

Scaling up locally led restoration

REDAA Programme Grants: Stage 1 Concept Notes

Guidance for Applicants

May 2024



About the REDAA programme

Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA) is a programme that supports research, innovation and action across sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia for locally led restoration.

For more information about the programme see www.redaa.org or contact: enquiries@redaa.org.



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REDAA is funded by UK International Development from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).



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Introduction

[Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia](#) (REDAA) is a programme that catalyses research, innovation and action on ecological restoration in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia by offering grants and technical support. REDAA funds initiatives that are interdisciplinary, locally led and focused on solutions for ecosystem restoration, enabling people and nature to thrive together in times of climate, resource and fiscal insecurity.

REDAA uses UK government [Overseas Development Assistance](#) (ODA) funds; therefore projects and programmes it supports must promote the economic development and welfare of eligible countries as a primary objective. REDAA funding is also categorised as [International Climate Finance](#) (ICF) and therefore must additionally deliver climate adaptation and/or mitigation objectives.

In this second Grant Call, REDAA invites proposals for locally led, multi-locational research-to-action restoration programmes in specific subregions and environments in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Up to nine Programme Grants of **between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000** (GBP) will be offered to the best proposals for substantial programmes, taking into account the need for a balanced portfolio across geographies, ecosystems and the themes of the call.

Grants will fund programmes of **four years**, with implementation of these programmes expected to begin on **1 February 2025**. Grants will be awarded via a two-stage proposal process: Stage 1 for Concept Notes; followed by Stage 2 for Full Proposals. Only applicants who are successful at Stage 1 will be invited to submit Full Proposals in Stage 2.

This document aims to provide applicants with guidance for their Concept Notes on:

- Subject matter requirements
- Organisational requirements
- Additional options to consider
- The review and selection process.

In addition to this Guidance for Applicants document, applicants should also read the [REDAA Strategy](#) for information about the programme's rationale, aims, approach, main actions and development. We also strongly encourage applicants to read the [scoping studies](#) which have shaped the strategy.

Grant Call 2 timeline

The dates in this timeline may be subject to change. Applicants will be notified of any changes that affect them.

Applicant submission deadlines are highlighted in **bold**.

Step #	Activity/Stage	Dates
1	Stage 1 Concept Note applications open	13 May 2024
2	Stage 1 Concept Note applications close	30 June 2024, 23:59 BST (UTC+1)



CONCEPT NOTES: GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

3	Eligibility screening, review and selection process	1 July – 6 September 2024
4	Successful applicants invited to Stage 2 (Full Proposal)	Early September 2024
5	Stage 2 (Full Proposal) applications open	16 September – 8 November 2024
6	Stage 2 (Full Proposal) applications close	8 November 2024, 23:59 GMT (UTC)
7	Eligibility screening, review and selection process	11 November 2024 – January 2025
8	Final award notifications	Early January 2025
9	Award acceptance and contracting (subject to due diligence checks)	January 2025
10	Programmes start	1 February 2025



Subject matter requirements

Locally led research-to-action

Concept Notes should demonstrate that they are proposing locally led research-to-action programmes supporting Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' efforts to improve their evidence, tools, civic space and governance powers.

Locally led programmes engage residents in their design and implementation, and local leadership is strongly involved. Such programmes are likely to employ and empower women and youth, and show concrete benefits for local communities, emphasising those most often marginalised. They also invest in further developing local leadership strength.

Research-to-action involves both rigorous research and the uptake of research findings to bring about change. It is likely to include the use of research findings in training or improving the capability of people to make positive changes and the use of research findings in developing tools and approaches to improve or influence policy and institutional decision making and practice.

Research conducted or used in the proposed programmes should be designed to improve the evidence base on key ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them, and on how to move from degraded to restored ecosystems. It will pay attention to ecological concerns and also to social, political and economic issues. Applied research approaches may be the most useful — focusing on specific practical problems. Research approaches should be scientific, involving clear research questions and/or hypotheses and systematic observation. These approaches should also be rigorous, involving design, methods and conclusions that are explicit, public, replicable and open to critique, and that minimise bias.

Methods may be quantitative, qualitative or participatory. Research may have been largely conducted prior to the start of a REDAA-supported programme — by the programme team or by others — or may be a central part of the programme. Either way, the Concept Note should demonstrate that the research previously undertaken or proposed has the features described above.

In demonstrating that they are proposing locally led research-to-action programmes, **Concept Notes should therefore outline activities that will:**

- Strengthen local research-to-action capability and leadership of such capability
- Include rigorous research and its translation into effective engagement with, and improvement of, inclusive decision making at policy level

Integrated activities for positive outcomes for nature, climate and people

Concept Notes should demonstrate that they are proposing positive and integrated activities for nature, climate and people.

Climate change and nature loss have many negative impacts on people: food and water insecurity, pandemics, conflict and instability, supply chain vulnerability, economic shocks, reversals in development gains, and displacement of people spatially, economically and socially. Most of these impacts on people disproportionately affect marginalised groups.



An integrated approach is needed. As well as having impacts on people, climate change and nature loss also damage the functioning and resilience of natural and climate systems themselves. Climate change accelerates nature loss, which in turn worsens the effects of climate change. They also share common causes. In many cases, taking action in one area can benefit the others. Achieving one type of benefit for nature may bring specific benefits for climate and/or people, for example. Conversely, another type of benefit for nature might come at the expense of people's immediate livelihoods. These potential risks and trade-offs should be carefully considered.

