E-mail: jane.doe@wur.nl

Period of appointment/fellowship (dd/mm/yyyy): from 2024/01/01 to 2028/01/01

PhD category (Research Assistant, Sandwich PhD, Guest PhD, External PhD or staff): INSERT HERE

2

2.a SUPERVISORS and TECHNICAL SUPPORT

List all staff members involved in the proposed research: provide name, initials, titles, and type of involvement, e.g. promotor, co-promotor, daily supervisor, technician, advisor.

Name and title	Specialization	Organisation / Institute	Involvement	Hours supervision per week
Dr. 1	S1	O1	Promotor	1
Dr. 2	S2	O2	Co-promotor Daily Supervisor	1
Dr. 3	S3	O3	Co-promotor Daily Supervisor	1

2.b CO-OPERATION

With what other organisations outside your university will cooperation take place?

3

3.a PROJECT TITLE (English)

3.b KEYWORDS (3 - 5)

3.c POPULAR SUMMARY of the proposal in English (max 100 words)

4

4.a CODE OF CONDUCT for RESEARCH INTEGRITY

I, Jane Doe, declare and promise that I will adhere to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and will faithfully act according to its guiding principles regarding honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, independence, and responsibility. Moreover, I will also adhere to the Research Integrity Code of Wageningen University and Research, focusing on the good behaviour of everyone at WUR: staff members, PhD candidates, and students.

4.b LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Does the proposed research comply with the law and legal requirements, such as “DNA recombinant legislation”, “Code openness Animal Experiments” and/or “Code of Conduct for Biosecurity”?

INSERT HERE

4.c ETHICAL DILEMMAS

Describe potential ethical dilemmas regarding this research project:

5 FINANCING

5.a How is the project financed? (more than one possible)

- University funds, percentage: (First flow of funds)
 - Externally financed by NWO/STW/WOTRO/KNAW, percentage: (Second flow of funds) Please specify:
 - Externally financed by other parties (EU, government, industry, NGOs), percentage: (Third flow of funds) Please specify:
-

6 RESEARCH CONTEXT

6.a Will the project be executed (partly) outside The Netherlands?

6.b Affiliation with national or international research programmes (if applicable)

7 SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (max 250 words)

8 DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (max 2500 words)

8.a Problem definition and research objectives

Anthropogenic climate change has exposed ecosystems to conditions that are unprecedented over millennia (high confidence), which has greatly impacted species on land and in the ocean (very high confidence) [1].

Example of enumerate:

1. RQ1
2. RQ2

Example of color box

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8.b Scientific approach/methodological design

8.b.1 Subsubsection example

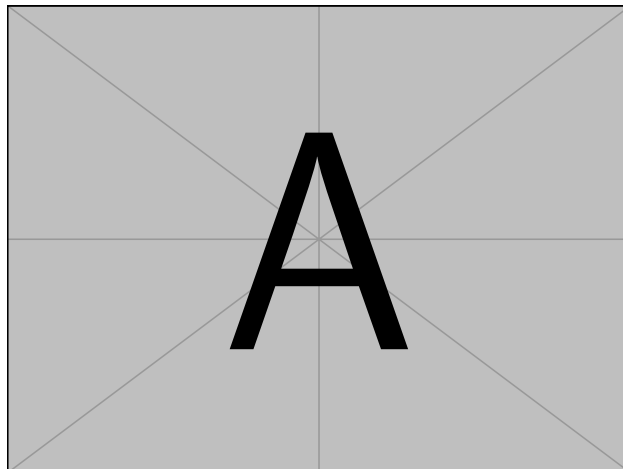


Figure 1: Example caption

8.c Work plan and schedule (detailed work plan for the first year of the research project and a rough work plan for the second part of the project)

8.d Type of publications to be expected

1. Publication 1
2. Publication 2
3. Publication 3
4. Publication 4

8.e Scientific significance/innovative aspects

8.f Societal relevance (valorisation and dissemination of results)

(please mention the expected relevance for environmental and sustainability issues; the main stakeholders and the way you will disseminate the results to the stakeholders)

