

GENERAL INFORMATION ON APN 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR:

1. COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME (CRRP)

2. SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CAPaBLE)

RATIONALE

The Asia-Pacific region, home to over half the world's population, faces challenges due to its development goals, which strain natural resources, communities, and cultural heritage. These issues are exacerbated by adverse environmental changes. While research has shed light on these problems, it's clear that more challenges lie ahead. The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is well-positioned to generate new knowledge and solutions for these evolving [global change](#) and sustainability issues by supporting collaborative research and scientific capacity development activities, particularly those aimed at training the next generation of early-career professionals.

MISSION

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

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

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

STRATEGY

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, capacity building, and science-policy interactions, in areas of [air, land, coasts and oceans](#); [biodiversity and ecosystems](#); [climate](#); [food, water and energy](#); [human dimensions](#); and [risk reduction and resilience](#). These themes are interrelated and interface with natural, social, behavioural economic and political sciences. APN's strategic goals, as outlined in the [5th Strategic Phase \(2020-2026\)](#), are:

1. Supporting regional and international cooperation in research on global change and sustainability issues particularly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Enhancing capabilities to participate in research on global change and sustainability and to support science-based decision-making.
3. Strengthening interactions between scientists, policymakers, practitioners and members of other societal groups, and providing sound scientific information for policymaking processes.
4. Continuing to enhance communication and collaboration with like-minded organisations and other stakeholder groups on issues of common interest.
5. Enhancing the institutional, operational and financial base that is efficient, durable, equitable and able to support APN and its activities.

THE 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This year, APN is inviting proposals under two separate programmes supporting APN's core activities through our **Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP)** and the **Scientific Capacity Development Programme (CAPaBLE)**, for funding from October 2024. A limited amount of funding is available to support CRRP and CAPaBLE activities relevant to APN's thematic areas that specifically target one (or more) themes under "[PRIORITY TOPICS FOR FUNDING](#)".

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST UNDER THE CRRP PROGRAMME

APN promotes regional collaborative research that improves understanding of the physical, biological and human dimensions of change in the Earth system and advances actionable science that informs decision-making. APN is seeking CRRP proposals that engage at least three (3) [member/approved countries](#) in the region, and prioritise collaboratively designed, actionable research with non-academic stakeholders. Proposals must address one or more of the following activities in one or more of the [priority topic areas](#):

- 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 **PLACE-BASED INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH**, particularly from developing countries.
- Collaborative research that is **CO-DESIGNED** to contribute to the **Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030)**, and the **accumulation of scientific knowledge at IPCC, IPBES, etc.**

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST UNDER THE CAPaBLE PROGRAMME

APN supports CAPaBLE activities that enhance existing capacities of developing countries at three levels of individual-based capacity development; group, organisation, network-based capacity development; and societies, governance, and system level capacity development. APN is seeking CAPaBLE proposals from one (1) or more [member/approved countries](#) that address one or more of the following activities in one or more of the [priority topic areas](#):

- **SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES** that promote the following approaches related to one or more of the six thematic areas of APN:
 - Utilising and strengthening existing capacity
 - Creating opportunities to use/instil capacity
 - Developing new capacity through innovative approaches
- **AWARENESS-RAISING AND DISSEMINATION** activities for policy- and decision-making communities, civil society and/or the general public.
- **SCIENCE-POLICY** interfacing in the context of the priority topics.
- **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES** that contribute to the capacity development components of the evolving global change arena, including the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, IPCC, IPBES, post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.
- Activities geared towards using **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION** to disseminate knowledge generated from projects, particularly to non-science audiences.

PRIORITY TOPICS FOR FUNDING

APN's subregional committees establish high-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) *or* scientific capacity development (CAPaBLE) proposals focusing on the following themes for each subregion as indicated below:

