

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

**AS PART OF THE ADAPT ACTION PROGRAM**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

**FOR THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION  
(UPDATED VERSION TILL JUNE 30, 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](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.

## Question 26

*I would like to see if a concept note could potentially fit within the objectives of the AdaptAction call. While it focuses on nanobubble-enabled water activation technology, my interest is not limited to evaluating the technical performance of the technology itself. Rather, I see it as an entry point for exploring broader climate adaptation challenges facing Mediterranean dryland agriculture, particularly in relation to water scarcity, salinity, food security, and climate resilience. A possible research direction could investigate how innovative climate-smart agricultural technologies can contribute to adaptation planning through a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus perspective. In this context, nanobubble-enabled irrigation would serve as one case study among a broader set of adaptation options, allowing the research to address questions related to: (i) Adoption and scaling of climate adaptation innovations; (ii) Institutional and governance conditions supporting implementation; (iii) Stakeholder engagement and co-design of adaptation pathways; (iv) Translation of scientific evidence into operational decision-making tools; (v) Integration of adaptation knowledge into agricultural and water policies.*

*Such an approach could combine technical assessment with stakeholder participation, policy analysis, and adaptation governance, which I understand are central objectives of the current call. As a researcher, my work focuses on climate-smart agriculture, water productivity, soil health, salinity management, hydroponics, and innovative irrigation approaches for enhancing resilience under climate change. I believe these themes could contribute meaningfully to the objectives of AdaptAction, particularly in collaboration with partners from other Mediterranean countries and with expertise in social sciences and adaptation governance. I would be grateful for any thoughts you may have regarding the relevance of this direction to the objectives of the call, and whether such a framing could be worth exploring further. Thank you again for your time and consideration.*

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." In this context, it will not be possible to assess the impact of nanobubble-enabled irrigation. We cannot provide further details on specific case studies. The eligibility and selection criteria are listed in the Call.

## Question 27

*I am interested in applying for your ongoing call for proposals. I read the ToR of the call carefully, but I did not find any template or platform to fill in! However, I find at the end of the general information that I have to attach a document. Can you please clarify to me: 1 - What is required for this step? 2 - Is there any template or online platform we need to fill in it? 3 - Is the whole consortium from Morocco eligible or not? 4- What's required for the last rubric I need to attach to it. Warm Greetings.*

Hello, there is no specific template to use. The proposal to be uploaded to the platform must be 6 pages long for the expression of interest phase and must address the selection criteria listed in the Call (Section 4.A). A consortium from Morocco is eligible if it meets the two eligibility criteria.

## Question 28

*Hello, we would like to apply for the AdaptAction call for proposals and have two questions regarding the project budget and funding disbursement. Page 7 of the call for proposals states that we must submit a preliminary budget estimate in euros, excluding tax. And page 12 states that the maximum*

*amount per project is €160,000, including tax. --> Does this mean we must submit a provisional budget—for a project coordinated by a French organization—of no more than €133,333 excluding tax? --> Additionally, if we have multiple partners, will the AFD pay each partner their respective share of the budget directly? We thank you in advance for your feedback.*

The budget is eligible for a French VAT exemption. The projected budget must not exceed €160,000, including tax. If the total amount of the projects ultimately selected exceeds €310,000, AFD reserves the right to contact the shortlisted applicants to adjust the budgets. AFD will disburse the funds solely to the lead partner.

## **Question 29**

*We are currently reviewing the Call for Research Projects on Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean Region and would appreciate your clarification regarding the submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs). Could you please confirm whether there is a limit on the number of EOIs that may be submitted under this call? Specifically, we would like to know: (i) Whether the same Principal Investigator may submit more than one EOI; (ii) Whether the same institution may lead or participate in multiple EOIs; and; (iii) Whether multiple EOIs addressing different research topics are permitted within the same call. Thank you in advance for your assistance. We look forward to your guidance. Kind regards,*

The same Principal Investigator may submit more than one EOI; the same institution may lead or participate in multiple EOIs; multiple EOIs addressing different research topics are permitted within the same call. However, only one EOI per institution may be pre-selected for the full proposal stage. In addition, we shed light on the importance of submitting high quality proposals.

