

Call for proposals: Studying the effects of climate change and variability on water resources in Uruguay

This document provides written responses to questions received since the launch of this and other calls issued by the Research Commissioning Centre on **10 September 2024**. Where relevant, we have edited the original to combine similar questions.

Responses to questions specific to this call

Q1: How many projects does the budget for this call cover?

A1: The budget covers the whole project, so all three research packages. The award will be given to one lead team, who may engage further teams or individuals to complete this project.

Q2: How does the public sector come into this project?

A2: The public sector, ministries, and agencies were contacted as part of a stakeholder engagement process, which is reflected in the currently published call for proposals. Part of the engagement was intended to bring these public sector stakeholders into the project, to reflect their concerns and engage their support, which will be particularly necessary to be able to access data.

Q3: If this project involves the public sector so heavily, why is this not a project delivered by them, not as an open competition?

A3: While there is space for the findings from this project to be taken forward in this manner, the competitive nature of the commission is intended to engage the best expertise available and to ensure that the most academically robust, independent findings can be procured at the best value for money.

Q4: When does the kick-off meeting happen?

A4: Once the contract is signed.

Q5: Are only Uruguayan agencies allowed to apply? Can Uruguayan organisations cooperate with international organisations on this bid?

A5: There are no restrictions to the nationality of the applicants or the organisation's location. The lead applicant should collect the strongest team they can, regardless of location.

Q6: Is there room for an extension of the deadline.

A6: No.

Queries relevant to all current calls

Q1: Can a non-UK university apply? Or does the applicant need to be legally registered in the UK?

A1: Non-UK institutions are eligible to apply.

Q2: The guidelines state 'only legally registered organisations and consortia of registered organisations, not individuals, may apply'. Does this mean that, if I apply, I will submit my application on behalf of my institution?

A2: We will only award to organisations rather than individuals. So organisations are welcome to apply through individuals directly affiliated with those organisations but we can't accept applications from individuals outside of organisations or working for organisations but applying on their own behalf.

Q3: Will the award incur VAT?

A3: This depends on the trading status of the applicant. As a US nonprofit organisation providing a public good, 3ie does not incur VAT for the management of the Research Commissioning Centre. If you are likewise applying as a not-for-profit organisation or registered charity, this award should not incur VAT.

Q4: Once awarded, who owns IP?

A4: Intellectual property in all material (including, but not limited to, reports, data and designs, whether or not electronically stored) produced by the funding recipient will be the property of the funding recipient. The funding recipient will be asked to grant to 3ie and FCDO a worldwide, non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free licence to use all the material produced, where "use" shall mean, without limitation, the reproduction, publication and sub-licence of all the material and the intellectual property therein, including the reproduction and sale of the material and products incorporating the same, for use by any person or for sale or other dealing anywhere in the world.

Q5: Would we be able to freely use the IP for teaching and non-commercial activities?

A5: The IP may be used for teaching and non-commercial activities provided that this is approved by FCDO.

Q6: Are there page limits per question or overall maximum limit on the bid? (and that CVs are excluded from this limit)?

A6: There are no page or word limits except on the CVs, which should not exceed two pages.

Q7: Can the authority confirm whether suppliers are able to include links within our submission?

A7: Please write all information you want to be peer-reviewed in your application. External attachments (except CVs) and links will not be reviewed.

Q8: Are we able to submit our response as a PDF?

A8: Yes.

Q9: Would the authority prefer a Gantt chart in a weekly or monthly breakdown? Would this be part of question 6 or can this be in the appendix outside of a maximum page limit?

A9: Please include all answers in the application form. The applicant can decide how best to frame their proposed timeline.

Q10: What are the key milestones for approval/sign-off? What will be the process for approval/sign-off?

A10: Please refer to the call for proposals. Deliverables are sent to the RCC research manager who will coordinate a quality assurance process which may require the funding recipient to make amendments or seek further information. Once the quality is cleared, the deliverable is submitted to the FCDO for acceptance. Once accepted, the tranche payment is released.

Q11: Will there be a clear turnaround time for approval/sign-off?

A11: Yes.

Q12: Will there be an extension for delays in sign-off/approvals for key milestones in the review?

A12: While we are working towards a firm deadline, depending on circumstances, the delivery of various outputs may be flexible during the process. This will be discussed with the RCC team and approved by the FCDO team.

Q13: Will the payments to the organisations be on a counter-payment in deliverables submitted by each research package, or will part of the funding be provided upfront?

A13: Each tranche payment is released on the submission of deliverables, however we can negotiate a first tranche payment to be released upon contract signing if necessary.