

Maximising UK Adaptation to Climate Change Hub

Webinar Frequently Asked Questions

Call Scope

Q1 Can the Hub focus on behaviour change or actions and agendas related to Net Zero?

A Two elements to this question. (1) Behaviour change – very much in scope. We expect the hub to bring together expertise across a broad range of interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research that is relevant to climate adaptation. We strongly encourage all social science disciplines within this. (2) Focus of the hub – is adaptation. However expect the hub to take a whole systems view when developing evidence and proposing adaptation solutions. So also considering in context of delivering on commitments around the environment and net zero. We're also looking across other relevant UKRI hubs such as LUNZ to make sure we're complimentary

Q2 Are there opportunities for social scientists/psychologists to contribute?

A Yes, we strongly welcome transdisciplinary bids for the hub, and strongly encourage all social science disciplines within this. Social science are key for example in (1) co-production and co-development with stakeholders; (2) thinking about how to embed adaptation at all levels across govt and society; (3) understanding co-benefits and trade-offs, unintended consequences of different solutions - economic and social; and (4) understanding incentives and how adaptation measures could be practically scaled up.

Q3 To what extent is social adaptation part of this call?

A This is within scope. The aim of the Hub is to provide evidence around how to increase the resilience of people, ecosystems and infrastructure in the UK to cascading climate impacts. We strongly welcome transdisciplinary bids, and strongly encourage all social science disciplines as part of this.

Q4 Is UK adaptation to international climate risks in scope? Is it possible to have research focussed not in the UK? What scope is there for international comparator research?

A The Hub will be expected to focus on the resilience of people, ecosystems and infrastructure in the UK to cascading climate impacts. Looking at international climate risks and how they impact the UK would be in scope, but there should not be a significant focus on countries outside the UK.

Q5 Is UKRI looking for single transdisciplinary bids or multiple bids that can be combined forming the hub?

A The funders will award a single grant therefore applications should be transdisciplinary in nature.

Q6 How will this initiative be used to address the research and KE issues identified by the CCRA?

A The Hub (and subsequent research themes) are unlikely to address all research gaps identified in CCRA3 (and CCRA4 has it's own research programme for the independent assessment, to begin shortly). But this Hub will seek to provide knowledge exchange through community building and better integration of data, with bespoke research focussed on enabling adaptation (not furthering risk assessment).

Q7 Will the call be prioritising Nature Based Solutions for adaptation?

A The funders have not prioritised any particular type of solution, the Hub will be expected to develop place-based adaptation solutions that can be scaled up across the UK

Q8 Who are the intended customers of the hub?

A Given the focus on real-world policy impact of the programme, government departments and adaptation practitioners will be the main customers of the Hub. But there will be interest from an audience of relevant stakeholders beyond that - local communities, academics and the public included.

Q9 BBSRC aren't one of the funders listed on the call webpage. Will research within BBSRC's remit be considered within scope?

A Yes, it's in scope as they are members of the UKRI themes contributing but projects must include remits from the contributing councils.

Q10 Please can you expand on 'economic geographies' across the UK, in terms of preferred regional spread of grants?

A The hub should take a national approach and where possible include devolved nations and a broad spread across the UK.

Q11 Do you envisage the hub to include areas dedicated to specific geographies, for example thinking in particular of specific hub areas focused on climate adaptation for communities in coastal regions, given their unique characteristics and their exposure to very specific climatic risks, or do you think that might not be necessarily required.

A It is for your project to decide what is most appropriate.

Q12 To what extent do you expect the Hub to be based within a single institution? Are cross-institutional collaborations to be encouraged?

A The funders welcome cross-institutional collaborations.

Q13 What balance is envisioned between new research, evidence synthesis and impact work with stakeholders?

A We would welcome proposals on balance between all 3. Real-world policy impact is a requirement, however, so there will need to be a focus on impacts, whether within the research itself or through communication and engagement activities.

Q14 What are the expected outcomes of the Hub over the timescale of NAP3 (i.e. 2028)?

A Outcomes for the Hub should align with the 4 objectives set out in the presentation: integrating knowledge, engaging stakeholders, developing capacity and ensuring cohesion. Although we gave examples of what these activities could look like, we are not prescriptive on how they should be delivered.

Q15 The call mentions funding for "data and information". What types of data does UKRI have in mind? To what extent will we be able to contribute data to the hub?

A Three main areas of interest:

1. integration of new and existing vulnerability and exposure evidence from multiple sources to enhance climate impact assessments and improve decision-making in the face of uncertainty
2. development, testing and implementation of place-based tools and methods for adaptation, including co-benefits and trade-offs of different adaptation solutions
3. understanding adaptation costs, including the costs of maladaptation, and defining spend to inform public and private adaptation action and finance

Q16 How will practitioners be involved in the hub, and how will lived experience be valued alongside scientific evidence?

