



*Long-term Europe – Africa WEF Nexus
(LEAWEF) Multilateral Research Programme*

(LEAWEF) Multilateral Research Programme

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD (WEF) NEXUS

SUBTHEMES:

Climate adaptation
Just energy transitions

1st Call for proposals

Opening Date: 12 September 2024

Closing Date Concept Note: 11 February 2025

Closing Date Full proposals: 14 July 2025



Content

- 1. Introduction** 5
 - 1.1 Background..... 5
 - 1.2 Countries participating in the Call for proposals 5
 - 1.3 Budget information 6
 - 1.4 Submission deadlines 7
- 2. Aim and objectives of the programme** 8
 - 2.1 Objectives of the LEAWEF multilateral research programme..... 8
 - 2.2 Focus of the call 9
 - 2.3 Integrated and flexible research approach 11
 - 2.3.1 Joint activities 12
 - 2.4 International collaboration 12
 - 2.5 Societal impact 12
 - 2.5.1 Knowledge utilisation 12
 - 2.5.2 Impact Plan approach..... 13
 - 2.6. Gender Inclusivity..... 15
 - 2.7. Open science 16
 - 2.8. Applied systems analysis 16
- 3. Eligibility criteria and funding regulations** 17
 - 3.1 Who can apply? 17
 - 3.2 What can I apply for? (Eligible activities) 18
 - 3.3 Preparing an application 19
 - 3.3.1 Partnership request form 19
 - 3.3.2 Concept note 19
 - 3.3.3 Full proposal 20
- 4. Assessment Procedure** 22
 - 4.1 Procedure 22
 - 4.1.1 Submission of a Partnership request form..... 22
 - 4.1.2 Submission of the Concept note 23
 - 4.1.3 Eligibility screening of the Concept note..... 23
 - 4.1.4 Assessment of the Concept note..... 23
 - 4.1.5 Submission of the Full proposal 24
 - 4.1.6 Eligibility screening of the Full proposal..... 24
 - 4.1.7 Assessment by assessment committee 24
 - 4.1.7.1 Pre-assessment by assessment committee..... 24
 - 4.1.7.2 Rebuttal 25
 - 4.1.7.3 Meeting of the assessment committee..... 25
 - 4.1.7.4 Ex aequo 25

4.1.8. Decision-making by Science Granting Councils	26
4.1.9 Timetable.....	26
4.2. Right to object a decision	27
4.3 Criteria	27
4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria	27
5. Obligations of Funded Projects	29
5.1 Consortium Agreement	29
5.2 Project monitoring and reporting	29
5.3 Programme activities.....	30
5.4 Publication and disseminations.....	31
5.5 Personal data protection.....	32
6. Contact Details for Queries.....	34
For general call related questions please contact the Joint Call Secretariat via:	34
For technical questions about the online submission systems please contact:	34
7. Call annexes	35
7.1 Annex I - Information on the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI).....	36
7.2 Annex II: Format for Impact Pathway with indicators at output and outcome level	37
7.3 Annex III: Individual National Eligibility and Funding Regulations.....	39

1. Introduction

In this Call for proposals, information is provided about the application procedure for the first call launched within the 'Long-term Europe – Africa WEF-Nexus Multilateral Research Programme (LEAWEF). This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the collaboration participating Science Granting Councils from Africa and Europe (see table 1).

In this document you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your Concept note, and Full proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding, Chapter 6 contains contact details and Chapter 7 the annexes, including each funders' national funding requirements.

1.1 Background

The 2024 'LEAWEF' funding round is the first Call for proposals in the Long-term Europe – Africa WEF-Nexus Multilateral Research Programme. This first call includes 10 Science Granting Councils (SGCs) from both Africa and Europe. The ambition is to expand to more countries in both continents in future calls. This programme builds on the bilateral co-operation between the Dutch Research Council (NWO) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. The NRF and NWO support a long-term scientific collaboration in the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus field. The WEF Nexus is a cross-sectoral approach to resource management and sustainable development. To continue this work, this Call for proposals invites consortia in which researchers from knowledge institutions from all involved countries work together with societal partners from public, semi-public and private organisations. The LEAWEF partners hope to provide effective contributions to support transformations towards sustainability and gradually expand the knowledge base on the WEF Nexus field. LEAWEF partners have agreed on strategic knowledge and innovation agendas of the involved countries. Funded research projects should be aligned to national research agendas, as well as international initiatives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The multilateral collaboration is characterised by an impact-focused approach towards broad societal challenges, is interdisciplinary in nature, and involves societal partners throughout the process.

1.2 Countries participating in the Call for proposals

For a consortium to be eligible it should consist of applicants from at least three countries participating in the Call for proposals. This consortium should include at least one partner from practice from a public, semi-public or private institute. Please note that a proposal that does not adhere to these conditions will be considered ineligible. Please refer to Chapter 3 for all eligibility criteria.

Countries and Science Granting Councils participating in the Call for proposals:

Table 1: Involved Science Granting Councils

Country	Science Granting Councils
Burkina Faso	Fonds National de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Développement (FONRID)
Côte d'Ivoire	Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI)
Ethiopia	Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT)
Ghana	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)
Kenya	National Research Fund (NRF K)
Mozambique	Fundo Nacional de Investigacao (FNI)
Netherlands	Dutch Research Council (NWO)
South Africa	National Research Foundation (NRF)
Tanzania	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)
Zimbabwe	Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ)

See Annex I for information on the SGCI.

1.3 Budget information

The total budget for this call amounts to **4 392 930 EUR** (*all funding organisations combined*). With the available total budget, the partners aim to fund around seven projects for a maximum of 48 months.

Country	Funding Agency	Financial contribution in Euro's (total)	National currency	Maximum number of projects
Burkina Faso	FONRID	€ 46 000	30.000.000 West African Franc	1
Côte d'Ivoire	FONSTI	€ 95 000	62.000.000 West African Franc	3
Ethiopia	MinT	€ 575.000	35.000.000 Ethiopian Birr	7
Ghana	MESTI	€ 40.000	578.000 Ghanaian Cedi	1
Kenya	NRF K	€ 137.930	150000 USD/ 19.500.000 Kenyan Shilling	3
Mozambique	FNI	€ 93.000	USD 100,000/ 6.325.000 Mozambique Metical	2
Netherlands	NWO	€ 2.800.000	€ 2.800.000	7

South Africa	NRF SA	€ 490.000	10.000.000 South African Rand, R2.5 mil per year	4
Tanzania	COSTECH	€ 88.000	240,000,000 Tanzanian shilling	2
Zimbabwe	RCZ	€ 28.000	10,857,000 Zimbabwean Dollars	1
TOTAL		€ 4 392 930		

The above-mentioned funding organisations will each fund researchers from their respective countries in a joint project. See **section 3.2** for guidelines on budget allocation against eligible research activities. Further to this, researchers should consult **Annex III: Individual National Eligibility and Funding Regulations** for detailed information on the budget and what can be applied for.

1.4 Submission deadlines

The Call for proposals consists of three phases:

- a Partnership request form and matchmaking phase via B2match;
- a Concept note submission phase; and
- a Full proposal submission phase.

The deadline for the submission of **Partnership request forms** (not mandatory), which are to be submitted to NWO, is **4 November 2024, at 14:00:00 hours CET**.

The deadline for the submission of **Concept notes** (mandatory), which are to be submitted to NWO, is **11 February 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CET**.

The deadline for the submission of **Full proposals** (mandatory) is **14 July 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CEST**. All applications must be submitted to NWO. Additionally, some Science Granting Councils require a submission via their national system (see national annexes).

When you submit your application in ISAAC and the submission system of other Science Granting Councils (if required), you will also need to enter details online. Therefore, please start submitting your application at least one week before the deadline of this Call for proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Do you, the Consortium lead, co-Principal investigators and/or collaboration partners work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added to the database. This can take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

2. Aim and objectives of the programme

2.1 Objectives of the LEAWEF multilateral research programme

Since the Bonn 2011 Conference, the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach has gained recognition internationally and nationally as a cross-sectoral approach to resource management and sustainable development. It provides the overall framework for this programme and addresses the interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs between the management, production and consumption chain of water, energy and food resources. Production and distribution patterns of one sector affects the other, for example, decline in rainfall may mean inability to produce hydroelectricity as well as poor food security due to decline in crop yields. Thus, there is a need to recognise the significant interdependencies between the water, energy and food sectors in development planning and to aim for an integrated approach to resource governance. This holistic approach is crucial to achieving increased security, inclusion, equity and sustainability in water, energy and food provision and distribution in all countries involved.

NWO and NRF South Africa have jointly funded projects on the WEF nexus for a number of years. However, there is need for more comprehensive analyses and broader geographic perspective, as this is a global issue. Consequently, LEAWEF seeks to broaden the group of participating countries to other parts of Africa.

At the same time, many societal challenges which are global in nature, require flexibility and creativity to find locally relevant solutions. The collaborative research financed in this programme is intended to advance both science and practice-oriented knowledge and work towards innovative solutions for high scientific, environmental and societal impact.

Furthermore, the Science Granting Councils (SGCs) aim to enhance and strengthen sustainable research collaboration between their countries, by inviting consortia in which researchers from knowledge institutions from the involved countries will work with societal partners from the public, semi-public and private sector, in order to increase the societal relevance of their research.

This programme, therefore, serves as an international research platform designed to provide the knowledge needed to support transformations towards sustainability. The programme seeks to:

- Develop and connect knowledge to increase the (societal) impact of research;
- Explore new development pathways; and
- Find new ways to accelerate transitions towards sustainable development.

Through this programme, the SGCs will bring together societal partners to co-develop the knowledge needed to support decision-makers and contribute to societal and environmental change at all scales and in diverse contexts, by focusing on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus as the main research area. The competing uses between water, land and energy-related resources is a global, regional and national challenge that one country cannot solve alone. This is because of the transboundary nature of the resources. It requires multi-country partnerships, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research with a range of diverse participants in a single project.

The projects funded within this programme should show the innovative applicability of the WEF Nexus approach in development planning and ultimately demonstrate how the WEF Nexus approach could assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically 2 (zero hunger), 6 (clean water and sanitation) and 7 (affordable and clean energy) and considering the subthemes of this Call: SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 1 (no poverty).

2.2 Focus of the call

The focus of this Call aligns with the objectives of the LEAWEF multilateral research programme. It furthermore focuses on two subthemes: 1. Climate Change Adaptation and 2. Just Energy Transitions. A description hereof is provided below. Applicants are expected to focus on one or both subtheme(s), within the context of the WEF Nexus.

Applicants are also asked to consider the knowledge sector, the public sector and the private sector, and the power relations and governance at different levels. For example, the private sector is vital in energy transitions as they play a critical role as a source of investments and as a driver of technological development and innovation. As such, the private sector also plays an important role in enhancing digital transformations and strengthening these transformations can help organisations operationalising the WEF Nexus, catalyse climate change adaptation and facilitate/enhance knowledge exchange between actors. It is essential however to ensure that these digital transformations are inclusive, which requires a participatory process wherein all actors involved focus on maximising the benefits of digitalisation for all and underrepresented people are able to take part and benefit in a meaningful way. Inclusiveness should not only be taken into account in the research focus, and not only focus on digital transformations, but also more broadly in the co-creation of knowledge and the design of WEF nexus approaches. Also, inclusiveness and a just transition need to be emphasised in the research approach, e.g. through conscious efforts to include underrepresented groups in the research focus and design. The WEF Nexus projects are expected to create novel insights into these power structures and the interlinkages in the public, private and knowledge sectors.

Subthemes:

1. Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change has further intensified the competing uses of water, land and energy-related resources. To tackle these critical issues, ecosystem-based adaptations are proposed, which are defined as “strategies of using nature as a defence against climate impacts”¹. Ecosystem-based adaptations have the potential to increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of affected populations and natural resources to climate change, while providing other social, economic and environmental benefits. For example, in areas where farming is negatively impacted by coastal flooding, reforesting mangroves could provide a solution in areas where farming is negatively impacted by coastal flooding. In regions affected by droughts, natural wetlands could be a way of

¹ Definition by the UN environment programme: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/six-ways-nature-can-protect-us-climate-change>.

retaining sufficient groundwater supplies.