## **Question 30**

*I am reaching out on behalf of a UN institution. The Call for Research Projects on Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean Region under AFD's AdaptAction Programme is of particular interest to our institution given its strong alignment with our work on climate change, health, and the climate mobility nexus. While reviewing the call documentation, we noticed that local and international NGOs, think tanks, consultancy firms with research and development activities, and individual consultants are listed as eligible consortium team members. However, it is not entirely clear whether UN agencies would also be eligible to participate as consortium partners/team members in a proposal led by an eligible research institution. Could you kindly clarify whether a UN institution would be eligible to participate in this capacity under the current call? Thank you very much in advance for your guidance. I look forward to your response.*

Yes, a UN institution is eligible as a consortium partner, but not leader. We refer to question 13.

## **Question 31**

*We are preparing an expression of interest in response to the AdaptAction call for proposals (climate change adaptation in the MENA region). We would like to know whether AFD funds are necessarily disbursed solely to the lead organization, or whether AFD can disburse each consortium member's share directly, based on a budget predefined in the proposal. Thank you very much,*

Yes, funds are always disbursed solely to the lead organization.

## Question 32

*Dear AFD Team, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing regarding the Call for Research Projects on Adaptation in the Mediterranean Region. We are very interested in submitting an application to this call and believe that the objectives of the program align strongly with our expertise and ongoing work in evidence-based policymaking and development research. As we are currently in the process of finalizing consortium arrangements and preparing a competitive proposal, we would like to kindly inquire whether it might be possible to extend the submission deadline for our application by two weeks. Such an extension would allow us to further strengthen the proposed partnership and ensure the highest quality submission. We fully understand the constraints associated with the call timeline and appreciate that an extension may not be feasible. Nevertheless, we wanted to reach out to explore whether any flexibility might be available. Thank you very much for your consideration. Best regards,*

Yes, an extension of the deadline up until Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. C.E.T is accepted.

## Question 33

*I wonder if a degree in agroecology from a local university could serve as the basis for a project submitted under the AdaptAction program. The funding could, in particular, support fieldwork as well as a number of theses and studies selected as part of the degree program. This would be complemented by comparative research in Jordan and Lebanon addressing the following question: "The project aims to analyze the adaptation trajectories of agri-food systems in Mediterranean contexts where the effects of climate change intersect with conflict, population displacement, and unequal access to resources, particularly land and water. The research will examine the conditions under which responses presented as adaptation strategies effectively contribute to strengthening the resilience of territories and populations, or, conversely, produce new forms of dependence, fragmentation, or vulnerability."*

A project may be submitted provided it fully meets the requirements of the call for proposals, including the involvement of a team of researchers (at least as supervisors) from one or more universities or research institutions, specific deliverables, and adherence to deadlines (the project must end no later than the end of April 2028).

## Question 34

*I am writing to you because several of us academics are working on an application. However, the submission period (between May 29 and July 3) coincides with the busiest time of the academic year: in other words, the end of the academic year and all the commitments that entails (exams, grading, thesis defenses, etc.), which must be completed by... the end of the month. Would it be possible to consider extending the deadline into July? Thank you in advance for your consideration.*

Yes, an extension of the deadline until Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. C.E.T. is granted. An updated version of the call will be posted on the webpage.

## Question 34

*I am writing to you because several of us academics are working on an application. However, the submission period (between May 29 and July 3) falls during the busiest time of the academic year: in other words, the end of the academic year and all the responsibilities that come with it (exams, grading, thesis defenses, etc.), which must be completed by... the end of the month. Would it be possible to consider extending the deadline into July? Thank you in advance for your consideration.*

Yes, an extension of the deadline until Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. C.E.T. is granted. An updated version of the call will be posted on the webpage.

## Question 35

*Can a UN institution lead a consortium? Many thanks in advance!*

A UN institution cannot be a consortium leader unless it qualifies to the eligibility criteria (as a research center).

