CALL FOR MICRO GRANTS

NOVEMBER 2021
**What is the opportunity?**

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) invites applications for micro grants to explore burning adaptation issues facing developing countries that knowledge and research can help solve. The micro grants will serve as the first step in a co-creation process to surface needs / research to action opportunities relating to a specific burning issue. Through these micro-grants we hope to gain a greater understanding of the knowledge needs for action, particularly the role of collaboration between knowledge and action that can lead to co-developed solutions. The outputs from the micro-grants could feed into a number of different ARA workstreams, for example evidence reviews, consultative processes and a soon to be initiated Co-creation space. In the application form, submitters are asked to indicate a burning issue that needs addressing and outline a process for how this burning issue or need would be scoped and potential knowledge to action opportunities identified.

Successful applicants will be given the opportunity to co-develop their ideas with key stakeholders in early 2022. ARA will provide **up to thirty micro-grants, of GBP 10,000** to run a co-creation process on the burning issue with key stakeholders which should include a range of actors for example; affected communities, government, researchers, non-governmental or civil society organisations, intermediaries or knowledge brokers. The micro grant can pay for time of attendees/organisers/ facilitators and if co-creation activities are done in person expenses for catering, in-country transport, workshop stationary and venue (if not available in kind).

A virtual learning and sharing workshop will be held in January 2022 to help all grantees in the planning of their co-creation process. The workshop will be repeated to accommodate different time zones. This will include:

- sharing expectations for the micro grants,
- refining original concepts to ensure action-oriented and transdisciplinary lenses are used as needed,
- capacity development activities on co-creation/co-production techniques and
- facilitation of network development and encouraging peer-to-peer exchange.

Grantees will then conduct their own co-creation process in February and March 2022 to identify burning issue and key possible actions for adaptation solutions in their country and/or region. Grantees will need to complete a form providing feedback on their process and should budget half a day for completing this form.
Emergent ideas and potential actions from each co-creation process will be shared at one of three virtual, regional ARA workshops (for Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America/Caribbean) to be held in March 2022. While there is no commitment for follow-on funding at this stage, we fully expect that the output from these consultations on burning issues will 1) inform ARA workstreams, 2) could be marketed by the ARA to funders at March regional workshops 3) potentially be funded by ARA as part of prioritised next steps activities.

This call for concept notes opens on 12 November and all applications must be received by **15 December 2021.**

**Background: The ARA**

The ARA is a global collaborative effort with over 100 members that seeks to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research that supports effective adaptation to climate change – primarily in developing countries – at the scale and urgency demanded by the science.

The ARA focuses on ensuring that increased ambition can be delivered through evidence-based action and recognising that practical action is required to minimize and avert loss and damage. We need a step-change on adaptation, collaborating with governments, business, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to prepare for climate risks, mobilise further action, and increase adaptation financing.

The ARA’s **Theory of Change** has the following **intended impacts:**

- Enabling more effective adaptation and resilience actions that reduce climate risks to achieving societal goals in both developed and developing countries, particularly for the most vulnerable people, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, and other marginalised groups;
- Facilitating access to climate finance for adaptation through a stronger, more tailored, evidence base that also improves our understanding of what works;
- Increasing capacity in developing countries to do and use research to develop local adaptation and resilience solutions.

In carrying out its activities under each of the strategic functions, the ARA will adhere to **four core values:**

1. The ARA is an **inclusive, open and transparent** coalition of interested organisations.

2. The ARA **promotes Southern leadership** through its activities and ensure that its programmes and activities empower Southern researchers and institutions, building long-term human and institutional capacity and helping address existing informational, structural and power imbalances.
3. The ARA ensures its activities follow the mantra “think big and think long term”.

4. The ARA champions the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion especially in the conceptualisation and implementation of all ARA activities. These considerations will be shaped by relevant local or regional contexts.

More information on the ARA can be found on the website and in the ARA Concept note.

Application process

Applicants must complete the application form and submit it before **15 December at 17h00** (South Africa time) to ara@southsouthnorth.org. Please complete all sections of the application within the specified word limits.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the end of December 2021 and contracts should be in place by mid January.

Initial clarification questions can be sent to ara@southsouthnorth.org by 19 November 2021. Clarifications will be provided by no later than 13 December 2021.

If you would like to receive a collated list of all clarifications please inform us via email.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must comply with the following basic eligibility criteria below to be considered by the review panel:

- ARA membership is encouraged (but not mandated). Organizations submitting concept notes are encouraged to become ARA members by the time of submission.
- Proposal lead must be based in-country/region facing the burning issue.
- Proposals should ideally be led by non-research organisations in the global South and must involve a minimum of one of each: research institution, intermediary/boundary organisation (those who connect bridge between research and users), research end-user.
- Micro-grant activities must be completed by 13th March 2022 and must present their insights from activities held to regional workshop in March 2022 (tentatively planned for the third and/or fourth week of March).
- The total value of the micro-grant should be GBP 10,000 and applications whose budget is over GBP 10,000 will not be considered.
- Proposals can be submitted in the following languages: English, French or Spanish.
**Selection criteria**

The selection of concepts will be done using the following criteria:

- In the interest of engaging a wide distribution of grantees, the ARA is looking for a broad geographic spread.
- New collaborations will be viewed favourably.
- Organisations from LDCs will be prioritised.
- Rates for staff must be competitive.
- Burning issues must respond to specific needs and / or expressed demands of stakeholders, including but not limited to affected communities and government.
- Burning issues should require action to solve, not just research.
- Gender and equity considerations must be made explicit to show how these will be addressed across the proposed activities and processes in the proposed concept.
- The gender balance of project team will be considered and applicants are encouraged to have a female-male gender balance, including equal representation of women in leadership roles.

**Next steps**

ARA will review all applications and aims to inform successful applicants by the end of December 2021. Contracts will be drawn up in early 2022. Given the scale of the micro grants only two payments will be made in February and March 2022.

The learning and sharing session will be held in January 2022 to help grantees in the planning of their co-creation process.

All grantees will share their burning issues or emergent ideas from each co-creation process at one of three virtual, regional ARA workshops (for Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America/Caribbean) to be held in March 2022.

Final outputs will take the form of a short report or proposal for further funding while also reflecting on learning from the co-creation processes. This output should identify these ‘burning issues’ and sketch out potential routes to solutions – including the key actors and stakeholders required. The exact format will be determined after evaluating the proposals by the ARA Secretariat based on the scope of proposals received.

While there is no commitment for follow-on funding at this stage, opportunities for building on outputs are expected as follows:

1) A small selection of grantees (determined by an ARA panel) may be awarded the opportunity to further develop their output in terms of going from need identification to solution scoping / design (dependent on funding available). The outputs would then be absorbed into the next formal ARA consultative process or co-creation space activities.

2) Opportunities to showcase outputs to potential funders via the appropriate ARA mechanism.