

## **Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) Frequently Asked Questions for the Global Project**

This document provides answers to some frequently asked questions related to the FCFA Global Climate Model Development for Africa Project call, which aims to deliver a step-change in the performance of General Circulation Models (GCMs) for Africa and to make a long-term contribution to model development with an African lens.

For any query not answered in this document, please contact the [FCFA Secretariat](#).

### **Section 1: Administrative questions**

#### **1. Is my organisation eligible for funding for FCFA?**

Section 7 of the Announcement of Opportunity outlines the organisation eligibility requirements for this call. To summarise, FCFA will fund both UK and non-UK organisations, where these are found to be eligible.

For organisations that are not normally eligible to receive research council funding, three requirements must be met for the organisation to directly receive FCFA funding (i.e. to be named as a PI): (1) the organisation must be a legal entity, (2) the organisation must be able to demonstrate an independent in-house capability to undertake and lead research and training in the field or discipline in which it wishes to be funded and (3) the organisation must meet the accountability and audit requirements of the FCFA funders.

If these requirements cannot be met, the organisation may not act as the lead organisation and will not directly receive funds from FCFA. However, they may be named as a Co-I, Project Partner or sub-contractor organisation and receive funds through the lead organisation. All organisations that are to receive funds through FCFA must meet minimum financial and management due diligence criteria.

#### **2. My organisation is not based in the UK, am I eligible to apply for funding through FCFA?**

Yes, it is not essential for any project teams to include researchers or research institutions based in the United Kingdom or any other developed countries. However, FCFA projects are expected to have a clear and significant role for African researchers and/or institutions.

There are no other restrictions on where researchers are located or their nationality and no geographic restrictions on where research institutions are based, providing they meet the administrative eligibility requirements for funding (Section 7 of the AO).

However, despite the absence of restrictions of the geographical locations of researcher and research institutions, to meet the requirements of this FCFA call the geographical scope of proposed research should be sub-Saharan Africa, with the recognition that for GCM development this may involve study of a broader geographical scope (such as in the case of teleconnections).

#### **3. I work for a CGIAR Research Centre – are these centres eligible to apply for FCFA funding?**

Yes, CGIAR Research Centres are eligible to apply for funding and be involved in project, subject to additional funding conditions.

Under DFID funding rules, they should not apply as developing country partners, given that they have competitive international terms and conditions and are able to recruit internationally. Full cost recovery should be based on the CGIAR system wide guidance on cost (set out in Financial Guidance No5, and it is expected that the 2% system wide cost levy is to be absorbed within all their projects). It is also expected that a clear position with regards to alignment of all research projects with the 15 CGIAR Research Programmes (the CRPs), since the Fund Council expect all CGIAR research to fall within the CRPs in due course regardless of funding modality.

#### **4. Are applicants to the Global Project required to submit outline proposals?**

No, applicants are not required to submit outline proposals for the Global Project. The deadline for submitting a notification of intent for the Global Project has passed.

The deadline for full proposals is August 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, 4pm UK time (BST/GMT +1/UCT +1). Full proposals must be submitted via the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

#### **5. How many Co-Is are we allowed? Do they all have to hold doctorate degrees?**

There is no limit on the number of Co-Is on the proposal – it is appropriate to include as many or as few as you feel necessary to include the expertise necessary to effectively carry out your proposed programme of research.

The standard eligibility criteria for a Co-I is that they have at least three years of relevant post-doctoral experience, or an appropriate equivalent level of research experience. It is possible for equivalent research experience to take a number of forms, such as a good track record of long term in depth professional experience in a relevant field of work.

In addition, Co-Is are required to be employed (at the time of application) by the Research Organisation submitting the proposal, and have an assurance (at the time of application) that if the proposal is successful the contract of employment will extend at least three months beyond the end date of the grant. If the Co-I is not employed at the time of application they must either be scheduled to move to the submitting organisation before the proposed start date of the grant, such that the above criteria is met, or have an existing formal arrangement with the organisation which enables him/her to carry out research there and receive all necessary management and infrastructure support from the organisation.

More information about Co-Is and other research roles is available in the AO, Section 8.

#### **6. I have been approached by several potential partners, how many applications can I be named on?**

With the exception of project partners and 'staff' (researchers and technicians), individuals may be named on a maximum of two Global Project proposals submitted, and may be named as lead principal investigator (PI) on only one (applicants may, in addition, also be named on two regional consortium grant proposals). Individuals should ensure that total time commitments across the applications with which they are involved does not exceed 100%. If individual are named on more than two submitted proposals for each call they will be asked to retract their involvement from the additional proposals, which may be to the detriment of both the individual and projects concerned.

There is no limit on the number of proposals a particular research organisation can be named on, the limits apply to individual investigators.

## **Section 2: Questions about the scope of the call**

### **1. Where does regional climate modelling fit into the Global Project?**

We anticipate that most research related to regional climate modelling will happen in the regional consortia. The purpose of the Global Project is to develop GCMs (general circulation models), but it does not exclude work with RCMs, providing that this research is directly relevant for the purpose of improving GCMs. The Global Project will also include development of climate processes that are relevant to both GCMs and RCMs, such as the representation of convection.

The Global Project was conceived through the identification of a gap in the development of GCMs (in particular of pan-African processes), that was outside the regional scope of the consortium grants due to the necessity for this research to be tailored closely to specific needs and challenges of decision makers and climate science in different regions of Africa, and therefore should be focussed accordingly.

Nonetheless, it is expected that the Global Project and regional consortia work closely together, so there is scope for collaboration of ideas, methodologies and tools relating to the evaluation of model projections for different regions of Africa. Additionally, if gaps in outputs are discovered there are mechanisms available to address this through 'supporting projects' that will be launched in years 2 and 3 of the programme.

### **2. Do I have to include a partnership with a GCM development centre in my proposed consortium?**

Yes, it is a requirement for the Global Project to include within proposed consortia a partnership between at least one academic institution and one world-leading GCM development centre (defined as a centre that has contributed a GCM to CMIP5 or will contribute to CMIP6).