



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

UNDER THE ADAPT ACTION PROGRAM

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FOR THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION
(UPDATED VERSION TILL JUNE 16, 2026)

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.

Question 15

Hello, regarding the call for action research proposals on the topic of climate change adaptation in North Africa and the Middle East, we would like to ask for clarification: Does the lead institution of the consortium to be formed have to be a university or a research center? Thank you for your response. Best regards,

Hello, yes, it must be a university or a research center. An institution may be classified as a research center regardless of its status (public or private entity, for-profit or non-profit), provided that (i) it conducts research activities and (ii) it has a track record of publications (research articles, etc.).

Question 16

Hello, I am writing to you regarding the call for research projects on adaptation in the Mediterranean region (water, agriculture and food security, coastal zones, conflict zones, health). I have a slight question regarding the formation of consortia and the eligibility criteria (do they apply to the coordinator or to the consortium as a whole?).

- *Must the project be coordinated by a university or research center from one of the 8 AdaptAction countries (and must this institution be able to demonstrate international credentials through publications)? If so, can a French research institute then be a partner and receive a portion of the funding?*
- *Or can the project be coordinated by a research entity from a country outside the AdaptAction network (such as the IRD, which is headquartered in France but operates in the Global South) with co-leadership from one or more research entities among the 8 AdaptAction countries (while recognizing that funding must go primarily to partners located in the 8 AdaptAction countries)?*

Thank you in advance for any clarification you can provide. Best regards,

The eligibility criteria apply to the consortium as a whole, as a group of institutions. The project may be coordinated by a research entity from a country outside the AdaptAction network, such as a French research institute acting as coordinator and/or partner, provided that both eligibility criteria are met.

Question 17

Hello, I am writing to you following the publication of the AdaptAction call for proposals to ask whether a French research organization is eligible for this call—as a leader or team member—or if it is limited to national entities? Thank you in advance for your response. Best regards

Yes, see above.

Question 18

Dear AdaptAction Team, Thank you for launching this call for research proposals. I am the head of the research and projects department at a research center affiliated with a public university in Jordan. We would appreciate clarification on the following points:

- 1. Would you recommend submitting a proposal independently, or would it be more advantageous to apply as part of a consortium with partner institutions in order to strengthen the proposal?*
- 2. Additionally, could you suggest the type of partner institution that would be considered particularly strong and complementary for this call (e.g., international research institutes, universities, think tanks, or specialized organizations)?*
- 3. Which topic would you recommend applying for, and which one do you consider to have the strongest chances of success under this call?*
- 4. Could you please clarify whether the same applicant institution may submit up to three research proposals under this call, either within the same thematic area or across different thematic areas?*

Thank you for your guidance. We look forward to your response. Best regards,

To respond to your question:

1. You can submit a proposal independently or as part of a consortium, as long as your institution or the consortium meets the two eligibility criteria: (i) a university or national research centre from at least one of the eight AdaptAction countries in the region; (ii) a university, a research centre or a researcher with proven international credentials (top-tier publication, reference in one of the IPCC groups, etc.).
2. We do not suggest any specific partner institution.
3. It is up to the candidate to suggest a topic. There is no prioritization between the different topics eligible to the call.
4. Yes, the applicant may submit more than one proposal. Only one proposal from a single institution may be pre-selected for the full proposal phase.

Question 19

Dear Madam, Sir, in the context of the Call for Expressions of Interest on action-research projects for climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean (closing 3 July 2026), we would appreciate clarification on the participation modalities available to a regional team of practitioners from the Levant (Jordan and Palestine) that is not currently incorporated as a legal entity. Our team brings operational experience in the target countries, particularly in the design and stewardship of multi-stakeholder workshops at the regional level on climate issues and their social dimensions, including climate, peace and security. We would contribute to a consortium led by a research institution holding the credentials required by the call, on activities such as field data collection, stakeholder engagement, and workshop coordination. To identify the most appropriate arrangement, we would be grateful if you could clarify which, if any, of the following three pathways would be admissible under the call:

- 1. Inclusion of the team as a named consortium member with a defined role in the responsibility matrix, despite the absence of a formal legal entity.*
- 2. Engagement of the team as a sub-contractor by the lead institution, with attribution in project deliverables and outputs (policy briefs, workshop reports, etc.) but without formal consortium membership.*
- 3. Engagement of the contributors as individual experts under the lead institution, without entity-level attribution.*

We are particularly interested in understanding whether pathway 2 is permissible, as it would allow the team to be referenced as a delivery partner in the project's outputs while preserving the lead institution's full eligibility and contractual relationship with AFD. We thank you in advance for your guidance and remain available for any further information you may require. Kind regards,

In your case, options 2 and 3 are compatible with the eligibility criteria of the call.

