# APN Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDTW)
# Kathmandu, Nepal, 19-23 March 2027

## Call for Participation of Early Career Professionals in South Asia

**Main Theme:** Advancing climate resilience, adaptation and losses and damages

**Introduction**

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) Proposal Development Training Workshops (PDTW) provide a unique opportunity for early career professionals (ECPs) in South Asia (SA) to develop skills in crafting competitive scientific research proposals. This strategic initiative serves as a robust platform for building capacity to secure regional grant opportunities while fostering collaboration on shared research interests. A key strength of the PDTW is its role as a networking space, enabling ECPs to collaborate on regional research proposals, build lasting relationships across countries and disciplines, and address sustainability challenges related to global change in the region and beyond. Since 2008, APN has empowered over 400 ECPs through 23 workshops, thereby enhancing their participation in regional research.

Cohosted by Nepal's Department of Forests, the SA PDTW advances APN's strategic research interests and mission to address global change, with a focus on climate resilience, adaptation and losses and damages, aligning with one of the South Asia subregional priority topics outlined in the 2026 APN Call for Proposals. The SA PDTW also supports commitments aligned with international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR), the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition to building technical expertise in research proposal development, the SA PDTW will explore strategies to prepare policy-relevant proposals that align with the theme and subthemes, and contribute to the global agendas mentioned above. Participants will engage in critical topics, such as strengthening community-based climate adaptation, enhancing climate risk management and advancing inclusive approaches to resilience building, through a combination of presentations, group discussions and practical exercises.

Facilitated by experienced APN members, APN project leaders and fellow researchers with regional expertise, the workshop will guide participants through the proposal development process, gaining expertise in identifying research gaps, designing methodologies and crafting persuasive proposal narratives. By the end of the workshop, participants will have the knowledge, experience and confidence to submit competitive, high-impact proposals, positioning them for future success in securing funding for their research. With additional mentoring following the PDTW, participants will continue to refine their proposals, ensuring they are well-positioned in APN's 2027 Call for Proposals, which will be launched in November 2027.

**Regional Relevance and Global Impact**

South Asia faces interconnected climate challenges that threaten lives, livelihoods, ecosystems and development gains. From interconnected Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region and downstream communities to major river basins, densely populated cities, coastal settlements and island states, exposure to climate hazards is compounded by poverty, unequal access to services and dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods. Changing temperature and precipitation patterns, shifts in snow and glacier cover, and extreme events such as cascading cryospheric hazards, heatwaves, floods, droughts and landslides place growing pressure on water resources, forestry, agriculture, energy, public health and infrastructure, with impacts often transcending national boundaries. Financial constraints and uneven institutional capacity also limit the ability of governments and communities to implement effective adaptation.

Existing APN-supported research provides a substantial foundation for addressing these challenges. The South Asia project portfolio connects climate projections and hazard monitoring with household vulnerability, agricultural and forestry resilience, water security and locally appropriate adaptation. Projects contribute scientific methods, policy briefs, practical tools, training and community knowledge that can inform responses across the five subthemes. Their collective value lies in connecting an understanding of changing hazards with evidence on who is affected, how losses occur and which responses are feasible.

The overarching priority is to strengthen long-term resilience while addressing immediate threats and losses and damages that adaptation cannot fully prevent. Building on APN's existing work requires stronger connections between projects, continued engagement with communities and decision makers, and an assessment of whether research outputs lead to sustained action and measurable benefits.

Through the SA PDTW, ECPs will gain the skills and experience needed to navigate these complex climate challenges and initiate new research that is codesigned with relevant regional stakeholders. The workshop fosters collaborative research efforts, builds technical expertise and empowers participants to lead the development of solutions that combine scientific knowledge with practical, community-driven approaches.

**A. MAIN THEME**

The workshop's main theme is "**Advancing climate resilience, adaptation and losses and damages".**

The **"Advancing climate resilience, adaptation and losses and damages"** thematic area focuses on strengthening the scientific understanding, institutional capacity and community preparedness necessary to build climate-resilient societies. It encourages participants to develop research and scientific capacity building proposals that bridge the gap between science, policy and practice, fostering collaboration among academia, government agencies, civil society and local communities while addressing global goals under the SFDRR, Paris Agreement and SDGs.

The following subthemes will be addressed in the proposal development activities:

1. **Climate resilience and adaptation**, including strengthening community and institutional adaptive capacities, promoting locally appropriate and inclusive adaptation strategies and assessing their adoption, effectiveness and long-term sustainability, particularly among vulnerable and underserved communities.

**2. Losses and damages,** including the assessment of cumulative impacts, recovery trajectories, non-economic losses and adaptation limits, while distinguishing short-term coping from sustained reductions in vulnerability.

**3. Multihazard climate risk assessment and early warning systems,** including connecting hazard information with exposure and vulnerability, establishing actionable thresholds and ensuring warnings reach people who have the means to respond.

**4. Extreme events, including heatwaves, floods, droughts, cyclones and landslides,** covering multi-hazard assessments, accessible communication and the evaluation of whether interventions reduce exposure, disruption and losses.

