



Adaptation Research Alliance

Nature-based Solutions Scoping Programme

Duration

November 25th - March 30th

Title

Management and facilitation of programme scoping process

Background to activities

The ARA (Adaptation Research Alliance) is a global collaborative effort with over 150 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 operates within three strategic functions (Advocacy, Research Planning and Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation and Delivery) and four core values, which are operationalised through activities which enable its [Theory of Change](#).

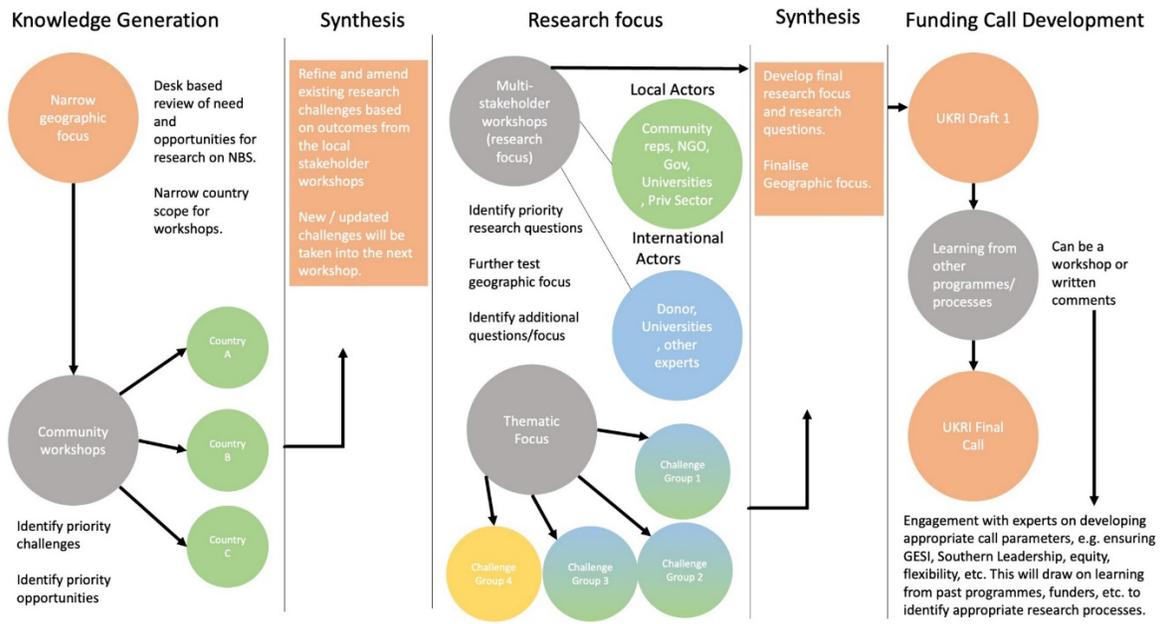
One of these activities includes support for a scoping process of a potential UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) joint research programme on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for equitable climate resilience, using co-creation.

NbS have the potential to mitigate many of the risks we face as a result of climate induced change e.g. reducing flood peaks, storing water, protecting biodiversity and enhancing soil (and food) security. There is currently a need to better understand the limits of NbS interventions, what constitutes good practice and how they address risk, equity and prevent trade-offs. There are also notable financial and governance challenges involved in implementing NbS at scale, demonstrating the need for further research. Eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals have targets related to environmental sustainability and the role of the environment in supporting economic growth and societal wellbeing, demonstrating the potential wide-ranging benefits of NbS.

A lack of knowledge and evidence about the suitability and feasibility of NbS in different global contexts is a major barrier to uptake by Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). UKRI-NERC are aiming to address this gap by supporting the world-leading interdisciplinary research needed to understand how NbS can increase resilience to climate-associated risks and be mainstreamed into transformative agendas towards more equitable and sustainable development.

Objective

The ARA is looking for an organisation to **manage the design and delivery of a co-creation process** that brings in relevant, local knowledge and voices to inform the strategic and scientific direction of a possible action-oriented research funding programme. An overview of a generalised co-creation process is outlined below. However, the ARA is looking for an organisation to **build on this proposed process to further refine the activities as well as develop and deliver the workshops** in collaboration with the ARA Secretariat and UKRI. As such, the ARA is looking for an organisation with **experience in designing and running co-creation processes**, has **expertise in NbS** and **strong facilitation skills**.