Pacific

- 1. Global change and its impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods in the Pacific**
This topic examines global change affecting Pacific ecosystems and livelihoods, with a focus on pollution, fisheries, and food security. It seeks to understand and address challenges while promoting sustainability, environmental resilience and human wellbeing.
- 2. Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, displacement and relocation**
This topic places emphasis on the strengths of global knowledge and indigenous & local knowledge systems. It aims to develop strategies that protect communities from climate impacts, reduce disaster risks, and manage displacement and relocation, to ensure resilience and sustainability in a rapidly changing global landscape.
- 3. Climate variability and change and their impacts in national and regional contexts**
This topic encompasses various aspects, including climate monitoring, projections, and downscaling, as well as utilising remote sensing and earth observations for assessment. Particular focus is given to exploring knowledge and technology transfer for monitoring and anticipating extreme events and to equip the region with insights needed to effectively navigate the complex challenges posed by changing climate patterns.
- 4. Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation for human wellbeing and protection in the Pacific**
This topic places importance on the conservation of biodiversity in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the Pacific region. By doing so, it aims not only to support human wellbeing, but to also ensure the participatory protection, traditional custodianship and sustainability of the region's natural resources and environment.

South Asia

- 1. Climate change adaptation, loss and damage, and the impacts of extreme events**
This topic has a key focus on climate change adaptation, loss and damage, and the impacts of extreme events in a changing climate that addresses (1) region-specific challenges like monsoons and high-altitudinal environmental stability, and (2) climate-smart solutions in urban and rural contexts.
- 2. Future GHG emission scenarios, including decarbonisation pathways**
This topic focuses on future greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenarios, specifically examining decarbonisation pathways within the South Asia region. It aims to project and analyse potential GHG emissions and strategies for reducing carbon emissions in the context of South Asian countries.
- 3. Integrated urban waste management for sustainable development**
This topic focuses on integrated urban waste management, combining waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable practices to promote sustainable urban development, address urbanisation challenges, mitigate climate change, and promote resilient and sustainable urban development.
- 4. Enhancing urban and rural water security in South Asia in the face of Global Change**
This topic addresses South Asia's water security challenges in the face of global change, considering urban and rural needs, climate change, and shifting precipitation patterns. It aims to enhance water resilience and access while mitigating the impacts of global change
- 5. Ecosystem resilience: Addressing climate change and ecosystem services through promotion of ecosystem-based adaptation**
This topic focuses on addressing the impacts of climate change by promoting ecosystem-based adaptation strategies or technological solutions. It emphasises the critical role of ecosystems in providing valuable services while seeking innovative approaches to strengthen their capacity to withstand environmental challenges and deliver benefits to communities.

Southeast Asia

1. Climate change and climate variability (CC&V) and disaster risk reduction

Topics in this area are particularly focused on innovative strategies that integrate climate change and climate variability (CC&V) adaptation with disaster risk reduction efforts. This integrated approach aims to enhance resilience in countries across Southeast Asia.

2. Transboundary issues (specifically air pollution, marine plastics, marine debris)

This topic on transboundary challenges in Southeast Asia has a key focus on issues of air pollution, marine plastics and marine debris. These complex problems necessitate collaborative regional efforts and the development of innovative solutions to alleviate the region's environmental and societal consequences.

3. Big Earth Data for SDGs

This topic on Big Earth Data is premised on earth science and observation technology innovation to support the evaluation of data gaps in achieving the SDGs in Southeast Asia, with relevance to Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life below Water (SDG 14), and Life on Land (SDG 15). Focus is given to the development of data products, and new evaluation methodologies and models to monitor SDG progress and inform policymaking at local, national and regional scales.

4. Bio-circular green economy (BCG) and circular ecological economy (CEE)

This topic is centred around resource efficiency, ecosystem restoration, waste and pollution reduction, and sustainability. This approach prioritises responsible resource utilisation, revitalization of ecosystems, minimising waste and mitigating pollution, seeking to promote sustainable post-pandemic growth by preserving natural resources and fostering ecological and economic resilience.

5. Achieving SDGs in the face of a changing climate: Food, water and energy security

This topic addresses the critical aspects of food, water and energy security in the context of climate change. It examines the interconnectedness of these elements within the food-water-energy nexus, with a focus on their contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goals 2, 6, and 7.

Temperate East Asia

1. Nature-based solutions for climate resilience and ecosystems restoration

This topic places a strong emphasis on nature-based solutions for enhancing climate resilience and tackling biodiversity loss. Aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework, it highlights the essential role of nature-based solutions in enhancing climate resilience and reducing disaster risk, promoting climate-smart practices, restoring ecosystems and preventing further biodiversity loss.