## Question 36

*We understand from the guidance that all required exhibits can be compiled into a single PDF file and compressed if needed to comply with the upload size limit. However, we would appreciate further clarification regarding Exhibit IV (CVs of the main staff involved - maximum 5 pages). Could you kindly confirm whether the 5-page limit applies: (i) Collectively to all CVs included in the application; or (ii) Individually to each CV submitted for the main staff members? We are asking because our proposal involves several consortium partners, each of whom is expected to submit a CV. Consequently, the combined CV document would likely exceed five pages. If the limit is collective, we will adapt our submission accordingly.*

Five pages is a limit per C.V. (not for all CVs). If the size of the file is over 10 Mo, it is recommended to compress the PDF file in order to reduce its size.

**Send my application \*** ⚙️ ...

+

Formats acceptés: PDF, ZIP  
Taille maximum du fichier: 10 mo

## Question 37

*We are a UK university willing to form a consortium with a higher education institution in one of the eight countries of intervention of the programme. Could you please confirm whether the funding covers 100% of eligible costs and whether overheads can be requested?*

Yes, the funding covers 100% of eligible costs and overheads can be requested. An updated version of the call will be uploaded on the webpage.

## Question 38

*Dear AFD Research Facility Team, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of our team regarding the Call for Action Research Projects on the Theme of Climate Change Adaptation in North Africa and the Middle East. We are currently preparing an Expression of Interest and are in the process of finalizing the consortium arrangements. In particular, we are working to obtain the required letters of commitment from consortium members and to formally designate the Lead Partner. Given these*

*administrative requirements, we would be grateful if you could consider granting a one-week extension of the submission deadline. This additional time would enable us to submit a complete and fully compliant application. We remain highly interested in contributing to this important initiative and would greatly appreciate your consideration of our request. Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to hearing from you. Kind regards,*

An extension of the deadline up until Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. C.E.T is accepted (3 days). Due to time constraints, we are unfortunately not able to accept a longer extension of the deadline.

## Question 39

*I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to reach out to you with respect to the call for action on research projects related to climate change adaptation in North Africa and the Middle East. I am a staff member at a UN institution where I work primarily on water and climate issues with a focus on climate, peace, security in countries such as Lebanon and Syria. I have been working on some research that I believe would be very relevant to the call but I am not sure that UN entities are considered eligible. We frequently collaborate with academic partners as well. Would a UN institution together with an academic partner be considered eligible? Thank you for your guidance on this.*

Yes, a UN institution is eligible as a consortium partner, but not leader. We refer to question 13.

## Question 40

*We are currently preparing an Expression of Interest in response to the AdaptAction Call for Action Research Projects and would appreciate your guidance on a few budget-related questions to ensure that our proposal fully complies with the requirements of the call. We would be grateful if you could kindly clarify the following points:*

### 1. **Personnel Costs**

*The call indicates that the fees and salaries of permanent and non-permanent staff (excluding civil servants' salaries) are eligible for costs. Could you please confirm whether there is any recommendation or maximum percentage of the total project budget that may be allocated to personnel costs? If a project requires a higher proportion of the budget for salaries due to the nature of the proposed activities, would this be acceptable if it is adequately justified? If so, could you please indicate the type of justification that would be expected?*

### 1. **Indirect Costs**

*Could you please clarify whether indirect costs (institutional overheads) are eligible under this call? If so, is there a maximum percentage that may be charged as indirect costs? Furthermore, are indirect costs expected to be included within the management fees (limited to 10% of the total budget), or may they be budgeted separately?*

### 1. **Subcontracting**

*Could you please confirm whether subcontracting of specific activities or services is permitted under this call? If subcontracting is eligible, is there a maximum percentage or ceiling of the total project budget that may be allocated to subcontracted activities? Additionally, are there any specific conditions or requirements governing the use of subcontractors that applicants should take into consideration?*

*We sincerely appreciate your time and assistance. Your clarification will greatly help us prepare a proposal that is fully aligned with the financial and administrative requirements of the call. Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to your response.*

Regarding your questions: 1. there is no recommendation or maximum percentage of the total project budget that may be allocated to personnel costs; 2. indirect costs (i.e. overheads) are eligible under

this call; 3. subcontracting of specific activities or services is permitted under this call. An updated version of the call will be uploaded on the webpage.

