

ACEAS supported three main external activities: *Targeted Workshops, Working Groups and Sabbatical Fellows*, applications for which were open twice a year. There were six 'rounds' managed in this way, from May 2010 through to November 2012. Other meetings were supported for separate TERN-supporting working groups. Actual meetings and management of groups has continued through to June 2014, and group outcomes are expected to continue to unfold for the next few years.

Researchers and managers with a major pressing terrestrial ecosystem question for which some dedicated and supported time together will help solve should consider the *Working Group* option.

Working Groups were supported through ACEAS ***remotely*** with a personal wiki site, access to other communication tools as required, capacity for storage, exchange and manipulation of data, and in ***face-to-face workshops*** in dedicated meeting rooms with technical support for optimal activity. Funding allowed ***Working Groups*** up to three workshops over a maximum 18 month period.

Working Groups were assessed on: (i) relevance to ACEAS-TERN objectives, (ii) innovation and standard of work proposed, (iii) demonstrated need for the work and could not easily be funded elsewhere, (iv) quality and completeness of the team assembled (with attention to inclusion of a postgraduate student or postdoctoral fellow), (v) that have participants from more than one organisation, state or territory, (vi) engagement with the broad ecological community, (vii) likelihood of outcome (paper, report), and (viii) feasibility and completeness of the work program (including budget).

Associated with these groups was a single person who could contribute to several Working Groups and benefit from some dedicated time working in the stimulating environment of ACEAS: this would be the person suited to a **Sabbatical Fellowship**. ACEAS would fund the travel and accommodation expenses of the Fellow (such as an internationally recognised ecologist or ecosystem scientist) intended to support their extended interaction with ACEAS and with a variety of Working Groups for periods of 3-12 months.

Targeted Workshops covering high priority topics such as those relating to sharing and analysing complex and heterogeneous ecosystem data were also supported. To give you an idea of what was produced at such a workshop, check out the product of one such workshop: [Data systems: semantics, data sharing and documentation of analysis at the national scale](#). Although suggested topical themes were mooted, these were never proscribed.

The ACEAS Facility Director offered advice to all aspiring groups.