

Managing Organization (Hub) for Responsible AI for Climate Action Innovation Research Networks in Africa - FAQ's

Questions	Answers
<p>We would like to clarify whether the funding to be disbursed when the hub organized a call for proposal is included on the hub's budget which is CAD\$1.2 million?</p>	<p>Yes, the overall budget for all activities is \$1.2 million, including sub-grants to network members.</p>
<p>Can you clarify how to describe collaborations in the Expression of Interest?</p>	<p>All proposed collaborations are at the discretion of the lead applicant. If you decide to propose one, the EOI must provide the following rationales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- explain why the consortium has come together to implement this innovation research network;</li> <li>- describe the role and added value provided by each member organization; and</li> <li>- describe the governance and coordination arrangements they will use to produce high quality work and support fair and equitable partnerships.</li> </ul> <p>Pan-African collaborations can be proposed. At least 51% of the budget should be directed to the lead applicant. To be considered an African institution, it must be headquartered on the continent.</p> <p>International collaborations will also be considered. However, please note that no funds from the grant can be allocated for salaries, travel, or research expenses related to those international collaborations.</p>
<p>Our organisation has a research facility in Kenya focusing on AI and Climate Change. The signing entity would be the head organisation based in the USA but the implementing team would be the local division in Kenya. Would we qualify to apply?</p>	<p>No, only organisations that are <i>headquartered</i> in a low or lower-middle income country in Sub-Saharan Africa are eligible to be the lead applicant.</p> <p>However, your organisation could be proposed as a co-applicant (member of a consortium). Refer to the previous answer for more details about modalities for international collaborations.</p>
<p>We are a multidisciplinary AI research group which has faculties and Ph.D. students from different countries and universities, meaning that we have experts from more than 3 organizations, what would you recommend us to deal</p>	<p>We suggest that the proposal is submitted by the institution/university which host/lead the research group. Individual collaborators may come from many different universities or research institutes, but institutional collaborators (which will be considered subgrantees in the grant agreement) are limited to 2.</p>

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with this issue to meet the requirement for consortia that may consist of up to three (3) organizations?	An alternative, or complementary arrangement, is that experts from organizations outside the lead organization can be included in the proposal as consultants.
Can you give us more information about the budget? Namely, are there restrictions? Can we pay salary or scholarships to researcher? Can we buy material? Can we pay travel costs?	<p>Yes, there are a few restrictions to keep in mind while preparing your budget. This includes a cap on infrastructure/equipment purchase to 20% of the budget and that indirect costs must be limited to 13%. We also place a cap of personnel costs at 25% of the budget, although exceptions can be made provided sufficient justification. Note that this refers to salaried employees of the lead organization. Expenses relating to the costs of personnel within organizations who receive the subgrants are considered research costs.</p> <p>Travel costs and scholarships are all possible and should be justified as part of the proposed network design and accompanying activities.</p> <p>More guidance on budgets can be found on <a href="#">IDRC's website</a>.</p>
Does it make sense to plan a start-up spin-off of the project to sustain the costs after the grant? Or should it still be focused on research?	This is beyond the scope of work, and therefore not mandatory. This said, you are invited to share your initial reflections on sustainability and longer-term planning of the network as this could demonstrate organizational motivation and be assessed positively by reviewers.
I did not see Egypt as an eligible country to apply although that we are classified as developing country and we are an African country as well.	Correct. Egypt isn't part of Sub-Saharan Africa, and therefore, not eligible as the main applicant. The list is available on the <a href="#">World Bank website</a> . We, however, see collaborations within Africa positively.
<p>Can you kindly advise if South African universities can apply for this call?</p> <p>We would like to kindly enquire as to why Namibia did not make it onto the list of eligible countries for funding.</p>	<p>Namibia and South Africa are considered upper-middle income countries, as per the <a href="#">World Bank classification</a>, and therefore, not eligible.</p> <p>Namibia should be added to the list of non-eligible countries at the end of Annex 1 (along with Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa and Seychelles). We apologize for this oversight.</p> <p>Note that the call for research projects within the network that the winning organization of this call will launch will be open to organizations in all countries in Africa, and therefore South African and Namibian organizations can apply at that time.</p>

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<p>Why exclude upper-middle income countries from the call, there are only five of us, four of which have quite low GDPs?</p>	<p>We recognize the World Bank classification doesn't do justice to the complex realities within countries, however this call is addressed to lower and lower-middle income countries as an opportunity to advance the responsible development and deployment of home-grown AI innovations to tackle pressing challenges emerging from climate change. This said, pan-African collaborations are encouraged.</p>
<p>Can we include visuals (for illustration) and tables in the EOI document within the required word count?</p>	<p>Yes. This is allowed provided the overall maximum of words is respected.</p>
<p>To what level of detail should we present the budget?</p>	<p>We need to see an overall budget with a certain level of details for key activities, but we don't require anything granular at this stage. A breakdown of costs for major budget lines is sufficient.</p>
<p>How do you define/count an innovator? For example, we have some connections with some innovators who have connections with researchers at universities in Africa and work with local groups, so if we invite this innovator, does this innovator's local network count all together as one innovator, or multiple?</p>	<p>We use a broad definition of an innovator, that is someone who introduces new methods, ideas, or products. This person can be from the industry, civil society or a researcher with close ties to climate action innovations. Partnering with an organisation that promotes innovative work can also be seen as a right approach as it provides a pool of resources (human, technical, financial) to test, pilot or scale innovative climate work.</p> <p>The numbers of innovators won't be counted per say. It is more about bringing in complementary forces into the EOI at this stage.</p>