2026 Scientific Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE) Call for proposals for awards from October 2027[1]

CAPaBLE Guide for proponents

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[1] Awards are subject to the availability of funds from APN's stakeholders.

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is dedicated to fostering a dynamic community of global change researchers, policymakers, practitioners and civil society. APN engages innovative and transdisciplinary approaches across a vast network of expertise to build a more resilient and sustainable future. APN's commitment is demonstrated through:

1. Supporting research and action: Empowering collaborative research and science-based strategies for effective change.
2. Bridging science and policy: Effectively linking scientific outcomes with policy mechanisms applicable at all levels of governance and across diverse societal sectors.
3. Building scientific capacity: Enhancing scientific capabilities of early career professionals, policymakers and practitioners, extending to local communities and civil society.

In an era where global change transcends borders and disciplines, APN adopts a holistic approach by actively engaging member countries, supporting transdisciplinary networking between stakeholders and coordinating knowledge dissemination and publishing to address a broad spectrum of global change challenges.

Central to APN's approach is compulsory codesign. APN recognises that effective solutions to complex environmental challenges can only be achieved through genuine partnerships among researchers, policymakers, decision makers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. Accordingly, all APN projects are expected to be codesigned from the outset, ensuring that research objectives, methodologies, implementation pathways and expected outcomes are developed collaboratively and respond to identified regional and national needs.

To fulfil its mission, APN promotes understanding of global environmental change through collaborative regional research and scientific capacity building. This is achieved by implementing activities in research, scientific capacity building and science policy interactions in the areas of air, land, coasts and oceans; biodiversity and ecosystems; climate; food, water and energy; social, economic and governance; and risk reduction and resilience. These themes are interrelated and interface with natural, social, behavioural, economic and political sciences.

APN's strategic goals, as outlined in its Sixth Strategic Phase Plan (2026–2030), provide the framework for implementing this collaborative approach through research, scientific capacity building, science policy engagement and institutional strengthening.

- Goal 1: Generating actionable and policy-relevant scientific knowledge through codesigned research aligned with regional priorities and global agenda.
- Goal 2: Strengthening scientific capacities for research personnel, science policy engagement and early career professional development.
- Goal 3: Improving policy relevance, uptake and impact of APN research.
- Goal 4: Enhancing collaboration and engagement with key stakeholders to support research and its application.
- Goal 5: Ensuring institutional effectiveness, sustainability, impact and improved coordination across APN organs.

Scientific Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE) Description

APN supports CAPaBLE activities that enhance the existing capacities of developing countries at three levels: individual-based scientific capacity development; group-, organisation-, and network-based scientific capacity development; and society-, governance-, and system-level scientific capacity development.

The objectives of the scientific capacity development approach in APN activities can be to perform function(s), solve problem(s) and adapt and maintain capacity to address global change and sustainability. APN encourages collaboration with developed countries to enhance the scientific capacities of developing countries, however APN values the ownership of developing countries in such initiatives. Further, the overall outcome of APN activities under CAPaBLE should benefit developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve sustainability.

APN definition of scientific capacity development

APN defines scientific capacity development as a process whereby individuals, groups, communities, organisations, governing bodies and society in general, collectively enhance their awareness and abilities, including knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour, in order to respond effectively to the challenges of global change and sustainability by mobilising and using resources and empowering existing capacity to effectively perform new/existing functions and solve problems.

The following figure explains the APN Conceptual Framework for effective capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region.

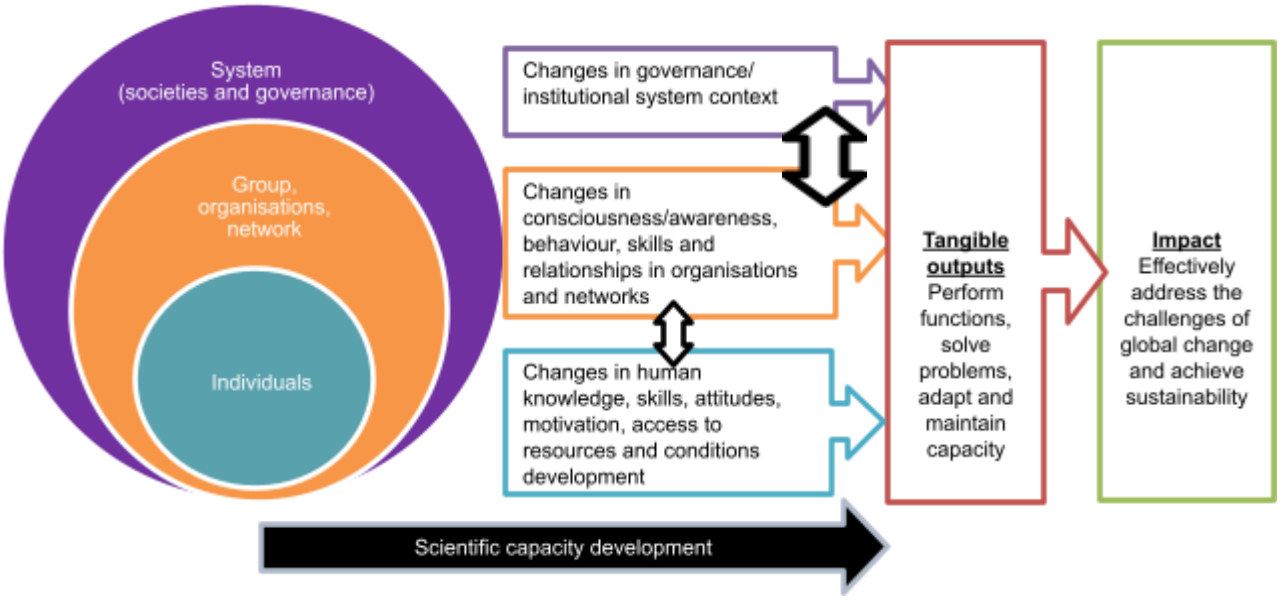


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for effective scientific capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region

