



Quotation Request

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites you to submit a quotation for the goods / services as outlined below.

Requirement

Expertise to inform potential UKRI-FCDO Joint Research Programme: Nature-based Solutions for Equitable Climate Resilience

Overview

Introduction and background

Nature-based solutions (NbS) have the potential to mitigate many of the environmental risks we face as a result of climate induced change e.g., reducing flood peaks, storing water, protecting biodiversity and enhancing soil (and food) security. There is currently a need to better understand the limits of NbS interventions, what constitutes good practice and how they address risk, equity and prevent trade-offs. There are also notable financial and governance challenges involved in implementing NbS at scale, demonstrating the need for further research. Eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals have targets related to environmental sustainability and the role of the environment in supporting economic growth and societal wellbeing, demonstrating the potential wide-ranging benefits of NbS.

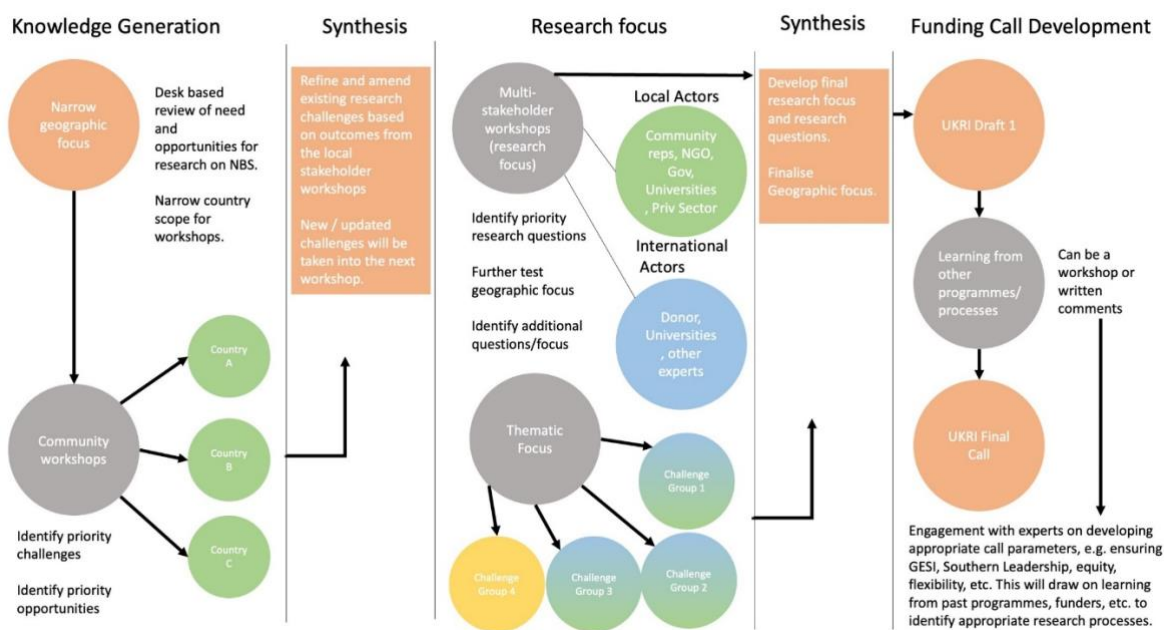
A lack of knowledge about the suitability and feasibility of NbS in different global contexts is a major barrier to uptake by Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). UKRI-NERC are aiming to address this knowledge gap by supporting the world-leading interdisciplinary research needed to understand how NbS can increase resilience to climate-associated risks and be mainstreamed into transformative agendas towards more equitable and sustainable development.

The successful expert(s) will work on behalf of UKRI-NERC to scope and design a potential new collaborative research programme focussed on 'nature-based solutions for equitable climate resilience'. This will be achieved through critically assessing the current NbS research base for research gaps and scoping potential areas for investment in consultation with appropriate stakeholders and stakeholder groups (both UK and International). This will primarily be in collaboration with the [Adaptation Research Alliance \(ARA\)](#) through a planned consultative process.

Priority research questions identified as part of this scoping exercise will form the basis of the potential joint NERC-FCDO research programme. Interdisciplinary research challenges/topics identified should contain a core of environmental science and also be complementary and not duplicative of research that is addressed under the FCDO [Climate Adaptation and Resilience \(CLARE\)](#) programme and flagship environment research programme [Reversing Environment Degradation in Africa and Asia \(REDAA\)](#). The successful expert(s) will be required to liaise with key contact points for these programmes during the scoping exercise.

