



CALL FOR ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE THEME OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

UNDER THE ADAPT ACTION PROGRAM

**ADAPT
ACTION**

UN PROGRAMME



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**SERIES NO. 1: RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR
CLARIFICATION**
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Question 1

Dear Sir/Madam. I hope you are well. I would like to request clarification regarding eligibility for the Call for research projects on adaptation in the Mediterranean region (water, agriculture and food security, coastal areas, conflict zones). I am considering applying with the University of Brescia as the lead institution. Our research proposal focuses on Jordan, and our institution has extensive experience in the Jordanian context, which has resulted in several publications and collaborations in Jordan. We will be working closely with a local Jordanian partner, registered as an NGO, who will support the implementation of the research activities on the ground. Could you please advise whether this setup would be eligible under the call requirements? I would greatly appreciate your guidance. Best regards,

The call specifies that projects must be implemented by a research institute or consortium that meets the following two criteria: (i) a university or national research center from at least one of the eight AdaptAction countries in the region; (ii) a university, a research center, or a researcher with proven international credentials (first-tier publications, membership in one of the IPCC working groups, etc.). As such, an NGO can meet the call requirements as long as it conducts research activities and has a track record of publications (research papers, etc.).

Question 2

Dear Sir or Madam, we are currently exploring the possibility of submitting a project in response to your call for research proposals on adaptation in the Mediterranean region under the AdaptAction program. At this stage, we are in the process of forming a consortium and wish to confirm our eligibility before proceeding further with the application. The eligibility criteria state that the project must be led by a research institute or consortium that meets the following two criteria: (i) a university or national research center from at least one of the eight AdaptAction target countries in the region; (ii) a university, research center, or researcher with proven international credentials. Could you please clarify whether these two criteria must be met simultaneously by the lead institution or the consortium, or whether meeting just one of them is sufficient for eligibility? Thank you in advance for your response! We remain at your disposal if needed. Best regards,

Hello, thank you for your message. Both criteria must indeed be met. However, they may be fulfilled by a single institution or by multiple institutions.

Question 3

Dear AdaptAction Call Secretariat, I hope this message finds you well. I would like to seek clarification regarding eligibility under the call for research projects on climate adaptation in the Mediterranean region. Would a consortium led by an eligible university in the Mediterranean region (for example, a university based in Egypt) be permitted to include an international research partner such as the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Germany? If so, are there any specific restrictions or requirements regarding the role of international research partners within the consortium? Many thanks for your guidance. Best regards,

Thank you for your interest. Yes, this arrangement is eligible, and there are no specific restrictions on the role of international research partners as long as a local or national partner is also involved.

Question 4

Dear AdaptAction Research Team, I hope this message finds you well. I recently reviewed the AdaptAction Call for Applied Research Projects and found it highly relevant to my current research interests, particularly concerning climate change, human mobility, water insecurity, and resilience in the Levant region. I am very interested in preparing a proposal and would greatly appreciate some clarification regarding the eligibility and consortium requirements. As an individual researcher, I am slightly uncertain about the most appropriate way to apply. I would be grateful if you could kindly advise on the following points: (i) Can a proposal be led by an individual researcher, together with partner institutions in the target countries? (ii) Would it be acceptable for me to establish a consortium involving a Syrian university or research institution as the national lead partner while I participate as Principal Investigator or Scientific Coordinator? (iii) Is it mandatory for the coordinating institution to be located in one of the target countries, or can a European institution coordinate the project provided that strong partnerships with institutions from the target countries are in place? (iv) Are there any specific eligibility considerations for Syrian institutions or researchers that applicants should be aware of? Thank you very much for your time and guidance. I would be grateful for any clarification you can provide and look forward to the possibility of contributing to this important initiative. Best regards,

In response to your inquiries:

- (i) A proposal cannot be led by an individual researcher.
- (ii) Yes, it is acceptable to establish a consortium involving a Syrian university or research institution as the national lead partner while you participate as Principal Investigator or Scientific Coordinator; in such a case, the Syrian institution will submit the proposal on the platform and the research agreement will be signed with them.
- (iii) It is not mandatory for the coordinating institution to be located in one of the target countries; a European institution can coordinate the project provided that strong partnerships with institutions from the target countries are in place.
- (iv) There are no other specific eligibility requirements for Syrian institutions or researchers that applicants should be aware of.

Question 5

Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to know if it is possible for a Ghanaian organization to apply and have the program carried out in Ghana? Thank you.

A Ghanaian organization can apply to the call. However, the activities must focus on one or more of the target countries in the MENA region.