Codesigned proposals submitted under CAPaBLE must be relevant to global change and sustainable development, with the below as the main activity(ies) at local, national or regional levels:

1. Codesigned **SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES** that promote the following approaches related to one or more of the thematic areas of APN: (a) Utilising and strengthening existing capacity, (b) Creating opportunities to use/instil capacity and (c) Developing new capacity through innovative approaches.
2. Codesigned **SCIENCE POLICY** interfacing in the context of the priority topics.
3. Codesigned **SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES** that contribute to the capacity development components of the evolving global change arena, including the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) and the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc. and ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.
4. Codesigned **AWARENESS-RAISING AND DISSEMINATION** activities through policy- and decision making communities, civil society, or the general public.
5. Codesigned activities centred towards using **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION** to disseminate knowledge generated from projects, particularly to non-science audiences.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Proponent eligibility

Proposals may only be submitted by proponents who fall under the following categories:

- Researchers or academics from universities, colleges or other academic institutions based in APN member or approved countries.
- Researchers or practitioners from non-profit, government institutions, non-academic organisations: Independent museums, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies and similar organisations associated with research, education or policy analysis related to global change or sustainable development activities, based in APN member or approved countries.
- Researchers from global change research programmes working in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Project leaders who have successfully completed or are due to complete a project before the summary proposal deadline **(Monday, 30 November 2026)** are eligible to apply for funding. Their project reporting must be completed in full by the full proposal deadline. Eligibility is also subject to the quality and impact of their previous APN project outcomes.
- **Early career professionals are particularly encouraged to submit a proposal.** Please refer to the eligibility criteria for early career professionals here.

Proposals cannot be accepted from:

- Project leaders of ongoing APN projects.
- Project collaborators involved in two or more ongoing APN projects.
- Independent researchers, consultants and employees in the private sector.
- Former project leaders who have received cumulative APN funding of USD 135,000 or more within the past five years.
- Proponents who have already submitted a proposal during the current APN Call for Proposals cycle, irrespective of the funding programme.

B. Collaborators eligibility

- A collaborator cannot be involved in more than two ongoing APN projects in any fiscal year.
- A collaborator must be working in an institution that is based in an APN member or approved country.
- A collaborator from non-APN member or approved countries may be involved in an APN activity as a resource person/expert for the benefit of APN member countries, but strictly cannot seek funds from APN for theirparticipation in the project, even though the activity is to be conducted in an APN member or approved country.
- Collaborators must be affiliated to an institution; i.e. independent researchers are not eligible to participate in an APN activity.

Note: Undergraduate and postgraduate students are not eligible to serve as collaborators. However, their participation in project activities is strongly encouraged through appropriate part-time positions, such as research assistants. An exception may be considered if the collaborators have at least five years of relevant work experience prior to pursuing their postgraduate studies.

C. Basic eligibility for proposal submission

- In order to understand the physical, biological and human dimensions of global environmental change, APN has six main scientific themes: (1) air, land, coasts and oceans; (2) biodiversity and ecosystems; (3) climate; (4) food, water and energy; (5) risk reduction and resilience; and (6) social, economic and governance. These themes are interrelated and involve the interface of natural, social, economic, behavioural and political sciences. A proposal must link to one or more of these thematic areas while specifically targeting one or more of the priority topics for the call.
- A proposal must contribute to the implementation of one or more of the international agendas, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) and the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc. and ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.
- A proposal under the CAPaBLE Programme may be designed as a one-country proposal, but any research component must not exceed 20% of the proposed activity.
- **Codesign of proposals is mandatory,** with at least two institutions represented on the project team as collaborators. This ensures the participatory engagement of multiple institutional stakeholders to develop a project eligible for the APN Call for Proposals, in alignment with the project proponents and the proponent's institution.

D. Priority topics for 2026 proposal submission

APN's subregional committees establish priority topics based on inputs from member countries in each of the APN's four subregions. This year, APN is inviting trans- and interdisciplinary scientific capacity development (CAPaBLE) proposals focusing on the following themes for each subregion:

Pacific

1. **Climate resilience, adaptation and climate-related losses & damages**
   Topics may include: Climate resilience and adaptation; Losses and Damages (including finance mechanisms); Climate risk assessment and early warning systems; Extreme events (heatwaves, floods, cyclones); Insurability and fiscal risk of climate impacts.

2. **Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration**
   Topics may include: Nature-based solutions (NbS); Ecosystem restoration (including mangroves, watersheds, blue carbon); Payment for ecosystem services; Biodiversity conservation linked to climate solutions.

3. **Climate–environment–health nexus (One Health)**
   Topics may include: Climate and environmental health; Heat-related health risks; Disease dynamics under climate change; One Health approaches linking ecosystems, climate and human health.

4. **Food, water, energy and human security under climate change**
   Topics may include: Climate-resilient food systems; Low-emission agriculture; Water security and transboundary governance; Energy security (including nature-based solutions).

5. **Marine and coastal systems**
   Topics may include: Ocean acidification; Coastal ecosystems; Blue carbon systems; Marine resource management.

South Asia

1. **Climate resilience, adaptation and climate-related losses & damages**
   Topics may include: Climate resilience and adaptation; Losses and Damages (including finance mechanisms); Climate risk assessment and early warning systems; Extreme events (heatwaves, floods, cyclones); Insurability and fiscal risk of climate impacts.

2. **Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration**
   Topics may include: Nature-based solutions (NbS); Ecosystem restoration (including mangroves, watersheds, blue carbon); Payment for ecosystem services; Biodiversity conservation linked to climate solutions.

3. **Digital technologies and AI for Earth observations**
   Topics may include: Artificial intelligence for early warning and risk management; Big data and climate modelling; Earth observation and remote sensing; Climate downscaling and projections; Energy-efficient AI models.

4. **Food, water, energy and human security under climate change**
   Topics may include: Climate-resilient food systems; Low-emission agriculture; Water security and transboundary governance; Energy security (including nature-based solutions).