9 DATA MANAGEMENT

(data storage, data ownership, and data sharing: see instructions)

10 FEASIBILITY

10.a Top 5 publications of the involved research groups, related to this proposal

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
-

10.b Data requirements and availability

10.c Collaboration both national and international

11 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Personnel (k€)					
Research costs (k€)	Equipment				
	Consumables				
	Fieldwork				
	PhD training and education				

12 ARE ALL REQUIREMENTS (FINANCIAL, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT) AVAILABLE AND/OR ARRANGED?

Yes

13 AGREED (digital) signatures

PhD candidate

Promotor

Name: Jane Doe

Date: May 16, 2024

Name:

Date:

14 NAMES, ADDRESSES AND EXPERTISE OF POSSIBLE REFEREES

Please name here at least five national and foreign referees (name, affiliation, e-mail), who will be able to give an independent judgement on the scientific quality and feasibility of the research project:

Name

Affiliation

Address

References

- [1] Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (IPCC). *Technical Summary. In: Climate Change 2022 - Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. 1st ed. Cambridge University Press, June 22, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-00-932584-4. DOI: [10.1017/9781009325844](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009325844). URL: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/identifier/9781009325844/type/book> (visited on 05/06/2024)^3.

Appendix: Figures and Tables

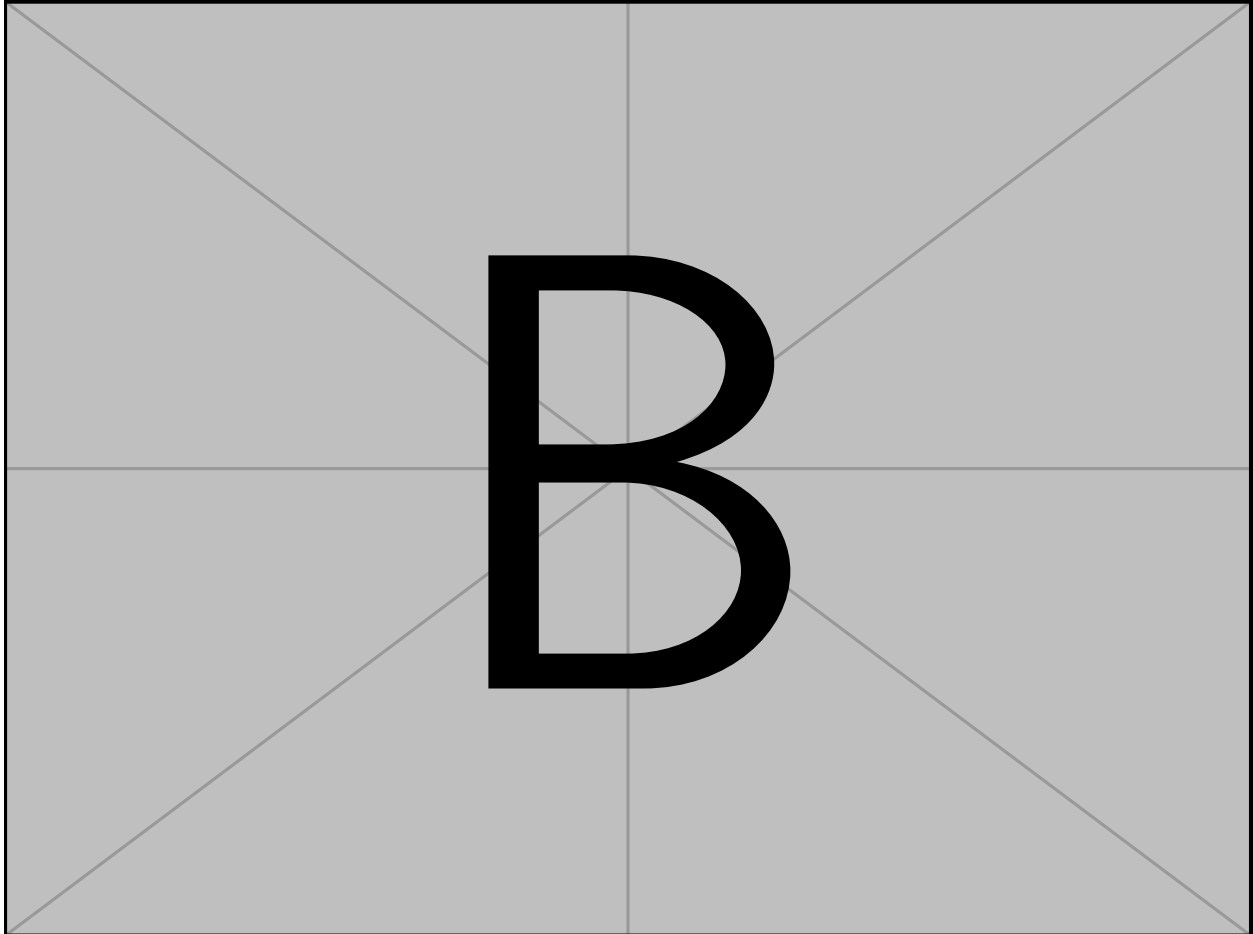


Figure 2: Example caption

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SENSE APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF A PhD PROJECT

Provide a clear description of your research project, which is understandable for non-specialists.

Send this project proposal by e-mail to the WIMEK secretariat: Johan.Feenstra@wur.nl

Instructions for each question:

Research Group(s): please mention the chair group(s) responsible for the supervision of the PhD project

1 PhD candidate details

PhD category

Make here the appropriate choice between AIO or OIO (= Research Assistant) / Sandwich PhD / Guest PhD / External PhD:

- Research Assistant (AIO / OIO) = temporary employee appointed at a SENSE University
- Sandwich PhD: fellowship student whose research is primarily conducted at the home institute or country of residence/origin
- Guest PhD: fellowship student whose research is primarily conducted at a SENSE University
- External PhD: PhD candidate not employed at a SENSE University who conducts research at an institute other than the SENSE University and whose only affiliation with the SENSE university is the promotor and supervisor(s).

Note: if you are not sure to which PhD category you belong, please ask your supervisor or the secretary of your research group.