Question 6

Hello, I hope you are well. I am writing to ask for more details regarding Algeria in this call, as the call text mentions that Algeria will serve as a comparison case, and I am not entirely sure what that means. If you could clarify this for me, I would appreciate it. Thank you in advance,

Algeria cannot be the sole focus of a research project. However, a research project may be eligible if at least two countries are studied, one of which is Algeria.

Question 7

Hello. Would a consortium proposal focusing on the analysis of specific vulnerabilities in rural communities along long-distance hiking trails, and on the co-development of local adaptation strategies, fall within the scope of the call for proposals?

Hello. The project proposal must align with one of the four proposed themes, namely: (i) Health, social protection, and climate; (ii) Water resources, agricultural systems, and food security; (iii) Coastal adaptation; (iv) Climate and conflict.

Question 8

Dear AdaptAction Team, I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to seek clarification regarding the submission requirements for the current call for research projects on adaptation in the Mediterranean region. Section 7.1 of the Instructions to Bidders indicates that the application file must include five exhibits (Letter of Commitment, Scientific Note, Consortium Presentation, CVs, and Provisional Budget). However, the online application platform appears to provide a single upload field with a maximum file size of 10 MB. Could you kindly confirm whether applicants are expected to compile all five required exhibits into a single PDF file for submission? In addition, we would appreciate clarification regarding Exhibit IV (CVs of the main staff involved, maximum 5 pages): does the 5-page limit apply collectively to all CVs included in the application, or individually to each CV?

On this matter, we refer to the FAQ accessible via this link <https://emundus.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/HCW/pages/3977248769/Charger+un+fichier> as well as the video tutorial available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al_DbBOYItQ.

Question 9

Hello, I am interested in the Call for Projects on the theme of adaptation to climate change in North Africa and the Middle East. I would like to know if there is a platform or other mechanism for connecting with research institutes or consortia that meet the eligibility criteria and wish to submit a proposal. Thank you in advance.

There is no platform or other mechanism for connecting with research institutes or consortia that meet the eligibility criteria. Each applicant must assemble their own research team.

Question 10

Is AFD planning to organize an information session or briefing call for interested applicants at any point?

No information sessions or briefing calls are planned during the EoI phase. However, interviews will be arranged in July for pre-selected candidates who have submitted an application.

Question 11

*Dear AFD Research Department, I am writing to request clarification regarding the eligibility criteria. There appears to be a discrepancy in the announcement: while the initial summary lists seven countries of intervention, the program description explicitly includes **Syria** as one of the eight countries of intervention. Could you please confirm whether Syrian organizations are eligible to apply, either as lead applicants or as project partners?*

Syrian organizations are indeed eligible to apply, either as lead applicants or as project partners.

Question 12

Hello, Sir/Madam. I read with great interest the AFD's call for proposals: "Call for Research Projects on Adaptation in the Mediterranean Region" and am writing to request some clarification. I am currently working on climate change research projects conducted in collaboration with a university in France. In this context, we have developed models tested in France and Morocco, and I have the following questions: (i) Is a French university eligible to join the consortium?; (ii) If so, is it eligible for funding?; (iii) Are socio-economic partners also eligible for funding? Thank you in advance for your response.

Hello, to answer your questions: (i) Yes, a French university is eligible to join the consortium; (ii) It may therefore be eligible for funding under the call for research proposals; (iii) Other partners may also be eligible, as indicated in the call for proposals: universities or research centers in the target countries, one or more local or international NGOs, think tanks, consulting firms engaged in research and development activities, or individual consultants.

Question 13

I wanted to ask whether a UN institution that has strong and long-standing partnerships with universities and research centers in the region, particularly in the program's target countries, and works extensively in the AdaptAction program's target sectors, is eligible to apply as part of a consortium. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this call or other opportunities.

A UN institution is eligible to apply as part of a consortium as long as the consortium meets the requirements of the call, i.e., it must include: (i) a university or national research center from at least one of the eight AdaptAction countries in the region; and (ii) a university, a research center, or a researcher with proven international credentials (first-tier publication, membership in one of the IPCC working groups, etc.).

Question 14

Hello, I would like to ask for clarification regarding the call for research projects on climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean region. As part of a consortium involving a university from an AdaptAction country and a French partner university, can the latter directly receive a portion of the

*project budget (salaries, fees, travel, services, or other eligible expenses)? Or is funding exclusively reserved for institutions in the program's target countries? Thank you in advance for your response.
Best regards,*

Hello, yes, a French university is indeed eligible to join a consortium and receive a portion of the funding.