



# Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

## Introduction of APN and its Call for Proposals

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# Introduction

# About APN

**ESTABLISHED** • 1996

**MEMBER COUNTRIES** • 22 countries in Asia-Pacific Region  
• Additional “approved countries”

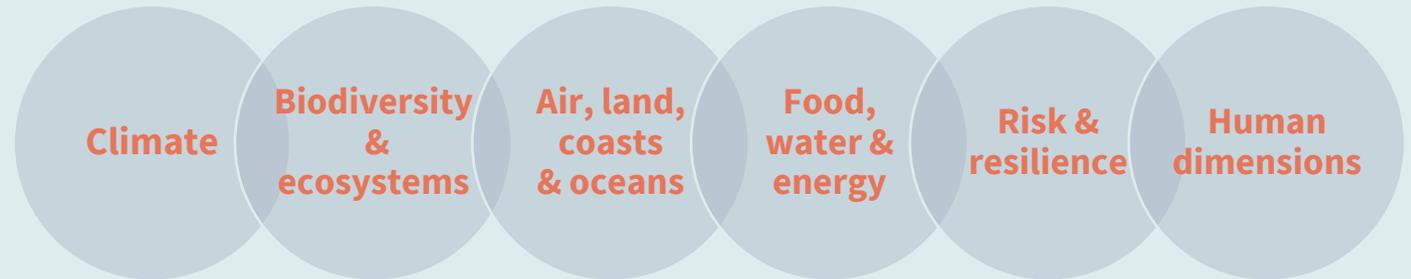
**SECRETARIAT** • Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

**DONORS**

- Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan
- Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand



## Focus areas



## Strategic goals

1

### REGIONAL RESEARCH

Support regional cooperation in global change research on issues particularly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.

2

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhance capabilities to participate in global change and sustainability research and support science-based decision-making.

3

### SCIENCE-POLICY LINKAGES

Strengthen interactions among scientists and policymakers; provide scientific input to policy decision-making, and scientific knowledge to the public

4

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cooperating with other global change and sustainability networks and organizations.

# Guiding Principles

## APN's strength is in its guiding principles

1. Encourage participatory processes involving scientists and policymakers to identify emerging issues and support decision-making.
2. Ensure high scientific quality that has both policy and regional relevance.
3. Ensure policy-relevance by emphasizing interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and holistic approaches in our research projects.
4. Provide opportunities for sharing knowledge, best practices capacity building and education in global change and sustainability
5. Encourage stakeholder engagement throughout our projects from the scoping and design stage to implementation and evaluation.
6. Communicate network results broadly to scientific communities, policymakers, civil society and the general public.





# Main activities



Regional collaborative research



Scientific capacity development



Proposal development training



Science-policy dialogues



Subregional science-policy activities



Science-policy engagement in processes at the international level

# Capacity building of early-career scientists

APN supports activities that enhance the capacity of scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders to identify and assess global change issues at the local, national and regional levels, and to further identify appropriate solutions to address these issues.



## Collaborative Research Programme for Early-Career Scientists (CRECS)

- Following the success of the 2016 pilot programme, a new call was launched on 24 October 2019. This is a perfect opportunity for scientists to be made aware of the call and consider submitting proposals.

## Proposal Development Training Workshop (PDTW)

- Introduced in 2008 to increase the capacity of early career scientists to develop research proposals to be submitted to the APN call for proposals and funding programmes of other organizations. So far, APN has conducted 18 workshops and trained approximately 300 early career scientists.
- Starting in 2014, the Workshop is organized annually, rotating among subregions.

2014 Lao PDR	2017 Viet Nam	2021 Malaysia
<b>2015 Mongolia</b>	2018 Japan	
2016 Bhutan	2021 Pakistan	

## Mitra Award on global change research

- Organized during the Intergovernmental Meeting and provides opportunities for young scientists to interact with prominent scientists, practitioners and policymakers.
- Recognizes outstanding young researchers conducting research on global change.



# Science-policy dialogue

Established in 2012, the Science-policy dialogue (SPD) aims to provide scientific input to policy decision-making, and to strengthen communication and links between scientists, policy-makers and practitioners communities.