2 Supervisors and technical support

List all staff members involved in the proposed research: provide names, initials, titles, and type of involvement, e.g. promotor / main thesis supervisor, co-promotor, daily guidance, technician, advisor, and the expected average number of hours per week they will spend on the project. For supervisors: the agreed average number of hours per week they will spend on supervision.

3

3.a Project title

Formulate the project title as concisely and specifically as possible (in English)

3.b Keywords

Please mention the main 3 – 5 keywords, that are specific or characteristic for your PhD project. These keywords will be used on the SENSE website for search functions.

3.c Popular summary

This summary will be used as a description of your PhD proposal on the SENSE website. It should be inspiring and understandable for highly educated people outside your field of study.

4 Animal experiments / genetically modified organisms / ethical dilemmas

4.a Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

All researchers at WUR must read and adhere to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the integrity code of WUR. By signing the proposal form you declare and promise that you will adhere to both integrity codes.

4.b Legal requirements

Animal experiments are regulated by the Law on Animal Experiments. If vertebrate animals are used in a new project, the Animal Experiments Committee (DEC) will send you a separate questionnaire. In the case of genetically modified research, an ethical check is compulsory. In that case, you should contact the DEC too.

4.c Potential ethical dilemmas

Ethical dilemmas, considerations, and decisions should play an important role in the programming of research proposals. Ethical dilemmas deal with potential harm to society, people, animals, and ecosystems and with the potential use or misuse of research results.

Relevant aspects are:

- What are the funding organisations of the PhD research and what is their interest in the research results?
- Research methods: animal experiments; involving people in your experiments.
- Research location: research carried out in countries where human rights are violated.

Relevant questions may be:

- For whom is the research question relevant;
- Who can profit most from the research outcomes;
- Who could be harmed most by the research outcomes;
- Which development is supported by this research;
- Does the research support sustainable development; etc.

In general, there are no good or wrong answers to ethical dilemmas, but it is very important to present your considerations clearly and transparently.

5 Financing

Please tick the box to state how the project is financed. If more than one way of financing is used, tick more boxes and specify the most important ones and the proportion of the financial contributions.