In light of the well-documented increase in biophysical and societal risk caused by the observed and projected impacts of anthropogenic climate change, any climate change adaptation interventions within the context of the WEF Nexus should:

- promote a better understanding of climate change impacts on water, land and energy-related resources and the types of capacity required to respond to those impacts;
- explore how climate change adaptation interventions can be appropriately integrated into the WEF Nexus value chain, with sufficient resources and requisite systems to facilitate implementation;
- improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity in response to climate change impacts and consequences;
- facilitate mainstreaming of adaptation responses into the WEF Nexus sectoral planning, management and implementation;
- promote research application, technology development, transfer and adoption to support future planning, management and implementation; and
- be designed in co-creation with Indigenous Peoples and local communities² in order to lead to increased climate resilience, and also to better contextualise data about climate change, assessments of vulnerability, and (co-) design of locally efficient interventions that support resilience.

2. Just energy transitions

This Call considers the objective of just energy transitions³ as the shift to a low-emissions and climate-resilient society and economy, while managing the transition with strategies that both deal with the unavoidable burdens arising from any transition in a just way, as well as seize the opportunities offered by the green economy, with wide sharing of benefits. This entails ensuring representation, inclusion, equity and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change or dependent on markets that do not positively contribute towards the energy transition. To illustrate, solutions for energy transitions should take into account trade-offs, when for example renewable energy initiatives result in job losses and economic decline of affected communities and regions due to the relocation of fossil-based industries.

It is thus essential to consider these affected communities in any climate change response, to make the energy transitions approach just. Indeed, the aim is a 'just' transition: seizing the opportunities and managing the risks associated with climate change, aiming to improve livelihood opportunities for all, particularly those most vulnerable and impacted. Within the context of the WEF Nexus, the growth of renewable energy resources, such as solar PV and wind, can enhance the resilience of supply by reducing reliance on freshwater and fossil fuels for electricity generation, while shifting towards a just

² A UNESCO example of contributions of local and indigenous knowledge systems to climate action: <https://www.unesco.org/en/climate-change/links>.

³ As defined by the South African Climate Commission, and applied to all countries involved in this call: a just energy transition should ensure "that the lives and communities that are tied to high-emitting energy industries (e.g., coal) are not left behind in the shift towards a low emissions economy. Indeed, the energy transition must be fair and perceived to be fair. A well-managed "Just Energy Transition" can be a strong driver for new jobs, better jobs, social justice, and poverty eradication." <https://www.climatecommission.org.za/just-energy-transition>

transition of the energy system and potentially mitigating climate change. Diversification of the energy mix, through the addition of renewables, may also allow for more contextually relevant innovation in relation to the energy supply in the WEF Nexus value chain.

Renewables can simultaneously advance climate goals and SDGs linked to energy, water and food security, as well as poverty alleviation by for example creating jobs in new sectors like green hydrogen. Renewables, thus, should and can play an important role in the WEF Nexus adaptation to climate change.

With this in mind, the just energy transitions considerations that the WEF Nexus research projects should focus on are:

- Identifying and exploring what opportunities renewable energy solutions offer within the WEF nexus;
- identify and mitigate trade-offs due to shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energies
- What are the key enabling conditions for attracting investments, including climate financing, in renewable energy projects that offer significant adaptation benefits within the WEF nexus?;
- What measures have proven to be effective in mobilising stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively design and implement adaptation measures as part of a just energy transition, specifically with respect to renewable energy in the WEF nexus?; and
- What aspects need to be included in Just Energy Transition strategies within the WEF nexus?

2.3 Integrated and flexible research approach

The challenges addressed in this call are interrelated and multi-scalar, and reaching the envisioned impact requires a holistic approach that spans the entire research and innovation chain. The consortia should crosscut scientific disciplinary boundaries (interdisciplinarity) and integrate scientific and practitioners' knowledge in joint research (transdisciplinarity). Research should focus on the entire knowledge system, including fundamental, applied and practical research. The proposed research itself should be characterised by integrated perspectives. It should evolve in a process of co-creation with different partners: researchers from the involved countries, and societal partners should be actively involved throughout the entire project, in (advising on) defining and conducting the research as well as in communicating the progress and results, in order to jointly produce a mutually valued outcome. Added value may be achieved by integrating and synthesising various sources of knowledge to create new knowledge and by creating sustainability through the development of long-term knowledge relations.

Proposals should be based on a thorough review of existing knowledge and should preferably be complementary published Partnership request forms and reinforce these where possible. Project teams are encouraged to use a combination of quantitative, qualitative and practice-oriented research methods, including operational research, and should include research-into-use approaches.

Research consortia have to adopt a flexible and stepwise research approach and project management, in order to accommodate the intermediate feedback and/or changing realities in policy and practice and to maximise the relevance, potential for use and the sustainability and scalability of results.

Throughout project duration, consortia will proactively engage with relevant stakeholders, including policy dialogues. As a consequence, research protocols, planning, design, and budget may need further refinement or revision along the way to maximise the relevance and potential impact of research findings. Kick-off and mid-term stages in project execution are formal moments to reflect on and adapt the research process.

2.3.1 Joint activities

The project teams are also expected to collaborate with other project teams awarded in this call, so as to enhance the impact of the programme as a whole. As a part of this, projects will be expected to contribute to (and attend) the joint kick-off, mid-term, as well as final call conference.

The dates for these activities will be decided upon in consultation with the funded consortia. The events are tentatively planned for the following months:

- Joint Kick-off workshop: November 2026
- Joint Mid-term workshop: November 2028
- Joint Final workshop and conference: November 2030

2.4 International collaboration

For research partnerships to be effective, they have to be fair⁴. Proposals should be characterised by equal partnership and sustainable collaboration among the partners in the consortium and with relevant stakeholders. This includes gender equality.

Consortium members, in close collaboration with other team members and stakeholders, will steer the process of clarifying the demand; translate knowledge gaps into relevant research questions and approaches; formulate and submit the concept note,)proposal; conduct, guide and advise on the research activities; coordinate and carry out communication and (possible) capacity strengthening activities; share (intermediary) research outputs with relevant practitioner communities; support and enhance the communication of the research outputs to a broader group of stakeholders outside the consortium, and support the application of new knowledge and insights.

2.5 Societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for current and future societal issues. Examples are the energy transition, healthcare, or climate change. Knowledge utilisation increases the chances of research having a societal impact and is therefore an important aspect of this multilateral research programme.

2.5.1 Knowledge utilisation

We define knowledge utilisation as an iterative process aimed at achieving societal impact. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and possible users of knowledge, the chances of

⁴ The Science Granting Councils adhere to the *Research Fairness Initiative* of COHRED (<https://rfi.cohred.org/>) and the TRUST Code – A Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships (<https://www.globalcodeofconduct.org/>).

knowledge utilisation and, accordingly, societal impact increase. The Science Granting Councils facilitate the possible contribution of research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders during the development and realisation of the research.

In this programme, the [Impact Plan approach](#) is used. With this approach, the Science Granting Councils aim to facilitate the development of an integrated strategy by researchers and partners with the target of increasing the chances of the desired societal impact.

2.5.2 Impact Plan approach

The research conducted in this Call for proposals should have relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical or cultural realms. Societal impact is never solely an outcome of knowledge and insight from research. Furthermore, societal impact is often only realised in the years after a research project has been concluded. This is why, in addition to having a societal or industry partner within the consortium, consortia should consider how relevant stakeholders can be involved in, or benefit from, the design and realisation of the proposed research project.

To further enhance the potential for impact of the proposed research, the application should state how approaches for achieving impact are integrated in the research design and conducted by the consortium in engagement with end users, such as practitioners, policymakers, and industry. To this end, applicants are asked to include an Impact Plan that sets out the potential for impact of the proposed research. The Impact Plan approach to knowledge utilisation should be integrated into the research design and serves as an aid to increase the impact potential of the proposed research.

The Impact Plan consists of the following elements:

- *Productive interactions*: Exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which knowledge is produced and valued that is both scientifically robust and socially relevant. Examples of productive interactions are: formulation of research questions and approaches jointly with potential end-users (co-design), joint execution of research projects and interactive dialogue on research results (co-creation). Interactions can be direct/personal, indirect or financial. The quantity as well as quality of the productive interactions forms an indicator for the potential for societal impact.
- A *Theory of Change* describes how the research process can contribute to societal/economic impact, taking into account the context, actors involved and describing the sequence of logically-linked consequential relations. Developing a Theory of Change in a joint effort with research partners as well as stakeholders allows for making explicit which (and whose) problem is being tackled, and how the desired change is perceived to happen through research efforts. Projections on expected change will be based on a myriad of assumptions; documenting these assumptions allows for reflection on whether and how expected pathways to impact remain adequate or need adjustment. A Theory of Change is not fixed, but rather reflected on continuously throughout the research process. For this reason, it is also used as part of the monitoring, evaluation and learning

trajectory.

- The *Impact Pathway*, which is part of the Theory of Change, is the visualisation of the change process following from research execution as described in the Theory of Change. It makes explicit how the research activities will lead to results (output) and how exchange of knowledge and the uptake of research output will contribute to desired changes in behaviour, relationships, actions and activities of partners and stakeholders (outcome) that are considered essential to achieving the desired impact.

- A *Strategic Activity Planning* spells out how the proposed productive interactions contribute to achieving outcomes. Outputs do not automatically lead to outcomes, thus strategies are needed of the research consortium to plan and monitor how their efforts will enhance the potential for outcomes. This planning should include specific activities for:
 - *Stakeholder engagement*: Who are the relevant stakeholders to engage with according to context analysis, how are the productive interactions organised and when?
 - *Communication strategy*: How are engagement dialogues organised and results exchanged and translated, and whose responsibility is it?
 - *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning*: How are results of activities monitored and evaluated, such that assumptions can be tested and activities adjusted accordingly and whose responsibility is it?
 - *Capacity strengthening*: How are required capacities (of consortium partners and stakeholders) strengthened in order to achieve the outcomes, how is this organised and whose responsibility is it?

An important part of the Theory of Change and Impact Pathway is to identify assumptions and make them explicit. This concerns assumptions of the members of the consortium as well as stakeholders. Making these assumptions explicit can help applicants identify where change may happen in a different way than envisioned, and where adjustments may be needed.

These activities should be placed under the project budgets. Please see the national annexes for further information about where to place these activities in the budgets.

The NWO impact e-learning tool can help consortia with creating their impact plan. The e-learning is available at: <https://impact.nwo.nl/en/working-with-an-impact-plan>.

Box 1: Defining output, outcome and impact

Research outputs relate to the direct and immediate results obtained by a research project or programme.

Research outcomes relate to the changes in behaviour, relationships, actions, or activities of stakeholders as a result of sharing and uptake of research.

Research impact is defined as changes in economic, environmental and social conditions a project or programme is aiming at.

Change is a complex process that depends on a variety of actors and factors of which research is only one. Where research outputs fall under the direct sphere of control of a research project or programme, outcomes belong to their sphere of influence, and impact to their sphere of interest.

Theory of Change

2.6. Gender Inclusivity

The Science Granting Councils participating in this call aim to support gender-responsive and inclusive research projects by promoting (1) the equality and status of women in research (which includes women in leading or participating in research) (2) the sex, gender and inclusivity dimension in the design of research and content.

Research projects must clearly articulate the consequences of gender and diversity and should clearly consider its implications at the intersections. This will elevate the research to become more meaningful to society. Research proposals must demonstrate considerations of gender and diversity, including sex as a biological variable and gender as an element in the research project ideas and design. These

factors and will be taken into account in the composition of the research teams, in the way that sex and gender are analysed in the research project, and in the way the project is executed. How these considerations are integrated should be clearly articulated and interwoven throughout the proposal.