Concept Notes should therefore clearly identify the main:

- **Climate change, nature loss and human wellbeing challenges that will be tackled**
- **Improvements that can be directly achieved by the programme for:**
 - **Nature** in terms of protection, restoration, regeneration and/or sustainable management of specified ecosystems or landscapes or their components
 - **Climate** in terms of mitigation and/or adaptation for specified people, economies, sectors or infrastructure, and
 - **People** in terms of improvement to livelihoods, wellbeing, poverty status, rights and inclusion, particularly including those who are most affected by climate change and nature loss and are most often marginalised groups.
- **Synergies and trade-offs expected between the benefits for people, nature and climate, and how they will be managed** — optimising synergies so that benefits for nature bring specific benefits for climate and/or people, and handling trade-offs in scientifically valid, ethical and policy-relevant ways.

Gender equality and social inclusion

Concept Notes should demonstrate commitment to promoting equality between different groups of people and ensuring that those who are most marginalised and negatively affected by climate change and nature loss are not left behind but are empowered through planned actions.

Gender equality is about addressing inequalities and transforming the distribution of opportunities, choices and resources available to girls, women and non-binary individuals, regardless of their age, so that they have the power to shape their own lives.

Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society, their ability and opportunity to take part in society, and the dignity of people disadvantaged and historically excluded from decision making and spheres of influence on the basis of their identity. People rarely fall into a single group and will experience context-specific advantage and disadvantage from any programme actions based on a combination of two or more signifiers of identity including gender, ethnicity, caste, age, religion, sexuality, disability status, refugee and migrant status, and income. It is therefore important for programmes to carefully consider in their design and delivery these different experiences and effects among those involved and affected.

As no action is neutral, by not giving due consideration to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), programmes could unintentionally exacerbate inequalities, reinforce barriers or cause harm to already disadvantaged groups. All REDAA-supported initiatives must consider how they will 'do no harm' and how they will actively contribute to promoting



equality between persons of different identity characteristics, with activities expected to deliver equitable net benefits for all.

Programmes should thus consider the prevailing gender and social norms and the (formal, informal and traditional) structures upholding them, and how they affect different aspects of different groups of people's lives and communities, including the division of labour, access to and control of resources, and ability to participate in decision making.

Concept Notes should outline activities that will improve gender equality and inclusion of people who have been disadvantaged and historically excluded in decision making, domestic and community roles, and access to and control over assets.

Considering the following questions may help in designing effective activities to improve gender equality and social inclusion:

- Who are the key groups of marginalised people and how might prevailing gender and social norms and structures (formal, informal, traditional) enable or inhibit their engagement with the programme?
- What opportunities and potential challenges and risks face the people who might be involved in, or affected by, the programme? What measures will the programme take to leverage or address these opportunities, challenges and risks?
- How will the programme ensure equitable reach, benefit and empowerment for the most affected and most often marginalised people?
- How will the most often marginalised people be supported and engaged in the shaping, implementation, outcomes, and monitoring and evaluation of the programme?
- What GESI-relevant or specific outcome(s) will the programme achieve or contribute to, and for whom?

All programmes will be expected to report indicators disaggregated by gender where appropriate and applicable.

Approaches

Concept Notes must include specific research-to-action activities which adopt one or more of the following three approaches. It is recommended that applicants focus on one of these approaches; however, more than one may be selected if well justified.

1. **Use of legal tools** to secure local rights and strengthen local nature stewardship and restoration. Research-to-action might aim to secure local rights to land, natural resources and conservation areas, ensure investments in land and natural resources contribute to inclusive sustainable development, or hold government and companies to account in their use of, or investments in, land and natural resources, and in a manner that addresses the specific needs and opportunities of those most affected by the challenges addressed and most often marginalised. Activities might include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Improving access to information on law and policy decisions
 - Legal literacy training or developing paralegal support to local groups
 - Helping local groups register their lands, or supporting legal representation, or enabling local groups to negotiate with government or the private sector



- Enabling citizens to participate in law reform processes
 - Improving mechanisms for grievances and dispute resolution.
- 2. Development of finance mechanisms** that support local nature stewardship and restoration. Research-to-action might aim to enable the establishment or improvement of finance mechanisms and finance flows that are direct, patient and long term, and in a manner that addresses the specific needs and opportunities of those most affected by the challenges addressed and most often marginalised. Research, capacity building and policy engagement activities might be designed to enable the initiation or improvement of:
- Local savings and loan practices
 - Transparent accounting systems
 - Connections of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, or local groups and enterprises to financial institutions (types of finance include member, family or friends' savings; grants; bank or credit card overdrafts; loans/debt capital; trade credit; leasing; equity capital; crowdfunding; bonds; and insurance)
 - Redesigned financial rules or promotion of trade credit
 - Blended enabling investment from national public finance, international ODA and climate finance.
- 3. Development or strengthening of productive ecosystem-based enterprises** that are sustainable, equitable and climate resilient. Research-to-action, potentially co-developed with enterprise partners, might aim to establish and develop locally led businesses based on ecosystem goods and services, and in a manner that addresses the particular needs and opportunities of those people most affected by the challenges addressed and most often marginalised. Activities might include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Training and development of organisational systems for: leadership, people and knowledge management; accounting and financial management; market needs assessment; preparing business plans and investment proposals; and mapping and engaging potential investors
 - Ecosystem goods and services management, product development and quality assurance
 - Risk management and de-risking ecosystem-based enterprises
 - Developing enterprise associations that provide business support services to members and engage with policy reform processes and external investors, or aggregation businesses that harness the returns from profitable locally led ecosystem-based enterprises to finance further business development
 - Technology sourcing and upgrading for improvements in all the above.