## Question 41

*Le texte de l'appel indique une priorité donnée aux projets couvrant au moins deux pays. Avant de finaliser le montage de notre consortium, nous souhaitons clarifier un point : Une proposition portant sur un seul pays (en l'occurrence le Maroc) est-elle recevable, ou la dimension multi-pays constitue-t-elle un critère d'éligibilité strict?*

Une proposition portant sur un seul pays est effectivement recevable.

## Question 42

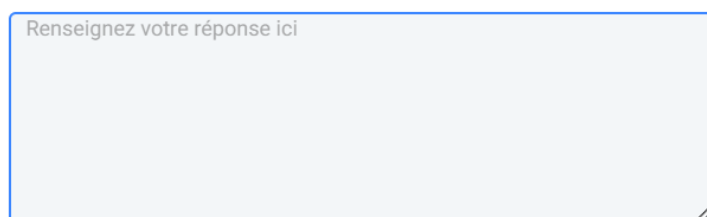
*Dear Sir/Madam, I am currently completing the Expression of Interest form for the Call for Research Projects on Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean Region. However, I am experiencing difficulties with the field entitled "Please provide a brief description of your project (max 300 words)". The system appears to prevent the entry of a description that is significantly shorter than 300 words, suggesting that the word counter may not be functioning correctly. As a result, I was unable to submit the full project description within the stated limit. To proceed with the submission, I had to substantially shorten the text. Could you please confirm whether there is a technical issue with the form or advise on how this field should be completed? Thank you in advance for your assistance. Kind regards, Yosr Abid*

Can you check again? The system should not prevent the entry of a description that is shorter than 300 words.

**Please provide a brief description of your project (max 300 words) \***

Ajouter un sous-titre ou une description ici ...

Renseignez votre réponse ici



Caractères maximum: 0/300

## Question 43

*Hi, what's required for that last step? is there any template?*

There is no specific template.

## Question 44

*I want to ask about the original format of the proposal application form.*

PDF or word documents are acceptable formats for the proposal application form.

## Question 45

*Hi could you please delete my application as I need to resubmit the file ? Thanks*

Sure; note that it is acceptable that one candidate submits more than one application.

## Question 46

*Could you please let me know if this refers to 5 pages in total or 5 pages per C.V.?*

It refers to 5 pages per C.V.

## Question 47

*Dear Sir/Madam, I hope this message finds you well. We are currently exploring the possibility of submitting a proposal under the "Call for Action Research Projects on the Theme of Climate Change Adaptation in North Africa and the Middle East" and would appreciate your clarification on a few points to ensure that our application fully complies with the call requirements.*

### **1. Letter of Commitment**

- *Is there a specific template or format that applicants are required to use for the Letter of Commitment?*
- *If so, could you kindly share it or indicate where it can be downloaded?*

### **2. Eligibility of Civil Servants and Personnel Costs**

- *In the case where members of the proposed research team are civil servants employed by the applicant institution, are their salaries and/or professional fees eligible to be financed through the project budget?*
- *Are there any specific restrictions or eligibility conditions applicable to civil servants participating in the project?*

### **3. Budget Structure and Allocation Rules**

- *Are there any predefined rules, ceilings, or recommended percentages regarding the allocation of the budget across different expenditure categories (e.g., personnel, travel, workshops, equipment, data collection, overheads, communication and dissemination)?*
- *Are indirect costs or institutional overheads eligible, and if so, is there a maximum allowable rate?*

### **4. Expression of Interest and Brief Presentation**

- *Is there a downloadable/offline template for the Expression of Interest form, or must it be completed exclusively through the online platform?*
- *Regarding the required brief presentation of the project, is there a prescribed format (e.g., PowerPoint presentation), or may applicants submit the information in another format such as PDF or Word?*