Question 20

Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to you regarding the AdaptAction Mediterranean call for expressions of interest, for which the submission deadline is July 3, 2026. Our institution is planning to submit an expression of interest focusing on the impact of climate change on Algerian medicinal and aromatic plants, their phytochemical properties, and the implications for public health. Before finalizing our application, we would like to seek clarification on three points:

1. Thematic eligibility: Does a project focusing on the phytochemistry and metabolomics of medicinal plants, with a public health dimension, align well with the objectives of Axis 1 "Understanding"? We have taken note of the central requirement regarding the humanities and social sciences: could you please indicate the minimum expected level of this HSS component for a project to remain eligible?

2. Consortium composition at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage: Is it possible to submit an Expression of Interest with a consortium that is still incomplete, specifying that social sciences and humanities (SSH) partners are currently being identified and will be included when the full proposal is submitted in Phase 2?

3. Participation of private companies: the Call for Expressions of Interest mentions the eligibility of "engineering firms demonstrating research and development activity." Can private companies with a proven track record of R&D activities join a consortium as partners? If so, are there any specific conditions or limitations on their participation (for example, in terms of budget share or role)?

We thank you in advance for your insights and remain available for any further discussion. Best regards,

Hello, to answer your questions:

1. As stated in the call for proposals: "Projects must be based on existing climate and impact data. This call will not fund [...] the generation of new biophysical impact data."

2. No, it is not possible to submit an expression of interest with a consortium of partners that is not yet complete. However, it is not necessary for all individuals contributing to the project to be identified at this stage.

3. Yes, private companies with a proven track record in R&D may join a consortium as partners. There are no specific conditions or limits on their participation.

Question 21

Hello, we are contacting you regarding the Call for research projects on adaptation in the Mediterranean region. Is there a template that we can use to submit the proposal? Is there a minimum/max page number that the proposal must have? Also, in the guidelines, you mention 8. Indicative bibliographic references (8). Must those references be included? Thank you!

Hello, there is no specific template to be used. The proposal to be uploaded on the platform shall be 6-page long for the EOI stage. The bibliographic references must be included at the EOI stage.

Question 22

Hello, I would like to clarify a point 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 expenses, services, or other eligible expenses)? Or is the funding exclusively reserved for institutions in the program's target countries? Thank you in advance for your response. Best regards,

Yes, a French university may be eligible; see above.

Question 23

Dear Sir, I am writing to you again with another question. In the call for proposals' guidelines, you specify that one of the themes is dedicated to Health, Social Protection, and Climate; however, when submitting a project online in the "Project Description" section, the options provided for the question "Research project focusing on the following themes" are as follows (health is not listed):

Water // Agriculture and Food Security // Coastal Areas // Conflict Zones. Could you please confirm whether the health component is indeed part of the call? Thank you in advance for this clarification. Best regards,

Hello, the health theme is indeed eligible. A correction will be made on the platform.

Question 24

We have finalized discussions with our Tunisian academic partners, and I'm wondering whether these partners must go through AFD Tunisia? For your information, we will be addressing the issue of the blue crab, which spans from Morocco to Tunisia and aligns with the coastal zone focus of the call. I would like to know your perspective on this matter and whether it is of interest to AFD, given that our two Moroccan partners have already mentioned potential collaborations with AFD? One last question, since the deadline is very close: is this just a preliminary proposal, or do we need to include all the details?

Hello, it is not advisable to contact AFD in Tunisia regarding this call for proposals. All proposals that meet the criteria of the call for proposals (both geographically and thematically) are eligible. Please note that "projects must be based on existing climate and impact data. This call will not fund [... the] generation of new biophysical impact data," as the focus is on the social sciences. At this stage, this is a call for expressions of interest. A proposal of no more than 6 pages must be submitted.

Question 25

*Could you kindly confirm that the below documents are required at the Expression of Interest stage, and **not** at the Full Proposal stage:*

- Exhibit I: A letter of commitment from the members of the consortium to submit the expression of interest, and designating the Lead Partner.*
- Exhibit II: A brief note (maximum 6 pages) presenting the scientific interest of the project (context, objectives, methodology, expected results and possible operationalization of the results) and the indicative timeline for completion.*
- Exhibit III: A brief presentation of each consortium member.*
- Exhibit IV: The CVs of the main staff involved (maximum 5 pages).*

· *Exhibit V: The provisional budget indicative of the project in Euros excluding tax.*

Yes, these documents are required at the Expression of Interest stage and not at the Full Proposal Stage.