

Call for Letters of Intent: Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Phytoplankton Carbon Solutions (PCS) Research Program 2026-2029

URL: <https://www.edf.org/phytoplankton-carbon-solutions-pcs-funding-opportunities>

Keywords: Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR); Phytoplankton Carbon Solutions (PCS); Ocean Biogeochemistry; Biological Carbon Pump; Climate Change Mitigation; Environmental Modelling; Marine Ecology; Social-Ecological Research; Interdisciplinary Research; International Collaboration

Funding Amount and Duration: Funding is available through four Requests for Proposals (RFPs), with award values ranging from USD \$800,000 to USD \$4 million and project durations of up to 36 months.

Funder deadline for LOIs: 15 November 2026

UCT Internal Deadlines:

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete UCT's [Intention-to- Submit](#) form **as early as possible**.
- **UCT eRA:** Preliminary proposal approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **required** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - contact their faculty finance/budget reviewer **promptly**.
 - ensure that their [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) reach the Finance Approver by no later than **30 October 2026**.

Contacts: Internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is seeking multidisciplinary research teams to contribute to its [Phytoplankton Carbon Solutions \(PCS\) Research Program](#), a collaborative international initiative focused on evaluating phytoplankton-based marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) approaches and their environmental and social implications.

EDF intends to invest more than USD \$10 million in PCS research through 2029. Prospective applicants are encouraged to watch the recording of the [virtual information session](#) held on 24 September 2026 for an overview of the programme and funding opportunities.

Phytoplankton Carbon Solutions (PCS) funding opportunities:

RFP	Focus Area	Funding	Duration	Deadline	Documents
RFP #1	Identification and Characterization of Critical Uncertainties for PCS	USD \$800,000 to \$1.3 million	Up to 24 months	12 October 2026 (LOI) closed	RFP and LOI Template available
RFP #2	Advancing Biogeochemical Modeling for PCS Evaluation	USD \$3 million to \$4 million	30-36 months	15 November 2026	RFP and LOI Template available
RFP #3	Focusing Biological Carbon Pump (BCP) Research for PCS Applications	USD \$2 million to \$3 million	30-36 months	15 November 2026	RFP and LOI Template available
RFP #4	Evaluating Social-Ecological Desirability	USD \$2 million to \$3 million	30-36 months	15 November 2026	RFP and LOI Template available

Eligibility Criteria

Applications should be led by suitably qualified researchers with expertise relevant to the proposed research area. Interdisciplinary and international teams, including early-career researchers, are encouraged.

Application Process: *How to apply*

Letter of Intent:

Prospective applicants must submit Letters of Intent (LOI) by:

- (1) completing the **LOI template** and;
- (2) submitting the template via the [LOI Submission Form](#).

The template and webform are also available on [EDF's PCS Funding Opportunities webpage](#). LOIs will undergo an internal review by EDF.

Important notes about the LOI submission:

- The LOI is limited to **2000 words** and should describe the proposed approach, anticipated outcomes, and project team composition
- The LOI must be uploaded to the webform as a **single PDF**.

Following review of submitted LOIs, selected applicants will be invited by EDF to submit a full proposal. Only invited applicants may proceed to the full proposal stage.