2026 Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) Call for proposals for awards from October 2027[1]

CRRP proposals - 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 demonstrates its commitment through:

- Supporting research and action: Empowering collaborative research and science-based strategies for effective change.
- Bridging science and policy: Effectively linking scientific outcomes with policy mechanisms applicable at all levels of governance and across diverse societal sectors.
- 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.

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 within research, scientific capacity building and science policy interactions in 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.

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.

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 the 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.

Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) Description

APN supports regional research on global change through its Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP), one of the main scientific pillars of APN. This programme encourages and promotes global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, aiming to improve the understanding of global change and its implications in the region. Additionally, it contributes to establishing a sound scientific basis for policymaking, particularly in areas where global change and sustainability play crucial roles. APN's commitment extends to promoting regional collaborative research across the physical, biological and

human dimensions of change in the Earth system. This approach aims to advance actionable science that informs decision making.

APN defines **Global Change Research** as "research regarding global change (the set of natural and human-induced processes in the Earth's physical, biological and social systems that, when aggregated, are significant at a global scale) and its implications for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region."

Codesigned proposals submitted under CRRP will relate to APN's Science Agenda, specifically priority topics for the call, and fall under the following categories:

1. Codesigned collaborative research on global change and sustainability that addresses **GAPS, ANALYSIS, SYNTHESIS** and **ASSESSMENT** work.
2. Codesigned collaborative research that contributes to 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.
3. Codesigned collaborative research that develops **PATHWAYS** and **MECHANISMS** to achieve sustainable development, and develop adaptation strategies.
4. Codesigned collaborative **PLACE-BASED INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH**, particularly from developing countries.

In accordance with its mission and activities in APN's Sixth Strategic Plan (2026–2030), APN aims to support research on issues that are holistic and transdisciplinary. It is crucial for APN to produce 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) and the accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc**. and ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.

With this, APN **mandates** proposals to be **codesigned** together with stakeholders from the outset.

Eligibility Information

A. Proponent eligibility

Only proponents who fall under the following categories may submit proposals:

- Researchers or academics from universities, colleges or other academic institutions based in APN member or approved countries.
- Researchers, 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/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.
- Independent researchers not affiliated with an institution, consultants and employees in the private sector..

- A proponent who is a former project leader who has received cumulative APN funding greater than or equal to USD 135,000 within the last five years.

Additional terms for submission:

- One proponent may submit only one proposal.
- A proponent cannot be an existing collaborator in more than one APN project at the time of proposal submission.
- Regardless of the role to be undertaken (proponent or collaborator), a member of a project team can collaborate in no more than two projects.

B. Collaborator eligibility

- A collaborator cannot be involved in more than two ongoing APN projects at the time of the proposal submission deadline.
- A collaborator should be working in an institution that is based in an APN member or approved country.
- A collaborator must be affiliated with an institution; i.e. independent researchers are not eligible to participate in an APN activity.
- A collaborator from a non-APN member or approved country 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 their participation in the project, even though the activity is to be conducted in an APN member or approved country.

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) social, economic and governance; and (6) risk reduction and resilience. 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, 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 ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.
- A proposal must reflect regional cooperation in global change and sustainability research. The primary goal of APN is to develop regional cooperation in global change and sustainability research, particularly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Accordingly, proposals submitted to APN under CRRP must involve significant regional cooperation. APN does not fund one-country projects under CRRP. Proposals must involve at least three (3) APN member or approved countries, at least two (2) of which must be developing countries.
- **Codesign of proposals is mandatory.** This involves 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 their institutions.

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 regional-based research (CRRP) proposals focusing on the following themes for each subregion as indicated below:

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 ongoing activities of APN or other organisations and institutions. The proponent is expected to conduct an extensive literature review, taking into account similar past and ongoing activities by other institutions, as well as a detailed review of APN projects (refer to the APN Publications library), **before** submitting the summary proposal.
- Clearly outline **policy-relevant questions**, scientific capacity development needs, 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 achieving 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:

- The running costs of institutions (which are considered indirect administrative support and not permitted) and any taxes or statutory charges arising from the receipt and administration of the APN grant.
- The salaries of administrative staff.
- The salaries of researchers who receive or are to receive **full-time salary support**.
- The salaries of consultants (proponents and collaborators should have the credentials and expertise to conduct the activities being proposed).
- 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.)
- 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.
- The establishment or maintenance of long-term observation and monitoring systems.

Please also note:

1. Funding limit: The maximum grant for a one-year CRRP project is USD 45,000.
2. Multi-year funding: Proponents should be aware that, while APN may consider multi-year projects under the CRRP programme, a multi-year proposal cannot exceed three 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 CRRP must register and submit a **summary proposal** through the APNIS system. 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 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 2027, 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 summary proposal	**1**. Register or log in 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 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

APN's Scientific Planning Group (SPG) and other external experts, as appropriate, will review and evaluate proposals received under the CRRP Programme using the evaluation criteria outlined under "Basic Eligibility for Proposal Submission" (above) and the following criteria.