5. **Governance, diverse knowledge systems and implementation gaps**
   Topics may include: Knowledge governance for global change; Policy implementation gaps; Multi-level governance challenges; Coordination failures in disaster response; Science–policy–society integration

Southeast Asia

1. **Climate resilience, adaptation and climate-related losses & damages**
   Topics may include: Climate resilience and adaptation; Losses and Damages (including finance mechanisms); Climate risk assessment and early warning systems; Extreme events (heatwaves, floods, cyclones); Insurability and fiscal risk of climate impacts.

2. **Digital technologies and AI for Earth observations**

Topics may include: Artificial intelligence for early warning and risk management; Big data and climate modelling; Earth observation and remote sensing; Climate downscaling and projections; Energy-efficient AI models.

3. **Climate–environment–health nexus (One Health)**
   Topics may include: Climate and environmental health; Heat-related health risks; Disease dynamics under climate change; One Health approaches linking ecosystems, climate and human health.

4. **Chemicals, waste, pollution and the circular economy**
   Topics may include: Chemicals, waste and pollution; Emerging pollutants and ecological impacts; Circular economy approaches; Resource efficiency and sustainable supply chains.

5. **(SEA PDTW 2026 ONLY) Climate change and variability and disaster risk reduction**
   Topics may include: Integrating climate information into disaster risk reduction planning, enhancing early warning systems and community-based monitoring mechanisms, heat stress and health vulnerability assessments and nature-based and ecosystem-based approaches to risk reduction and adaptation.

Temperate East Asia

1. **Climate resilience, adaptation and climate-related losses & damages**
   Topics may include: Climate resilience and adaptation; Losses and Damages (including finance mechanisms); Climate risk assessment and early warning systems; Extreme events (heatwaves, floods, cyclones); Insurability and fiscal risk of climate impacts.

2. **Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration**
   Topics may include: Nature-based solutions (NbS); Ecosystem restoration (including mangroves, watersheds, blue carbon); Payment for ecosystem services; Biodiversity conservation linked to climate solutions.

3. **Digital technologies and AI for Earth observations**
   Topics may include: Artificial intelligence for early warning and risk management; Big data and climate modelling; Earth observation and remote sensing; Climate downscaling and projections; Energy-efficient AI models.

4. **Emerging scientific, technological and economic developments for global change**
   Topics may include: Carbon dioxide removal (CDR); Climate–economy–livelihood linkages; Synergies between environment and economic systems; Global supply chain sustainability.

APN will not accept proposals that do not address one or more of the above themes under the 2026 Call for proposals.

Further, the proposal must:

- Strictly follow the template and guidelines when formulating the proposal.
- **Not duplicate** any previous or currently implemented activities by APN or other organisations or institutions. It is expected that the proponent will carry out an extensive literature review, taking into consideration similar past and ongoing activities conducted by other institutions, as well as a detailed review of APN projects (refer to the APN Publication Library **before** submitting the summary proposal).
- Clearly outline policy-relevant questions, scientific capacity development to be addressed and answered, organisational arrangements of the proposed activity, codesign components of the proposal and its implementation, and a publication and dissemination plan.
- Have high potential to provide excellent outcomes for developing countries that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

APN will not consider proposals that fail to meet the basic criteria for funding.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

i. Proposal preparation

In preparing the proposal, note that APN **will not** support:

1. The running costs of institutions (which are considered indirect administrative support and are not permitted) and any taxes or statutory charges arising from the receipt and administration of the APN grant.
2. The salaries of administration staff.
3. The salaries of researchers who receive or are to receive **full-time salary support**.
4. The salaries of consultants (proponents and collaborators should have the credentials and expertise to conduct the proposed activities).
5. Scientific capacity development of developed country scientists and policymakers who are not early career professionals. (Note: Scientists and policymakers from developed countries may participate in a project as experts but not as trainees. They may also participate in APN activities as self-funded participants.).
6. The establishment or upgrade of institutional departments and infrastructure; the purchase of general-purpose equipment such as personal computers, laptops, smartphones or tablets, general office furnishings, etc.
7. The establishment or maintenance of long-term observation and monitoring systems.

Additional note:

1. Funding limit. The maximum grant for a one-year CAPaBLE project is USD 40,000.
2. Multi-year funding. Proponents should be aware that the maximum duration for multi-year CAPaBLE projects is two (2) years. If a multi-year proposal is submitted, it should not exceed 2 years. If a multi-year proposal is submitted, it should not exceed two years. **A clear budget estimate, with a breakdown of year-by-year funding requirements and the expected outcomes at each stage of the proposal, needs to be provided**.

ii. Submission procedure

a. Summary proposal submission (Stage 1)

Proponents interested in submitting a proposal to APN under CAPaBLE must register and submit a **summary proposal** through the online APN Information System (APNIS). Guidelines for accomplishing the online form are provided in Appendix 2. Proponents must submit their summary proposals by the deadline of **Monday, 30 November 2026, 23:59 Japan Standard Time**. **The online system will automatically close at the deadline and proponents will be unable to submit proposals after that time.**

Screening will commence following the deadline and all proponents will be notified of the results of the Stage 1 review by early March 2027.

Submissions received via means other than the online system will not be considered.

b. Full proposal submission (Stage 2)

Successful proponents will proceed to **Stage 2** and will be invited to submit a **full proposal** for further consideration by APN. The full proposal must follow the instructions and format specified in this guideline (see Appendix 3) and must be received by the APN Secretariat no later than **Monday, 29 March 2026, 23:59 Japan Standard Time**. **Full proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Stages	Action	Dates of deadlines and announcements
Stage 1: Online submission and review of the Summary Proposal	**1**. Register or login to your account on the APNIS system at https://www.apn-gcr.org/apnis/login. **2.** Submit your online **Summary Proposal** via your APNIS account.	**Deadline: Monday, 30 November 2026**
	3. Preliminary screening process and notification of results. **4. Stage 1 Review** Summary proposals are reviewed. **5**. **Stage 1 results announcement** Proponents who pass Stage 1 are invited to submit a full proposal (refer to Stage 2 below).	**Announcement of results: Early March 2027**
Stage 2: Online submission and review of the Full Proposal **By INVITATION Only**	**1.** Submission of a **Full Proposal** to the APN Secretariat by successful Stage 1 proponents. Full Proposals and compulsory appendices are to be submitted on the APNIS system. **2. Stage 2 Review** Full proposals and appendices are reviewed.	**Deadline: Monday, 29 March 2027**
Stage 3: Decision-making and announcement of results	**1. Decision making** By APN's Steering Committee. **2. Announcement of results** Announced on the APN website and by email.	**Announcement of results: End July 2027**
Stage 4: Project commencement	**1. Projects commence on 1 October 2027.**	**1 October 2027**

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Proposals received under CAPaBLE will be reviewed and evaluated by APN's **Capacity Development Committee (CDC)**, **Scientific Planning Group (SPG)** and other external experts, as appropriate. The evaluation criteria are outlined under "Basic eligibility for proposal submission" (above) and the following criteria.