- Knowledge Generation: This phase is expected to bring in the context and voices of local stakeholders (Community representatives, NGO, Government agencies, Universities, Private Sector) where the research will ultimately drive impact. The intention for the community workshops is to **identify local challenges and opportunities around NbS** which can then be prioritised for inclusion in the research programme
- Synthesis stage 1: This phase is expected to refine and amend the existing research challenges and questions (currently outlined in a draft UKRI internal concept note) based on outcomes from the local stakeholder workshops. The chosen supplier will work closely with an appointed expert on NbS to feed into the synthesis.
- Research Focus: This phase is expected to **identify priority research questions** (from the combined and/or prioritised list during the community engagement), further test/narrow the geographic focus, and consider the design of the research programme. The audience for these workshops could include local and national stakeholders (Community representatives, NGO, Government agencies, Universities, Private Sector) as well as international stakeholders (Funders, Universities, other experts). The multi-stakeholder workshops are expected to have a thematic focus based on the “research challenge grouping” initially identified by UKRI and informed by the community engagement.
- Synthesis stage 2: This phase is expected to develop the final scope for the research programme, including a finalised set of research questions and a

clear geographic focus. There may also be elements of programme design to feed into the final call drafting stage. The chosen supplier will work closely with an appointed expert on NbS to feed into the synthesis.

- Funding Call Development: This phase will be led by UKRI in parallel to the co-creation process, with input from the chosen supplier and other experts, funders or interested parties, drawing upon comments made in relation to programme design during the workshops.

Activities

It is expected that the supplier will engage with the ARA Secretariat and UKRI to refine and realise a co-creation process to feed into the NbS programme scoping. Once the process is agreed, the supplier is expected to design, prepare and deliver the individual online workshops, including facilitation. Back-end logistics for the workshops will be managed by the supplier, while the ARA Secretariat will draw on membership for participation in the workshops.

Synthesis activities will be led by a UKRI appointed expert and it is expected that the supplier collaborates with the expert to feed in knowledge from the workshops as well as from their technical experience where relevant. The supplier will work closely with the UKRI appointed expert to deliver written reports presenting the outcomes and knowledge generated from the workshops. The supplier will also work closely with the UKRI appointed expert to identify potential scope and research questions that could inform a new programme on NbS.

The supplier will be required to lead on management decisions for the style and focus of workshops (in collaboration with UKRI and ARA).

Deliverables and outputs

- A co-creation plan for identifying the challenges, opportunities and research questions that can be used to influence the scope of a potential NbS programme.
- Design of workshops programme, including participatory methodologies.
- Preparation of workshop materials for facilitators and participants.
- Facilitation of workshops.
- Contribute towards the synthesis that draws knowledge from one workshop to the next.

- A report outlining the outcomes of the workshops that can be used to inform the scope of a new NbS programme.

The ARA Secretariat in conjunction with the ARA members, will support the supplier to identify potential stakeholders for the workshops, and will manage communications that promote participation at the events.

Reporting Requirements

Short, weekly meetings will be held with ARA Secretariat team member, Julio Araujo, to update on progress and challenges. This will include the kick-off meeting in early December with UKRI. Communication will also take place on an ad hoc basis via email, Skype and Zoom.

Timeline

	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
UKRI engagement & scoping					
Co-creation process design					
Workshop design					
Workshop delivery					
Knowledge synthesis					
Final Report					

Budget, Personnel and Payment Schedule

The total budget from the ARA for personnel and overhead costs is **30,000.00 GBP**, which will be paid 50% on signature and 50% on completion of the report. Payment will be paid for completed output and not for total days.

Application and eligibility requirements

The supplier(s) should submit a proposal of how they plan to engage and facilitate relevant stakeholders in a co-creation process to identify issues and solutions that can be addressed by the potential NbS programme. This should include a plan for the development of workshops and integration of knowledge from one workshop to the next.

Networks that can be drawn on by the supplier to take part in the co-creation process will be viewed favorably.

All work will be remote and online.

Supplier(s) based in the global South will be favoured.

The application should provide:

1. A budget including an overview of financial resource use
2. A methodology for approaching this piece of work,
 - including details for the design of workshops in each phase (knowledge generation to funding call development) and how knowledge will be transferred between phases.
 - approach for knowledge synthesis
 - a list of networks that the supplier can draw on.
3. Risk and mitigation assessment. Identification of key process risks or issues to the successful completion of the project and how these risks or issues will be mitigated
4. Track record of the organisation and individual(s) leading the project, in particular;
 - experience of multi-stakeholder consultation/co-production
 - relevant expertise in for nature-based solutions, in the context of international development and equitable climate resilience
5. CVs of the executing personnel, including name(s) and profile(s) of the key personnel involved in delivery and a brief summary of their role on the project.

These should all be provided in one PDF file. The application should demonstrate an awareness of the complexities of co-creation and facilitation and ways of approaching the challenges of online transdisciplinary engagements.

Please submit your application to ara@southsouthnorth.org no later than **November 18th 2022**.