Regions, countries, locations and environments

Proposed programmes must be focused in one of the following six regions and on one of the environments in that region listed below. For example, programmes proposed in the Sahel in western and north central Africa must focus on the semi-arid Sahelian savanna. For a second example, programmes proposed in West Africa must focus either on farm-forest landscapes or on wetland environments. For a third example, programmes proposed in Southeast Asia must focus on either peatlands in farm-forest landscapes, or on peri-urban environments, or on coastal lands, including mangroves.

The environments are defined in the paragraphs below the table.



Region	Environment
The Sahel in western and north-central Africa	Semi-arid Sahelian savanna
West Africa	Farm-forest landscape or wetlands
Central Africa	Forest or drylands or wetlands
Southern Africa	Urban or peri-urban
Southeast Asia	Peatlands in farm-forest landscape or peri-urban or coastal lands, including mangroves
South Asia	Mountain or peri-urban or coastal lands, including mangroves

Definitions used for environments

- **Coastal lands.** Coastal lands are here defined as the lands and ecosystems near a coast, including the intertidal zone, and the areas of ground in such locations used by people for purposes such as farming or building.
- **Drylands.** Drylands are defined by a scarcity of water. They are zones where precipitation is balanced by evaporation from surfaces and by transpiration by plants. The UN Environment Programme definition of drylands is here adopted: tropical and temperate areas with an aridity index of less than 0.65.
- **Farm-forest landscape.** Farm-forest landscapes are here defined as places where forests and agricultural land use coexist in a mosaic pattern. Agricultural and forest land uses are interspersed and may ebb and flow, with the resulting mosaic changing in space and time in response to many factors including migration, technology adoption and road building.
- **Forest.** The UN Food and Agriculture Organization defines forest as land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.
- **Mangroves.** Mangroves are trees and shrubs found in the intertidal zones of tropical and subtropical coastlines. There are about 70 species, well adapted to these salty environments.
- **Mountain.** Mountain environments contain a scattered but diverse array of habitats in which a large range of plants and animals can be found. At higher altitudes harsh environmental conditions generally prevail, and treeless alpine vegetation is supported. Lower slopes commonly host montane forests. Steep hillsides may be terraced by mountain farmers, while further up, pastoral cultures may coax a living from a rangeland ecosystem.
- **Peatlands.** Peatlands are terrestrial wetland ecosystems in which waterlogged conditions prevent plant material from fully decomposing. Consequently, the production of organic matter exceeds its decomposition, which results in a net accumulation of peat. Most tropical peatlands are located where rainforest vegetation grows.
- **Peri-urban.** Peri-urban environments are zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban centres and the rural environment. The boundaries of peri-urban areas are porous and transitory as people, resources and goods connect and move between rural and urban areas.
- **Semi-arid Sahelian savanna.** The semi-arid Sahelian savanna of western and north-central Africa forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara to the north and the belt



of humid savanna to the south. These environments are dry for at least eight months of the year; rain is confined to a short season, averaging 100–200mm, mostly in June, July and August. The Sahelian savanna hosts natural pasture, with low-growing grass and tall herbaceous perennials, thorny shrubs, and acacia and baobab trees.

- **Urban.** Urban environments are ecological systems located within a city or other densely settled area.
- **Wetlands.** Wetland environments experience high amounts of water at the surface, either permanently or for considerable periods in the year. Waterlogging can be by fresh or saline water.

Proposed programmes must take place in more than one location, either in one country or in different countries in the same region. Concept Notes should describe the rationale for the choice of locations and the scale of operations in them.

REDAA programmes are expected to be mostly focused on activities in low income and lower middle income countries (based on [OECD DAC eligibility](#)).

Upper middle income countries (UMICs) are eligible; however, **Concept Notes for programmes working in a UMIC must clearly demonstrate a stronger case for support.** This includes operating in areas of high importance for nature and climate and a clear gender equality and social inclusion need. Such applications must also clearly demonstrate that they will:

- Advance knowledge, evidence and impact in least developed or low income countries, or
- Contribute to a global public good, for example by advancing understanding and/or strengthening the knowledge base related to ecosystem restoration, or
- Contribute to serious and unique advancements on a critical issue as a result of specific circumstances of the UMIC that could not be made elsewhere.

Concept Notes proposing work in UMICs will be assessed on the above requirements during the initial eligibility sift (see section below on **Review and selection process**). Concept Notes passing this sift will go on to be scored by independent reviewers in the same manner as for other Concept Notes; however, the reviewer scores will be held to a higher standard during the Concept Note selection process, whereby to be considered ‘fundable’ Concept Notes focused on UMICs will need to achieve consistent reviewer scores of 5 or more across the different criteria, rather than 4.