Criteria for Evaluation

1. Enhancing human, organisational or system level capacities at local, national or regional levels to address global change and sustainable development issues in developing countries.
2. Quality and appropriateness of capacity development approach, technical soundness and degree of consistency and sustainability; and enhancing capabilities to participate in research on global change and sustainability and to support science-based decision making.
3. Raising awareness of global change issues among scientists, policymakers and the general public in developing countries and effectively delivering the results of scientific outputs to non-science communities.
4. Policy relevance, mainstreaming results into policy processes, developing and strengthening links with local and government policies and programmes and contributing to sustainable development.
5. Extent and quality of collaboration and project team expertise.
6. Budget and other external funding, including administrative and salary support, as well as other important in-kind contributions in order to support and conduct proposed activities.
7. Timeline and project management plan.
8. Developing and strengthening relations with regional and international global change programmes, intergovernmental bodies and APN member country governments.

A detailed explanation of each criterion is provided in Appendix 1.

OTHER INFORMATION

i. APN support

Where APN funding is provided for a proposal, the Secretariat, the Project Leader and the Project Leader's Institution (the Authorised Representative of the Grantee) will sign a Contract with detailed Contract Documentation (including regulations and supplementary information) outlining payment, activities, Project Leader and collaborators' responsibilities, timelines and reporting requirements, etc. Reports will cover a common set of issues, including financial accountability and outcomes of the funded activity.

The APN 2026 Financial Regulations are available separately in order to help the proponent devise a budget in accordance with these regulations. The regulations are included in the APNIS supporting documentation.

ii. Funding from other sources

Where additional funding from other sources is stated in the proposal, the proponent is required to show evidence that these funds have been secured before a Contract can be drawn with APN. Funding from other sources is highly recommended and will strengthen the proposal.

iii. Frequently asked questions

An information page detailing Frequently Asked Questions is provided to guide applicants. Please refer to this page before contacting the APN Secretariat.

Appendix 1. Full criteria for proposal review

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criterion 1. Enhancing human, organisational or system-level capacities at local, national or regional levels to address global change and sustainable development issues in developing countries

It is expected that the proposed activity is a demand-driven activity that contributes to one or more of the goals of APN and its CAPaBLE programme in enhancing human, organisational or system-level scientific capacities at local, national or regional level to address and respond to global change and sustainability.

Proposals should clearly state priority issues, target group(s) and capacities to resolve the issues associated with global change and sustainable development. The proposal should provide relevant literature on capacity needs/demands and provide clear reasons as to why this is a pressing issue. A stronger proposal contains preliminary capacity assessment results and relevant literature on the present status of the scientific capacity of target group(s).

The results can be either short- or long-term but should contribute to long-term gain, for example, by increasing local skills and knowledge, improving decision making and implementation processes, promoting exchange and communication between scientists, decision makers or end users; strengthening the scientific capacities of individual, organisational or communities' to understand and resolve existing problems; and increasing or improving contributions from regional to international processes (refer to Criterion 4).

Criterion 2. Quality and appropriateness of the capacity development approach, technical soundness and degree of consistency and sustainability; and enhancing capabilities to participate in research on global change and sustainability and to support science-based decision making.

Proposals should generate confidence about scientific capacity development, scientific excellence, data quality, project management skills and willingness and ability to pursue activities from a trans-, inter- and multidisciplinary perspective, as appropriate.

Proposals should explain the scientific capacity development approach that will be used in the project activities and why such approaches are suitable for the target group(s). Project methodology should align with capacity approaches and also give due consideration to specific conditions such as local situations, scientific capacity development demand and institutional structure. If the proposed project selects trainees through an open call, the proposal should elaborate on the selection process and criteria for selection. Further, proposals should indicate any intended stakeholder involvement throughout the project cycle.

Proposals must clearly articulate the objectives, anticipated results and target impact(s) that will be achieved within the project timeframe and propose ways to sustain these impacts post-project. Proposals should include steps for monitoring and post-evaluation purposes to measure the developed capacity of beneficiaries/target group(s). Comparative analyses of "before" and "after" scenarios concerning developed capacity are, therefore, highly recommended.

Criterion 3. Raising awareness of global change issues among scientists, policymakers and the general public of developing countries and effectively delivering the results of scientific outputs to non-science communities

APN members consistently stress the importance of good public knowledge of global change issues to help ensure the successful development and implementation of response strategies to these issues. Proposals should indicate how the proposed activities could lead to better and improved knowledge and scientific capacities of scientists, policymakers, relevant stakeholders and the general public. Any proposed consultation processes should be clearly outlined.

Proposals should clearly outline communication strategies and how project results will be disseminated. The best proposals will contribute to lasting improvement in networking within the Asia-Pacific region, including both the enhancement and use of communications networks. Engaging media for dissemination activities is highly encouraged.

The proposal should set forth a plan for the preservation, documentation and sharing of scientific capacity products, including, but not limited to, training and education materials, toolkits, curricula, etc., in accordance with APN's **Data Sharing and Data Management Policy**. The plan should identify the responsibilities in this respect of the Project Leader and of each collaborator. Products/toolkits developed to achieve this criterion must be made available in accordance with this policy.