The following resources may be consulted to guide applicants:

- How to integrate sex and gender into research:
 - <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html>
- Methods of sex, gender, and intersectional analysis:
 - <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/methods-sex-and-gender-analysis.html>
- Integration of the sex/gender dimension into research and teaching content:
 - <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gear/integration-gender-dimension-research-and-teaching-content>

2.7. Open science

Throughout the implementation of this programme, the Science Granting Councils aim to support research projects, movements and practices that aim to make scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaboration and sharing of information for the benefit of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community while being inclusive to language use to a minimum of metadata to engage with local communities will be beneficiaries of the research outputs and impact. The Science Granting Councils will work with different entities specialising in these areas to support our funded researchers with incorporating open science principles into their research framework (e.g., Africa Open Science Platform (AOSP)). Training sessions will be organised for our funded researchers in this regard during the kick-off workshop and mid-term of the funding period.

2.8. Applied systems analysis

Working with the Sub-Saharan African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC)⁵, successful consortia will be encouraged to use multi/trans disciplinary approaches in addressing current, emerging, and novel regional sustainability challenges and opportunities. SASAC will closely work with Science Council and renowned institutions such as the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis ([IIASA](https://iiasa.ac.at)) in developing skills and use of system methodologies, data and tools in supported projects.

⁵ <https://iiasa.ac.at/members/ssarmo>

3. Eligibility criteria and funding regulations

This Call includes both a set of **transnational requirements** common for all applicants (i.e. transnational eligibility criteria) as well as **national requirements** for applicants participating in a consortium (namely **specific Science Granting Council rules** which apply to applicants that claim funds from a specific Science Granting Council, see Annex III for guidance and agency web links with further information).

All funded partners in this Call will be funded by their national Science Granting Councils in accordance with their respective national eligibility criteria. Please note that a specific national agency may not be able to fund all types of organisations. Applicants have to pay careful attention to the relevant national funding rules indicated in Annex III and contact the relevant national contact person with any queries to avoid any issues related to national eligibility.

3.1 Who can apply?

The following eligibility rules concern the transnational consortium. Please note that a proposal that does not adhere to these conditions will be considered ineligible.

1. Each proposal must be submitted by a consortium consisting of at least **three** eligible applicants, from at least three different participating countries (see section 1.2). Only applicants eligible for the funding of the participating Science Granting Councils are eligible to apply as Consortium Lead or Co-Principal Investigator.
2. Each consortium should include at least one Co-operation Partner from one of the participating countries. You are encouraged to add additional co-operation partners.
3. The Consortium Lead (project coordinator) must be eligible to be funded and request funding from its national participating Science Granting Council.
4. A Consortium Lead can only participate in a maximum of one proposal. This means it is also not possible to be part of another consortium in a different role.
5. A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) can only participate in a maximum of one proposal. This means it is also not possible to be part of another consortium in a different role.
6. A Co-operation Partner can only participate in a maximum of two proposals. This means that a cooperation partner cannot be part of more than two consortia.

All consortium partners apply for funding from their own national funding organisation. The regulations about who is eligible to apply for funding from each funding are stated in the national eligibility rules. The **national eligibility rules can be found in Annex III**. Please note that a proposal that does not adhere to the national conditions will also be considered ineligible.

Applicants are defined as **organisations/institutions/companies** (*i.e.* legal entities) that apply for funding. Applicants have to be **research organisations** (universities, universities of applied sciences (UAS), Research institutes or other entities with research undertakings).

- The **Consortium Lead** is the body responsible for coordinating and managing the project. The Consortium Lead will be the contact point with the Joint Call Secretariat on behalf of the whole consortium and is responsible for the administrative management of the

complete project. The Consortium Lead is responsible for overseeing the project activities and ensuring that the work programme is on track.

- **Co-Principal Investigators** are applicants other than the Consortium Lead. They are also research organisations and eligible for funding from a Science Granting Council. There may be more than one Co-Principal Investigator from any participating country. If there is more than one Co-Principal Investigator from a country, one of them needs to be identified as the National Contact Point. If the Consortium Lead is from the same country as one or more Co-Principal Investigators, then the Consortium Lead will be the National Contact Point for that country.
- **Co-operation Partners** are non-research, practitioner organisations (*i.e.* legal entities). They may be included in a project as Co-operation Partners if they are eligible for funding from a Science Granting Council and/or if they can finance their activity from other sources. A clear description/indication of the role and form of engagement of these Co-operation Partners should be included in the proposal. It should be noted that Co-operation Partners do not count toward the minimum of three eligible applicants from at least three participating countries outlined in the transnational eligibility rules below. Co-operation Partners can be:
 - **companies and commercial organisations**,
 - **government authorities** (such as regional and local government institutions, municipalities and municipal organisations, city authorities, public administrations, and infrastructure and service providers),
 - **consumers and civil society representatives** (e.g. local and community organisations, non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit organisations, citizens' representatives, etc.).

3.2 What can I apply for? (Eligible activities)

This section presents the eligibility rules and the recommendations concerning the duration and funding request of a project.

The following eligibility rules concern the transnational consortium. Please note that a proposal that does not adhere to these conditions will be considered ineligible.

1. Project duration: Projects may be funded for **a maximum of 48 months**.
2. There are no budget constraints regarding the total minimum or maximum budget per project. This depends on the composition of the consortium and the budget available at each Science Granting Council. Funding limits exist for all Science Granting Councils. Annex III indicates the budget available from each Science Granting Council and corresponding funding rules and limitations (namely maximum amount per project or per applicant, or a range of funding demands expected from one proposal).
3. In the proposal, a justification of the requested budget is required. The estimated budget must be given in euros only and be tabulated according to the proposal template provided. All costs must be eligible according to the Science Granting Councils' rules (see Annex III). In

case of doubt, applicants should consult their respective Science Granting Councils. Individual agencies might ask for a separate national budget format.

3.3 Preparing an application

The Call for proposals consists of three phases:

- Partnership request form (not mandatory)
- Concept note
- Full proposal

3.3.1 Partnership request form

Before submitting the Concept note, applicants are invited to fill in and submit a Partnership request form which will be published on the programme web page. This may enable potential partners to contact an applicant and possibly join a consortium or it may give reason to merge certain Partnership request forms.

The steps involved in writing a Partnership request form are:

- download the Partnership request form from the webpage;
- complete the Partnership request form;
- submit the Partnership request form on the webpage.

The Joint Call Secretariat will post the submitted Partnership request forms on the programme webpage. An **information webinar and virtual matchmaking event** will be organised in the fall of 2024, in which the call and its conditions will be further highlighted. More information and a link to sign up for the information webinar are available on NWO's website after the call is published.

The steps involved in joining the virtual matchmaking event are:

- The applicants of submitted Partnership request forms will be invited to a virtual matchmaking event and invited to create a profile on the networking platform B2Match;
- Partners interested in joining the virtual matchmaking event and/or hearing more about the submitted Partnership request forms are also invited to the event and invited to create a profile on the networking platform; and
- Partners interested in joining a specific Partnership request form are advised to contact the applicant directly.

3.3.2 Concept note

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form from the web application ISAAC or from the call webpage;
- complete the application form;
- save the application form as a PDF file and upload it in ISAAC (without any annexes); and
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.

The Consortium Lead is required to submit the application via their own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:

- If you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this at least a week before the deadline to prevent any possible registration problems.
- Any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO.
- You also need to submit other details online.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by the Call Secretariat.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

Do the Consortium Lead, Co-Principal Investigators and/or Co-operation Partners work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added to the database. **This can take several days.** It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

The Consortium Lead must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.3.3 Full proposal

The steps involved in writing your application are:

- download the application form from the web application ISAAC or from the call website;
- complete the application form;
- save the application form as a PDF file and upload it in ISAAC with any compulsory annexes; and
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Please note that some Science Granting Councils may require their researchers to also submit nationally. Researchers are therefore advised to consult the National Annex of their respective Science Granting Council.

Compulsory annexes:

- Budget (and separate national budget if requested by Science Granting Council);
- A letter of commitment from the organisations of the Consortium Lead, Co-Principal Investigators and Co-operation Partners, in which the institutions confirm that they agree to the conditions required for the execution of the project. The letter must be signed by the Dean of the faculty or director of the organisation and be printed on the letterhead of the institution or organisation;
- Draft consortium agreement;
- CVs of both Consortium Lead, all Co-Principal Investigators and Co-operations partners;
- In case of co-financing: a letter of guarantee from the co-financing organisation confirming the numeric amount that will be provided as co-financing in Euro. In case the organisation of a consortium member provides co-financing, this confirmation can be included in the letter of commitment. Letters of guarantee and commitment are unconditional and do not contain any

opt-out clauses. If co-financing is provided at the application/project level (in kind or in cash) for projects where NWO is the funding agency, it is important that this co-financing is confirmed by the contributing organisations by means of a Co-funding declaration. A format can be downloaded from the programme webpage.

All annexes, except for the budget, must be uploaded as part of the application in one PDF file (without encryption). Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.

You must write your application in English.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC and the submission systems of other Science Granting Councils (if required by the Science Granting Council). Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC and the submission systems of the concerning Science Granting Councils will not be taken into consideration.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:

- If you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this at least one week before the deadline to prevent any possible registration problems.
- Any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO.
- You also need to submit other details online.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

4. Assessment Procedure

This chapter describes the course of the assessment procedure and the criteria that the assessment committee will use to assess your application.

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons and employees involved in the assessment and/or decision-taking process (www.nwo.nl/en/code-dealing-personal-interests).

The Joint Call Secretariat strives to achieve an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-and-inclusion). The Joint Call Secretariat encourages referees and members of an assessment committee to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. The Joint Call Secretariat will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application.

4.1 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:

- Submission of a Partnership request form
- Submission of the Concept note
- Eligibility screening of the Concept note
- Assessment of the Concept note
- Submission of the Full proposal
- Eligibility screening of the Full proposal
- pre-assessment by assessment committee
- rebuttal
- Meeting of the assessment committee
- Decision-making by Science Granting Councils

An external, independent international assessment committee will be assigned for this Call for proposals, consisting of representatives from science and practice with knowledge of the field.

The task of the assessment committee is to assess the applications and the relevant documents that are submitted, in conjunction with each other and with regard to both the respective merits of each application and the selection criteria outlined in this Call for proposals.

Due to the expertise present in the assessment committee, NWO and the SGCI partners have decided with regard to the assessment of these applications to exercise the option outlined in Article 2.2.4, paragraph 2, of the NWO Grant Rules, to assess all applications without involving referees.

4.1.1 Submission of a Partnership request form

The submission of a Partnership request form is not compulsory for this Call for proposals. The Partnership request form provides a brief explanation of the research question and an initial indication of the parties involved in the consortium. For the Partnership request form submission,

a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals. The Partnership request form must be submitted by the deadline via the webpage (see section 1.4). After submitting the Partnership request form, you will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.1.2 Submission of the Concept note

The submission of a Concept note is compulsory for this Call for proposals. The Concept note is a concise proposal. For the Concept note submission, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals. The Concept note form completed by the consortium must have been received before the deadline via ISAAC (see section 1.4). After submitting the Concept note, the Consortium Lead will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.1.3 Eligibility screening of the Concept note

As soon as possible after the submission of the Concept note, the Consortium Lead will hear from the Joint Call Secretariat whether or not it is eligible and can be included in the assessment procedure. The Joint Call Secretariat will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission). The Joint Call Secretariat can only take the Concept note into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that within four weeks after the submission deadline, we may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your Concept note can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given the opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this. If needed, a second opportunity may be granted with a maximum of two working days.

4.1.4 Assessment of the Concept note

Based on the expertise of the assessment committee members, they will assess the Concept notes, without making use of external referees, according to the criteria in section 4.3.1. The assessment committee will subsequently rank all Concept notes. The assessment committee will then present a substantiated advice to the Science Granting Councils regarding which consortia to invite to submit a Full proposal.

The Science Granting Councils will check whether the assessment procedure of the Concept notes has been carried out in accordance with the Call for Proposals and will provisionally decide on which consortia to invite to submit a Full proposal, based on the advice of the assessment committee. The decision becomes definitive when the Science Granting Councils have come to the same provisional decision.

Consortia whose Concept notes are judged not likely to be awarded grants will be notified per mail and per post of the decision that they are not invited to submit a Full proposal.

