

AUSTRALIA - BRAZIL

VIRTUAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

2022 Edition on Ocean related research

ORGANIZATION:



Australian Government
**Department of Education,
Skills and Employment**



CONFAP
Conselho Nacional das Fundações
Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa

Date

29 June 2022, 7:00pm (Brasília Time Zone - BRT)

30 June 2022, 8:00am (Australian Eastern Standard Time - AEST)

Zoom platform

Background

The *Australia-Brazil Virtual Research Collaboration* is a networking strategy that builds on existing and growing relations and common projects between these two countries. It aims to foster and expand joint research on global challenges to increase the pace of knowledge production and its impact, taking advantage of common and complementary interests, expertise and infrastructure. It is run by the Brazilian *National Council for State Funding Agencies* (CONFAP) and the Australian *Department of Education, Skills and Employment* (DESE)¹ with the support of other institutions, such as the *Australian Academy of Sciences* (AAS) and the *Brazilian Academy of Sciences* (ABC).

The Virtual Research Collaboration events were established following the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding between CONFAP and DESE, which seeks to strengthen Australia and Brazil's history of research collaboration, including through facilitating the streamlining of joint research funding applications. In 2021, the first edition of the event addressed COVID-19 research, specifically in health system and public policy response, medical treatment and therapies, and "One Health". Senior individuals from government and academia attended, including Ambassadors, Deputy Secretaries and Presidents of Science Academies. At the time, 30 senior researchers and 60 early to mid-career ones from both countries, participated in matchmaking sessions linking leaders and collaborators of research projects on COVID-19 in Brazil and Australia. The objective was to create relationships and share research ideas, with the aim of developing joint projects with global impact which could then seek research funding.

For the first 2022 edition, the theme chosen to be explored is 'Oceans' due to its pivotal role in containing climate change, being the main ecosystem on the planet and the base of essential economic and cultural activities.

The **research streams to be featured** are:

- **oceans and society**
- **ocean economy and management of seafood chains**
- **mitigation of climate change and marine pollution effects**

¹ This initiative is implemented under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between DESE and CONFAP in December 2020.

More information available at:

<https://www.dese.gov.au/international-education/announcements/agreement-signed-brazilian-state-research-foundations>
<https://confap.org.br/news/confap-e-ministerio-de-educacao-capacitacao-e-emprego-da-australia-dese-assinam-acordo-de-cooperacao-cientifica/>

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Objectives of the event

To enhance Australia's and Brazil's bilateral research relationship by supporting institution-to-institution and researcher-to-researcher networking. It aims to showcase excellence and stimulate ideas for projects that:

- promote international awareness in both countries of the existing educational and research capabilities of Australia and Brazil in areas of emerging global importance and interest
- identify and nurture international cooperation, opportunities, and partnerships between institutions in Australia and Brazil
- optimize use and global impact of research produced in both countries by connecting experts and aligning complementary infrastructure for joint projects.

Expected outcomes

- Seed productive partnerships with potential to tap into available funding in both countries and in the international arena to finance research aimed at global challenges
- Strengthen existing academic and institutional relationships and foster new ones in areas of common interest
- Share scientific expertise, research capabilities and infrastructure to leverage complementary projects, increasing chances of access to funding and of achieving global impact
- Foster the creation of new international networks of excellence related to oceans and society; ocean economy and management of sea food chains; as well as in mitigation of climate change effects and marine pollution.

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Themes for 2022 Edition on Oceans

The *Australia-Brazil Virtual Research Collaboration* on Oceans comes in the aftermath of deep-rooted global problems, dramatically exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, that require major structural transformation and joint solutions anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Science-based innovative solutions will be key to propel a new chapter of global ocean action and policy making. In this context, the *Australia-Brazil Virtual Research Collaboration* will have three separate breakout rooms covering the following research streams:

1. Oceans and society

In this breakout room participants will debate ways of promoting a better understanding of the role played by the ocean in our lives and the impact of our actions on the sea. These include mechanisms to engage society in ocean science, raising awareness on the importance of the ocean and its sustainability, and the need to invest in this area of research.

2. Ocean economy and management of seafood chains

In this breakout room participants will debate themes related to ocean based economic activities, focusing on sustainable use of resources by the main ocean industries such as oil, transportation, fishing, leisure and tourism. Related topics could also consider the inclusion of traditional populations in ocean management, environmental challenges faced by aquaculture may also be debated in this session.

3. Mitigation of climate change and marine pollution effects

This breakout room will feature discussion on preventive efforts to reverse the following trends of marine pollution and climate change:

i) Generalized increase in temperature, hypoxia and seawater acidity and the consequential decline in marine biodiversity, including fishing, coral bleaching, and the elevation of sea levels and the growing occurrence of extreme events.

ii) Marine pollution with a focus on the eutrophication and deoxygenation of the sea, generated by industries such as oil, pharmaceutical and cosmetic, or by pressure from growing populations.

iii) (Micro)plastic and other waste increase in the oceans, how to work with industry and governments to provoke changes in the way those materials are used, recycled and disposed.

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Event Format

The event will be held at 7.00pm on 29 June 2022 (Brasilia Time Zone)/8.00am on 30 June 2022 (Australian Eastern Standard Time) and will run for two hours. An optional follow up opportunity for collaboration will be held in late August/early September.

Ten senior researchers² from each country will be selected to participate in the event. Each senior researcher may nominate up to two early to mid-career researchers³ to also attend.

The event is not designed around an extensive speaker program, but rather focused on creating connections between researchers and provoking collaborative research ideas.

General Draft Agenda (2h)

Welcome and introductory remarks - CONFAP - DESE	10 min
Keynote speaker(s) - Expert on topic to inspire and promote discussion	20 min
General information - Breakout rooms - Report of rooms	5 min
Breakout rooms - 3 parallel rooms with expert moderators	70 min
Debrief session - 5 min presentations of discussion from each breakout room	15 min
Close	5 min

² It is considered senior researchers the ones who hold a PhD degree over 7 years.

³ It is considered early-mid career researchers the ones who hold a degree from 2 years to 7 years.

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How to Participate

For Australians:

Individual researchers may nominate themselves to participate by completing the [Form for Australian Applicants](#).

In the application, researchers will be asked to provide:

- Personal Bio with information on previous research related to the Ocean theme
- Areas of interest in this field
- If you have any existing partnerships with Brazilian researchers on the Ocean theme
- Names of up to two early to mid-career researchers that may contribute to the meeting, should your application be accepted

For Brazilians:

Individual researchers may nominate themselves to participate by completing the [Form for Brazilian Applicants](#).

In the application, researchers will be asked to provide:

- Personal Bio with information on previous research related to the Ocean theme
- Areas of interest in this field
- If you have any existing partnerships with Australian researchers on the Ocean theme
- Names of up to two early to mid-career researchers that may contribute to the meeting, should your application be accepted

Based on the information provided by these nominees, CONFAP will select the attendees to the event on the Brazilian side.

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING

Nominations from both countries will be accepted until 7:00pm on 1 June 2022. All those selected to participate will be notified by the organizers by 13 June 2022.

Contacts

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For Brazilians: flaviac.confap@gmail.com

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