6 Research context

Please specify where the research will be carried out and the affiliation with national or international research programmes. This text will be used for research summaries. A maximum of 250 words is applicable.

7 Scientific summary of the research project

This summary should explain the title of the research project and present a sound view of the main objectives, design, and expected results of the PhD research

8 Description of the research project

(For the total of question 8a to 8f, a maximum of 2500 words is applicable) This question constitutes the main core of the project application.

8.a Problem definition and research objectives

The problem definition provides a concise description of the problem setting. The problem definition has to be translated into one or more research objectives. Problem definition and objectives should be as specific as possible. The research objectives clearly state the different questions to which the results of the research should provide an answer.

8.b Methodological design

Here the question is addressed on how the research objectives are met. The methodological design provides a clear description of the methods and research techniques that are going to be used to meet the different research objectives. So what methodology and methods are going to be used to answer the different research questions?

8.c Work plan and schedule

Present a detailed work plan for the first year of the research project with smart objectives and a rough work plan for the overall PhD project.

8.d Type of publications to be expected

Mention here the outline of the expected scientific publications based on the research results.

8.e Scientific significance

Under scientific significance, a description is given of the innovative aspects and motivated how the problem definition and research objectives follow from already available research results, knowledge, and questions (the literature). What does the research add to the already existing scientific literature?

8.f Societal relevance (valorisation and dissemination of results)

What is the relevance of the research outcome(s) for current environmental and sustainability issues? What are the main stakeholders who may be interested in the results of your PhD research? How are these stakeholders involved during the PhD research? In what way will the dissemination of the results take place to stakeholders and society?

References

Include the references in the usual way for scientific reporting in a separate annex 1.

9 Data management

This section outlines the data management plan and must include:

- Where and how the data will be stored (short-term and long-term storage),
- data ownership (please specify the ownership of data produced in this project or external data used for this project)
- data sharing (agreement on who will have access to and use your (un)published data)
- data management (who will be responsible for the data management after finalisation of your PhD)

This section may include references to a more comprehensive (i.e. 2 to 3 pages) data management plan in which elements are outlined in more detail and can also refer to a plan at the level of a research group. Note that the content of this document does not need to be included in this proposal; a citation is sufficient. The full DMP should be uploaded in Hora Finita and be approved by your first promotor.

WIMEK attaches great importance to well-managed research data. At Wageningen University, all expertise about Data Management support is represented at the [Data Management Support Hub](#). Here, you can find information on a wide range of topics like data management planning, managing your source code, and publishing your final data. Data Management Support also offers a course on data management planning.

10 Feasibility

10.a Relevant publications of the research group and related projects

Mention the top five publications of the research group related to the problem definition and research objectives. This question addresses the feasibility of the research. Is the background of the research group such that the supervision can be adequate?

10.b Data availability

Is data availability guaranteed? Does the research make use of available data sources or will data be collected using surveys, interviews, etc. Is it feasible to collect the data within the timeframe of the PhD project? Are there challenges taken into account considering the data collection? How representative are these data?

10.c Collaboration both national and international

In what way does the national and/or international collaboration add to the feasibility of the research?

In the case of Sandwich PhDs, is supervision in the country where the research will be performed adequately? Please specify which agreements have been made.

11 Financial arrangements

Please specify the budget for the PhD project: personnel costs, research costs, additional costs, and the available budget for PhD training and education

12 Check: are all requirements arranged?

This question is for your last check on the requirements. Are all the financial, personnel, and equipment arrangements accounted for? Covering these requirements is the responsibility of the chair group. Before

submitting the project proposal all requirements should be covered and arrangements finalised. If not, specify the situation and actions that will be taken to cover all requirements before the start of the project.

13 Agreed

Please verify that all mentioned research leaders have read and accepted the latest version of this project proposal. You may send this form by e-mail; a paper version with a real signature is not required.

14 Names, addresses, and expertise of possible referees

Provide here the names, affiliations, and e-mail of at least five national and international referees with their expertise related to this research proposal. We will send the comments of two referees back to you anonymously – generally within four weeks - for a reply.