### **5. Taxes and Funding Amount**

- *Should the proposed budget be prepared inclusive or exclusive of taxes?*
- *Does the maximum funding amount indicated in the call include applicable taxes, or can taxes be budgeted separately where relevant?*

To answer your questions:

1. There is no specific template or format;
2. The applicant institution can charge unit costs for the mobilization of their staff on the mission, corresponding to the mobilization of expertise, no matter the contract between the institution and their staff. These costs are not considered as salaries by AFD; If the civil servant is employed by the institution submitting the project (eg public research institution), there is no restriction. If a civil servant is working for another institution that the one presenting the project (eg a Ministry and the institution presenting the project is a public institution), then the proposal must clarify what will be the status of the civil servant in the project (eg consultant or as their position within their home institution). If they act as consultant, depending on the applicable law, they usually are supposed to receive authorization from their employer to work as a consultant. If they are involved as part of their day to day job and their salary is paid by the Ministry, their salaries would not be covered by the project.
3. No, except for overhead / management costs that should not be more than 10% of the total budget;
4. It must be completed exclusively through the online platform; the brief prestation can be in either standard format (PPT, PDF, Word, etc.);
5. This project is exclusive of taxes. In case they are mandatory taxes in the country of the applicant, they would need to appear separately but be included in the total amount, and justification of said taxes is expected.

## Question 48

*Dear AdaptAction Team, Thank you for the opportunity to apply to the Call for Action Research Projects on Climate Change Adaptation in North Africa and the Middle East under the AdaptAction programme. We are currently preparing our Expression of Interest and would like to seek clarification on one point related to the geographical anchoring requirement. Section 4.2 of the call states that projects must be "anchored in at least one country of intervention," and lists Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and Syria as the eight target countries. Our question is: would training and knowledge-exchange activities conducted in the UAE — but designed to benefit and targeting stakeholders exclusively from Morocco and Tunisia— satisfy the anchoring requirement under this call? Or must all project activities be physically conducted within the eight target countries? Thank you in advance for your guidance. We look forward to your response. Kind regards,*

Yes, this is acceptable, as long as the activities conducted in the UAE represent a limited proportion of the project activities and that activities on the ground are also conducted in the two targeted countries.

## Question 49

*We are contacting you regarding the call for proposals to clarify whether there is a specific form to complete or if it suffices to address the five key points requested indicated in the proposal project. We would like to inform you that we intend to submit a joint project involving Algeria (as project lead), Tunisia, and academic institutions outside these two countries. Could you please advise us on how to allocate the budget among these institutions, or let us know if the call for proposals already specifies the distribution?*

There is no specific guidance regarding the distribution of budget among these institutions.

## Question 50

*I have a question regarding Part I: Should the letter of commitment be signed by the researchers participating in the project, or by representatives of the consortium's member institutions (university president, administration, etc.)? Best regards,*

The letter of commitment must be signed by representatives of the consortium's member institutions.

## Question 51

*We would just like to double-check one last time our institution, which is an international institution with physical presence in Egypt indeed eligible to lead the consortium. They interpret the call documents as suggesting that they would qualify as an international rather than a national partner, and we find the wording of the eligibility criteria a little ambiguous. Could you please confirm once more that this is OK?*

We confirm that your institution meets the eligibility criteria i.e. (i) a university or national research center from at least one of the eight AdaptAction countries in the region (considering your presence in Egypt); (ii) a university, a research center, or a researcher with proven international credentials (top-tier publications, membership in one of the IPCC working groups, etc.) – you should provide as proof at least your list of publications.

## Question 52

*I have one additional question regarding the Expression of Interest. The application guidelines specify a six-page limit. Could you please clarify whether this page limit includes the references and the proposed timeline, or whether these may be provided in addition to the six pages? Thank you in advance for your clarification. Best regards,*

The references and C.V. can be provided in addition to the 6 pages.