REDAA is not able to accept programme proposals led by organisations in India.

The full list of eligible countries for Grant Call 2 is included in the table below.

REDAA-eligible countries for Grant Call 2			
Region	ODA classification		
	Low income countries	Lower middle income countries	Upper middle income countries
The Sahel in western and north-central Africa			
	Burkina Faso	Nigeria	
	Chad		
	The Gambia		



	Mali		
	Mauritania		
	Niger		
	Senegal		
West Africa			
	Benin	Cabo Verde	
	Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	
	The Gambia	Ghana	
	Guinea	Nigeria	
	Guinea-Bissau		
	Liberia		
	Mali		
	Mauritania		
	Niger		
	Senegal		
	Sierra Leone		
	Togo		
Central Africa			
	Angola	Cameroon	Equatorial Guinea
	Burundi	Republic of the Congo [†]	Gabon
	Central African Republic		
	Chad		
	Democratic Republic of the Congo		
	Rwanda		
	São Tomé and Príncipe		
Southern Africa			
	Angola	Eswatini	Botswana
	Comoros	Zimbabwe [†]	Mauritius
	Lesotho		Namibia
	Madagascar		South Africa
	Malawi		
	Mozambique		
	Zambia		
Southeast Asia			
	Cambodia	Philippines	Indonesia ^{**}
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Viet Nam	Malaysia
	Myanmar		Thailand
	Timor-Leste		
South Asia			
	Bangladesh	Bhutan [†]	Maldives
	Nepal	India [*]	
		Pakistan	
		Sri Lanka	

* REDAA is not able to accept programme proposals led by organisations in India. If activities in India are proposed they should constitute a minor component of a programme which implements the majority of its activities in one or more other countries in the South



Asia region. The costs of the minor component of activities in India in such a regional programme should make up no more than 25% of the budget.

** Indonesia has graduated from Lower Middle Income Country to Upper Middle Income Country and will therefore be subject to the additional eligibility requirements of UMICs.

† Bhutan, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe have graduated from Low Income Country to Lower Middle Income Country. This graduation does not affect their eligibility requirements for this grant call.

Organisational requirements

Definitions

Lead Organisation	This is the organisation that will make an agreement with the REDAA programme and receive a grant, if the proposal is successful, and will be ultimately responsible for delivery and management of the programme, including management of any partners and subgrantees.
Lead Applicant	This person, on behalf of the Lead Organisation, takes responsibility for the management and accountability of the programme and will be the main contact point for all aspects of project management.
Partner	An umbrella term to refer to any organisation that the Lead Organisation intends to work with on the programme, whether they receive REDAA funds or not, on the basis of an equitable partnership.
Subgrantee	A partner organisation that receives REDAA funds through a formal subgrant (with grant terms and conditions) from the Lead Organisation. Subgrantees should contribute to the intellectual leadership and strategic direction of the programme.
Consultant	An individual or an organisation providing a specific service to the programme, with well-defined outputs and other deliverables, in return for a pre-agreed fee. Consultants would not normally own the resulting intellectual property of the work they deliver; rather, this would be owned by the Lead Organisation and typically shared with subgrantees in the consortium.
On-granting initiative	Small grants awarded through a competitive process to civil society organisations, community-based organisations or business entities running small locally led restoration activities. Activities funded through on-granting initiatives must contribute to the wider objectives and outcomes of the Programme Grant.

Lead and Partner Organisations

Concept Notes must name one Lead Organisation. This will be the organisation that will make an agreement with the REDAA team and receive a grant, if the proposal is successful,



and will be ultimately responsible for delivery and management of the programme, including management of any partners.

Lead Organisations should be a non-profit organisation based within one of the six focal regions for this grant call. A small minority of programmes with a Lead Organisation based outside the region or country of focus may be considered for funding if their proposal provides a strong rationale for why the organisation is not in the region, as well as demonstrating strong partnerships with locally led organisations.

The Lead Organisation must partner with at least one other non-profit organisation. This partner may be based in one of the six regions, but this is not a requirement. **The minimum required partnership of two organisations (a non-profit Lead Organisation and a non-profit partner) must include a research or academic organisation and an action-oriented non-profit organisation (which may include Indigenous Peoples' and local community organisations).**

The table below shows which organisation types will be considered a "research or academic organisation" and which an "action-oriented non-profit organisation" when reviewing whether a concept note meets the minimum partnership requirements.

Research or academic organisations	Action-oriented non-profit organisations
University or other academic institution	NGO or CSO
Research institute or think-tank	Indigenous People's Organisation
	Community-based organisation (CBO)
	INGO

In addition to the Lead Organisation and the required non-profit partner described above, other non-profit organisations and private sector organisations can be listed as funded or non-funded partners. Government agencies and intergovernmental and United Nations agencies can be listed as non-funded partners. Proposed programmes should be co-designed with partners.

Organisations eligible for REDAA funding in such wider partnerships therefore include:

- **Other non-profit organisations**, which may be non-governmental organisations, research institutions or community-based organisations
- **Private sector organisations**, businesses or business associations, which may be subgranted (or contracted via a consultancy agreement) to undertake specific planned actions for the programme, provided this partnership can demonstrate value for money in its costs and benefits to the programme.

