Funding

1. Are there any specific requirements about the proportion of funding required to go to the SE Asian partners?

   There are no specific guidelines for this. It is up to the Project Lead and Lead Research Organisation to decide on what is more appropriate. We are looking for equitable partnerships and all funds will need to be justified.

2. What is the maximum amount of research costs that can be allocated to international partners?

   There is no maximum, it is up to the Project Lead and Lead Research Organisation to decide on what is more appropriate. We are looking for equitable partnerships and all funds will need to be justified.

3. You mentioned that overseas organisations will be funded 100% of fEC, but the guidance states "a contribution towards Indirect and Estates costs at overseas organisation should be calculated as 20% of the overseas research organisation's Directly Incurred costs". Please could you clarify.

   Up to 20% of the direct costs can be claimed as indirect costs by the eligible SE Asia Co-Lead if required.

4. For the proposed funding at 80% fEC, could we justify the additional 20% FEC as staff salary as well as other indirect cost, such as utilities and office space?

   We will only fund UK institutions at 80% fEC.

5. Are SE Asia partners funded at 100% FTE?

   Yes, eligible SE Asia partners can be at 100% FTE, all costs must be justified.

6. Can you explain more about the not direct funding? if we as a company have a collaboration with UK university is it already eligible?

   Companies can come in as a project partner (contributing their own costs) or subcontractor, but will need to follow BBSRCs collaboration guidelines: Collaborations – BBSRC – UKRI

7. How does the budget transfer procedure unfold upon receiving approval?

   Please liaise with the Research office within your institution and the Project Lead organisation for more clarification on the budget transfer procedure.

Remit/Scope

8. The call states that PI's primary discipline has to be in BBSRC/NERC remit. How is this defined?

This means that all projects should include significant bioscience and natural science research components, and PL's primary disciplinary expertise should be in bioscience or natural science remit. Information on BBSRC remit can be found here: [Remit, programmes and priorities – BBSRC – UKRI](). Information on NERC remit can be found here: [Remit, programmes and priorities – NERC – UKRI]().

9. My question is about the inclusion of welfare as a topic and how relevant is it for this call?

   Welfare is in the scope of this call. It is worth noting that all research projects must cover both themes.

10. In terms of scope, do you consider all types of aquaculture equally relevant for this funding opportunity, including for example coastal, inland and offshore aquaculture; fed and unfed aquaculture; and (within fed aquaculture) bivalves and seaweed?

    All aquaculture is in the scope of this call, the main aim is to promote and specifically target the economic development and welfare in the eligible SE Asia country/countries. Country specific priorities have been provided and it is up to the applicants to justify the rationale for their chosen subject.

11. Is there any additional guidance you could give on the preferred research methodologies for this funding opportunity?

    It is up to applicants to decide on and justify the research methodologies that they chose to use.

Themes

12. The funding announcement says, "projects should contribute to both of the following themes". Is it preferable that projects focus on a particular sub-theme (e.g. citizen science) but also touch on the other sub-themes, or would it be advantageous to create holistic projects that cover as many sub-themes as possible?
    It is up to applicants how they would want to address the themes. We ask that projects contribute to both themes, but it is up to researchers to design the study and justify the need for the approach taken.

Priority Areas

13. How tightly do you expect proposal to adhere to the country specific priority areas?

    The list of country-specific priority areas is offered in good faith and not meant to be exhaustive. Areas of importance related to aquaculture outside the priority areas but that fit within the two main themes of the call are within remit. It is important that applicants justify the need for their project and the benefit this will have locally in the Co-Lead SE Asia country.

14. How much does the species of interest and a priority area play a role in the evaluation process? For example, if SE Asia team from Thailand proposed to do work on catfish, would this automatically get a lower priority/score because it is neither the species of interest nor a priority area?

The proposals will be evaluated by a panel of experts. It is important that applicants justify the need for their project and the benefit this will have locally in the Co-Lead SE Asia country. Please refer to the Assessment Criteria in the "How to Apply" section of the call announcement: [Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia – UKRI](#)

Notification of Intent

15. What is the value of the NOI form?

    NOI are for BBSRC and NERC to assess demand for the call and aid in developing our panel of experts.