A The climate change adaptation hub should convene a transdisciplinary team of academics, policymakers, external practitioners and other relevant stakeholders.

We very much encourage applicants to co-produce and co-lead proposals with stakeholders, including the adaptation practitioner community. Looking to mobilise a community with relevant expertise that builds on previous knowledge and investment, along with lived experience of climate change, to embed climate adaptation at all levels of government and across society.

Q17 Are farmers engaged in any bottom up approach in the design of the Climate Change Hub and have their needs been considered?

A We encourage applicants to build strong links to stakeholders, identifying opportunities for co-production and learning, and ensuring collaboration across disciplines, sectors and through public engagement.

Q18 What are the opportunities for private sector involvement?

A For this funding opportunity, project co-leads may be based at UK businesses, third sector or government organisations. Full eligibility details are given on the [Funding Finder](#). Organisations that are not eligible to be project leads or co-leads may be involved as:

- project partners: will not receive funding directly but will have an integral role in the proposed project.
- subcontractors: if providing a service only

Q19 Is the aim of the hub to support the development of Climate Change adaptation plan or implementation of such a plan?

A One of the objectives of the hub will be the collation and communication of evidence to support the implementation of government's National Adaptation Programme, published in July 2023.

Q20 Is there a requirement for the lead PI to have traction with a particular Research Council? Equally, is there a requirement for the primary focus of the application to be within the remit of a particular research council?

A This UKRI funding opportunity is seeking a diverse hub team that includes researchers and innovators covering a broad range of disciplines across the remits of NERC, AHRC, EPSRC and ESRC and beyond, as well as policymakers, practitioners, industry, public engagement professionals and wider civil society.

Q21 There was some emphasis on being human centred. What about the natural environment - both in its own right and in the context of nature-based solutions?

A It is not for the funders to guide your project. You will need to fit within the scope outlined in the funding opportunity but beyond this it is for you to decide.

Q22 Can I just check if engineering solutions and urban resilience could be included, and whether anyone from EPSRC is on your panel?

A EPSRC is involved in the development and ongoing management of this programme. There will be expertise from the EPSRC remit area represented on the panel.

Q23 Is the call about establishing the hub or providing the scientific evidence for the hub?

A This phase of the programme is about both, establishing a hub to coalesce the skills and expertise needed from across relevant sectors, as well as providing the scientific evidence. This will be through

synthesising relevant research, evidence and impact relating to climate change risk and vulnerability and translating this into information on what works in terms of climate adaptation at the local and national scale.

Q24 Would UKOTs come under the same lens as "international" focus or could they be considered within a UK focus?

A The focus for this call is mainland UK, so UKOTs would be considered as having an international focus.

Q25 Are there any specific UN SDGs that are expected to be the focus of the hub?

A This is not for the funders to prescribe for this funding opportunity.

Q26 What is the role of assessing and monitoring the present status of adaptation action? As opposed to improving adaptation in the future.

A This is for the applicants to decide, considering a balance of the current status and future projections.

Q27 To what extent are you looking for specific Work Packages, versus the collection of a group of experts who would be responsive to questions posed by Defra etc?

A It is not for the funders to prescribe the governance of your project for this funding opportunity.

Q28 Will researchers with adaptation research expertise on developing countries will be considered as well (as methods and tools are transferrable across contexts)?

A Yes, we would welcome applications from UK PIs with support from international expertise.

Eligibility

Q29 Are all government departments eligible to apply for any funding through UKRI?

A Please refer to our [Funding Opportunity](#) under section 'Who is eligible to apply' and the supporting [UKRI pages](#).

Q30 Can people who lead on the hub bid for funds for additional research calls (the £10m)?

A Yes, provided you were eligible for this call you would in theory be eligible for future calls. However, you would need to account for the time required to achieve the objectives if you were funded on both calls.

Q31 Will the Hub and research projects cover Scotland too, or only England? I saw no reference to SCCAP2/SCCAP3 in the introduction, only NAP3.

A We welcome applications from any location in the UK.

Q32 What are the requirements to be a project co-lead?

A See the [UKRI page](#) for information on applicant eligibility for UKRI funding.

Funding

Q33 Will there be a set funding split to address targeted directions, e.g. nature-based solutions, decision tools, socioeconomics?

A The Hub will have set aside a budget to fund small projects of their own. These should complement, and not duplicate, what we fund through the second strand of this programme activity.

Q34 Are the £10m projects likely to be a few bigger ones or more small ones (or a range)?