Detailed Requirements

As an expert in environmental science that underpins the development of nature-based solutions and supports international development for equitable climate resilience, you will represent UKRI in the following consultative process (activities in orange). You will also attend and support events led by the ARA (activities in grey). This process is currently expected to start in early November 2022 and finish at the end of February 2023:



- Knowledge Generation:** This phase is expected to bring in the context and voices of local communities where the research will ultimately drive impact. **As an expert you will be expected to undertake a desk-based review of needs/ opportunities for NbS research within a pre-defined set of countries to help narrow the geographic focus for the workshops.** The intention for the community workshops is to identify local challenges and opportunities around NbS which can then be prioritised for inclusion in the research programme – these will be organised and led by the ARA.
- Synthesis stage 1:** This phase is expected to **refine and amend the existing research challenges and questions** (currently outlined in a draft UKRI internal concept note) based on outcomes from the local stakeholder workshops. As an expert you will be expected to lead this synthesis and new / updated challenges will be taken into the next workshop phase.
- Research Focus:** This phase is expected to **identify priority research questions** (from the combined and/or prioritised list during the community engagement), further test/narrow the geographic focus, and consider the design of the research programme. The audience for these workshops includes local and national stakeholders (Community reps, NGO, Gov, Universities, Priv Sector) as well as international stakeholders (Donors, Universities, other experts). The multi-stakeholder workshops are expected to have a thematic focus based on the “research challenge grouping” initially identified by UKRI and informed by the

community engagement. As such this will include three to four parallel workshops (1-2 days each, organised and led by the ARA), which you will be expected to attend and contribute to. **Your role will be to capture the discussions from an academic perspective to ensure the programme fosters scientific excellence (as well as development impact) and will enable world-leading research outputs.**

- Synthesis stage 2: This phase is expected to develop the final scope for the research programme, including a finalised set of research questions and a clear geographic focus. There may also be elements of programme design to feed into the final call drafting stage. **As an expert you will be expected to lead this synthesis stage** and demonstrate clearly how the programme can also align to and support the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), [NERC and UKRI delivery plans](#), and the CLARE and REDAA ambitions, as well as catalysing on COP26 outcomes.
- Funding Call Development: This phase will be led by UKRI, with input from the chosen supplier and other experts, funders or interested parties, drawing upon comments made in relation to programme design during the workshops.

Outputs

All outputs detailed below are essential to the delivery of this contract.

- Report detailing the outputs of the desk-based review of current needs and opportunities for NbS research within a pre-defined set of countries (due 25th Nov 2022)
- Stage 1 synthesis report - refine and amend the existing research challenges and questions (currently outlined in a draft UKRI internal concept note) based on outcomes from the local community workshops (workshops late Nov/early Dec, report due 23rd Dec 2022)
- Stage 2 synthesis report – develop the final scope for the research programme, including a finalised set of research questions and a clear geographic focus, based on outputs of the multi-stakeholder workshops (workshops mid-late Jan, report due 10th Feb 2023)
- Feed into the drafting of the final call text and programme design, utilising intelligence gained through the consultative process (throughout process but primarily mid-late Feb 2023)

Throughout the contract period, the successful supplier will be required to engage with UKRI NERC and FCDO as follows:

- Initial meeting with NERC and FCDO/ARA once contract accepted (w/c 7th Nov '22)
- Regular liaison with key FCDO contact points for the CLARE and REDAA programmes (to ensure complementarity)
- Flash reports on request via email to NERC/ARA of any progress and directions taken
- Regular (at least fortnightly) verbal update to NERC and ARA (email update sufficient if schedules do not allow for verbal update) to share progress and identify challenges

Key information

- Project start date 7th November 2022

- Project end date 24th February 2023 with the option to extend for an additional month on a non-paid time-only basis, should the timeline for the consultative process slip and the successful supplier needs extra time to complete outputs
- Must have access to Microsoft software and Zoom/MS Teams. Office space and equipment will not be provided.
- Must attend a start-up video conference meeting w/c
- Project will be delivered remotely with no site visits to UKRI-NERC or FCDO premises required

Application information and assessment criteria

Please provide a fixed fee quotation and return your proposal to

Sarah.Blackburn@nerc.ukri.org by 4pm on 24th October 2022. The proposal is to be limited to 3 sides of A4, any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered.

This is an open competition and the successful candidate will be selected by UKRI based on the strength of your written application. Bids will be reviewed considering the following criteria:

Evaluation Quality/Technical Questions (Assessment criteria)

1. Price (10% weighting) – see price table
2. Delivery Approach (60% weighting)
3. Project Management (30% weighting)

Within their answers suppliers should detail how they intend to take a creative and innovative approach to the challenges this project might face. Where choices have been made the supplier must outline the rationale and considerations made.