Criterion 4. Policy relevance, mainstreaming results into policy processes, developing and strengthening links with local and government policies and programmes and contributing to sustainable development

APN is committed to improving science policy linkages and fostering harmony between its activities and policy issues that concern most governments in the region. Proposals should demonstrate relevance to decision making and policymaking processes and include details on how the activity might assist local and national government policy cycles, which include stages of problem identification, policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Further, proposals should describe an action plan on how the activities or outcomes of the project are to be brought to policy communities and decision makers for their attention. APN highly encourages the involvement of collaborators from policy and decision making sectors in the project team to deepen the understanding of policy needs. Engagement of policy/decision makers in a capacity other than proposal collaborator should be elucidated, including the expected contribution and how such contribution will help enhance science policy linkages.

The proposal should explain how the proposed activity will aim to interpret outstanding policy-relevant questions identified within the Asia-Pacific region and how, as a result of the outcomes of the project, developing countries might be able to contribute scientific knowledge that can contribute to the implementation of international agendas, such as the **Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030), as well as the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc.** Harmonisation with the work of other bodies active in the region (for example, APEC, ASEAN, UNEP, ESCAP, SPREP, SAARC, NEAR) is desirable.

APN strongly emphasises the need to work towards solving ecological, social and economic problems associated with global change impacts. A proposal that shows strong links to the aforementioned agendas **and applies the mandatory codesign approach with stakeholders** will be favoured as meeting the ultimate mission of APN.

Criterion 5. Extent and quality of collaboration and project team expertise

Proposals **must** involve action or contributions from:

a. One or more APN member or approved developing countries (see list below); or
b. Two or more collaborating institutions in a developing country if the proposal is a one-country activity.

Provided that there is strong institutional collaboration, one-country activities in APN developing countries **are acceptable** under CAPaBLE, particularly for scientific capacity development at the grassroots levels, scientific capacity development of local- or national-level decision makers and Indigenous communities, where traditional knowledge can be linked to scientific understanding.

The scientific contribution and capacity development involvement of **each** participating country/institution(s) should be explained in detail (for example, this may include the extent of participation in the writing of the proposal, the scientific contribution and activities to be undertaken, coaching and mentoring support for capacity development, data collection, report writing, research/training activities).

The project team should clearly demonstrate the skills, capacities and qualifications necessary to conduct the proposed project. If the proponent is from a developed country, the activity must clearly demonstrate that the work to be undertaken is for the benefit of APN developing countries. Further, the proposed activities should demonstrate strong collaborative support from developing country partners where the intended activities are targeted. Note that engagement from developed country collaborators should be explained in detail.

APN member and approved countries are:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives (approved), Mongolia, Myanmar (approved), Nepal, New Zealand, Pacific Island Countries (approved), Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore (approved), Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam.

Countries underlined are considered by APN as developed. For more information, visit here.

Criterion 6. Budget and other external funding including administrative and salary support, as well as other important in-kind contributions in order to support and conduct proposed activities

The proposed budget plan should be realistic and cost-effective as well as consistent with the project plan. During the summary proposal stage, the proponent is required to provide a concise annual budget indicating costs for the main activities. Please refer to the APN 2026 Financial Regulations for more information on allowable cost items and applicable rates. A more detailed and justified budget is required at the full proposal stage based on the template APN provides. APN strongly recommends providing justifications for cost items that may be considered unusual. Budgets are subject to negotiation before a contract with APN is drawn, and therefore, a clear and realistic budget at this stage of proposal writing will strengthen the proposal itself.

Proposals must show how existing human capital and physical resources (buildings, laboratories, research sites, equipment, libraries, data sets, communication facilities, travel budgets, toolkits, training manuals etc.) can be used more efficiently or show how their potential value can be better realised as a result of the proposed activity.

APN funding is not available for indirect administrative staff payments or to financially supplement the salary of researchers who receive or are to receive full-time salary support (see the attached 2026 APN Financial Regulations for more information). Thus, proponents should indicate how necessary administrative support will be provided for the proposed activity. Ideally, administrative support would be provided by proponents and collaborators' institutions that are involved in the project, freeing any APN funding for the proposed core activity.

While trainees or event participants from developed countries may receive funding support depending on the proposed activity, experts from developed countries generally cannot receive APN funds under CAPaBLE but can be engaged in an APN activity as a self-funded participant. Funding for trainees or event participants should be reserved for early career professionals (ECPs).

APN strongly encourages direct cofinancing arrangements. In addition, it is APN's strong belief under the partnership approach of CAPaBLE that funding from other sources should be secured. APN highly encourages in-kind contributions from the institutions of proponents and collaborators. Where additional funding is secured from sources other than APN, evidence of said funding must be provided before a contract with APN can be drawn.

Criterion 7. Timeline and project management plan

The timeline of the proposed project should indicate specific objectives and activities and when these activities are expected to be achieved. The proposal should outline a project management plan that describes the responsibilities of each project team member. Provision of a logical framework matrix with indicators at the full proposal stage is a mandatory requirement (see Appendix 3). A project plan should allocate sufficient time for project monitoring, progress evaluation and fulfilment of APN reporting requirements. If the proposed project repeats a similar activity at multiple locations, the plan should indicate the relevant evaluation steps for each activity to improve the overall outcome of the project.

A proposed project should plan its activities according to the APN award cycle, which starts in October of the next fiscal year (October 2027). The APN award cycle may change based on the availability of funds from APN donors. Thus, if the proposed project has any time-sensitive activities, these should be clearly reflected in the proposal plan.

Criterion 8. Developing and strengthening relations with regional and international global change programmes and intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms and APN member country governments

One of the key goals of APN is to forge cooperative relations and partnerships among the **global change and sustainability research community**. Accordingly, proposals that incorporate cooperation with activities of new or existing global change research programmes should specify the extent of engagement of such programmes in the proposed activity.