Government, intergovernmental and UN agencies are not eligible to receive funding from REDAA. However, these agencies may be key programme partners, and REDAA encourages in-kind partnership where relevant.

Lead Organisations must be able to demonstrate that they are:



- **A non-profit organisation**, which may be a non-governmental organisation, research institution or community-based organisation that is legally registered in the country in which it operates
- **Experienced** in the kind of work they propose to undertake
- **Financially sound**
- **Staffed with the appropriate technical and financial capacity** and expertise to manage and implement programmes successfully and deliver technical and financial reporting, and
- **Able to demonstrate proven management systems** that can achieve impact with programmes at a budget scale of between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000 (GBP).

Lead Organisations must provide their last three years of audited accounts and details of average turnover (income) at Concept Note stage. **The expected annual expenditure of the proposed programme must be no more than 25% of their average annual turnover/income figure.**

Under this funding call, an organisation may lead on only one proposal but may be involved as a non-leading Partner in more than one proposal. Country offices of an international entity will be considered as subsidiaries, even if legally registered in the country. Therefore, international entities will be considered as one Lead Organisation. The Lead Organisation cannot be changed between Stage 1 (Concept Notes) and Stage 2 (Full Proposals). If a Lead Organisation has already been awarded a REDAA Project Grant under the first REDAA grant call, the organisation is still permitted to apply for a Programme Grant under this new call, provided they meet the specific eligibility criteria for this call.

The Lead Organisation will be responsible for conducting appropriate due diligence on subgrantees, on-granting organisations and other partners, managing agreements with them, and managing and delivering the grant including the finance, reporting and governance. Further details on these expectations will be available during Stage 2.

The Lead Organisation will need to complete a detailed due diligence questionnaire as part of Stage 2. REDAA will conduct due diligence checks on the Lead Organisation using the information provided in this questionnaire as well as publicly available information, to assess its capacity and capability to run successful programmes and to comply with donor requirements. Grant agreements will be awarded to successful Stage 2 proposals subject to the outcome of the due diligence checks.

At Concept Note stage, Lead Organisations must provide information about other UK government funding sources they have received or applied for their proposed programme (or for a very similar programme).

Lead Applicant

Concept Notes must name an individual Lead Applicant, who should also be the person submitting the Concept Note application form. This person, on behalf of the Lead Organisation, takes responsibility for the management and accountability of the programme and will be the main contact point for all aspects of programme management. This individual should therefore have appropriate levels of experience, qualifications, authority, capability and capacity to manage the programme, and should have a full understanding of their role



and obligations to take responsibility for delivering value for money, managing risk and financial controls, and fulfilling the terms and conditions of the grant.

CVs (résumés) are not required at Concept Note stage but will be required for Stage 2 (Full Proposal).

Under this funding call, an individual may be named as Lead Applicant on only one proposal. An individual who is already leading an awarded REDAA Project Grant under Grant Call 1 may not lead on a Programme Grant proposal (but may be involved as a non-leading programme team member). The Lead Applicant cannot be changed between Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Additional option to consider: on-granting initiatives

Programmes may include an **on-granting initiative** (see Definitions box above) among other planned activities, to support the capability and actions of civil society organisations, community-based organisations or business entities running small locally led restoration activities through receipt of small grants from the programme. Applicants that include on-granting to small locally led restoration organisations are required to demonstrate a strong need for this programme structure in the contexts in which they are working and be able to justify why this structure would be the best approach to delivering the proposed programme's objectives and outcomes. All activities funded through on-granting initiatives are expected to contribute to the wider objectives and outcomes of the proposed programme. The Lead Organisation will manage the on-granting process and oversee the implementation, reporting and governance of on-granting, along with providing technical assistance and capacity building support where appropriate. In Stage 2 full proposals, applicants will need to explain in detail how they will manage any on-granting processes, including how they will identify suitable organisations and manage any competitive selection process required, as well as how they will manage the due diligence on grantees and install grant terms and conditions of the wider REDAA-supported programme into on-granting agreements, including reporting requirements.

Any on-granting component being proposed should be less than 15% of the total programme's budget. The appropriateness and feasibility of the on-granting will be judged on a case-by-case basis in terms of how it fits and is justified within the wider proposed programme, its potential for impact, and how strongly the Lead Organisation has demonstrated its capacity to manage this on-granting. In Stage 1 Concept Notes, applicants planning to include an element of on-granting in their proposed programme must provide a brief indication of the nature of on-granting, the number of grants proposed and the proportion of the total programme budget to be allocated to on-granting. More details will be required for Stage 2 Full Proposals.

Budgeting

For Grant Call 2 REDAA will fund programmes at a budget scale of between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000 (GBP — British Pound Sterling). Matched funding is not required but is strongly encouraged.

At Concept Note stage, applicants need to provide only the total amount being requested for the proposed programme (excluding any planned matched funding).



Below are some guidance notes to help cost your budget for the Concept Note. More detailed guidance will be provided for Stage 2 (Full Proposal). Value for money of proposed programmes will be assessed in detail at Stage 2; however, at Concept Note stage, applicants are required to briefly explain how their programme will deliver value for money in terms of the input cost and expected positive outcomes.

