

Detailed Review Criteria

Criteria	Elements	Maximum score
1. Policy relevance	Is the research idea of interest to the policy community?	20
	Will the expected results provide valuable input to the policy community (Note that all research results may not immediately be useful to policymakers but be considered at future usage)?	
	Does the proposal clearly identify the stage of a policy cycle and how the results can support the policy-making process?	
	Is there an identified action plan to share the project results with the policy community	
2. Regional applicability	Is the research idea/challenge/gap based on common issues in the region or sub-region?	20
	Does the proposal explain expected results and how it will contribute to resolve the regional or sub-regional issue(s)?	
	Is the project plan replicable to the other countries in the region?	
	Do the expected results inspire new regional research or can it be combined with related studies?	
3. Methodology	Does the proposal provide relevant background information about the research problem and does the methodology consider/reflect available scientific findings related to the research idea/challenge/gap?	20
	Does the methodology show logical links with the project objectives and indicate how the objectives will be accomplished?	
	Are there any monitoring and evaluation procedures to measure project progress?	
	Is the timeline realistic and is there an implementable action plan?	
4. Cost effectiveness	Is the requested budget and allocation sufficient and realistic to achieve the project objectives?	20
	Is the budget detailed and justifiable?	
	Does the project have strong institutional support to cover personnel costs and in-direct administrative costs?	
	Does the project utilize existing resources in the host and collaborative institutions?	
5. Research Capacity development	Does the team of researchers have adequate expertise to conduct the research?	20
	Does the proposal clearly articulate the benefits of the CRECS programme to early-career researchers and how it will help develop their research capacity?	
	Are the project work responsibilities fairly distributed among the research group, where every early-career researcher can benefit from the programme?	
	Will the project plan improve cooperation and collaboration among the early-career scientists and utilize senior researchers' experts effectively?	