Proposals that are related to regional networks such as the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) or other regional networks both inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region can be considered within APN procedures, provided that they comply with APN requirements. **APN encourages regional and inter-regional initiatives as part of a global effort.**

Proposals must explain any involvement or support and guidance (if any) received or expected from APN Capacity Development Committee members, Scientific Planning Group members or national Focal Points from the countries engaged in the proposal (this is to ensure there is no conflict of interest in the APN review process).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR PROPOSALS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS OR CONFERENCES.

Proposals developed by international organisations or event organisers to support the attendance of participants from APN member/approved developing countries must fulfil the following additional conditions:

1. The proponent must be working in an institution in the Asia-Pacific region or hold a key position in an international APN-recognised global change research programme.
2. A collaborator from an APN member developing country must be involved in the proposal.
3. The priority target event participants are early career professionals based in the Asia-Pacific region who are working in an institution based in an APN member/approved country in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. Include a short paragraph stating how the strategic partnership would benefit APN and its member countries.
5. Include a methodology that will ensure a clear, open and transparent selection process that targets developing country scientists/practitioners and relevant stakeholders.
6. Explain how the workshop/conference can benefit selected candidates as recipients of APN funds and why participation at such an event is the best approach to developing individual scientific capacity.
7. Include a provision in the proposal where APN-funded participants provide a reflective report on the benefits of their participation.

APPENDIX 2. FORMAT AND CONTENT FOR SUMMARY PROPOSAL

Summary proposals

Summary proposals must be submitted through the online APN Information System (APNIS). Below is the guideline for filling out the online form. Note that the deadline **for submission is Monday, 30 November 2026, 23:59 Japan Standard Time (JST).** As the online system will automatically close by the deadline, proponents will be unable to submit a proposal after the deadline.

Content for summary proposals

1. Go to the APNIS URL: https://www.apn-gcr.org/apnis
2. Log in to your account if you have already created an account, or "create a new user account" if you are a new user. Fill in all the necessary details and click "Register".
3. Once you have logged in with your account, you will see the Call for Proposals listed under the box "Call for Proposals".
   The Call for Proposals will only be visible during the submission period (from its launch to the submission deadline). If deadlines for submission are missed, there will be no further opportunity to submit.
4. Click on the Call for Proposals under "CAPaBLE". Note that you can only submit one proposal. Please refer to the guidelines or the Frequently asked questions for any further information.
5. For further information regarding the use of APNIS, please refer to https://apn.gitbook.io/apnis-user-guide/.

STEP 1. COMPLETE YOUR BASIC INFORMATION AND PROPONENT PROFILE

Basic Information

Item to be completed	Information required
Title	Select the appropriate title from the dropdown menu
First name	Fill in your first name
Last name	Fill in your last name
Gender	Select the appropriate gender from the dropdown menu
Nationality	Select your nationality from the dropdown menu
Country of residence	Select your country of residence from the dropdown menu
Primary email	Fill in your primary email address. This is mandatory.
Secondary email	Fill in another email address that is different to your primary email address. This is not mandatory.

Proponent Profile

Item to be completed	Information required
Job title	Fill in your current job position/title
Organisation	Fill in the name of the organisation that you're currently working for or affiliated with.
Address	Fill in the address of the organisation that you are currently working for or affiliated with.

Country	Select the country where the organisation is based from the dropdown menu
Date of birth	Fill in your date of birth
Telephone	Fill in the telephone number by which you are reachable.
Fax	Fill in the fax number by which you are reachable.
Website	Fill in your organisation's website, if available.
Profile	Provide a concise description about yourself.
Education	List your educational history (institution, degree, year of degree attainment)
Employment	Provide information on employment history (institution, position, year)
Publications	List a maximum of 5 most recent publications relevant to your proposed project.

STEP 2. COMPLETE THE SUMMARY PROPOSAL FORM

Item to be completed	Information required
Proposed project title *(maximum length: 255 characters, including spaces)*	Provide the title of your project
Priority Topic	Select the most accurate priority topic from the dropdown list that best describes the focus of your project.
Thematic area (s)	Check the box(-es) of appropriate thematic area(s) that the proposed project will focus on. Refer to the Frequently asked questions for more information. **Note: Selection of the "Human Dimensions" theme will correspond with the "Social, economic and governance" thematic area in line with the 6th Strategic Phase.*
Extent of collaboration	Check the box appropriate for the proposed project. Note that local or national activities only apply to APN **developing** country members.
APN countries involved	Check the boxes of countries involved in your project. **Note that under the CAPaBLE Programme, capacity development is intended for developing countries. If you are a proponent from an APN developed country, your activity should target participants from APN developing countries. APN funds cannot be used to support developed country participants.*
Other countries involved	List any other countries involved that are not mentioned in the field above.
Relevance to SDGs	Indicate which SDG(s) your project is contributing to, as applicable.
Summary *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise abstract of your project.
Description and relevance to APN goals *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise description of the proposed activity and its relevance to APN Goals and Action Agenda (that addresses APN's scientific capacity development and science policy agendas). Refer to APN's 6th Strategic Plan.

Item to be completed	Information required
Objectives of the project *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the objectives of your proposed project.
Expected outcomes *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the expected outcomes of your project referring to the objectives specified.
Methodologies *(Maximum length: 3000 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the project methodologies and capacity development approaches to be used in the proposed project.
Literature review *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise literature review with citations.
Mode of operation *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Explain the proposed mode of operation (elaborate on which collaborator will do what task). Explain the codesign of the proposal with stakeholders.
Proposed timeline *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise timeline for activity, commencing from October 2027. You can choose the starting date/month and end date/month, for each period. Describe what kind of activity is going to be performed.
Duration of proposed project	Select from the dropdown menu to indicate the duration of your project. Please note that the maximum duration for CAPaBLE projects is 2 years.
Amount requested (Year 1)	Indicate the budget requested for Year 1 of the project.
Amount requested (Year 2)	Indicate the budget requested for Year 2 of the project. If your proposed project is a one-year project, please leave it blank.
Details of direct cash cofunding secured	Provide details of direct cash cofunding available for the proposed project.
Details of in-kind cofunding secured	Provide details of in-kind cofunding available for the proposed project.
Budget *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise budget for your project. If your project is a multi-year project, please provide a concise budget year by year. For example: *Year 1 2026-2027* *Part-time research assistant remuneration (early career): USD3,500* *Workshop facilities: USD1,500* *Foreign travel: USD8,000* *Per diem: USD5,000* *Year 2 2027-2028* *Part-time research assistant remuneration (early career): USD5,000* *Workshop facilities: USD2,000* *Foreign travel: USD8,000* *Per diem: USD10,000* *Focus Group Discussion: USD500* *Training workshop: USD5,000* *Training material development: USD1,500* *Publication cost: USD3,000*