You should include all direct costs (directly attributable to the programme) required to carry out your programme, including:

- Staff salaries (salary 'on-costs', which include any contracted benefits and pension contributions, but exclude any overheads/indirect cost element) to carry out the work; these should include an appropriate level of time for research staff as well as programme management/support staff (unless these staff are covered by institutional overheads).
- Consultants.
- Travel and subsistence to fulfil necessary programme activities (while being mindful of the need to minimise the programme's carbon footprint).
- Capital items/equipment (noting that no more than 5% of the total budget should be allocated to these costs, except in exceptional circumstances where a robust justification for exceeding the 5% cap will be required during Stage 2 (Full Proposal)).
- Other direct costs, including consumables, materials, meeting and workshop costs (non-travel items) necessary for fulfilling the programme activities and directly attributable to the programme. This may include open access journal fees.
- Costs to be subgranted or contracted to Partner Organisations and on-granting organisations, following the same cost categories as above.

Indirect costs (or overheads) for the Lead Organisation and subgrantee organisations may also be included in the budget. These costs (which include institutional overheads and costs which cannot be directly attributed to the programme) must be reasonable and justifiable in relation to the programme; the grant cannot subsidise other activities of the organisations involved.

To be considered reasonable and justifiable, the costs claimed must be less than or equal to the organisation's actual overheads for the programme and appropriately apportioned between all the organisation's activities/projects. The amount claimed for indirect costs will need to be supported by evidence, audited financial statements and/or internal cost recovery policies. Such evidence will be requested at Stage 2. **The maximum proportion of indirect costs permitted is 20%** of the total direct programme costs.

Further details on eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) [Eligible Cost Guidance document](#). You may wish to familiarise yourself with this document ahead of Stage 2. Ineligible costs include: costs incurred outside the programme start and end dates; gifts; contingency line for inflation or foreign exchange; any class of travel other than 'standard economy'; alcohol and tobacco (these must be removed from any subsistence payments). Government, intergovernmental and UN agencies cannot receive REDAA funds.

Ethics

Programmes will be expected to meet key principles of good ethical practice and to demonstrate this in the Stage 2 application. This includes:



- **Ensure compliance:** programmes should ensure they meet all legal and ethical obligations of all countries and organisations involved in the programme including, where relevant, access and benefit-sharing legislation pertaining to the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- **Maximise benefits in the global South:** programmes should maximise benefits for local organisations and local people in the global South, including through their involvement as programme leaders and researchers, and through fair remuneration, empowerment and capacity strengthening
- **Respect rights:** programmes should ensure that the rights and dignity of individuals, communities and groups are fully respected and that their participation in the programme is voluntary, fully informed and agreed in advance, adhering to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- **Act with integrity:** programmes should be conducted with integrity and transparency; lines of responsibility and accountability should be clearly defined and shared with partners; research independence should be maintained, and conflicts of interest, where they cannot be avoided, should be made explicit
- **Recognise different knowledge systems:** programmes should recognise — and seek to incorporate — the value and importance of traditional knowledge and methods, alongside international scientific approaches

Risk management

Programmes will be expected to put forward their plans for risk management in their Stage 2 application. Successful programmes will be required to put in place:

- A risk register used for identifying, estimating and evaluating the risks and for planning and implementing risk responses
- A delivery chain risk map used for understanding, capturing and managing risks to the successful delivery of the programmes in relation to subgrantees, on-granting, consultants and final recipients of programme funds.

Lead Applicants will be responsible for ensuring that programme risk management is embedded in the appraisal of options, evaluating alternatives and making informed decisions throughout the programme. The following risk types should be monitored:

Risk type	Description
Context	Institutional; political; conflict; economic; climate change/environment; natural disaster; public health; social/cultural; other in-country socio-political events or unrest, or natural disasters.
Operational	Duty of care; personnel security and safety; human resources; other internal capacity and capability to manage the programme (professional competence, experience and appropriate level of resource in managing programmes and funds).
Delivery	Procurement; technical capacity to deliver; delivery chain/downstream partners; financial instability/funding insecurity; 'do no harm'; assets; other



	risks associated with achieving programme aims and objectives (likely to be higher for innovative or high impact programmes).
Safeguarding	Beneficiary and environmental safeguarding; staff safeguarding; other potential harms including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, or unintended harm to the safety and welfare of beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners and staff, including based on their belonging to a marginalised group or community.
Reputational	Communications; relationships; public engagement; other interventions or delivery partners' actions that risk any partner's reputation, including FCDO's, REDAA's and IIED's.
Fiduciary	Categories of fraud including: conflicts of interest; corruption; contract fraud (bid rigging, facilitation payments, price fixing, non-competitive tendering); 'ghost' or illegible beneficiaries; inappropriate recruitment; misuse of assets; payment fraud; salary and allowance fraud (including expenses); theft of assets (cash or non-cash); and unsupported expenditure; other funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for.