Criteria for evaluation

1. Technical soundness and degree of consistency and sustainability.
2. Extent and quality of regional collaboration.
3. Building regional and national capacity for global change and sustainability research.
4. Relevance to policy and policy processes, developing/strengthening links with government policy and programmes (codesign mandatory), and contributing to sustainable development.
5. Increasing synthesis and analysis work at national and regional levels.
6. Developing and strengthening networking and relationships with national, regional and international global change programmes and intergovernmental bodies and mechanisms.
7. 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.
8. Methodology (logical framework), timeline and project management.
9. Improving networks and knowledge of global change and sustainability issues among scientists, policymakers and civil society through an active communications and outreach strategy.
10. Meeting standardised data collection and user needs, and open access to data and research sites according to APN's policy on Data Sharing and Data Management.

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

Other Information

i. APN support

Where APN provides funding for a proposal, the APN Secretariat, the Project Leader and the Project Leader's Institution (the authorised representative) will sign a Contract with detailed Contract Documentation (including regulations and supplementary information) outlining payment, activities, the responsibilities of the Project Leader and Collaborators, 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 to help the proponent prepare 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

The Frequently asked questions page provides information to guide applicants. Please refer to this page before contacting the Secretariat.

Appendix 1. Full criteria for proposal review

Proposals will be judged against the following criteria:

Criterion 1. Technical soundness and degree of consistency and sustainability

Proposals should generate confidence about research excellence, data quality, capacity for programme management, and willingness and ability to pursue activities from a trans- and interdisciplinary perspective.

Proposals should clearly explain the background of the proposed research, whether it is based on or part of a planning and scoping activity within the region, as activities based on adequate planning and scoping processes are more likely to lead to successful long-term outcomes. Proposals should elaborate on the methodology (see Criterion 8) used in the proposed project, clearly articulate objectives and identify expected results, including **outcomes and tangible outputs**.

Criterion 2. Extent and quality of regional collaboration

Proposals **must** involve actions or contributions by **three or more APN member or approved countries, at least two of which are developing countries.** Due regard should be given to proposals from or involving less developed countries. The overall goal should be to generate sustained, long-term regional collaboration, not just a one-time event or project. In addition, the scientific contribution of **each** participating country 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, data collection, report writing, etc.).

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

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

Criterion 3. Building regional and national scientific capacity for global change research and sustainability

It is expected that proposals will contribute to the fundamental APN goal of building regional and national scientific capacity (technical expertise) for research that provides evidence-based solutions in the field of global change and sustainability. The result should be a long-term gain, for example, by increasing local skills and knowledge, improving decision making processes, and increasing or improving national involvement in international processes. This could be achieved through opportunities for training and professional development as part of the research activities.

Criterion 4. Relevance to policy and policy processes, developing/strengthening links with government policy and programmes (codesign mandatory), and contributing to sustainable development

APN is committed to strengthening evidence-based science policy linkages and informing decision making in its member countries. Therefore, proposals should demonstrate relevance to regional and national level policies and plans, be **codesigned with stakeholders**, and include an indication of how the results of its scientific research will be brought to policy- or decision making bodies. It should also justify how the proposed research assists national government and business decision making processes, or supports national, regional or global scale programmes aimed at dealing with global change problems that will also contribute to sustainable development. Harmonisation with the work of other regional bodies active in the region (for example, APEC, ASEAN, UNEP, ESCAP, SPREP, SAARC, NEAR) is desirable.

APN strongly emphasises the need to contribute to solving ecological, social and economic problems associated with global change impacts, such as those identified by international processes 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. A proposal that shows strong links to the aforementioned agendas and adopts a mandatory codesign approach with stakeholders will be favoured as meeting the ultimate mission of APN.

CRITERION 5. INCREASING SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS WORK AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

APN believes that greater attention needs to be paid to synthesis and analysis work derived from the many research outcomes already available. APN is also increasing its focus on integrated applied research or action research directed towards assessing or improving concepts or knowledge already available to address global change and sustainability issues. This will require the development and use of appropriate integrative techniques and will involve research teams drawn from several disciplines and from policy- and decision making interests.

CRITERION 6. DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING NETWORKING AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL CHANGE PROGRAMMES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND MECHANISMS

A key goal of APN is to strengthen cooperative relations among the **global change and sustainability research community**. Therefore, proposals that specify how the activity will incorporate cooperation with activities of global change programmes such as the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), Future Earth or other global change and environmental research networks with global change components will have greater advantages. **The existing or proposed extent of the project's involvement in global change research programmes should be clearly stated.**

Other proposals related to regional networks, such as the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) or other regional networks 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.**

CRITERION 7. 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. At the summary proposal stage, the proponent is required to provide a concise annual budget indicating costs for the main activities. Please refer to the 2026 APN 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 the proposal writing stage will strengthen the proposal application.

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, and 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 the proponent and collaborators' institutions, freeing any APN funding for the proposed core activities. Experts from developed countries generally cannot receive APN funds, but can be engaged in an APN activity as a self-funded participant.

APN strongly encourages direct cofinancing arrangements. In addition, it is APN's strong belief under the partnership approach of CRRP 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 8. METHODOLOGY (LOGICAL FRAMEWORK), TIMELINE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The proposed project should clearly identify an appropriate and realistic timeline in order to achieve its objectives, bearing in mind that APN projects should not be planned for more than three years.

A proposal should identify an appropriate project management plan that describes the responsibilities of each project team member. A logical framework matrix with indicators must be provided at the full proposal stage (see Appendix 3). A proposal should allocate sufficient time for project monitoring, progress evaluation and fulfilling APN reporting requirements. If a proposed project implements similar activities at multiple locations, the proposal 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 APN's award cycle, which starts in October of the next fiscal year (1 October 2027). The APN award cycle may change based on the availability of funds from APN donors. Thus, if there are any time-sensitive activities planned in the proposed project, it should be clearly indicated and justified.

CRITERION 9. IMPROVING NETWORKS AND KNOWLEDGE OF GLOBAL CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AMONG SCIENTISTS, POLICYMAKERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH AN ACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH STRATEGY

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 and solutions. Proposals should demonstrate a strong communications and networking plan/strategy, including the use of networks or communication channels/media, to raise awareness, knowledge and skills to address global change and sustainability issues. Proposals should also demonstrate plans to disseminate the results of the proposed research to stakeholders at the scientific, policy and public levels. The best proposals will contribute to lasting improvement in communications among APN members. APN mandates the publication of a minimum of two peer-reviewed scientific research papers, preferably in high-quality journals, as well as the publication of at least one policy brief.

CRITERION 10. MEETING STANDARDISED DATA COLLECTION AND USER NEEDS, AND OPEN ACCESS TO DATA AND RESEARCH SITES ACCORDING TO THE APN'S POLICY ON "DATA SHARING AND DATA MANAGEMENT"

As APN becomes increasingly involved in the funding of projects that develop and deploy new observing systems that collect increasing amounts of data providing needed input to research, APN aims to ensure that all data that is generated using APN funds is shared with the scientific and policymaking communities in a timely manner. APN believes that significant results of the research it sponsors should be submitted promptly for publication to ensure that the widest possible scientific community is able to benefit from this research.

APN's **Data Sharing and Data Management Policy** aims to encourage open access to and sharing of data, strengthen data distribution (hubs, portals, etc.), and, as far as possible, overcome existing limitations on the availability and access to data.

All projects funded by APN **MUST** comply with the policy.

Appendix 2. Format and content for summary proposal

Summary proposals

Proponents must submit summary proposals through the APNIS system. Instructions for completing the online summary proposal are provided below. The deadline for submission is **Monday, 30 November 2026, 23:59 Japan Standard Time (JST)**. The online system will automatically close at the deadline and proponents will be unable to submit proposals after that time.

Content of summary proposals

1. Go to the APNIS system 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 into 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 the launch date to the submission deadline). Note that if you miss the deadline for submission, there will be no opportunity to submit your summary proposal.
4. Click on the Call for Proposals box under CRRP. 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 your 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 (mandatory)
Secondary email	Fill in another email address that is different to your primary email address (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 are 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 (including international calling code) by which you are reachable
Fax	Fill in the fax number (including international calling code) by which you are reachable
Website	Fill in the website of your organisation, if available
Profile	Provide a concise description of 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 five 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 the appropriate thematic area(s) on which the proposed project will focus. Refer to the Frequently asked questions for more information. **Please note that selection of the "Human dimensions" theme will correspond with the "Social, economic and governance" thematic area in line with the 6th Strategic Phase.*
APN countries involved	Check the boxes of countries involved in your project. **Note: 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 participants from developed countries.*
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	Provide a concise abstract of your project.

Item to be completed	Information required
(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)	
Description and relevance to APN goals *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise description of the proposed activity and its relevance to APN Goals and Action Agenda (that addresses APN's regional research, scientific capacity development and science policy agendas). Refer to APN's Sixth Strategic Plan.
Objectives of the project *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the objectives of your proposed project.
Expected outcomes *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the expected outcomes of your project referring to the objectives specified.
Methodologies *(Maximum length: 3,000 characters, including spaces)*	Describe the research-based project methodologies and capacity development approaches for the proposed project.
Literature review *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise literature review with citations.
Mode of operation *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Explain the proposed mode of operation (elaborate on the role of each collaborator). Explain the codesign of the proposal with stakeholders.
Proposed timeline *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise timeline for your activity. 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 (APN may be able to fund CRRP projects up to 3 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.
Amount requested (Year 3)	Indicate the budget requested for Year 3 of the project. If your proposed project is a one-year or two-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: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide a concise budget for your project. If your project is multi-year, please provide a concise year-by-year budget. For example:

Item to be completed	Information required
	<u>Year 1 2026–2027</u> *Data collection cost: USD11,000* *Part-time research assistant fee: USD5,000* *Workshop facilities: USD1,500* *Foreign travel: USD8,000* *Per diem (accommodation and DSA): USD2,000* *<u>Year 2 2027-2028</u>* *Part-time research assistant fee: USD5,000* *Workshop facilities: USD2,000* *Foreign travel: USD8,000* *Per diem (accommodation and DSA): USD5,000* *Focus Group Discussion: USD500* *Training workshop: USD5,000* *Training material development: USD1,500* *Publication cost: USD3,000* *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: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Indicate whether you are, or have been, a project leader or collaborator of <u>an APN project</u>. If so, please list the reference number of all projects you were involved in.
Collaborators' information *(Maximum length: 1,000 characters, including spaces)*	List the name, country, institution and email address of each collaborator of the proposed project.
Collaborators' award history *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	If each collaborator has been <u>engaged</u> <u>in</u> <u>one</u> <u>or</u> <u>more</u> <u>APN projects</u>, please provide the reference number for 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 international processes 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 carefully review and tick 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

Item to be completed	Information required
	<u>Important note:</u> As codesign integration is a mandatory criterion for the call for proposals in the Sixth 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 YOUR 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 way 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. The deadline for receiving full proposals is **Monday, 29 March 2027, 23:59 Japan Standard Time (JST).**

Below is a sample of a full proposal. 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:**

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

Full proposal
The **main body of the proposal** should be **a maximum of 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 IV. Amount requested, Year 3	Select the number of project years from the dropdown menu to indicate the duration of your project. Indicate the budget requested for Years 1-3 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: 1,500 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	Provide a description of the entire proposed project.

(Maximum length: 3,000 characters, including spaces)	
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 Sixth Strategic Plan (2026–2030), describe how your proposed project will contribute to the following APN goals: ● Regional research ● Scientific capacity development ● Science policy interactions ● Stakeholder engagement
2.1 Objectives of the proposed project *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	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 (See below for PART THREE, Appendix 4).
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)*	Describe in detail the research methodology, as well as the scientific contribution of **each participating country institution(s)**, i.e. in codesigning the proposal, in the activities to be conducted, report writing and other relevant engagements.
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 Appendix 1. Therefore, please limit the information by indicating the main activities and target country or area. Provide a detailed explanation of contributions to science and capacity development 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 Appendix 2. Detailed budget). 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)*	Explain how the proposed project is policy-relevant and outline the mechanisms for mainstreaming its results into policy processes. Describe how the proposed project addresses sustainable development and incorporates sustainability considerations into its activities.
5.2 Relevance to scientific capacity development for global change research *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Provide an explanation of how the proposed project will help develop subnational/national/regional capacity to conduct global change research.
5.3 Relationship with global change programmes and networks *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Explain how the proposed project will foster cooperation with relevant regional and global programmes, research networks and governmental bodies working on global change and sustainability, such as IAI, WCRP and Future Earth. Where applicable, describe how the project will contribute to initiatives associated with the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030), and accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc. and other global change and environmental research networks with global change and sustainability components. Include details of any past, current or planned relationships and specific collaborations that will support the proposed project.
5.4 Related research works *(Maximum length: 1,500 characters, including spaces)*	Gap-filling studies are important in global change research, given the expanding scope of research and existing data gaps. Therefore, proponents must provide a detailed literature review to demonstrate that their proposed project is novel and relevant, and builds on existing research without duplicating ongoing work in the region. If the project is a continuation of previous efforts that were supported by APN, explain the relationship to the previous project.
6. Data management and data sharing plan *(Maximum length: 3,500 characters, including spaces)*	As APN increasingly funds projects that develop and deploy observing systems and collect data for research, it aims to ensure that all data generated using APN funds are shared with the scientific and policymaking communities in a timely manner. This section of the proposal should set forth a plan for preservation, documentation and sharing of capacity products, including, but not limited to data, samples, physical collections, 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 publish peer-reviewed papers and 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. 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	• 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. • 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.