A This will be announced in the research grant call on Funding Finder in due course.

Q35 The funding is for three years. Is there any commitment from DEFRA and UKRI to a sustained investment in the hub or does it expect to close after three years?

A It is for you to decide on how the legacy of the project will continue. There are no additional funds available for this purpose, it would need to be budgeted into your proposal.

Q36 Can non-academic partners be funded 100% FEC?

A The funders will fund organisations at 80% Full Economic Cost (FEC) as stated in the [funding opportunity](#) on Funding Finder.

Q37 Is match funding expected?

A No, match funding is not required for this funding opportunity.

Q38 Can funding be requested to cover the costs of community and grass roots organisations (partners) to attend hub workshops and other events?

A Project partners are people who will not receive funding directly from the award but will have an integral role in the proposed project. Minor directly incurred costs, such as some travel costs, are acceptable.

Q39 For the flexible funding. Is there an expectation that this will be an open call type model or can it be utilised to support research for co-leads already connected to the hub?

A The flexible fund must be used at least in part for open competitive research UKRI funding opportunities to support new work and capacity building but could also be used to commission specific activities for early career researchers, for example, or through the research projects that will form part of the wider adaptation programme. The hub should ensure that activities funded through the flexible fund engage with the wider programme of activity. The hub will require sign off from the Programme Advisory Group on the use of the flexible fund and will work in partnership with funders throughout the award to ensure good practice is followed in the assessment and allocation of the flexible fund.

Process

Q40 How are organisations outside the research community to be involved in the scoping and assessment of the hub?

A There were a number of roundtable meetings involving academics, policy makers and those from industry took place during the Summer to inform the scope of the Hub funding opportunity. The assessment of applications will be undertaken by experts spanning the whole breadth of the funding opportunity remit.

Q41 Will Defra be facilitating participation of all government departments? Or is this something we need to do and bring them in as partners when putting a proposal together?

A You are best placed to contact the relevant members as appropriate.

Q42 How will the proposal be reviewed e.g. who are the reviewers and how are they selected?

A It is common practice by Research Council to review applications with established peer review processes. Please refer to 'How we will assess your application' for further details in this programme's funding opportunity.

Q43 How will the diversity of the assessment panel be decided with EDI considerations but also from different types of organisation e.g. business / government / 3rd sector?

A Relevant expertise will be established on the panels in line the applications to ensure a robust and high quality assessment process.

Q44 Will you be helping potential applicants with setting up collaborations, e.g. sharing the details of interested parties, or through matchmaking between applications following the Notifications of Intent?

A Attendees who consented to their details being shared for networking purposes following the webinar have had this circulated. It is for the community to self-organise to build your consortia.

Q45 Do we need expressions of support at the Nol stage from non-academic co leads?

A No, there is no requirement for evidence at the Nol stage only a submission of basic details via the form.

Q46 Can you add additional co-leads after the Nol stage?

A Yes, nothing provided as part of the Nol step is considered finalised, therefore additional partners and investigators may be added at a later stage, and the proposal may change significantly as further details are prepared.

Q47 There is no Demand Management (DM) at Nol stage. But if UKRI receive a very high number of proposals, is there any chance DM might be introduced for the proposal stage?

A Demand Management will not be imposed by the funders once the funding opportunity has closed.

Met Office Questions

Q48 What type of activities can MO support?

A The Met Office have provided the following details of the capabilities and experience they would be able to contribute to the climate change adaptation hub:

- Knowledge integration and synthesis for policy
- Experience of developing the early stages of a potential national framework for climate services
- Applied science capability to address NAP3 risks in many sectors
- Access to networks of users and practitioners with interests in risk and resilience
- Climate attribution and monitoring data and knowledge
- Experience of delivering and applying national climate scenarios (such as UKCP)
- Climate communications

Please note that any activities included within your hub application that require Met Office support should be costed within the maximum amount of £5 million allowable for the Hub. Requested Met Office support for these activities cannot exceed £500,000. Please note that it is not mandatory for applicants to include plans to work with the Met Office within their hub proposal.

Q49 Is there a lead contact at the Met Office to have those discussions about their involvement?

A Following the assessment process there will be an opportunity for the successful hub to liaise with Met Office directly (if they have indicated within their proposal that they would like Met Office support with particular hub activities) to ensure that the costs included are reasonable and appropriate. If you have further questions, please contact UKRI on ukclimateadaptation@nerc.ukri.org and not the Met Office directly. UKRI will ensure that all questions are answered by the Met Office and as well as email responses, a full set of questions and answers will be available on the UKRI website. The webinar on the 1 November 2023 is a good opportunity to listen to questions answered by the Met Office.

Q50 Do we need to have co-produced the Met Office's involvement in the proposal or do we just indicate how we would like them involved?

A This programme has been co-designed with the Met Office. As a result, the Met Office cannot take part in discussions with potential applicants or help to shape proposals at the outset. They will however be able to work with the successful bidder by supporting additional activities up to the value of £500,000 over 3 years. Applicants may wish to indicate within their proposals what type of activity or support they would like the Met Office to provide if successful.

Other Questions

Q51 Does this activity link with wider UKRI activities?

A This programme will integrate the aspirations of two cross-UKRI Themes (Building a Green Future and Building a Secure and Resilient World). It will complement other activities funded under these themes including:

- The Resilient UK coastal communities and seas programme: understanding the resilience of UK coastal seas, coastal communities, and the natural capital these areas support.
- The Centre in Climate Change and Health: a world-leading centre of excellence carrying out interdisciplinary, cutting-edge, and impactful research to address major challenges at the interface of climate and health research.
- The Centre in sustainable and equitable low carbon living: enabling UK decision makers to identify the most cost-effective and socially feasible options for transitioning to low-carbon living and adapting to wider environmental change and biodiversity challenges.
- The Transforming land use for net zero, nature and people programme: mobilising and supporting research to work in partnership with government and industry to tackle net zero through action in the UK land sectors.

Q52 DESNZ has expressed a desire to collaborate. Can we assume that other Government departments are also interested to do this?

A It is not for the funders to know the intention of other government departments. You would be best placed to contact them directly.

Q53 Given the government have already published NAP3 and set out their planned actions until 2028, what is the expectation and interest in government for this hub to influence NAP3 on this timeframe?

A It is not for the government or funders to prescribe but for the projects to see what is most appropriate at this time with the given funds.

Q54 Will this programme include an independent evaluation?

A The funders will conduct proportionate activities for the programme evaluation as appropriate.

Q55 How do you expect the hub to capture and integrate into implementation informal and local knowledge relevant to adaptation?

A This is not for the funders to direct. You would be best placed to see what is most appropriate at this time for this call.

Q56 Are you envisioning 'super hub' applications from teams of universities?

A We are open to all possibilities, however please keep in mind that it will be your community on the panel (not the funders) who will assess your application.

Q57 Is the hub really a research centre with a high emphasis on co-creation with external partners (water, health sectors etc) OR more of a Hub with the explicit aim of networking, translating existing science to policy etc.?

A The hub's main role is to coordinate and translate research, it will do this by bringing together a transdisciplinary team of academics, policymakers, and external practitioners to:

- Integrate and exchange knowledge from the programme with projects funded externally
- Ensure findings from research grants funded through the programme are aligned with policy needs
- Grow the community and build strong links with relevant stakeholders
- Develop capacity by providing rapid responsive research to urgent policy questions
- Ensure cohesion across the programme

Q58 Is the Hub expected to integrate in any way with the UKCIP (UK Climate Impacts Programme)?

A It is not compulsory and for you to decide what is most appropriate.

Q58 What kind of outcomes would you expect to see as a result of the hub delivering well? For example on economics and financing, are you envisaging more public institutions with investment plans for adaptation? Or on skills. do you have any particular types of skills you want to see (e.g. Decision Making Under Uncertainty)?

A There are a number of possible successful outcomes and your suggestions are possible options.

Q59 Is this connected to Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change and the Resilient Hub? And can project partners include national charity organisations such as Sniffer, Climate X Change, Cadw, etc?

This funding opportunity has been co-designed by UKRI, Defra, the Met Office and the Climate Change Committee. The programme will address challenges identified in the latest Climate Change Committee National adaptation progress report around:

- driving reductions in exposure and vulnerability to climate risks
- increasing resilience of people, ecosystems and infrastructure to cascading climate impacts
- understanding risks to the UK economy from climate change outside of the UK

Project partners can include a range of organisations, please see the [NERC RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS HANDBOOK](#) for more information.

Q60 What is the expected number and size of the programme projects that the hub will coordinate?

A The projects funded in the research grant call 2 may be variable in size and unknown in number at this stage. It would be for you, if successful as the hub lead, to design and deliver what is most appropriate.

We would anticipate you to be flexible to this when the awards are shared with the community early next year (2024).

Q61 Will the Hub be involved in shaping the direction of the £10M research grant programme to help with alignment?

A No, the funders will be scoping and launching the research grant call before the hub has been awarded funding in 2024.

Q62 When will the call for the following grants (worth £10m) be announced?

A It is anticipated the research grant call will be announced in Spring/Summer 2024.