Safeguarding

Lead Organisations must be able to demonstrate, during the Stage 2 application process, that they have the following in place:

- A **safeguarding policy**, which includes a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero-tolerance statement on inaction to tackling bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse
- A detailed and up-to-date **register of safeguarding issues** raised and how they were dealt with
- **Clear investigation and disciplinary procedures** for allegations and complaints, as well as a clear processes for disclosure
- **Proactively shared** safeguarding policies with all **Partners** (including consultants and on-granting organisations), ensuring that they understand and meet the required standards, offering support where required
- An **accessible and clearly communicated whistle-blowing mechanism** which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised
- **Clearly identified and assessed safeguarding risks** in the programme risk framework, as well as a process for monitoring those risks, and
- A **code of conduct** signed by all staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours — inside and outside the workplace — and what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards.

In addition, we strongly encourage:

- A **recruitment approach** that includes background checks for new recruits and consultants appropriate to the context of the country where they operate
- **All staff trained** in safeguarding.



If the Lead Organisation does not have some of the above requirements in place, please contact us as early as possible to discuss eligibility further.

Open access

The UK Government is committed to push for greater transparency in the availability and use of data to improve accountability and decision making, and to help deliver sustainable development outcomes for nature and people. Programmes are likely to generate significant outputs including datasets (with anonymised data), best practices, peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports which will be of value to other stakeholders.

All evidence and data produced must be made available as **open access** (that is, freely available and accessible to all), unless there are particular sensitivities involved (such as protection of sensitive data, or protection of intellectual property or cultural values of Indigenous Peoples or other traditional knowledge holders). Data collection, analysis, management and storage protocols should be established to ensure the integrity of evidence and its subsequent use within the programme, across REDAA and beyond.

At Stage 2, the application should demonstrate that the publication of results and secure data storage have been thought through, a plan exists, and appropriate resources are included.

Costs associated with making research and data open access can be included in the requested budget under 'other direct costs' (for example, article processing charges that some journals may impose for making articles available as open access). But be realistic about when articles will be published. It is likely that dates will fall outside the formal programme, so it is worth considering matched funding for these costs.

Further information on open and enhanced access can be found on www.gov.uk.



Application process for Concept Notes

The REDAA programme requires applicants to use an online grants management platform called flexigrant (<https://grants.iied.org/>) to submit their Concept Note applications. Although the application process is mostly automated, there are real people behind it who can provide support if needed. If you experience any issues while using the online system, please contact us by sending an email to enquiries@redaa.org.

The REDAA programme has the longer-term ambition to be able to accept proposals in multiple languages; however, for this grant call we are accepting proposals only in English. Panel reviewers will be briefed and asked not to penalise applicants for less-than-perfect use of the English language, and to take into account that English may not be the applicant's first language.

Concept Notes must be submitted by the Lead Applicant. The Lead Applicant will need to register their details on the flexigrant platform before they can begin an application. The [Flexigrant Guidance](#) document provides step-by-step guidance on how to register for an account and submit an application.

Submission deadline

Concept Note applications must be submitted via the correct online form on the flexigrant platform before the deadline of **30 June 2024, 23:59 British Summer Time (UTC+1)**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit well in advance of the deadline in case of technical difficulties, particularly if you are in an area that experiences electricity black-outs/brown-outs or poor internet connection. **The REDAA support desk will be available only Monday to Friday during normal UK business hours (09:00–17:00 BST/UTC+1).**



Review and selection process

General process

- **Eligibility screening:** once submitted, Concept Note applications will first undergo eligibility screening by the REDAA team to check that the application meets the eligibility criteria and minimum requirements laid out in this guidance document, and that the form has been completed properly. This includes eligibility checks on the number and types of organisations applying, the budget value requested, the Lead Organisation's expenditure-to-income ratio, the geographic locations and environments targeted, and the multi-locational nature of the programme. For Concept Notes proposing work in upper middle income countries, additional checks will be applied to assess whether those Concept Notes meet the additional requirements for UMICs (see section above on **Regions, countries, locations and environments**).
- The initial eligibility sift will also include high-level checks that Concept Notes have attempted to address the requirements for locally led research-to-action, integrated activities for positive outcomes for nature, climate and people, addressing gender equality and social inclusion, and inclusion of at least one of the three specific approaches required (legal tools, finance mechanisms, ecosystem-based enterprises). In the event of a large volume of Concept Notes being received, these checks may be carried out based solely on the content of the programme title and programme summary. **Applicants are therefore strongly advised to ensure their programme summary is an accurate and concise portrayal of the nature of the proposed programme so that reviewers can quickly judge whether it fits within the remit of this grant call.** In addition, the Concept Notes will be checked for completion, whereby any Concept Notes failing to provide a response for any of the mandatory questions, or submitted in languages other than English, will be rejected. After checking for reviewer conflicts of interest, eligible and complete applications will each then be allocated to three reviewers. Ineligible or incomplete applications will be rejected at this stage.
- **Panel review:** reviewers will be asked to evaluate the Concept Notes against key criteria (see below), giving each a score between 0 (Not demonstrated) to 6 (Strong demonstration) and providing comments. Concept Notes will be considered generally 'fundable' if they receive consistent scores across the criteria of 4 and above (5 and above for Concept Notes relating to UMICs). Applications that receive consistently low scores (i.e. below the minimum threshold of 4 (5 for UMICs)) from all three reviewers may be rejected at this stage, depending on the numbers of higher-scoring Concept Notes received.
- **Steering Committee review:** panel review scores and comments will be passed to the REDAA Steering Committee to review the higher-scoring applications as well as any receiving inconsistent scores from the panel members. The Steering Committee will also consider the potential portfolio of programmes across the subject matter and geographies for this grant call and make decisions on this basis as to which applicants will be invited to submit an application for Stage 2 (Full Proposal). In other words, Concept Notes will primarily be judged based on excellence (i.e. higher review scores), but the Steering Committee may deviate from this for the purposes of a balanced portfolio.