If you wish to provide additional information which does not fit under these headings, please use the same approach; clear heading and specific tailored content beneath it. Use of diagrams and drawings is acceptable, if used please embed these within your answer.

2. Delivery Approach (60% weighting)

Suppliers must outline how they intend to enable delivery of the project, meeting both the budgetary and time requirements. By submitting a bid you are committing to attending the consultative workshops as and when deemed appropriate (to be organised by ARA).

Answers should be laid out under clear headings and provide as a minimum:

How your methodology and approach will achieve the objectives and deliver the outputs highlighted in the specification, including:

- Your approach to undertaking the desk-based review in order to narrow the geographic scope of the community workshops (there is potential to explore an ecosystems-based approach versus a country-based approach)
- Your approach to stage 1 synthesis following ARA-led local community workshops – how to build local perspectives into the (currently science-led) concept note

- Your approach to stage 2 synthesis following ARA-led multi-stakeholder workshops – how to represent multi-stakeholder views in the design of action-oriented research programmes (whilst ensuring scientific excellence)
- Your approach to presenting the desk-based review outputs/synthesis reports and sharing of learnings (e.g. with ARA and CLARE/REDAA contact points) to feed into the next phase of the consultative process
- Potential contributions towards the planning and design of the consultative workshops using innovative approaches (working with ARA colleagues) – to note, some workshops may take place virtually, others in person

3. Project management (30% weighting)

With reference to the specification, potential suppliers should outline their project management approach and how you intend to ensure the proposed project is delivered. This should include as a minimum (but not limited to):

- Name(s) and profile(s) of the key personnel involved in delivery and a brief summary of their role on the project.
- Track record of the organisation and individual(s) leading the project, in particular;
 - relevant expertise in environmental science for nature-based solutions research, in the context of international development and equitable climate resilience
 - experience of multi-stakeholder consultation and synthesis of findings from an academic perspective
- Risk and mitigation assessment. Identification of key process risks or issues to the successful completion of the project and how these risks or issues will be mitigated.
- How the project will be monitored to ensure it is delivered in terms of quality, timeliness and cost
- How you will foster a collaborative working relationship with the NERC/FCDO/ARA project team throughout the contract

NERC and FCDO/ARA will take into account the following during their assessment:

- Has the supplier clearly demonstrated why they are the most appropriate candidate(s) for the role in terms of expertise/experience?
- Are the proposed approaches clearly defined and appropriate?
- Do the proposed approaches show innovation in thought?
- Are proposed approaches able to be completed in the timeframe?
- How do the suggested approaches promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion? E.g. in the synthesis of stakeholder views, avoiding unconscious bias, creating equitable research opportunities.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview the week commencing 24th October 2022. The winning bidder will be notified of the outcome one week after this (w/c 31st Oct).

UKRI will monitor application and award data from an EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) perspective to ensure equity of process. No feedback will be provided.



Timeline

- *This agreement shall run from the period November 2022 to February 2023;*
- *A start-up video conference meeting is scheduled for w/c 7th November 2022;*
- *Delivery of desk-based review by 25th November 2022;*
- *Delivery of stage 1 synthesis report by 23rd December 2022;*
- *Delivery of stage 2 synthesis report by 10th Feb 2023;*
- *Input to drafting of final call text throughout process, but primarily mid-late Feb 2023.*

Price

There is a maximum budget of **£50,000 inc. VAT** available for this activity. Potential suppliers should provide a total overall price for the work described within this quotation request, alongside a more detailed breakdown of costs using the table below (there is no set format for this).

Detail of pricing breakdown	Total Price (£ Inc. VAT)
	£

Validity Period

This quotation is valid until:

[potential supplier to insert date]

Compliance

Please note that by completing and returning this quotation form you are confirming an offer which is made against UKRI terms and conditions (Annex A) and which, to your best knowledge, meets the requirements set out in our Requirement section. Should this NOT be the case please advise detail. UKRI reserve the right not to consider any quotation which is not in compliance with our requirement or terms.

All questions and or return of quotation should be directed to:

Sarah Blackburn, Head of International, UKRI-NERC

sarah.blackburn@nerc.ukri.org / 07923 382797

Please return your quotation by 4pm on 24th October 2022



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Supplier details:

For and on behalf of: (insert supplier company name and company number)

Person submitting quotation: (name)

Telephone and email details:

Dated:



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Annex A

The UKRI Short Form Procurement Terms and Conditions

The UKRI Short Form PO term form which is on the UKRI Commercial and Procurement website and can be accessed by this [link](#). [SEE PDF ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL]