

Governance

The Foundation is an affiliate of the World BioProtection Forum (WBF) and is governed by the WBF Board. The Chairman of the Foundation is the head of the organisation and is an ex-officio member of the WBF Board. The Chairman is responsible for providing strategic direction and overseeing the operations of the foundation, and is primarily guided by the following governing bodies:

Visionary Steering Council (VSC)

Program Advisory Council of Experts (PACE)

The structure of the Foundation is expected to evolve gradually and is likely to include program and project managers, scientists, outreach and communication specialists, and administrative staff. The WBF will have the carriage for securing funds for the foundation and its initiatives.

The individual and institution members of the Foundation play a vital role in the preparation of research projects and undertaking research initiatives. However, the primary onus of securing funds and grants is on the Foundation.

Visionary Steering Council (VSC):Terms of Reference

The purpose of the VSC is to provide strategic guidance, oversight, and direction to the Foundation. VSC is responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of the foundation's mission, vision, and goals. It provides leadership in setting the research agenda, evaluating progress, and making informed decisions to advance the foundation's objectives. The WBF Research Foundation is a not-for-profit institution, run by volunteers, dedicated to promoting bioprotection research and innovation for sustainable development, healthy ecosystems, and improved protection of people and their livelihoods.

Membership:

The VSC comprises 10 members, including a VSC Chairperson. The Foundation will identify and appoint the VSC. VSC will comprise individuals with diverse expertise and backgrounds relevant to the Foundation's research priorities.

Chairperson:

The Chairperson will be responsible for coordinating meetings, setting the agenda, and representing the council when required.

Term of Appointment:

VSC members will serve a term of two years, with the possibility of reappointment based on mutual agreement.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Provide strategic guidance and oversight to ensure the Foundation's research activities align with its mission, vision, and goals.

Identify emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in the field of research and recommend appropriate actions.

Provide guidance on securing funds and grants for research projects, resource allocation and budgeting for research projects.

Support fundraising and resource mobilization efforts to sustain and expand the Foundation's research activities.

Enable the Foundation to establish major research collaborations and partnerships internationally.

Advise the Foundation on matters related to research strategy, impact assessment, and stakeholder engagement.

Meetings:

VSC will meet four times in a year, or as required, to fulfill its responsibilities. Meetings will be generally conducted through virtual platforms. VSC will provide meeting reports to the Foundation outlining key activities, progress, and recommendations. The WBF will provide the necessary administrative support to facilitate the smooth functioning of the VSC, including meeting arrangements, documentation, and coordination.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest:

VSC members must adhere to strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information and discussions.

Any potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed promptly, and members must recuse themselves from decisions where a conflict exists.

Program Advisory Council of Experts (PACE): Terms of Reference

The Program Advisory Council of Experts (PACE) provides expert guidance and strategic advice on the Foundation's research programs and initiatives. It leads and coordinates the preparation of priority projects for securing funds. It plays a vital role in ensuring the relevance, impact, and success of the Foundation's activities, by bringing together a diverse group of experienced professionals from academia, industry, government and other relevant sectors for the preparation of priority projects.

Objectives:

- a. To provide expert advice and guidance on the Foundation's research programs and initiatives, ensuring alignment with the foundation's vision, mission, and strategic goals.
- b. To offer insights and recommendations on emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in the field of bioprotection research, fostering innovation and advancement.
- c. To lead, coordinate, prepare, review and assess research proposals, projects, and outcomes, providing feedback on scientific rigor, feasibility, and potential impact.
- d. To identify and recommend potential collaborations, partnerships, and funding opportunities that can enhance the Foundation's research efforts and promote knowledge exchange.
- e. To contribute to the dissemination of research findings, ensuring that the Foundation's work reaches relevant stakeholders and the broader scientific community.

Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Attend PACE meetings: PACE members are expected to attend regular meetings (expected four meetings in a year) generally through virtual platforms. Meetings will serve as a platform for discussion, information sharing, and decision-making.
- b. Provide expert advice: PACE members will share their expertise and provide strategic guidance on the Foundation's research programs, initiatives, and priorities. They will contribute to shaping the

research proposals for seeking funds and research agenda for ensuring its relevance to key stakeholders.

c. Review research proposals and projects: PACE members will review and assess research proposals and ongoing projects, providing constructive feedback on scientific merit, methodology, and potential impact.

d. Offer insights and recommendations: PACE members will stay informed about the latest developments, emerging trends, and challenges in the field of bioprotection microbial research. They will share their insights and make recommendations to the foundation based on their expertise and knowledge.

e. Facilitate collaborations and partnerships: PACE members will actively identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership with relevant organizations, institutions, and industry players. They will leverage their networks and expertise to foster meaningful collaborations that enhance the Foundation's research efforts.

f. Disseminate research findings: PACE members will support the Foundation in disseminating research findings through various channels, such as conferences, publications, and stakeholder engagement. They will help ensure that research outcomes reach the intended audience and contribute to broader knowledge exchange.

Composition and Appointment

a. The PACE will consist of a diverse group of experts with backgrounds in bioprotection research, academia, industry, project development, and related fields. A chairperson identified from PACE members will lead, manage and coordinate functioning of PACE.

b. The PACE will be composed of up to 12 members, ensuring a broad range of perspectives and expertise.

c. PACE members will be appointed for a term of two years and can be eligible for reappointment.

d. The selection of PAC members will be based on their professional qualifications, experience, and expertise relevant to the Foundation's research objectives.

Reporting and Accountability

a. The PACE will report to the Foundation through regular updates, progress reports, and formal recommendations.

b. PACE members will maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information shared during meetings and discussions.

c. The WBF will provide the necessary administrative support to facilitate the smooth functioning of the PACE, including meeting arrangements, documentation, and coordination.

Duration and Review

a. These terms of reference will remain in effect until further review and revision by the foundation's governing body.

b. The effectiveness and performance of the PACE will be periodically assessed, ensuring its continued relevance and contribution to the foundation's objectives.

By establishing the PACE, the WBF Research Foundation aims to leverage the expertise and insights of leading professionals to advance its bioprotection research programs and drive positive impact in the field. The PACE recommendations and guidance will be invaluable in shaping the foundation's strategic direction and ensuring the success of its initiatives.

Foundation Member

Members of the Foundation have special privileges, which include but are not limited to: priority access to directly involve in high priority project preparation, access to funding opportunities, advice from experts, enhanced visibility within the scientific community, invitations to exclusive events and conferences, and the opportunity to engage in high-profile collaborations with renowned experts in the field, co-development of research initiatives, and direct involvement in shaping the Foundation's research agenda.

The membership also provides opportunity to be at the forefront of ground breaking microbial research and gain recognition as leaders in the field, provide access to an extensive network of researchers and institutions dedicated to collaborative microbial research and opportunity to build connections and foster interdisciplinary collaborations.

Members have enhanced opportunity to actively contribute to public outreach, knowledge dissemination, and advocacy efforts in the field of microbial research, including invitation to participate in media interviews, public speaking engagements, and awareness campaigns.

Operations

The Foundation identifies priority research areas consistent with its vision and mission. The VSE reviews and provides advice and direction regarding the priority research areas and initiatives. The PACE leads and coordinates the preparation of research projects and engages the members of the Foundation. The Foundation explores funding opportunities for the research projects. When the funds are secured, they are allocated to the institution and individual members engaged in the preparation of the research projects for undertaking the research. The PACE monitors and oversight the research progress.