- Southeast Asia Science-Policy Dialogue, Bangkok, Thailand (2012) “**Challenges of Global Environmental Change in Southeast Asia**”
- South Asia Science-Policy Dialogue, Thimphu, Bhutan (2014) “**Global Environmental Change: Reducing Risk and Increasing Resilience**”
- Temperate East Asia Science-Policy Dialogue, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2015) “**Land Use and Climate Change in Temperate East Asia**”
- Southeast Asia Science-Policy Dialogue, Bangkok, Thailand (2017) “**Climate Change: Low carbon and Adaptation Initiatives in Asia**”
- Japan Biodiversity Fund: **Science-Policy Dialogues on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Report** (2018-2019)



# Science, Policy interface & global agendas



## Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6

- Members, project leaders and collaborators in APN activities are authors, lead authors, coordinating lead authors or reviewers.
- Secretariat reviewed the FOD of WG2 providing over 90 review comments
- Forwarded over fifty (50) publications/papers from the APN-funded project as supporting literature/references when we made substantial comments.
- Published Special Issue comprising 15 articles in Environmental Research: **Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation: Asian Perspective** targeted for IPCC AR6.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
- International Warsaw Mechanism
- National Determined Contributions (NDCs)

## Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- Partner & observer organization of IPBES, its Capacity Building Forum and Stakeholder Forum.
- Japan Biodiversity Fund: Partnering with IGES in conducting Science-Policy Dialogues on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Report.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- More than 100 projects have multiple connections with the SDGs mainly 13, 14, 15 in over 5 years.



Shrestha, S.,  
Stevenson, L. A., Shaw,  
R., & Pulhin, J. (2020).  
Editorial of Special  
Issue on Climate  
Change Impacts,  
Vulnerability and  
Adaptation: Asian  
Perspective.  
*Environmental  
Research*, 109826.  
doi:10.1016/j.envres.20  
20.109826

# Calls for Proposals



APN



# Call for Research Proposals

## Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP)

- Proposals submitted under the CRRP will relate to the APN's Science Agenda and fall under the following categories:
  - Collaborative research on global change and sustainability that, particularly, addresses **GAPS, ANALYSIS, SYNTHESIS** and **ASSESSMENT** work.
  - Collaborative research that develops **PATHWAYS** and **MECHANISMS** to achieve sustainable development and develop adaptation strategies.
  - Collaborative **INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH** particularly from developing countries and work that is multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary in nature.
  - Collaborative research that **CONTRIBUTES TO THE EVOLVING SCIENCE-POLICY ARENA**, including IPCC, IPBES, post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.

# 2020 Call for Proposals

<https://www.apn-gcr.org/news/2020-call-for-proposals-under-the-crrp-and-capable-programmes/>

## ■ Focus on 5 key priority themes

1. Global change and sustainability in the COVID-19 era: Pursuit of transformation to more resilient societies
  - regional circular and ecological sphere (R-CES)
  - Build back better: promote greener economies
  - Impacts on local livelihoods and human security: increasing resilience and adaptation
2. Climate change and climate variability and their related impacts in national and regional contexts (particularly climate projections/downscaling, extreme events, AP-PLAT, DRR and adaptive recovery, monsoon, etc.)
3. Ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction
4. Smart agriculture (particularly resource allocation, livestock, food, technology transfer, innovation, extension, etc.)
5. Transboundary issues (particularly pollution, water quality, human health, fisheries and microplastics, marine plastic debris, invasive species, waste management, etc.)