16. After the NOI submission, will the UKRI granting committee contact the research team whose NOI are of interest to continue with the application process while others that does not fit the criteria will not be contacted? Or would we not be notified until the end of the application process?

    You will not be contacted to confirm your NOI submission. Once you have submitted your NOI, please carry on with the full application process.

17. Can a new partner be added to the consortium after the NoI?

    Yes

18. It is not possible to proceed to pages 2 and 3 in the survey without first filling in the required questions in page 1. Could you provide a document with all the questions in the NOI, so that we can see all the information that is needed to complete the NOI?

    Page two asks you to provide an email address and page three confirmation of submission.

19. Do final costs need to be on the NOI form and can costs change after that?

    Final costs do not need to be on the NOI, the main information we need from the NOI is details of the scope of the project and the UK team, this will help with identifying conflicts and building the assessment panel.

20. Is the submission of a Notification of Intention mandatory for co-partners from all countries involved in the proposed collaboration?

    Only the Project Lead in the UK needs to submit the NOI.

Assessment Criteria

21. How do expect proposal assessment to be weighted? i.e. Is innovation more or less important than impact?

    How applications will be assessed is set out in the funding opportunity in the How to apply section under 'Assessment questions' (<u>Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia – UKRI</u>)

22. Does a higher number of SE Asia partners provide a more competitive edge in the grant application review process than the proposal that only contains one SE Asia partner?

    No. We are looking for large, collaborative consortia to be funded through this activity and would encourage multi-country partnerships where possible. Applications will be assessed on scientific merit regardless of the number of partners involved. The panel will be asked to take a portfolio approach and consider the balance of projects across the eligible SE Asian countries when ranking applications to be recommended for funding.

Publications

23. In case that we get funded, can we publish the research results in the peer-reviewed journals given that all members of the research team agreed upon?

    We expect you to follow UKRI's publication guidelines (<u>Publishing your research findings – UKRI</u>). Permission from all teams and individuals involved in the study should be sought before publication and we encourage you to talk with your research offices within your institutions when compiling research outputs.

24. Will the outcomes of the research be restricted between the UK team and their counterpart in the respective countries?

    Your project data management plan should detail how the outcomes of your project should be shared.

Proposal number

25. Is there any maximum number of proposal that we could submit?

    There is no maximum number of proposals, but we are expecting to receive large consortia grants and encourage applicants to work together. If applying on multiple projects, you should ensure you have sufficient capacity available should all applications be successful.

Subcontracts/Partners

26. Can charities in SE Asia be funded if they're not a co-lead?

    Where justified, organisations that are not eligible to receive UKRI funding may join the consortia either as Project Partners (contributing their own costs) or as Subcontractors (claiming direct costs only). Please follow BBSRC guidelines for this: <u>Collaborations – BBSRC – UKRI</u>

27. Do subcontractors also need to provide a letter of support?

   No, subcontractors do not need to provide a letter of support.

28. Can international collaborators/partners outside the UK and SE Asian countries be included in the proposal?

   Yes, they can be included but will not be eligible to receive funding, but may be able to be a subcontractor where justified.

29. Can there be more than one UK partner?

   Yes

30. Can you have partners from more than one of the SE Asian allowed countries?

   Yes

31. Is there an expectation to cover as many SE Asian countries as possible or at least demonstrate that any research outcomes are translatable into neighbouring countries.

   The number of countries represented in the Consortium will not be a part of the assessment criteria. It will be important that your proposal shows scientific excellence, and the main benefit of the research should be within SE Asia. Consideration should be given to the transferability of research and outputs across the SE Asia region especially where the focus of a project is on one beneficiary.