Item to be completed	Information required
	Indicate that you have read the 2026 Financial Regulations and that a risk management plan for managing your APN Grant will be implemented (further elaboration will be requested at the full proposal stage).
Brief description of cofunding	Provide a brief description of the cofunding secured. Include explanations of the cofunding figures indicated above.
Award history *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	Indicate whether you are, or have been, a project leader or collaborator of an APN project. If so, please list the reference number of all projects you were involved in.
Collaborators' information *(Maximum length: 1000 characters, including spaces)*	List the name, country, institution and email address of each collaborator of the proposed project.
Collaborators' award history *(Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces)*	For each collaborator, if they have been engaged in one or more APN projects, please provide the reference number of all those projects.
Any other relevant information *(Maximum length: 500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide information on whether your proposed project is part of any global change research programme or has any correlation with a global development agenda, such as scientific knowledge that can contribute to the implementation of international agendas, such as the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030), as well as the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc.
Final optional questions	Proponents are requested to closely review and mark the checkboxes which apply to their proposal in the following areas: 1. Mandatory codesign integration 2. Proposal team composition 3. Declaration of the use of artificial intelligence-assisted tools **Important Note: As codesign integration is a mandatory criterion for the Call for Proposals in the 6th Strategic Phase, proposals submitted without information provided in Part (1) may be deemed incomplete and will not proceed further in the review process*

STEP 3. SUBMIT/WITHDRAW PROPOSAL

If you have completed the summary proposal and would like to submit, scroll up to the top page and click the box **"**Click here to submit your proposal**".** The other option is to click "update draft**"** and, under **"**My Proposal**"**, press the button "Submit" next to the draft summary proposal that you want to submit.

APPENDIX 3. FORMAT AND CONTENT OF FULL PROPOSAL

Full Proposals (by invitation only for successful Stage 1 proponents)

Full Proposals must follow the template, which will be made available to proponents on APNIS. The deadline for receiving the full proposals is **Monday, 29 March 2027, 23:59 Japan Standard Time (JST).** Below is the guideline for filling out the online form.

The APN Secretariat also recommends preparing proposal content in a separate document before entering it into the online submission system to minimise any potential risk of data loss.

Format for Full Proposals

Successful Stage 1 proponents are required to complete a full proposal template which has **three main parts:**

1. Part One: Proposal summary sheet (one page)
2. Part Two: Main body of full proposal (maximum 15 pages)
3. Part Three: Appendices
   - Full Proposal Appendix 1. Detailed timeline
   - Full Proposal Appendix 2. Detailed budget with justification as required
   - Full Proposal Appendix 3. List and CVs of proponent and major collaborators/stakeholders (one page per person)
   - Full Proposal Appendix 4. Logical framework matrix
   - Full Proposal Appendix 5: Codesign confirmation letter(s)

Full Proposal

The **main body** of the proposal should be **a maximum of fifteen (15) pages** (excluding appendices) in the format below.

PART 1.1 PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Item to be completed	Information required
Proposed project title *Maximum length: 255 characters, including spaces*	Provide the title of your project.
Duration and APN funding I. Duration II. Amount requested, Year 1 III. Amount requested, Year 2	Select the number of project years from the dropdown menu to indicate the duration of your project. Indicate the budget requested for Years 1-2 of the project in the respective fields and leave the field blank if your project does not apply to that duration.
Cofunding information I. Direct cash cofunding secured II. In-kind cofunding secured	Provide details of direct cash and in-kind cofunding available for the proposed project.
Countries involved	Check the boxes of countries involved in your project and list all Pacific Island Countries involved, if any. Separate each country with a comma.
Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Indicate which SDG(s) your project is contributing to, as applicable.
Abstract *Maximum length: 1500 characters, including spaces*	Provide a concise abstract of your project.

PART 1.2 MAJOR COLLABORATOR'S INFORMATION

To ensure data integrity, we ask proponents to provide the following basic contact information for each major collaborator. Click "Add collaborators" to save your input and use the "+ Append row" or "- Remove last row" to edit the information as required.

Item to be completed	Information required
First Name, Last Name	Insert the first and last name of the collaborator in the field provided.
Email	Enter the collaborator's email in the provided field. Please note that collaborators can view this proposal by logging in with the email address you provide, so please make sure this is a valid email address.
Organisation	Enter the organisation name for the indicated collaborator and select from the dropdown menu if available.
Country of residence	Select the respective country of residence from the dropdown menu.
Nationality	Select the respective nationality from the dropdown menu.
Gender	Select the respective gender from the dropdown menu.

PART 2. FULL PROPOSAL DETAILS

At this stage, proponents are required to expand on the information provided in their summary proposals by completing the additional fields in the full proposal submission form.

Please note that each section must be saved individually by clicking the "Update" button. To avoid losing unsaved information, proponents should save their changes before moving to another section.

At this stage, text fields only support plain text. If proponents need to include content that cannot be presented in plain text, such as figures, equations, diagrams or graphs, they should compile these materials into a single Word or PDF document and upload it as a separate appendix to their proposal. Proponents should also include references to the appendix in the relevant sections of their proposal, where applicable.

Item to be completed	Information required
1.1 Description of the proposed project *Maximum length: 3,000 characters, including spaces*	Provide a description of the entire proposed project.
1.2 Concise literature review *Maximum length: 3,000 characters, including spaces*	Provide a concise literature review with citations.
1.3 Relevance to APN's Strategic Plan *Maximum length: 3,000 characters, including spaces*	Having read APN's 6th Strategic Plan (2026-2030), describe how your proposed project can give valuable input to the goals outlined in the plan. Specifically, provide a detailed description of how the proposal is relevant to the CAPaBLE programme goals, as well as indicate the specific policy-relevant questions/capacity needs that are to be addressed through the project.
2.1 Objectives of the proposed project	Provide overall goal(s) or objective(s) of the project. The overall objective(s) should link to the overall objective(s) inserted in the required logical framework matrix (Full Proposal Appendix 4).

Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces	
2.2 Expected deliverables/objectives *Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces*	Provide a detailed description of the expected deliverables of the project, with reference to the objectives outlined in the same section.
3.1 Description of project methodology *Maximum length: 15,000 characters, including spaces*	Provide an explanation of project methodology and how the project will build human, organisational or system-level capacities with respect to the identified issues in the proposal. Details of all proposed capacity development approaches and awareness-raising activities are to be incorporated into the proposal. Also provide an explanation on monitoring and evaluation steps to measure the developed capacity of the beneficiaries or impacts on the target group(s). Before and after comparisons are highly recommended to be included.
3.2 Project work plan and timeline *Maximum length: 2,500 characters, including spaces*	Provide a concise timeline with a list of activities (with information of target country). A detailed timeline is to be provided under the Full Proposal Appendix 1. Therefore, please limit the information by indicating the main activities and target country or area. Provide a detailed explanation of the scientific and capacity contribution of each participating country, as well as the organisational arrangements of the project team including the codesign, roles and responsibilities of each participating country.
4.1 Concise budget plan *Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces*	A concise budget plan should be prepared that indicates the expected allocation for each collaborating country (major expenditures only, but ensure that it is consistent with the detailed expenditures to be provided under Full Proposal Appendix 2. The proponent should provide a statement that they understand the APN 2026 Financial Regulations and will implement a risk management strategy to manage the APN grant.
4.2 Detail of cash and in-kind cofunding *Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces*	Administrative support, in-kind (including external expertise) and cofunding consideration are to be included. As the APN does not support the running costs of institutions or the salaries of administration staff or researchers who receive or are to receive full-time salary support, provide details on the support that will be provided by the lead and collaborating institutions. As the APN strongly encourages cofinancing arrangements, provide specific details of cofunding that will be or are secured outside of the APN grant.
5.1 Relevance to policy processes and sustainability *Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces*	Provide an explanation on how the proposed project is policy-relevant, how the existing capacity will be developed and what mechanisms will be used to mainstream the results into policy processes. If the project is a continuation of previous efforts that were supported by APN, explain the relationship to the previous project.
5.2 Relationship with global change programmes and networks *Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces*	Specify how the activities will incorporate cooperation with activities of global change and other regional and international programmes or processes such as Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) and the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc and other global

	change and environmental research networks with global change and sustainability components. If the project is part of a long-term capacity development approach that is being led by a local, national, regional or international organisation (if not already mentioned), explain how the proposed project will contribute to long-term capacity development approaches of the said organisation(s).
6. Product management, open access and sharing plan *Maximum length: 3,500 characters, including spaces*	This section of the proposal should set forth a plan for preservation, documentation and sharing of capacity products, including, but not limited to, training and education materials, toolkits, curricula, etc., according to APN's **Data Sharing and Data Management Policy**. This plan should identify the responsibilities of the Project Leader and of each collaborator in this respect.
7. Communications and publications *Maximum length: 3,500 characters, including spaces*	The proponent should provide a communications and networking plan to disseminate the results to the stakeholder community at the science, policy, civil society or general public levels. APN strongly encourages proponents to provide policy briefs, share project-related commentaries and discussions through the "Perspectives" section on the APN website and make data openly accessible for dissemination activities. Strong knowledge management practices are desirable. Where a research component is included in the activity, APN strongly encourages proponents to publish peer-reviewed papers. The APN Knowledge Management team will also support your outreach activities by disseminating project updates and outcomes via the APN project web pages, social media channels and newsletters. As such, project teams are strongly encouraged to disseminate their activities through social and institutional media channels to enable cross-sharing.

PART 3. APPENDICES

Proponents must use the official APN templates for all mandatory appendices. These templates are available for download from APNIS.

Item to be submitted	Information required
Appendix 1: Timeline	A full month-by-month timeline. Please refer to the template provided in the APNIS supporting documentation to guide you in formulating this submission.
Appendix 2: Budget	A detailed budget estimate for the project in US dollars, including a year-by-year breakdown of the costs, a clear indication of any cofunding, in-kind and other contributions and a financial risk management strategy. Proponents should refer to the APN 2026 Financial Regulations, available on APNIS. Please refer to the template provided in the APNIS supporting documentation to guide you in formulating this submission, specifically the cover sheet instructions on filling out the green sections applicable to Stage 2 of the APN Call for Proposals.
Appendix 3: Proponent and major collaborators CVs	1. List of the proponent and major collaborators (names, organisations, postal address and email contact details). This should also include the contribution of developed country expertise, if any. 2. CVs of the proponent (**two pages maximum**) and major collaborators (**one page maximum**). Please include a list of the **five**most recent peer-reviewed publications in each CV.
Appendix 4: Logical framework matrix	Provide a logical framework matrix for project management purposes. The matrix provides a clear basis for monitoring progress, verifying purpose- and goal-level progress and simplifying evaluation.
Appendix 5: Codesign confirmation letter(s)	Relevant collaborators and stakeholder partners must provide a signed letter confirming their commitment to the project and their involvement in the codesign process. The letter must clearly describe their engagement from the outset and identify the specific components or activities of the proposal that they have contributed to codesigning, together with those that they will coimplement during the project. Where appropriate, the letter should also describe their anticipated role in the uptake, application or dissemination of project outcomes. These letters form part of the mandatory full proposal documentation. Proposals that do not provide sufficient evidence of meaningful stakeholder engagement and codesign may be deemed incomplete or may not proceed further in the review process.