2020

# Calls for Proposals

APN

Deadline for  
proposal  
submission is  
Sunday 6th  
December 2020



# Proposal writing and submission process

# Basic criteria to be eligible for Summary Proposal Submission

- Proposal must reflect regional cooperation in global change and sustainability research. The primary goal of the APN is to develop regional cooperation in global change and sustainability research particularly relevant to the Asia and Pacific region. Accordingly, projects submitted to the APN under CRRP must involve **significant** regional cooperation.
- **The APN does not fund one-country projects under CRRP. Proposals must involve at least three (3) APN Member and/or Approved Countries, two (2) of which must be developing countries.**
- Proposals must fall within the APN Science Agenda, which sets out the broad interests of the APN. The APN supports a wide range of research and capacity development programmes and other activities that help achieve its objectives.
- For the 2020 Call for Proposals, APN established high priority topics based on inputs from member countries via an online survey. Usually, the process is undertaken at subregional committee meetings, but this was impossible this year due to the pandemic.
- APN invites trans- and interdisciplinary research proposals focusing on specific topics

# Basic criteria to be eligible for Summary Proposal Submission

- The Summary Proposal is submitted via **Online Submission** process through APNIS (<https://www.apn-gcr.org/apnis/login>)
- The proposed activities must not duplicate any previous or currently implemented APN activities. (**Literature review in advance on the Publications library**)
- The proposal must indicate how the results of the project activities might be mainstreamed into national and regional level policy-making processes.
- The proposal must outline policy-relevant questions to be addressed and answered.
- The proposal must explain organizational arrangements of the proposed activity and a publication and dissemination plan.

# Pay attention to the 10 detailed criteria when developing proposals and that will be considered in the review process

**High weight**

**Medium weight**

**Lower weight**

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, 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 inter-governmental 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, 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 standardized 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" provided separately

# Project duration and level of funding

## CRRP

- Research proposal duration is usually 1 - 2 years (*max. 3 years*)
- Average yearly funding for research project is USD45,000

## CAPaBLE

- Capacity building proposal duration is 1 year (*max. 2 years*)
- Average yearly funding for capacity building project is USD40,000

# Summary Proposal Stage

## Proponents

- Submit summary proposals to APN through online system

Summary  
proposal

## APN Secretariat

- Log and acknowledges receipt
- Checks the document to ensure that all summary proposals meet the basic eligibility
- Send to reviewers

## APN SPG/Enternal Reviewer/CDC Members

- Examine and assess the proposals based on pre-determined criteria

Stage I  
Review

## APN Secretariat

- Compile the review scores and invite for full proposal submission

## Proponents

Submit full proposals to APN by email



# Timetable and the review process

# Call for Proposals Timeline (9-month process)

Stages	Action	Date
Advisory Service	Potential applicants can consult the Online Advisory Service, which has extensive information on APN's Funding Opportunities	Available Year Round
<b>Stage 1:</b> Online Submission & Review of Summary Proposal	Online Submission of <u>Summary Proposal</u> to the APN Secretariat. Preliminary screening process and notification of results.	Deadline: Mid-February 2021
<b>Stage 2:</b> Online Submission & Review of Full Proposal	Submission of Full Proposal to the APN Secretariat by successful Stage 1 proponent. Submission is by INVITATION only.	Deadline: End March 2021
	<p><b><u>Review</u></b></p> <p>Full proposals are reviewed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Proponents are sent questions and comments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Proponents are <b>REQUIRED</b> to <u>respond in writing</u> to reviewers' questions and comments</p>	<p>Comments are sent to proponents by end of April/beginning of May 2021</p> <p>Deadline: Mid-May 2021</p>
<b>Stage 3</b>	Decision making Notification of results	End of June Mid-July 2021

# Scientific Planning Group reviews your proposal

- The Scientific Planning Group is the principal advisory organ of APN for regional scientific activities.
- Each member country is represented by one expert on global change and sustainability as the Scientific Planning Group member. **The SPG member is nominated by the Government national Focal Point**
- The Scientific Planning Group:
  - ✓ Considers and recommends a regional scientific agenda to the Intergovernmental Meeting;
  - ✓ **Reviews and recommends proposals for regional scientific activities received under calls for proposals for approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting (9-month process)**
  - ✓ Assesses the outcomes of regional scientific activities
  - ✓ Invites experts on global change and sustainability as members of the Scientific Planning Group, as necessary
  - ✓ Recommends the establishment of subcommittees, as necessary
  - ✓ Actively engages in their respective Sub-regional committees and in the Intergovernmental Meetings
  - ✓ Provides scientific support to their national Focal Points, as necessary
  - ✓ Performs any other functions entrusted by the Intergovernmental Meeting