32. Am I correct that you said that having partners in more than SE Asia countries is advantageous?

   The number of partners on a proposal is not an assessment criterion. Proposals will be scored on according to the assessment criteria in the "How to apply" section of the call announcement: Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia – UKRI. The panel will be asked to take a portfolio approach and consider the balance of projects across the eligible SE Asian countries when ranking applications to be recommended for funding. Co-Leads can only be from an eligible SE Asian country.

33. We come from a research institute in an eligible SE Asia country. How can we find a UK partner?

   Please sign up to Guild using the following link: https://link.guild.co/3hVKMbNkW3oGBzvo6 this will allow you to interact with others interested in the BBSRC/NERC Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia research call.

34. Do we need to demonstrate any existing linkage between supply chains e.g industry in the UK and our chosen SE Asian partner countries?

Collaborations do not need to be established in order to apply. However, it is important to look at the assessment criteria before applying, this can be found in the "How to Apply" section of the funding announcement: **Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia – UKRI**

35. Do project partners need to provide an in-kind contribution?

    A project is not required to have any in-kind contributions from project partners.

36. Can project partners take a dual role as a project partner and a subcontractor?

    Check our guidelines Collaborations – BBSRC – UKRI

37. In case there is IP generated during the project, will this belong to the researcher 100%?

    IP should be handled as part of your collaboration agreement between participating organisations. This is something that the participating institutions should work on with their research offices.

Organisations

38. One of the slides mentioned government will not be funded. Does this only apply to the UK, or for all SEA counterparts?

    For UK Project Leads, please check your eligibility as a partner before applying: Eligibility as an organisation – UKRI. International collaborators outside of the eligible SE Asian countries listed in the call guidance, or from government, industry or civil society organisations are not eligible to receive funding and should be included as project partners.

39. Can an Australian organisation co-lead with a valid SE Asian organisation given the lead of a UK-based org?

    No, Australian organisations cannot be funded through this call and therefore would need to be a non-funded partner or a subcontractor. There must be at least one eligible SE Asia country (Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia) as Co-Lead on the proposal.

40. Are all NGOs classified as civil society organisations and therefore can only be non-funded project partners, or can NGOs with relevant regional labs/facilities directly receive funding?

    For UK organisations please check the eligibility guidelines: (Check if you are eligible for research and innovation funding – UKRI). NGOs cannot be SE Asia Co-Leads, in order to be involved in the project they must be a subcontractor or non-funded partner (Collaborations – BBSRC – UKRI). It is up to the Project Lead's Research Organisation to carry out the due diligence checks and determine whether the SE Asia Co-lead organisation fits the description of a Higher Education Organisation.

41. Regarding international organisation eligibility, do we contact you to check if the organisation is equivalent to a UK HEI? Is there a list?

    No, i**t is up to the UK Lead Organisation to carry out due diligence checks on the SE Asia Co-Lead, but they must be equivalent to a UK higher education institution. Guidance on what UKRI accept as HEI can be found here:** [Eligibility as an organisation – UKRI](#)

42. Question from the SE Asia country. If we are not the organization equivalent to higher education, can we still form a team with university and obtain funding, but not being a co-lead?

    No, you cannot receive funding but may be eligible as a subcontractor.

Application Procedure

43. Is there a proposal form available?

    The application form can be found by following the How to Apply section: [Sustainable and Resilient Aquaculture Systems in Southeast Asia – UKRI](#)

44. In the application system, who is responsible for submitting the application - the project lead or the co-project lead?

    The Project Lead must be based in the UK, while the Co-Lead should be from an eligible SE Asia country. The Project Lead are responsible for submitting the NOI and final application.

45. Can a researcher from a SEA country be a project leader if the project is proposed by a SEA researcher?

    No, a researcher from one of the listed SE Asia countries must be the Project Co-Lead on the application. The Project Lead must be based at a UK eligible organisation.

46. How should we proceed with the application if my organization is not listed in the portal?

    Please contact the TFS helpdesk if you are having issues with the online form:
    You can either email: support@funding-service.ukri.org
    Or call the UKRI Funding Service Helpline: +44 (0)1793 547 490