Selection of the Concept notes invited to the second stage

The decision for the invitation to submit a Full proposal in the second stage will be conjointly taken by the participating Science Granting Councils (acting as a Call Steering Committee) and will be based on the ranking and the following additional criteria:

- the invited Concept notes represent national funding requests that do not exceed three times the available national budget of each Science Granting Council;
- additional consortia can be invited to ensure that all SGCs are represented in the full proposal phase.

In order to fulfil the above mentioned criteria, it may be necessary to deviate from the ranking. Concretely this means that concept notes that are placed lower in the ranking may be invited if they ensure that all SGCs are represented in the list of invited consortia. At the same time, higher ranking concept notes may be excluded if the budget requested from the involved funding agencies exceeds three times the available national budget for one or more of the involved partners.

4.1.5 Submission of the Full proposal

Only consortia that have been invited to submit a full proposal may do so. For the submission of the Full proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals. When the consortium writes the Full proposal, they must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. The consortium must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.

The complete application form must be submitted before the deadline via ISAAC and the submission systems of the Science Granting Councils that require this (see section 1.4). After this deadline, consortia can no longer submit a Full proposal. After submitting the Full proposal, the Consortium Lead will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.1.6 Eligibility screening of the Full proposal

As soon as possible after the consortium has submitted the proposal, the Consortium Lead will hear from the Joint Call Secretariat whether or not the Full proposal is eligible and can be included in the assessment procedure. The Joint Call Secretariat will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3). The Joint Call Secretariat can only take the Full proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

You are asked to be available during four weeks after submitting your Full proposal to make any possible administrative corrections so that the Full proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. You will be given the opportunity to make the corrections, and you will be given five working days to do this. If needed, a second opportunity may be granted with a maximum of two working days.

4.1.7 Assessment by assessment committee

4.1.7.1 Pre-assessment by assessment committee

After this, the Full proposal, the referees' reports and the rebuttal will be submitted for comments to several members of the assessment committee (the pre-assessors). The pre-assessors will provide substantiated written comments on the Full proposal, based on the assessment criteria. They will formulate these comments based on the substantive assessment criteria (see Section 4.2)

and will give the Full proposal a numerical score per assessment criterion. For this, the NRF score table will be used (on a scale of 1 to 5, where “5” is excellent and “1” unsatisfactory).

Below is an overview of the scale applied

Excellent	Very good	Good	Mediocre	Unsatisfactory
4.5-5	3.5-4.4	2.5-3.4	1.5-2.4	1-1.4

Only applications rated *Excellent* or *Very good* will be considered eligible for funding. The application also will have to be rated at least *Good* for each of the individual assessment criteria to be considered eligible for funding.

4.1.7.2 Rebuttal

The Consortium Lead subsequently receives the anonymised preliminary assessments. The consortium then has the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. The consortium will be given 10 working days to submit the rebuttal via ISAAC. If the consortium decides to withdraw the Full proposal, then they should do this as quickly as possible by sending an email stating this to the Joint Call Secretariat and withdrawing the proposal in ISAAC. If the Joint Call Secretariat receives the rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.

4.1.7.3 Meeting of the assessment committee

The pre-assessment for each Full proposal is the starting point for the plenary discussion of the Full proposals by the assessment committee. Following the discussion, the committee draws up a written recommendation addressed to the Science Granting Councils about the quality and ranking of the Full proposals. This recommendation is based on the assessment criteria.

If, after the discussion of the full proposals, it transpires that two or more of the proposals based on their weighted total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an *ex aequo* situation (see the paragraph about *ex aequo*).

4.1.7.4 Ex aequo

The Science Granting Councils understand *ex aequo* to be a situation in which two or more Full proposals cannot be distinguished from each other based on their weighted score. An *ex aequo* situation is relevant with respect to the selection or funding limit. The existence of an *ex aequo* situation is determined as follows. The starting point is the ranking drawn up by the assessment committee, with the final scores rounded to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked Full proposal within the limit of the number of applications that can be selected or the available budget. All Full proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the Full proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 of each other will be discussed again by the committee.

If an *ex aequo* situation occurs at the limit of the number of applications that can be selected or the available budget, and after discussion the committee concludes that there is no clear distinction in their assessment and the Full proposals should indeed be considered *ex aequo*, then the Full proposal with a higher score for the criterion ‘Quality of the research proposal’ will end as

the highest. If the ex aequo situation is not resolved with this, then the Full proposal with the highest score for the criterion 'Potential for societal impact' will end highest. If the Full proposals are still tied following this, the assessment committee, with the help of an (anonymous) majority vote, will determine the ranking. If this vote provides no resolution either, or is not desirable to vote, the ex aequo situation will be sent on to the Science Granting Councils.

4.1.8. Decision-making by Science Granting Councils

Based on the ranking lists made by the Expert Panel, the Science Granting Councils meeting in a Call Steering Committee (CSC) will jointly decide which projects will be recommended for funding. The final formal funding decision will be taken by each Science Granting Council afterwards, following its national/regional procedure.

Taking into account the available budgets of the Science Granting Councils, this CSC recommendation will be based on the identification of the optimal choice of projects to be funded, arbitrating between projects from different ranking lists, and also between any projects equally ranked within the same ranking, according to the following objectives:

- optimising both the total number of projects funded and the total number of participating countries/regions involved in these projects.

Concretely that means that the CSC may deviate from the ranking in cases where depleted funds from one of the funding agencies would block the ranking, and therefore enable financing of a larger total number of proposals. In a case where one or more of the funding agencies have no more budget available to fund the following proposal in the ranking list, but funding agencies involved in a lower ranking proposal do have available funds still, such a proposal can be 'skipped' in the ranking, so that a higher number of proposals can be funded overall. If several scenarios are possibly for the 'skipping' due to budget depletion, the scenario that results in the highest participation of different funding councils will be chosen.

A written statement on the evaluation of each full-proposal will be sent by the Joint Call Secretariat to the Consortium Lead. The Joint Call Secretariat will inform the Consortium Lead of projects that have been recommended for funding on the subsequent contracting procedure.

Projects are expected to start within six months of the award letters being issued and in accordance with each Science Granting Council's national norms and regulations.

4.1.9 Timetable

Below, you will find the timetable for this Call for proposals. During the current procedure, the Science Granting Councils might find it necessary to make further changes to the timetable for this Call for proposals. You will, of course, be informed about this in time.

Partnership request forms	
Mid-September	Information webinar
November 4, 2024 14:00:00 hours CET for ISAAC	Deadline Partnership request forms (not mandatory)
November 2024	Virtual matchmaking event
Concept notes	
11 February 2025 14:00:00 hours CET for ISAAC	Deadline Concept notes
February – April 2025	Assessment committee assesses Concept notes
May 2025	Applicants receive decision about whether or not to elaborate the Concept note into a Full proposal
Late May 2025	Webinar for applicants who are invited to submit a Full proposal
Full proposals	
14 July 2025 14:00:00 hours CEST for ISAAC	Deadline Full proposals
August-September 2025	Review of Full proposals
September 2025	Applicants can submit a rebuttal
October 2025	Assessment committee meeting
November 2025	Decision by Science Granting Councils
December	Announcement of results

Funding organisations reserve the right to change the above-mentioned timeline at any stage, except for official submission deadlines (printed in bold)

4.2. Right to object a decision

Applicants will have no possibility to rebut and appeal against, at a transnational level, the Expert Panel’s evaluation or the decision taken by the Science Granting Councils.

However, the Call does not preclude rules and legal frameworks that prevail at national/regional level. Therefore, even though the objection on a transnational level is not possible, it may be possible on a national level, depending on the national/regional legal framework.

If the decision were to be challenged by a specific Co-Principal Investigator, it will be dealt by the concerned Science Granting Council at the national/regional level according to its applicable domestic law on the matter. The result of the redress procedure is not call-wide.

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The Concept notes and Full proposals submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- I. Quality of the research proposal
- II. Potential for societal impact
- III. Quality of the consortium

The **Concept notes** will be assessed based on the criteria **without asterisk**. **Full proposals will be assessed based on all criteria listed.**

The criteria carry equal weight and each count for one-third of the final assessment. The assessment criteria are further operationalised below:

- I. Quality of the research proposal
 - Scientific importance and innovativeness of the research questions and approach;
 - Degree to which the proposal fits the thematic focus of the Call for proposals;
 - Complementarity to other research programmes or (inter)national research agendas;
 - Rigour of the research design: adequacy, feasibility and coherence of the research approach and methodology in view of the problem addressed;
 - Interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity; the proposal incorporates the scientific disciplines necessary for addressing the problem, as well as knowledge from outside the scientific community;
 - Adequacy of the budget.*

- II. Potential for societal impact
 - Relevance for society (in at least one of the countries involved in this call) and potential for societal breakthroughs;
 - Suitable involvement of target groups, convincingly responding to their demand;
 - Quality of the impact plan:
 - i. a clear problem statement, analysis and vision on the desired societal impact;
 - ii. a logical impact pathway presenting plausible pathways to societal impact;*
 - iii. appropriate and feasible strategic activity planning;*
 - iv. relevant stakeholder involvement in the development and execution of the impact plan.*

- III. Quality of the consortium
 - Suitability of the consortium partners' expertise in relation to the research project;
 - Potential for long-term knowledge relations;
 - Quality of the transnational collaboration, including the fairness of the consortium: equitable governance, task division, resource management and ownership of results.
 - Experience in supervising postgraduate students (only applicable for main applicant and co-applicants).

5. Obligations of Funded Projects

Consortium members are guided by the general requirements of this Call. During the granting process, a specification of requirements will be included by the Science Granting Council in the grant letter for the consortium partners. The Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring the consortium meets all the general obligations.

This Call includes various joint programme activities (e.g. knowledge sharing, networking) described in this section. Participants of projects funded via this Call are expected to actively participate in the programme activities and to consider this in the planning of their project proposal by including budget to participate in the programme activities.

5.1 Consortium Agreement

Each funded project is required to have a signed consortium agreement (CA) between all partners before the start of the project. A CA regulates consortium governance, task division, resource management and ownership of results between the collaborating consortium organisations. The initiative for producing these agreements lies with the Consortium Lead.

Additional national/regional Science Granting Councils regulations concerning the requirement for a CA, including the date of the signature, may also apply.

Please use the consortium agreement format for the draft consortium agreement which is available on the call webpage.

5.2 Project monitoring and reporting

Project monitoring and reporting will be in accordance with the respective Science Granting Council's rules. In addition to the Science Granting Council's requirements, the consortia are expected to deliver progress reports to the Call Secretariat, in English, on an annual basis, including a description of their transnational co-operation and a publishable summary of the project status. A reporting template will be provided on the programme website.

Annual report

Annually, the consortia must submit a written report (in English) to inform the Joint Call secretariat on the overall project progress, experiences and output.

Mid-term report

The projects will also be evaluated at about the mid-term of the projects' running time by a self-assessment. This includes a workshop, organised by the consortium, and sharing and discussing the results with stakeholders from outside the project team. Consortia should include this workshop in their budget. The mid-term report will be based on the conclusions of the workshop, including a reflection on and, if required, revision of the impact plan, the underlying assumptions and the indicators. The assessment committee will evaluate the progress of the projects based on mid-term reports submitted by the consortia. Interviews or field visits may be organised to evaluate the progress and impact of the projects. The committee will give recommendations to

the projects based on their evaluations.

The mid-term report of all the projects of a call need to be submitted before the joint mid-term workshop and will be used as input for organising the mid-term workshop.

Final report

A substantive final report should be submitted within three months after the end of the project's runtime to the Joint Call Secretariat, detailing the research done and the achieved results, as well as a reflection on the project's impact plan and its indicators. As part of this, projects will be asked to again complete a self-assessment and hold a final workshop and a discussion with stakeholders from outside the project team. The final substantive report will again be evaluated by the assessment committee. The final workshop should also be taken into account in the consortium's budget.

A detailed survey must be completed by the Consortium Lead together with the annual joint reports. This survey includes key performance indicators for project progress and their contribution to the overall aim of the Call. The Joint Call Secretariat will publish detailed guidelines to assist projects with their transnational reporting duties.