Each summary proposal will be rated based on the criteria provided. Reviewer will assess the summary proposal against each criterion. **At this stage, there is no need to rate each criterion. Reviewers are requested to provide overall rating for each summary proposal.** The summary proposals should be rated from **1 to 10 (no zero scores)**. The table assists reviewers

Rating	Explanation
<b>9-10 (excellent)</b>	The summary proposal meets the criteria satisfactorily, with little or no modification is required
<b>7-8 (very good)</b>	The summary proposal fundamentally meets the criteria, but may require a few modifications. After the revision stage such a proposal should be capable of being rated excellent, if the proponent makes the necessary changes
<b>5-6 (good)</b>	The summary proposal could meet the criteria but requires important modifications/adjustments and further negotiation with APN
<b>3-4 (fair)</b>	The summary proposal does not meet the criteria but there's a potential to satisfy the criterion given helpful feedback from the reviewer
<b>1-2 (poor)</b>	The summary proposal does not meet the criteria, has fundamental flaws, and does not display any possibility for future consideration by APN

# Rating Scale for Summary Proposals

**Other important consideration outside  
scientific merit, especially at the  
Summary Proposal stage**

# Other important consideration outside scientific merit

- Does the proposal duplicate past or current efforts?
- Does it contribute towards any/some/all of the 4 goals of the APN?
- Is the proposal scientifically/methodologically sound?
- Does the proposal meet any/some/all of the 10 weighted criteria?

# What do reviewers look for?

**What are the reviewers looking for in a good proposal other than scientific merit?**

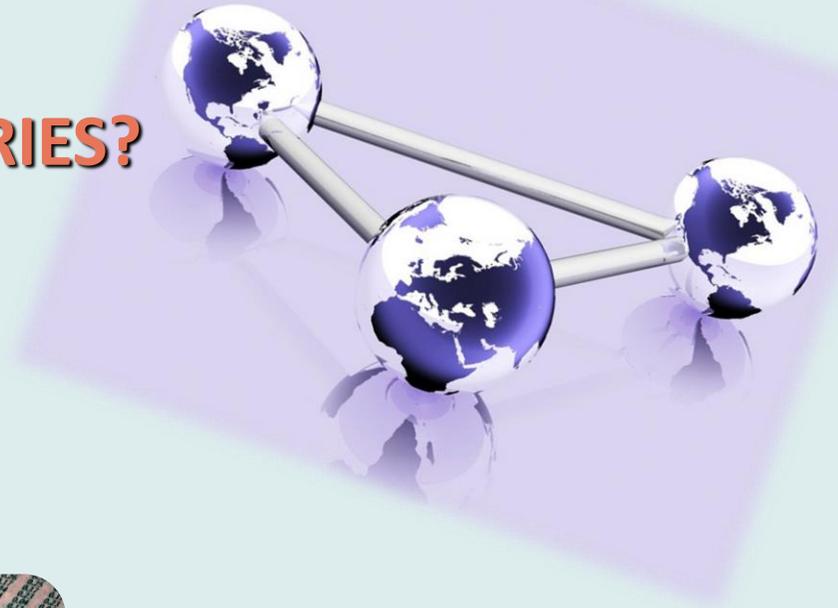
When reviewing the summary proposals, reviewers also to focus on the following types of questions:



What are the reviewers looking for in a good proposal other than scientific merit?