2. Climate extremes, carbon neutral societies, and alternative energy production

This topic addresses climate extremes in Temperate East Asia, encompassing the seasonal variability of energy consumption patterns. It focuses on understanding and mitigating the effects of extreme climate conditions on energy demand while exploring alternative energy production methods. Additionally, it promotes the transition to a carbon-neutral society, aiming to enhance sustainability and resilience within the region.

3. Big Earth Data for global change

This topic on Big Earth Data is premised on earth science and observation technology innovation to support new earth observation methodologies in the subregion of Temperate East Asia with the purpose of contributing to SDGs 11, 13, 14 and 15, and informing policymaking at local, national and regional scales.

4. Knowledge innovation for sustainable resource management

This topic focuses on knowledge innovation for sustainable resource management that addresses issues around waste, water security and marine pollution. The topic seeks to advance innovative practices, technology and insights to responsibly use resources and mitigate the impacts of global change.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Researchers, academics, practitioners working in institutions based in [APN member countries and approved countries](#) are eligible to apply for APN grants. Details of eligibility criteria are outlined in the CRRP and CAPaBLE Guide for Proponents (accessible through the APNIS system).

Special consideration

APN reiterates the importance of enhancing support to, and engagement of, early-career professionals (ECPs) in the Asia-Pacific region by providing a platform for ECPs to utilise their knowledge and innovative ideas to address regional issues related to global change and sustainability. Therefore, APN encourages applications from ECPs. Proposals submitted by ECPs that fulfil the [eligibility criteria](#), or involve an ECP-majority project team, will receive particular attention.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

APN has limited funds available, and thus, it's important to recognise that APN does **not** provide support for:

- The running costs of institutions;
- The salaries of administrative staff; the salaries of researchers who receive or are to receive full-time salary support;
- The salaries of consultants (project leaders and collaborators should have the expertise to conduct the activities);
- The maintenance of long-term observation and monitoring systems; and
- General-purpose equipment such as personal computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets or fixed office structures (desks, chairs, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Instructions on the applications for CRRP and CAPaBLE calls are set out in separate guidelines (available in the APNIS system) providing detailed information of the two independent calls and the criteria used in the review. Proponents should also read [APN's Fifth Strategic Plan](#) that reflects the APN's Action Agenda (which includes its research, capacity development and science-policy agendas) in its 5th Strategic Phase from 2020-2026.

The submission and review process consists of 4 main stages:

Stage 1: Registration on the [APNIS system](#) and submission of an online Summary Proposal for CRRP or CAPaBLE (not both). The Stage 1 proposal will be evaluated accordingly in an internal and external [review process](#).

Stage 2: Submission (*by invitation only*) of a Full Proposal and compulsory appendices, including a response to review feedback at Stage 1. The Stage 2 proposal and appendices will be evaluated accordingly in an internal and external review process.

Stage 3: Final decision-making and announcement of results.

Stage 4: Project commencement for successful proponents.

REMINDERS

The following deadlines must be observed:

Stage 1. Submission of **Summary Proposal** ([online submission for CRRP and CAPaBLE](#)): **Sunday, 10 December 2023, midnight (24:00) – Japanese Standard Time.**

Stage 2. Submission of **Full Proposal and compulsory appendices** ([online submission for CRRP and CAPaBLE](#)) by successful Stage 1 Proponents (**by invitation only**): **Sunday, 31 March 2024, midnight (24:00) – Japanese Standard Time.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information for Applicants	Potential applicants can visit Frequently Asked Questions , which has extensive information on APN's Funding Opportunities.	Available Year-Round
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Please do not contact the Secretariat directly.

TIMELINE

The call for proposals launch is 10 November 2023.

Stages	Action	Dates of deadlines and announcements
Stage 1: Online submission & review of Summary Proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register or login to your account on the APNIS system at https://www.apn-gcr.org/apnis/login 2. Submit your online Summary Proposal via your APNIS account 	Deadline: Sunday, 10 December 2023
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Preliminary screening process and notification of results. 4. Review Stage Summary proposals are reviewed. 5. Results announcement Proponents who pass Stage 1 are invited to submit a full proposal (refer to Stage 2 below). 	Announcement of results: Early March 2024
Stage 2: Online submission & review of Full Proposal By INVITATION Only	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Review Stage Full proposals and appendices are reviewed. 	Deadline: Sunday, 31 March 2024
Stage 3: Decision-making and announcement of results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2024
Stage 4: Project commencement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Projects commence on 1 October, 2024 	1 October 2024