The consortia are also expected to organise at least three meetings (kick-off, mid-term, and final) with all consortium members and relevant stakeholders to facilitate and stimulate active involvement of all partners throughout the entire project. Consortia should budget for these meetings accordingly. These meetings may be organised adjacent to the joint programme activities.

5.3 Programme activities

To foster exchange between the projects, dissemination and communication to stakeholders, decision makers and the general public, and to refine and identify challenges and objectives for future calls, the programme includes mandatory activities, opportunities and support for projects. Time and budget (including travel expenses) of a minimum of EUR 15,000 should be reserved by the consortium as a whole for these programme activities.

Three programme events are foreseen to foster exchange between all projects of this call. A project kick-off will be organised in 2026, a mid-term event in 2028 and a final event in 2030. Active participation of the funded projects is mandatory, e.g. by preparing short project presentations and/or posters.

The kick-off workshop will be aligned with researcher trainings on TCIP and applied systems analysis as mentioned in chapter 2.8. The mid-term review workshop will be aligned with researcher training sessions on gender inclusivity and all other relevant cross-cutting themes. The concluding final workshop will likely include training on open science (including science communication).

All consortia of funded projects are expected to prepare regular popular science summaries of the project contents and updates for programme activities and publications by the Joint Call Secretariat (e.g. for brochures, (digital) newsletters, websites).

At the end of each project, teams are expected to submit an additional publishable report, meant

for the general public. A template for this report will be provided by the Call Secretariat. Information on the projects and its partners, including summaries, abstracts, contact information, publishable reports and general information on the project may be published by the Joint Call Secretariat and participating Science Granting Councils. The Joint Call Secretariat will publish detailed guidelines and templates to assist projects with these duties.

5.4 Publication and disseminations

Acknowledgement

Projects must ensure that all outcomes (e.g. publications) of transnational projects include a proper acknowledgement of the multilateral programme and the respective Science Granting Councils. The Joint Call Secretariat will publish detailed guidelines and templates to assist projects with these duties.

Open science and data management

Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:

- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ;
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see www.openaccess.nl/en.

Different requirements apply to scholarly books, book chapters and edited collections. See the Open Access Policy Framework at www.nwo.nl/en/open-science.

CC BY licence - To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs - Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the NWO budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO.

Data management - After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant describes in the plan whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be realised

or by a continental platform endorsed by the SGCI. The plan should be submitted within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. The SGCs will approve the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by the SGCs is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research. More information about the data management protocol can be found at: www.nwo.nl/en/research-data-management.

Data analysis - In case local external primary data are used in the research, consortia have to give priority to datasets collected by local public institutes, such as National Statistics Bureaus (NBSs) and National Resource Mapping Organisations (NRMOs). If possible and relevant, consortia are encouraged to proactively involve these institutes in elements of the research process, and, by doing so, to contribute to their strengthened institutional capacity.

5.5 Personal data protection

The provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) shall be complied with by the Joint Call Secretariat and the Science Granting Councils participating in the organisation of this Call with respect to the processing of personal data. Depending on the country and the participating Science Granting Council, different national laws might apply, and different electronic systems will be used regarding the processing of personal data.

By submitting an application, the applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their personal data, in accordance with article 6.1 (e) and (c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679) and for the purposes of:

- processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
- administering any subsequent funding award;
- managing the relationship between the applicants and the Science Granting Councils;
- analysing and evaluating the Call;
- providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects; and
- complying with audits that may be initiated by the Science Granting Councils and the EC (or its agencies).

In addition, by submitting an application, the applicants agree to share their personal data with Science Granting Councils based outside the European Economic Area and with Reviewers (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in relation to the above activities.

Science Granting Councils and Reviewers may link the data that applicants provide in the application with national, bibliographic or external research funding data which is available through public subscription-based databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, etc.) or other national / open datasets.

5.6 Timeline for funded projects

Timetable reporting and meetings (dates to be confirmed)	
6 months after awarding	Projects start
Beginning of Year 1	Joint in-person kick-off workshop with other projects teams, Science Granting Councils and external stakeholders (Teams to also organise own, internal kick-off workshop)
End of Year 1	Annual report
Halfway the project duration	Midterm report Joint in-person midterm workshop with other projects teams, Science Granting Councils, assessment committee members and external stakeholders (Teams to also organise own, internal midterm workshop)
End of Year 3	Annual report
End of Year 4	Joint in-person final meeting with other projects teams, Science Granting Councils and external stakeholders (Teams to also organise own, internal final workshop)
Three months after projects end	Final report

6. Contact Details for Queries

Consortium partners of proposals selected for funding will have to follow national/institutional procedures after a positive funding decision. It is also advisable to contact your funding body as soon as possible in case your proposal is granted, to discuss the national requirements that have to be met before the start of the project.

For general call related questions please contact the Joint Call Secretariat via:

leawef@nwo.nl

For technical questions about the online submission systems please contact:

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours on +31 20 346 7179. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

For technical questions about the use of the submission systems of other Science Granting Councils, please find the contact details of their helpdesks in the national annexes.

7. Call annexes

- **Annex I:** Information on the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI)
- **Annex II:** Format for Impact Pathway with indicators at output and outcome level
- **Annex III:** Individual National Eligibility and Funding Regulations

7.1 Annex I - Information on the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI)

The Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) is a multi-funder initiative that aims to strengthen the capacities of 17 science granting councils in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development. Launched in April 2015, the Initiative contributes to strengthening the ability of science granting councils to:

- manage research;
- design and monitor research programmes based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation indicators;
- support knowledge exchange with the private sector; and
- strengthen partnerships between Science Granting Councils and other science system actors

The Initiative is being implemented mainly through on-site coaching and mentoring, and a few regional training workshops by a number of specialist organisations. This Initiative was designed on the premise that more effective Councils will strengthen national science systems and lead to nationally led research that contributes to development in participating countries.

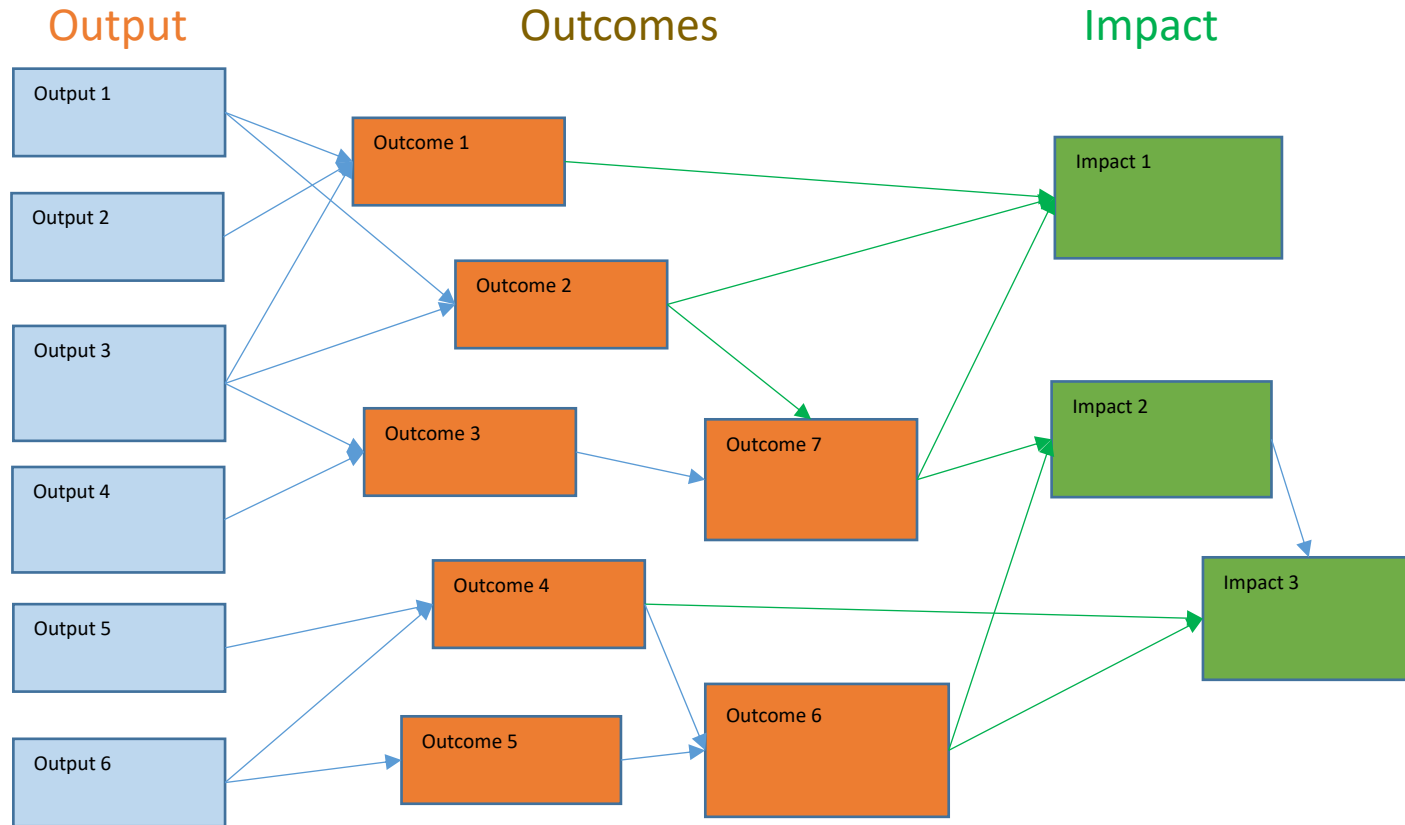
The Initiative is currently supported and funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the South African Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation. There are 17 African countries participating in the Initiative representing East, West and Southern African regions as follows:

SGCI Participating Countries in East Africa	SGCI Participating Countries in Southern Africa	SGCI Participating Countries in West Africa
1. Ethiopia	6. Botswana	12. Burkina Faso
2. Kenya	7. Malawi	13. Côte d'Ivoire
3. Rwanda	8. Mozambique	14. Ghana
4. Tanzania	9. Namibia	15. Nigeria
5. Uganda	10. Zambia	16. Senegal
	11. Zimbabwe	17. Sierra Leone

For more detailed information on the SGCI please visit the website: <https://sgciafrica.org/en-za/home>.

7.2 Annex II: Format for Impact Pathway with indicators at output and outcome level

Please note the lay-out of the diagram is indicative; variations are allowed, as long as all boxes of the diagram remain included. Please limit the diagram to a maximum of one page, for it to present only key elements.



Impact pathway Indicators – to be jointly formulated during the joint kick-off meeting

Formulate SMART indicators for the output and outcomes (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-related). Indicators illustrate how success will be recognised at each step in the pathway to impact. It enables verifying if the research project is ‘on track’ and where it can improve, it helps to steer and manage the research program. Indicators, especially of outcomes, can also be adjusted or made more specific during the execution of the project, since they are also part of the reflective approach (the impact pathway, including indicators, are not set in stone). No indicators need to be formulated at the Impact level.

Output	Indicator
<i>Output 1</i>	
<i>Output 2</i>	
<i>Output 3</i>	
<i>Output 4</i>	
<i>Output ...</i>	

Outcome	Indicator
<i>Outcome 1</i>	
<i>Outcome 2</i>	
<i>Outcome 3</i>	
<i>Outcome 4</i>	
<i>Outcome 5</i>	
<i>Outcome ...</i>	

7.3 Annex III: Individual National Eligibility and Funding Regulations

The following tables are presented to give some guidance to the applicants when considering the consortium building process and to make it easier to read the specific Science Granting Councils' rules.

Please consult the individual regulations below for the detailed eligibility criteria for each Science Granting Council.

Table 1: Participating Science Granting Councils: budget and organisations eligible for funding

Country / Region	Science Granting Council	total budget [EUR]	National currency	Maximum funding per project/project applicant/Consortium Lead [EUR]	Anticipated number of projects
Burkina Faso	FONRID	46 000	30.000.000 West African Franc	46 000	1
Côte d'Ivoire	FONSTI	95 000		31 660	3
Ethiopia	MIInT	575 000	35.000.000 Ethiopian Birr	80 100 (5 000 000 Ethiopian Birr)	7
Ghana	MESTI	40 000	578.000 Ghanaian Cedi	40 000	1
Kenya	NRF	137 930	19.500.000 Kenyan Shilling	45 975 (6 500 000 Kenyan Shilling)	3
Mozambique	FNI	93 000	6 325 000 Mozambique Metical	46 500	2
Netherlands	NWO	2 800 000	2 800 000	400 000	7
South Africa	NRF	490 000	10.000.000 South African Rand	R1,8 mil	4
Tanzania	COSTECH	88 000	240,000,000 Tanzanian shilling	120,000,000 Tanzanian shilling	2
Zimbabwe	RCZ	28.000	10,857,000 Zimbabwean Dollars	28 000	1

BURKINA FASO

Fonds National de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Développement (FONRID)

Contact point	Name	Djibril YONLI
	Email	d.yonli313@gmail.com or djibril.yonli@fonrid.com
	Phone	+226 70729066
Funding commitment	Euro 46 000 (30.000.000 West African Franc)	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	1 project	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 46 000	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	FONRID's call for research proposals is open to any legal entity at national level dealing with Science Technology Innovation for the development and well-being of people in Burkina Faso, and whose project is related to the topic of the call. These entities must be legally recognized in Burkina Faso in the field of research-innovation-development. International research institutions operating in Burkina Faso may be eligible as partners of national Research Institutes or Universities, but may not be the main beneficiary institution.	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	FONRID will implement an open call in a first stage of receipt of project concept notes (PCNs) followed by a second stage in which research teams whose PCNs have been pre-selected by a scientific committee will be invited to submit their full detailed project (FDP). FDPs will be evaluated by national and international scientific experts and ranked in order of funding merit by a scientific and technical committee, which is an external entity of FONRID.	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	The eligibility of research teams is conditional on the gender-equality-inclusion aspect being considered in the constitution of the teams/projects, i.e. the involvement of at least 30% women, students and/or teacher-researchers or early-career researchers.	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	Eligible expenses for projects financed by FONRID are those related to the activities planned in the project. Expenditure must comply with Burkina Faso's public expenditure procedures. Consultancies, staff salaries, major investments such as office building car/vehicles purchase, etc. are not eligible.	
Additional information	FONRID undertakes to fund research and innovation projects selected within the LEAWEF consortium in accordance with its current funding rules and financial capabilities. Collaboration between at least 3 partner structures within the same project and co-financing are assets in the project selection process.	
Website with additional information	https://fonrid.com Information related to calls for proposals and outputs of project selection process at FONRID is available on our website. Applicants are required to submit a mandatory FONRID budget form in the Full Proposal stage. For full details of the general FONRID funding process, please refer to the FONRID website.	

Contact point	Name	Toh Alain Evrad N'GUESSAN
	Email	alain.toh.1@gmail.com Evrad.nguessan@fonsti.org
	Phone	+225 0707146346 +225 0709142190
Funding commitment	Euro 95 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	3 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 31 660	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	Only researchers/scientists with a doctoral degree (PhD) based in Côte d'Ivoire and affiliated with a recognised Ivorian either public higher education or research institution are eligible to apply.	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC (i.e. the Dutch Online Submission System). It is mandatory that Ivorian researchers to also submit their proposals to FONSTI soumission-projet@fonsti.org	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<p>Gender consideration We encourage the participation of women in our calls and require that the project team be made up of at least 40% of women.</p> <p>Ethical consideration That the principles of ethics are observed in conception process, the financing and implementation processes of projects.</p> <p>Intellectual Property The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.</p>	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>The total amount requested from the FONSTI should not exceed USD 35 000 per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3 years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025. The eligible costs per projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-related activities, mobility costs of the research team for data collect, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs and dissemination. <p>For more information, please visit the FONSTI Website</p>	
Additional information	<p>The following are NOT to be funded from the FONSTI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant's fees • Large equipment • Car • Salaries and temporary staff fees 	
Website with additional information	www.fonsti.org	

Contact point	Name	Habtamu Abera Goshu (PhD)
	Email	habtamu2016@yahoo.com
	Phone	+251979022338
Funding commitment	Euro 575 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	7 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 80 100 (5 000 000 Ethiopian Birr)	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<p>Only working researchers/scientists residing in Ethiopia and affiliated with a recognised Ethiopia higher education, research institution (federal and regional research Institutions) are eligible to apply. Researchers based at higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as a PI but can form part of the research consortium. NGO and/or industry/ SME participants are expected to meet their own participation costs in the joint project. Ethiopia applicants and the HEI and Research Institutions based co-PIs must be in possession of a PhD.</p> <p>In terms of human capital development, PIs are encouraged to ensure the involvement of young scientists (i.e., doctoral and postdoctoral students) and pay attention to gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) and previously disadvantaged individuals.</p>	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	<p>All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC (i.e. the Dutch Online Submission System). Please note that it is mandatory for Ethiopian researchers to also submit their full proposals through an online application process to the MInT website. Full proposals that are not submitted in both ISAAC and MInT-Connect will be considered ineligible and will not be submitted for review. Please make use of the '<i>General Application Guide 2024</i>' for assistance on the steps to follow when applying for international research grants.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	N/A	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>MInT funds can be used to cover the following costs:</p> <p>Research-related costs - activities to be supported may include expenses relating to field work such as conducting interviews, surveys, laboratory experiments, research-related trips, small equipment (consumables), etc. Airfare, accommodation, ground transport and subsistence should be calculated using rates as stipulated in public travel policies.</p> <p>Postdoctoral research support – funds within this programme make provision for one postdoc position equivalent to the MInT Freestanding postdoctoral fellowships. Therefore, PIs are expected to supervise and mentor a postdoctoral researcher who should be allowed to conduct research, either on a pre-specified aspect of the joint project or on their own designed topic within the joint project and should be supported to publish the work. The responsibilities of this position may also include</p>	

	<p>assisting the PI with the management and administration of the joint project. The postdoctoral fellows should be prepared to become principal investigators, so they also take on senior responsibilities like mentoring, grant writing, and teaching.</p> <p>Knowledge sharing costs (science engagement) - in support of project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>LEAWEF workshops: It's mandatory for researchers to make budgetary provisions (travel and accommodation) to participate at workshops organised by AJ-CORE funders as part of the reporting requirements (i.e., kick-off and final workshops)</p>
Additional information	<p><u>Science Engagement</u> Science engagement refers to scientific and initiative activities, events, interventions, or interactions characterised by mutual learning and dialogue among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise, and life experiences, who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and values. It is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement through suitable communication channels with science, science awareness, science education, science communication, and science outreach, aiming to develop and benefit individuals and society.</p> <p><u>Intellectual Property</u> The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.</p> <p><u>Ethical Considerations</u> In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside Ethiopia comply with the laws and regulations of Ethiopia and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. A research ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research prior to the commencement of the research and acceptance of the grant. The awarded amount will not be released for payment if a copy of the required ethical clearance certificate, as indicated in the application, is not attached to the Conditions of Grant.</p>
Website with additional information	N/A

Contact point	Name	Cephas Adjei Mensah, Director of RSIM/SGCI Head of Research Council
	Email	cephas.mensah@mesti.gov.gh
	Phone	+233 24 488 8566
Funding commitment	Euro 40 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	1 project	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 40 000	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lead Applicant must be a researcher or scientist affiliated with a recognized Ghanaian research institution, university, or science council. • The Lead Applicant must hold a PhD degree and have a proven track record of research in a field relevant to the call themes. • The Lead Applicant will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project. • Researchers based at private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as a Principal Investigator (PI) but can participate in the research consortium. • NGO and/or industry/SME participants are expected to cover their own participation costs in the joint project. • Female Principal Investigators are strongly encouraged to apply. • The involvement of young scientists (i.e., doctoral and postdoctoral students) and achieving gender balance (balanced involvement of female and male researchers) are highly encouraged. 	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All consortia must submit their Partnership request form, Concept note, and Full proposal through the ISAAC system, MESTI's designated online submission platform. • Ghanaian applicants must additionally submit a mandatory MESTI budget form during the Full proposal stage. • It is compulsory for all Ghanaian researchers to submit their full proposals via the MESTI LEAWEF Programme online portal at www.grants.mesti.gov.gh. • Proposals not submitted through both ISAAC and the MESTI portal will be considered ineligible and will not proceed to evaluation. • For detailed guidance, consult the 'Application Guideline' on the MESTI website. 	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application for MESTI funding (i.e. the Ghanaian part of a transnational consortium) must designate a single lead applicant responsible for scientific and financial management within the consortium. • Each Ghanaian applicant is limited to requesting MESTI funding for only one project (part of a transnational consortium) within this call. • Consortia should be interdisciplinary, incorporating expertise from relevant fields related to the WEF nexus and climate adaptation. • The research team must demonstrate significant capacity, capability, and leadership in the proposed field, with inclusion of early career researchers 	

	<p>strongly encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender balance, including the participation of female researchers, is highly desirable. • Researchers, particularly project leaders, must ensure adequate steps for protecting and sharing intellectual property resulting from collaborative projects. • Grant-holders must ensure all research activities comply with South African laws and regulations, and those of foreign countries involved. This includes ethical approval from a research ethics committee prior to project commencement, with the required clearance certificate submitted for grant acceptance. • MESTI adheres to Ghana’s Data Protection Act (https://nca.org.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Data-Protection-Act-2012.pdf) to safeguard applicants' privacy. Personal information provided during applications is protected against misuse, loss, unauthorized access, modification, or disclosure. More details can be found in MESTI's Privacy Policy available on the MESTI website at www.grants.mesti.gov.gh 																		
<p>Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i></p>	<p>The MESTI budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realize the project.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="541 945 1422 1579"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget</th> <th>Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PhD student positions</td> <td>1 position, according to local rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post doctoral positions</td> <td>1 full-time position, according to local rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research materials and consumables</td> <td>Local equivalent of €15,000 per year per scientific position</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small research equipment and accessories</td> <td>As per local applicable rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local travel and transportation of research materials</td> <td>As per local applicable rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research support for post-graduate students</td> <td>As per local applicable rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops, seminars, conferences</td> <td>As per local applicable rates</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project management</td> <td>Maximum 5% of the total budget applied for</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For a more detailed explanation of the budget modules and to access the financial details form, please visit the MESTI LEAWEF Programme online portal at www.grants.mesti.gov.gh.</p>	Budget	Rate	PhD student positions	1 position, according to local rates	Post doctoral positions	1 full-time position, according to local rates	Research materials and consumables	Local equivalent of €15,000 per year per scientific position	Small research equipment and accessories	As per local applicable rates	Local travel and transportation of research materials	As per local applicable rates	Research support for post-graduate students	As per local applicable rates	Workshops, seminars, conferences	As per local applicable rates	Project management	Maximum 5% of the total budget applied for
Budget	Rate																		
PhD student positions	1 position, according to local rates																		
Post doctoral positions	1 full-time position, according to local rates																		
Research materials and consumables	Local equivalent of €15,000 per year per scientific position																		
Small research equipment and accessories	As per local applicable rates																		
Local travel and transportation of research materials	As per local applicable rates																		
Research support for post-graduate students	As per local applicable rates																		
Workshops, seminars, conferences	As per local applicable rates																		
Project management	Maximum 5% of the total budget applied for																		
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>Expenditures such as consultant fees, acquisition of large equipment, project management fees, and salaries for temporary staff are ineligible for funding through MESTI.</p>																		
<p>Website with additional information</p>	<p>www.grants.mesti.gov.gh www.mesti.gov.gh</p>																		

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LEAWEF MULTILATERAL
RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

Call for Proposals - Climate Adaptation in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), in partnership with the Long-Term Europe-Africa Water, Energy and Food Nexus (LEAWEF) Multilateral Research Programme, announces a call for proposals to address climate adaptation challenges in the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus. This initiative aims to support collaborative research projects aligned with Ghana's priorities in climate resilience and sustainable development, fostering partnerships among Ghanaian, West African, and European researchers.

Background

Ghana faces significant climate risks, including droughts and floods, impacting water, energy, and food security. The LEAWEF programme seeks innovative solutions at the intersection of these systems. This call supports Ghana's resilience efforts and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Scope

Proposals should focus on interdisciplinary research addressing climate resilience in:

- Climate-resilient agriculture and food systems
- Sustainable water management
- Clean energy adoption in rural areas
- Nature-based solutions for WEF security
- Climate information services and early warning systems
- Gender and youth engagement in climate adaptation

Eligibility

- Lead Applicant: Affiliated with a recognized Ghanaian research institution, holding a PhD, with proven research in relevant fields.
- Consortium: 2-6 partners, interdisciplinary, including early career researchers and gender-balanced teams.
- Institutions: Universities, research centers, NGOs, and private sector (excluding private higher education).

Funding

- Maximum per project: GH¢ 578,000 (as per the exchange rate for 4th July 2024)
- Eligible costs include research materials, local travel, workshops, and dissemination.
- Co-funding encouraged; financial reports required per guidelines.

Submission

Submit proposals via ISAAC system and www.grants.mesti.gov.gh.

Required: Project Proposal, Budget, Workplan, CVs, and Letters of Support.

Evaluation

Assessed for scientific merit, relevance, impact, and consortium quality by an expert panel.

Expected Outcomes

Policy briefs, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and scientific publications.

Data Management

Plans for open access and compliance with data protection regulations required.

International Collaboration

Encouraged for knowledge exchange, but Ghanaian institutions must lead.

Timeline

- Call opens: June 2024
- Awards announced: December 2025

Contact

For details, contact grants@mesti.gov.gh , cephas.mensah@mesti.gov.gh , and wilfred.dennis@mesti.gov.gh .

We look forward to impactful proposals on climate adaptation in the WEF nexus.

KENYA

National Research Fund (NRF)

Contact point	Name	Mr. Jacob Kamwaria Njagih
	Email	jnjagih@nrf.go.ke
	Phone	+254 721 281 207
	Name	Ms. Jackline Muyalo
	Email	jmuyalo@nrf.go.ke
	Phone	+254 71244853
Funding commitment	Euro 137 930	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	3 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 45 975 (6 500 000 Kenyan Shilling) per project	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenyan public and private research centres and institutes, training institutions, departments of R&D, industrial establishments and relevant implementing bodies are eligible to apply. Applicants must have wide knowledge and experience in the National Research Priority areas. The applicants must have demonstrated competence and experience in their grant application areas. Applicants must be in possession of at least a master's degree or equivalent experience in a relevant area or be innovators recognized by the Kenya National Innovation Agency. The Principal Investigator must be a Kenya citizen. Non-Kenyans may apply under a Kenyan Principal Investigator. All applicants must be affiliated to a recognized Kenyan research institution and in case of a university or research institution, they must not be on an extended unpaid leave. Partnering and collaborative institutional or corporate entities must formally indicate willingness to release staff involved in the project, have the facilities to implement the project or indicate how the facilities will be availed. 	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	<p>i) Concept notes are to be submitted in English via ISAAC by the Consortia Lead to the JCS and SGCs portals where applicable.</p> <p>ii) Full proposals are to be submitted in English via ISAAC by the Consortia Lead to the JCS and SGCs portals where applicable.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	N/A	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>Research-related costs:</p> <p>Researchers may request for funds for the following categories of expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Subsistence Allowance for field activities for professional and non-professional personnel; Research equipment; Consumables; Essential infrastructure/upgrading; Costs of prototype production; Project management costs must not exceed 7.5%; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project mobility costs must not exceed 20% of the total budget.
Additional information	<p>Intellectual Property: The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.</p> <p>Ethical Considerations: In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside Kenya comply with the laws and regulations of Kenya and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. An ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research prior to the commencement of the research and acceptance of the grant. The awarded amount will not be released for payment if a copy of the required ethical clearance certificate, as indicated in the application, is not attached to the Conditions of Grant. Please also refer to the NRF-Kenya website. www.nrf.go.ke.</p>
Website with additional information	https://www.nrf.go.ke/

MOZAMBIQUE

Fundo Nacional de InvestigaçãO (FNI)

Contact point	Name	Márcia Nhacuongue
	Email	marcianhacuongue@gmail.com
	Phone	+258 844031944
Funding commitment	Euro 93 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	2 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 46 500	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	Only researchers/scientists with a doctoral degree (PhD) based in Mozambique and affiliated with a recognised Mozambican either public or private higher education or research institution are eligible to apply.	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC (i.e. the Dutch Online Submission System). It is mandatory that Mozambican researchers to also submit their proposals to FNI.	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<p>Gender consideration We encourage the participation of women in our calls and require that the project team be made up of at least 40% of women.</p> <p>Ethical consideration That the principles of ethics are observed in the financing and implementation processes of projects.</p>	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>The total amount requested from the FNI should not exceed USD 50 000 per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 4 years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025. The eligible costs per projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-related activities, mobility costs of the research team, short-term research placements for postgraduate students, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs and dissemination. 	
Additional information	<p>The following are NOT to be funded from the FNI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant's fees • Large equipment • Salaries and temporary staff fees 	
Website with additional information	www.fni.gov.mz	

THE NETHERLANDS
Dutch Research Council (NWO)

Contact point	Name	Monika Brassler & Matthijs Kallenberg
	Email	leawef@nwo.nl
	Phone	+317 034 943 65
Funding commitment	EUR 2 800 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	7 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	EUR 400 000	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<p>Researchers may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following research organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS) as referred to in Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and universities listed in the Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands; – University medical centres by which is meant academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act; – Institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO; – Netherlands Cancer Institute; – The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen; – Naturalis Biodiversity Center; – Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL); – Princess Máxima Center. <p>Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.</p> <p>It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the research organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.</p> <p>Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.</p> <p>Applicants may be affiliated to the research organisations listed in this section, and to other research organisations as referred to in Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules and which meet the following cumulative conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – be established in the Netherlands; – be a foundation, association or legal entity governed by public law; – have as its primary goal the independent conduct of its own fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – be able to state that the organisation keeps separate accounts with regard to economic/non-economic activities and that undertakings with decisive influence on the organisation do not enjoy preferential access to the organisation's results. <p>NWO will not fund research organisations under this Call for proposals that are primarily engaged in the wide dissemination of the results of research activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer.</p> <p>Please note: Prior to the submission of an application NWO assesses on the basis of the above-mentioned conditions whether an organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules and may therefore participate as an applicant. NWO performs this assessment to preclude the granting of prohibited state aid. This assessment must also be conducted if an organisation was assessed within another NWO programme and was permitted as an applicant.</p> <p>The organisation of the prospective applicant must provide the following documents no less than 10 working days prior to the submission deadline (meaning no later than 14:00:00 hours CET on 9 January 2025 by email to leawef@nwo.nl).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a recent extract from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce; – the deed of incorporation or current articles of association; – the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement⁶; – the completed Declaration Research organisation, available on funding page of this Call for proposals. <p>Other relevant documentation may be added. NWO may request additional information if the above documents are not sufficiently conclusive to determine whether the organisation may act as an applicant. If the organisation of the prospective applicant does not submit the necessary documents for this assessment in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation as an applicant.</p> <p>If new (co-) applicants are added to the consortium in the full proposal and these new (co-) applicants are not affiliated to an institution listed in this section, these conditions will also be checked for this organisation/these organisations. The following documents must be submitted by email no less than 10 working days before the submission deadline as stated in Section 3.3 (meaning no later than June 30th 2024 before 14:00:00 CEST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a recent extract from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce; – the deed of incorporation or current articles of association; – the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement⁷; – the completed Declaration Research organisation, available on funding page of this Call for proposals. <p>A research organisation that was approved as an applicant prior to the submission of a concept note, does not need to be reassessed prior to the submission of the full</p>
--	---

⁶ Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not need to provide such an auditor's statement. They must however be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement is not applicable to the organisation concerned.

⁷ Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not need to provide such an auditor's statement. They must however be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement is not applicable to the organisation concerned.

	proposal.
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC, however, please note applicants from Dutch organisations are required to also submit a mandatory NWO budget form in the Full proposal stage to NWO.
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	An application for NWO funding (i.e. the Dutch part of a transnational consortium) has a single main applicant (i.e. Dutch Partner or Coordinator in the transnational consortium), responsible for scientific and financial management. - An applicant from a Dutch organisation may only request NWO funding for one project (part of a transnational consortium) in this call in which he or she is involved.
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>The NWO budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realize the project.</p> <p>A more detailed explanation of the budget modules and the financial details form can be found on the webpage of the call, via www.nwo.nl</p> <p>Personnel</p> <p>Funding may be requested for salary costs of personnel contributing to the project. The amount depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel is employed.</p> <p><i>Personnel at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or a research organisation</i></p> <p>For personnel working at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, university medical centre (umc) or another research organisation, as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, subparagraphs c to h of the NWO Grant Rules salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: one PhD student, one Engineering Doctorate, one postdoc, a maximum of € 100,000 for non-scientific staff at (NSS) universities^{Fout! Bladwijzer niet gedefinieerd.}, in combination with PhD student and/or postdoc^{Fout! Bladwijzer niet gedefinieerd.} and for research leave of the applicant(s).</p> <p>Research leave can be requested for up to 5% of the grant amount.</p> <p>Funding for the Engineering Doctorate (EngD) position can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for.</p> <p>The rates are determined using the salary tables of UNL and NFU.</p> <p><i>Personnel of universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, educational institutions and other organisations</i></p> <p>It is possible to claim salary costs of personnel of universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes, educational institutions and other organisations. The rates are determined using the Government Tariff Manual (HOT), Table 2 average total salary cost per salary scale, column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT'. The salary scale of the requested position determines the rate from the HOT table.</p> <p><i>Students</i></p> <p>It is possible to engage students in the project if they are studying at a research organisation as referred to in section 3.1. You can enter the costs of this as material costs within the project. There is no maximum on the number of students who can participate in the project.</p> <p><i>Scientific personnel at a research organisation abroad</i></p>

	<p>It is possible to claim salary costs for scientific personnel from foreign research organisations. The foreign research organisation must meet the definition of research organisation in Article 5.1(p) of the NWO Grant Rules.</p> <p>A maximum of 50 % of the grant amount can be requested for personnel at research organisations abroad.</p> <p>Use UNL rates adjusted for country correction coefficients. These rates are maximums. No one-off personal benchfee is available.</p> <p>N.B.: In this call, the NWO budget for personnel at research organisations abroad may not be requested for researchers based at an organisation in any of the countries involved in the LEAWEF partnership. Costs for researchers based at an organisation in any of these countries should be budgeted to the Science Granting Council budget from that country.</p> <p>Material</p> <p>Funding may be requested for all project-specific material costs. These costs are subject to a maximum of 30% of the grant amount allocated for personnel costs. A maximum of 50% of the grant amount for material costs can be requested for research organisations abroad.</p> <p>N.B.: In this call, the NWO budget for project-specific material costs may not be requested for research organisations in any of the countries involved in the LEAWEF partnership. Costs for researchers based at an organisation in any of from these countries should be budgeted to the Science Granting Council budget from that country.</p> <p>Investments</p> <p>Funding may be requested for investments in equipment, infrastructure and other research resources that have economic value or can be reused after the project ends. Salary costs of personnel who put the equipment, infrastructure and other research resources in a state of readiness can be claimed as part of the investments. The rates and conditions of Personnel apply here and the costs should be claimed as Investments. Investments can only be made at research organisations listed in section 3.1.</p> <p>A maximum of €150,000 can be applied for investments.</p> <p>Knowledge utilization</p> <p>Funding can be requested for activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research⁸, in order to increase the societal impact of the research.</p> <p>Impact Plan: It is mandatory to include an amount for knowledge utilisation. These costs are at least 5% and maximum 20% of the grant amount. A maximum of 50% of the grant amount for knowledge utilisation can be requested for research organisations abroad.</p> <p>N.B.: In this call, the NWO budget for knowledge utilisation may not be requested for research organisations in any of the countries involved in the LEAWEF partnership. Costs for researchers based at an organisation in any of these countries should be budgeted to the Science Granting Council budget from that country.</p>
--	--

⁸ All activities applied for under this budget module must fit within the definition of "Knowledge Transfer Activities" used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (OJEU 2022, C 414).