**STRONG Regional collaboration?**

**AT LEAST 3 COUNTRIES?**



**CO-FUNDING/IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS?**

**REASONABLE BUDGET?**

# What are the reviewers looking for in a good proposal other than scientific merit?

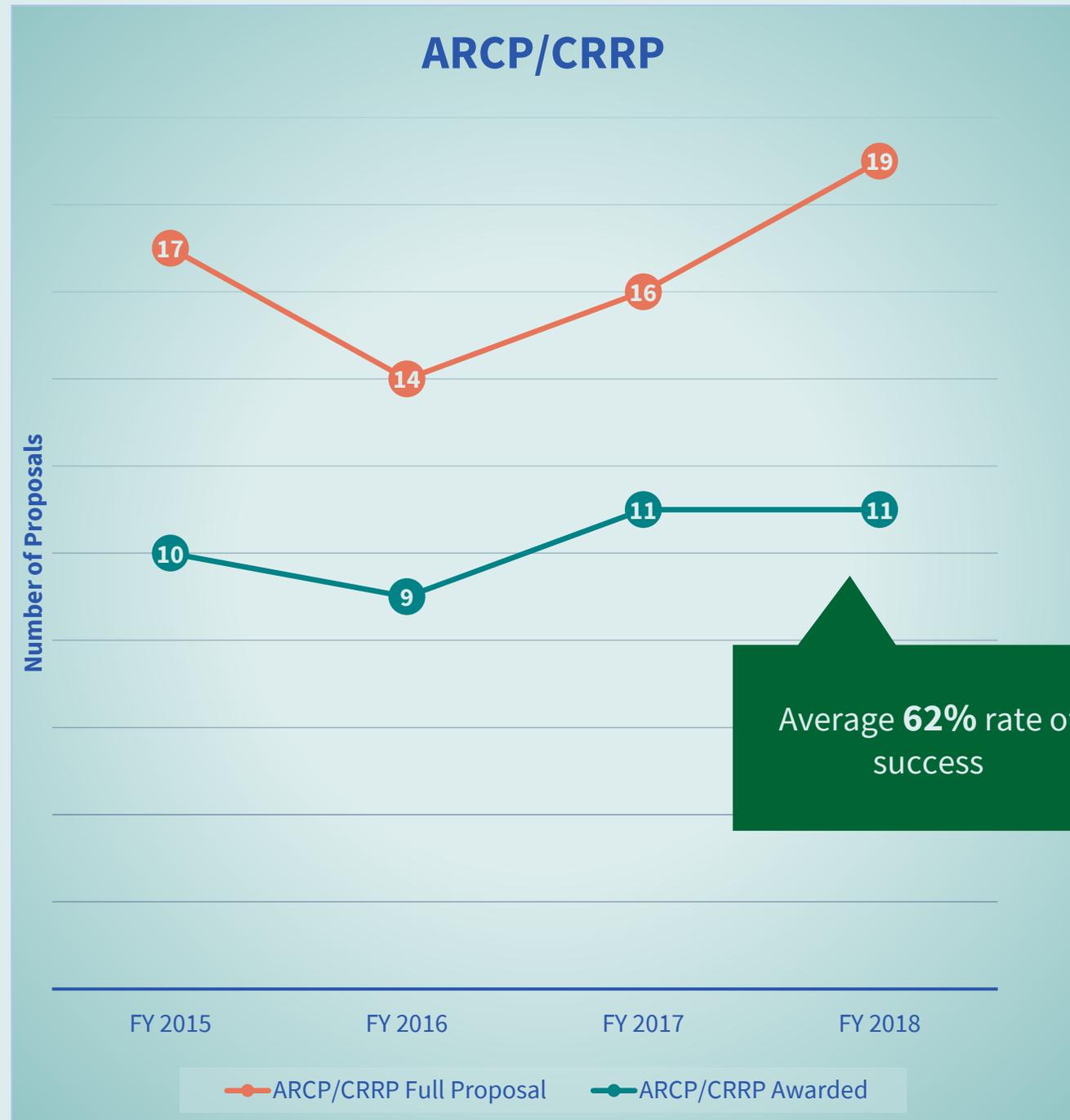
- Are decision makers involved?
- Will the outcomes be useful for end-users?
- Does the project adopt interdisciplinary approaches?
- Does the proposal represent value for money?
- Is the project realistic in terms of timescale and work to be done?