**5. Advancing inclusive innovation for cryosphere research, sustainable water resource management and climate resilience,** including accessible monitoring and early warning tools, equitable water-management innovations and assessments of their effectiveness across gender, geography and communities.

Proposals under the subthemes are expected to promote interdisciplinary and transboundary research that links climate information, vulnerability assessment, practical adaptation and the reduction of losses and damages. Proposals that incorporate gender-responsive and inclusive strategies recognising vulnerable groups affected by climate variability and extreme events in the South Asian region, including women, youth and Indigenous peoples and local communities, are welcomed and encouraged at the South Asia PDTW.

Participants are also encouraged to explore opportunities to align their ideas with regional and global frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement, the UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

By fostering dialogue, sharing regional experiences and developing technical skills, these subthemes aim to enhance the capacity of ECPs and institutions in South Asia to design and implement effective projects that reduce climate-related risks and enhance adaptive capacity through practical and policy approaches. Through the PDTW, participants will gain exposure to tools, methods and partnerships that support proactive, integrated and sustainable ways to manage the impacts of climate change and variability in their home countries and across the region.

**B. STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

The training workshop and other networking activities will take place over five full days, as outlined below. The schedule provided may be subject to change, and all participants will be notified of any updates accordingly.

**Timetable**

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| Day 1: Friday, 19 March 2027 | Participation as attendees at the 2nd International Conference on Gender and Technology (ICGT 2027) |
| Day 2: Saturday, 20 March 2027 | • PDTW Opening Ceremony<br>• Introduction to APN, the PDTW and the APN Call for Proposals<br>• Presentations on the key thematic areas |
| Day 3: Sunday, 21 March 2027 | • Experience sharing on proposal development and project implementation in the South Asia region<br>• Project management essentials and proposal writing launch |
| Day 4: Monday, 22 March 2027 | • Science-Policy Dialogue with APN members and invited experts<br>• Group presentations, review and APNIS proposal submission |
| Day 5: Tuesday, 23 March 2027 | • Proposal review process and presentations<br>• Way forward in proposal development and submission<br>• Early career professional networking session<br>• Workshop evaluation, award ceremony and closing |

**C. PARTICIPATION**

The PDTW is open to early career professionals from South Asia who work in the areas related to the workshop's main theme. For this reason, applicants requiring funding support will **ONLY** be accepted from early career professionals who are from, residing in, or working in APN South Asia member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**D. ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURES**

1. Applicants must be early career scientists or practitioners of 40 years of age and under as of the application deadline. Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
    a. Hold an undergraduate degree with five years of related work experience;
    b. A postgraduate student in the final year of a PhD programme;
    c. Hold a Master's degree with three years of related work experience; or
    d. Hold a PhD degree and have received their highest postgraduate degree within the previous ten years.
2. Applicants should be working in areas of, or have academic experience related to, the workshop's main theme.
3. Applicants must have a good working knowledge of English.
4. Successfully shortlisted applicants will be selected on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
5. Applicants **seeking funding support** will only be accepted from early career professionals who are from, residing in, or working in the APN South Asia member countries.
6. Applicants applying on a **self-funded** basis may be from within or outside the subregion, but their area of work must be related to the theme of the workshop and concern the South Asia region. The applicant must also be from one of APN's member or approved countries.

**E. APPLICATION PROCESS**

Interested persons should complete the four mandatory steps outlined below.

a. Complete and submit the application form for the South Asia PDTW, provided through the Asia-Pacific Network Information System (APNIS).
b. Submit a resume/CV (maximum 2 pages) containing the following information as a minimum: full name, nationality, date of birth, gender, current affiliation, education/employment history.
c. Submit a **short motivation essay (300-400 words)**. The best essay should address the following questions in a narrative style:
    i. How will this training workshop contribute to your career development, and what are the expected impacts?
    ii. What are your research interests?
    iii. What is your motivation for undertaking regional-based global change research?
    iv. Indicate which of the two subthemes you are interested in, in order of preference.
d. Submit a **letter of recommendation** from your supervisor addressing the following:
    i. Endorsement of your participation in the workshop.
    ii. How the training workshop will benefit your research career.
    iii. The supervisor's commitment and consent to encourage you to submit regional research proposals (to APN or other funding bodies) or become engaged in regional global change research.

**F. SPONSORSHIP**

- Approximately 12 early career professionals will be selected for the training workshop. Financial support from APN is available, subject to funding availability.
- A minimum of two early career professionals from each South Asia member country will be selected to receive APN financial support. Sponsorship for successful applicants will cover the costs of an economy-class air ticket, accommodation, meals and local transportation.
- There is no registration fee to participate in this workshop.

**G. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, 9 December 2026, 23:59 (JST), through APNIS.**

*Additional information*

- Participants will be provided with breakfast and lunch during the workshop.
- Applicants who have previously attended APN PDTWs are ineligible to apply for this training workshop.
- Participants are required to attend all five days of events to gain the maximum benefit from the programme.

For additional queries, please contact the 11th South Asia PDTW Organising team via email (11sa-pdtw@apn-gcr.org) before the deadline.