- **Feedback:** the REDAA team will aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their Concept Note in early September 2024. However, we may not be able to provide detailed feedback to every applicant due to the volume of applications received.

Evaluation criteria

In assessing each Concept Note, the reviewers will assess the extent to which the proposed programme meets each of the following five criteria:

Criteria	Description
Clear rationale	Addresses a critical REDAA-relevant problem or opportunity, building on prior work, responding to demand, filling a gap and making timely interventions in a particular context that would not be likely to be produced without the programme.
Nature, climate and people outcomes	Describes one or more clear positive outcomes that can be directly achieved by the programme for nature (local nature stewardship and/or restoration); for climate (mitigation and/or adaptation); and for people (local livelihoods, wellbeing, poverty status, gender equality and social inclusion) — i.e. at least one positive outcome for each of these three pillars (not nature OR climate OR people). Shows how the outcomes directly address the problem or leverage the opportunity the programme addresses.
Approach and research-to-action activities	Adopts and details one or more of the approaches — legal tools, finance mechanisms or ecosystem-based enterprises — and describes a context-appropriate design and rigorous, coherent and feasible research-to-action methods and activities. Activities are clearly likely to produce useful improvements in land and resources, tools and objects, or goods and services of value to people; and/or knowledge and communication products including reports, journal papers, briefing papers, blogs and videos; and/or preparedness of people ready to take further action based on their strengthened knowledge, skills and capabilities.
Local leadership and partnership	Is led by organisations with effective systems supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities' work, that engage residents in a relevant area in programme design and implementation, and involve local staff strongly in the programme's leadership. Describes investment by the programme in the systems and capability that strengthen local leadership by partners.
Programme management and value for money	Demonstrates appropriate track record/experience at the level of Lead Organisation, with appropriate technical and financial capacity and expertise to manage and implement a substantial programme with its planned outcomes successfully. Will implement a robust approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning and a programme that is likely to deliver value for money. Programmes that include on-granting to small locally led restoration organisations demonstrate a strong need for this programme structure in the contexts in which they work and justify why this structure is the best approach to delivering the proposed programme's objectives and outcomes.



Scoring

For each of the five criteria, the panel reviewers will assign a score for the extent to which the Concept Note demonstrates it is met, using the following scale:

Score	Description
6	Strong demonstration: substantial evidence presented that it meets all of the indicators, with no concerns raised, and meets the majority to a high standard. There may be a few minor issues which if addressed may improve the programme, but they are unlikely to be detrimental to the delivery of the programme and should not prevent it from being funded without changes being made.
5	Good demonstration: good evidence presented that it meets most of the indicators, with no major concerns identified, and to a high standard. There are minor issues that could improve the programme but should not prevent it from being funded. It is likely to significantly contribute to the objectives of the fund.
4	Acceptable demonstration: the proposed programme meets most of the indicators, no major concerns identified. The indicators it does meet are often met to a good standard. There are a few minor issues that would improve this programme which the Lead Organisation would be advised to consider if funded. It is likely to contribute to the objectives of the fund.
3	Emerging demonstration: the proposed programme meets many of the indicators but with some concerns raised. The indicators met are largely to an acceptable standard, and the concerns can be addressed. It has the potential to contribute to the objectives of the fund, if the issues are addressed to strengthen it.
2	Weak demonstration: the programme meets only some of the indicators and/or has raised concerns. Those indicators it does meet are to a modest standard, but the application requires important changes to address the concerns and indicators in order to make it competitive.
1	Minimal demonstration: the proposed programme is unsatisfactory and meets only a few indicators and/or raises important concerns. The proposal is likely to require significant revision.
0	Not demonstrated: the programme fails to meet any of the indicators outlined and/or raises serious concerns — for example, flawed approach, subject to serious technical difficulties or risks, so unclearly written that it cannot be properly assessed, or is duplicative.



Information, enquiries, FAQs and further support

The REDAA team will host an online webinar on **23 May 2024 at 09:00–10:00 British Summer Time (UTC+1)** to present key points about this REDAA Programme Grants call, and to answer applicants' questions. Register to attend the webinar [here](#).

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are posted on the REDAA website: <https://www.redaa.org/frequently-asked-questions>. We will add to the list of FAQs as we receive more questions from potential applicants.

If you have a question or need further support, please contact the REDAA team at enquiries@redaa.org. Please include in the email subject line what your query relates to.

Please ensure you read the [REDAA Strategy](#), this Guidance for Applicants document and the [online FAQs](#) before contacting the helpdesk with a question.

Contact

If you have any queries about this grant call, please contact us:

Email: enquiries@redaa.org

Visit: www.redaa.org/contact

Please also consider signing up to the REDAA newsletter: www.redaa.org/#sign-up to keep up to date with future grant calls and other updates from the programme.