**Success rate if you are invited to submit  
a full proposal**

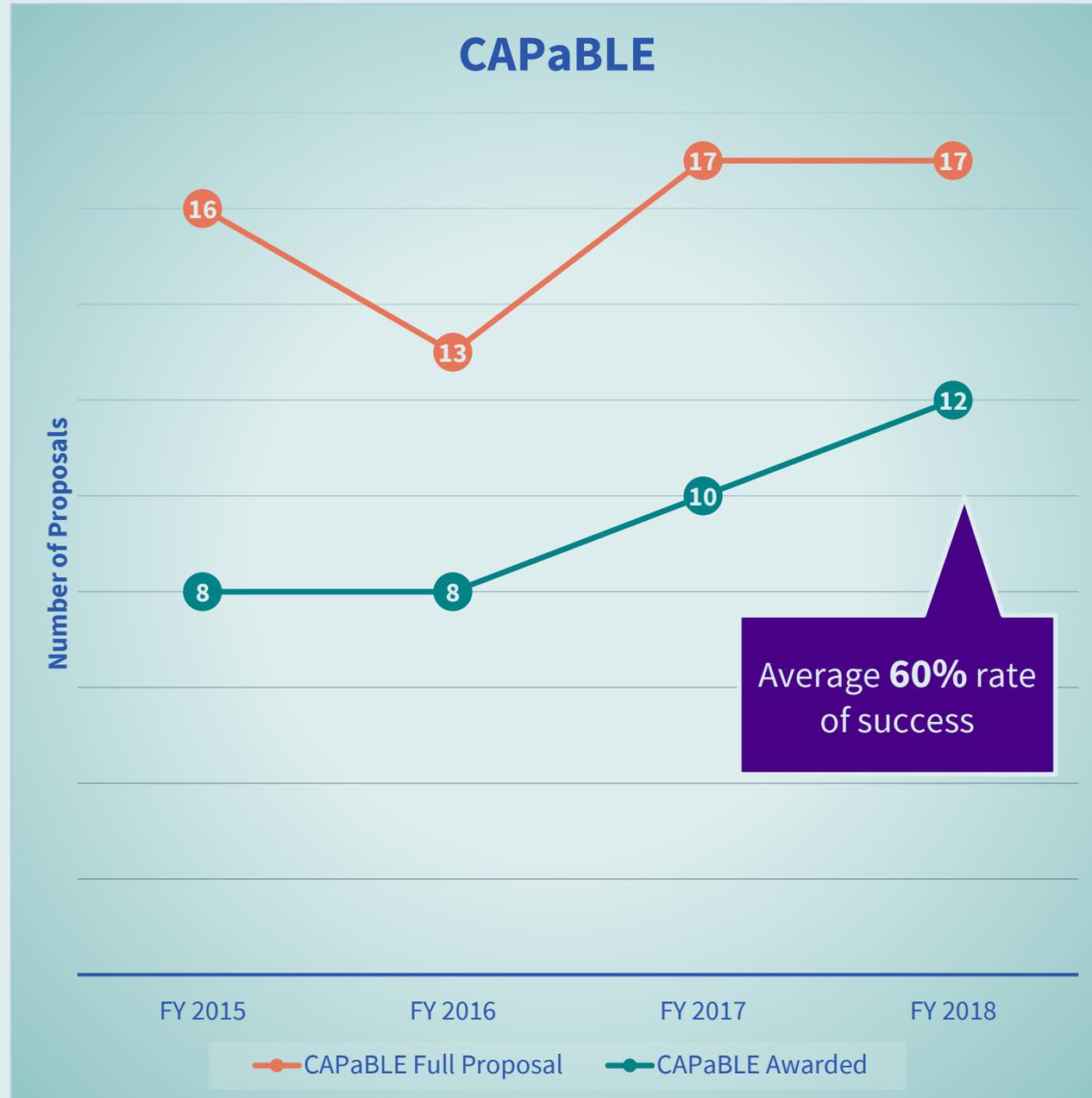
# Call for research proposals (CRRP)

APN supports research and capacity development activities by inviting proposals under the Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) and Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE).



# Call for capacity building proposals (CAPaBLE)

APN supports research and capacity development activities by inviting proposals under the Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) and Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE).



## Publications Library:

Reports, proceedings, policy briefs, guides, tool kits and other outputs from APN funded projects

[www.apn-gcr.org/publications-library/](http://www.apn-gcr.org/publications-library/)

## APN Updates:

Sign up for regular email updates from the APN Secretariat

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/eml/lists/?p=subscribe&id=4>

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