	<p>Project management</p> <p>Funding can be requested for project management that is at most 5% of the total budget requested from NWO. This budget can only be used for activities that solely support the project for which the grant is requested. The applicant must satisfactorily justify this budget.</p> <p>At the Full proposal phase, it is required to submit a financial detail form separately to NWO. This form will be available via the NWO website. Do not hesitate to contact the national contact person in case of questions.</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>For NWO funded research the NWO Grant Rules apply.</p> <p>In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018) and the Global Code of Conduct for Equitable Research Partnerships. In case research is conducted in fragile states, it is advised to consult the Security Guidelines for field research in complex, remote and hazardous places. By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to these codes. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: Scientific integrity NWO</p> <p>Information about lodging an objection at NWO is available on our website. Applicants are required to submit a mandatory NWO budget form in the Full Proposal stage.</p> <p>For full details of the general NWO funding process, please refer to the NWO website. NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-and-inclusion).</p> <p><i>Compliance with the National Knowledge Security Guidelines</i></p> <p>World-class science can benefit from international cooperation. The National Knowledge Security Guidelines (hereafter: the Guidelines) helps knowledge institutions to ensure that international cooperation can take place securely. Knowledge security concerns the undesirable transfer of sensitive knowledge and technology that compromises national security; the covert influence of state actors on education and research, which jeopardises academic freedom and social safety; and ethical issues that may arise in cooperation with countries that do not respect fundamental rights.</p> <p>Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their project complies and will continue to comply with the Guidelines. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to the recommendations stipulated in these Guidelines. In the event of a suspected breach of the Guidelines in an application submitted to NWO for project funding, or in a project funded by NWO, NWO may ask the applicant to provide a risk assessment demonstrating that the recommendations in the Guidelines have been taken into consideration. If the applicant fails to comply with NWO's request, or if the risk</p>

	<p>assessment is in apparent breach of the Guidelines, this may affect NWO’s grant award or decision-making process. NWO may also include further conditions in the award letter if appropriate.</p> <p>The National Knowledge Security Guidelines can be found on the central government website at: Home National Contact Point for Knowledge Security (loketkennisveiligheid.nl).</p> <p>The NWO data management protocol applies to projects funded by NWO.</p> <p>NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this Call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, Privacy Statement NWO.</p> <p>Furthermore, submission of financial and substantive reports at national level is required in accordance with the rules of NWO.</p>
Website with additional information	<p>For full details of the general NWO funding process, please refer to the NWO website. Also, a specific programme page on the NWO website will be created.</p>

SOUTH AFRICA
National Research Foundation (NRF)

Contact point	Name	Themba Ngomane
	Email	t.ngomane@risa.nrf.ac.za (for technical queries: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za)
	Phone	+27 12 481 4171
Funding commitment	Euro 490 000 (R10 mil)	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	4 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	R1,8 mil	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<p>Only working researchers/scientists residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised South African public higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council are eligible to apply. Researchers based at private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as a PI but can form part of the research consortium. NGO and/or industry/ SME participants are expected to meet their own participation costs in the joint project. South African applicants and the HDI based co-PIs must be in possession of a PhD.</p> <p>It is “mandatory” for South African PIs based at historically advantaged institutions (and science councils) to include, as part of the consortium, a research partner from a historically disadvantaged institution. Proposals submitted by an applicant based at a historically advantaged institution without a research partner from a historically disadvantaged institution will be ineligible (and will not be submitted for review). The research collaborator from the historically disadvantaged institution in this case will serve as a co-applicant in the proposal.</p> <p>Applicants based at historically disadvantaged institutions including those based at the two new universities, i.e. the Sol Plaatje University (SPU) and the University of Mpumalanga (UMP), can act as PIs and submit proposals without the involvement of and/or partnering with researchers based at historically advantaged institutions if they so wish. Please note that only the following eight universities are currently recognised as historically disadvantaged in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training Ministerial Statement on university funding: University of Limpopo (UL), University of Fort Hare (UFH), University of Venda (Univen), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU).</p> <p>In terms of human capital development, PIs are encouraged to ensure the involvement of young scientists (i.e. doctoral and postdoctoral students) and pay attention to gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) and previously disadvantaged individuals.</p>	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	<p>All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC (i.e. the Dutch Online Submission System). Please note that it is mandatory for South African researchers to also submit their full proposals through an online application process to the NRF on the NRF System through the link: https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za. Full proposals that are not submitted in both ISAAC and NRF-Connect will be considered ineligible and will not be submitted for review. Please make use of the ‘<i>General Application Guide 2024</i>’ for assistance on the steps to follow when applying for international research grants. The link to the guide is published on this web page: https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-</p>	

	in-2024-and-2025/ .
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<p><u>Science Engagement</u> Science engagement refers to scientific and initiative activities, events, interventions, or interactions characterised by mutual learning and dialogue among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise, and life experiences, who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and values. It is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement through suitable communication channels with science, science awareness, science education, science communication, and science outreach, aiming to develop and benefit individuals and society. The NRF supports science engagement by coordinating and implementing the Department of Science and Innovation's Engagement Strategy. The strategy embraces a broad understanding of science, encompassing systematic knowledge spanning (natural and physical sciences, engineering sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities, and technology) all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge. Therefore, researchers funded through the NRF programmes must contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs in their project's progress report.</p> <p><u>Intellectual Property</u> The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.</p> <p><u>Ethical Considerations</u> In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside South Africa comply with the laws and regulations of South Africa and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. A research ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research prior to the commencement of the research and acceptance of the grant. The awarded amount will not be released for payment if a copy of the required ethical clearance certificate, as indicated in the application, is not attached to the Conditions of Grant. Please also refer to the "Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices" on the NRF website at https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/.</p> <p><u>Protection of personal information</u> The National Research Foundation ensures compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act 4 of 2013, committing to ensure the privacy of those submitting applications and proposals to the NRF on the NRF Connect (/). The National Research Foundation will protect the personal information provided by applicants or the third party against misuse, loss, unauthorized access, modification, or disclosure. The Privacy Policy of the NRF outlines the practices relating to the protection of personal information and can be accessed on the NRF website at https://www.nrf.ac.za/privacy-policy.</p>
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R1.8 mil per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 4 years, to be paid in annual instalment and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025. The funds per project have to be utilised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1.8 mil per project for research activities, mobility costs of the research team, doctoral research placements, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs, etc. • This Call makes allowance for support of one doctoral student per consortia project. The value of the doctoral scholarship will be equivalent to the NRF Free Standing Scholarship support. Funds will only be released provided the nominated student meets the NRF equity targets.
Additional information	The following are NOT to be funded from the NRF funds allocation:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consultant's fees- Large equipment- Project management fees- Salaries and temporary staff fees
Website with additional information	<p>https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-in-2024-and-2025/</p> <p>https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za</p> <p>https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/</p> <p>https://www.nrf.ac.za/privacy-policy</p>

TANZANIA

Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)

Contact point	Name	Ntufye Mwakigonja
	Email	ntufye.mwakigonja@costech.or.tz
	Phone	+255759410300
Funding commitment	Euro 88 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	2 projects	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	TZS 120,000,000	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	Tanzanian Researchers and Academicians working in Research and Development as well as Higher Learning Institutions (Universities). The Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs) must be registered and recognized by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU). Applicants can partner with Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs to form a research consortium. These counterparts from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as project PI. All Project Lead (PIs) and co-PIs must possess a PhD. In terms of human capital development; the supported project shall include a component for capacity building to young researchers at Master and/or PhD programme. Attention shall be extended to consideration of gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) and previously disadvantaged individuals.	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal in ISAAC (i.e. the Dutch Online Submission System). A copy of the application should also be sent to ntufye.mwakigonga@costech.or.tz	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submitted applications should be accompanied by a signed endorsement letter from the host Institution and collaborating partners • The successful project shall be required to obtain an ethical clearance from the relevant body • The research funds are to be used in United Republic of Tanzania and cannot be transferred to a collaborating partner outside Tanzania 	
Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i>	<p>COSTECH funds will be used to cover the following costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Research-related costs—including field work expenses (conducting interviews, surveys, laboratory experiments, research-related trips, small equipment consumables), etc. Airfare, accommodation, ground transport and subsistence should be budgeted as per financial guidelines of the Government of Tanzania. (ii) Capacity building support – funds shall be allocated to support research work only (e.g. data/sample collection and handling, research permits fees etc) for one MSc or PhD students registered in recognised Universities within the United Republic of Tanzania. The budget allocated for this purpose should not exceed that budget allocated for research in the respective University fee structure. The responsibilities of this position may also include assisting the PI with the management and administration of the joint project. (iii) Knowledge dissemination - in support of project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, 	

	<p>local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>(iv) Regional workshops: It's mandatory for researchers to make budgetary provisions (travel and accommodation) to participate to the workshops organised by funders as part of the reporting requirements (i.e., kick-off and final workshops)</p>
Additional information	<p>The following are NOT to be funded from the COSTECH funds allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of buildings such as offices • Procurement of large equipment whose cost accrues beyond 40% of the total project budget • Project management fees • Salaries and temporary staff fees • Institutional administration fees (overheads) • Tuition fees, stipend/other fees for postgraduate students
Website with additional information	<p>https://www.costech.or.tz</p>

ZIMBABWE

Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ)

Contact point	Name	Forbes Zivanai Chinyemba
	Email	fchinyemba@rcz.ac.zw
	Phone	+263772447956
Funding commitment	Euro 28 000	
Anticipated number of projects to be funded	1 project	
Maximum funding per awarded project / per partner	Euro 28 000	
Who can apply? <i>Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution</i>	<p><i>Universities and their institutes and faculties</i> <i>Research Centres and Institutes</i> <i>Research councils</i> <i>Agricultural Research Centres institutions of Higher Learning like polytechnics</i></p> <p>Only researchers/scientists residing in Zimbabwe and affiliated with a recognised Zimbabwe public higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council are eligible to apply. Researchers based at private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.</p> <p>In terms of human capital development, PIs are encouraged to ensure the involvement of young scientists (i.e. doctoral and postdoctoral students) and pay attention to gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) and previously disadvantaged individuals.</p>	
Submission of the Concept note and Full proposal at the national level	<p>All consortia are requested to submit their Partnership request form, Concept note and Full proposal on the Online Grants Management System on www.grants.rczgrants.org</p> <p>Make use of the funding guidelines accessed on www.rcz.ac.zw</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria for the SGC	<p>Science Engagement</p> <p>Science engagement refers to scientific and initiative activities, events, interventions, or interactions characterised by mutual learning and dialogue among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise, and life experiences, who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and values. It is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement through suitable communication channels with science, science awareness, science education, science communication, and science outreach, aiming to develop and benefit individuals and society. The RCZ supports science engagement by coordinating and implementing the Department of Science and Innovation's Engagement Strategy. The strategy embraces a broad understanding of science, encompassing systematic knowledge spanning (natural and physical sciences, engineering sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities, and technology) all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge. Therefore, researchers funded through the RCZ programmes must contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs in their project's progress report.</p> <p>Intellectual Property</p> <p>The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps</p>	

	<p>to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.</p> <p>Ethical Considerations</p> <p>In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside Zimbabwe are according to the laws of the respective country. In terms of Zimbabwe, the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe ethical considerations will take precedence and can be accessed at https://mrcz.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Ethics-Guidelines-for-Health-Research-Involving-Human-Participants-in-Zimbabwe-2011.pdf</p>
<p>Eligible costs <i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i></p>	<p>The total amount requested from the RCZ should not exceed USD30,000.00 per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 4 years, to be paid in annual instalment and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025. The funds per project have to be utilised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD30,000.00 per project for research activities, mobility costs of the research team, doctoral research placements, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs, etc. • Standing Scholarship support.
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>The following are NOT to be funded from the RCZ funds allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultant's fees - Large equipment - Project management fees - Salaries and temporary staff fees
<p>Website with additional information</p>	<p>www.rcz.ac.zw</p>