

Call for Applications

Long-term Europe – Africa WEF Nexus (LEAWEF) Multilateral Research Programme

Partnership Request Form (not mandatory)	
Monday, 4 November 2024, before 14:00 SAST	Deadline for the submission of the partnership request form .
Concept note	
Thursday, 6 February 2025	UCT Internal deadline for the submission of concept note
Full Proposal	
Friday, 4 July 2025	UCT Internal deadline for the submission of full proposal

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BACKGROUND

The Long-term Europe – Africa WEF-Nexus Multilateral Research Programme (LEAWEF) is an international initiative focusing on the interconnections between water, energy and food (WEF) within the framework of sustainable development. Using the WEF nexus approach, the programme aims to manage and optimise the complex interdependencies between these sectors. This is critical to achieving security, inclusiveness, and sustainability in the supply and distribution of water, energy and food globally.

Main objectives:

- Developing and connecting knowledge to increase the societal impact of research
- Exploring new development paths
- Finding ways to accelerate transitions to sustainable development

FOCUS AREAS

The focus of this Call aligns with the objectives of the LEAWEF multilateral research programme. It furthermore focuses on two subthemes:

1. Climate Change Adaptation and
2. Just Energy Transitions.

Applicants are expected to focus on one or both subtheme(s), within the context of the WEF Nexus. A detailed description of the aims, objectives and selection procedure is available in the [call for proposals](#).

ELIGIBILITY

- A proposal must be submitted by a consortium consisting of at least three eligible applicants from at least three different participating countries. The countries are Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Netherlands, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- Each consortium should include at least one cooperation partner from one of the participating countries. You are encouraged to add additional cooperation partners.
- The Consortium Lead (project coordinator) must be eligible to be funded and request funding from its national participating Science Granting Council.
- A Consortium Lead can only participate in a maximum of one proposal. This means it is also not possible to be part of another consortium in a different role.

- A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) can only participate in a maximum of one proposal. This means it is also not possible to be part of another consortium in a different role.
- A cooperation Partner can only participate in a maximum of two proposals. This means that a cooperation partner cannot be part of more than two consortia.
- It is mandatory for South African PIs based at historically advantaged institutions to include, as part of the consortium, a research partner from a historically disadvantaged institution.

FINDING RESEARCH PARTNERS FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. Applicants are invited (not mandatory) to fill in and submit a [Partnership request form](#). This may enable potential partners to contact an applicant and possibly join a consortium. An online matchmaking event will take place on November 7, 2024. Those who have submitted a partnership request form will receive an invitation to participate in the matchmaking activity.
2. Create a research profile on the [matchmaking](#) platform (B2Match) that allows you to find and network with potential partners. You will automatically be invited to the matchmaking session on 7 November 2024 if you have registered.

FUNDING

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R1.8 million per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 4 years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025.

The funds per project have to be utilised as follows:

- R1.8 mil per project for research activities, mobility costs of the research team, doctoral research placements, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs, etc.
- This Call makes allowance for support of one doctoral student per consortia project. The value of the doctoral scholarship will be equivalent to the NRF Free Standing Scholarship support. Funds will only be released provided the nominated student meets the NRF equity targets.

The following are NOT to be funded from the NRF funds allocation:

- Consultant's fees
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Concept Note:

- Download the [concept note application form](#)
- Complete the application form
- Save the application form as a PDF file, upload it in [ISAAC](#) (without any annexes) and fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.
ISAAC is a Dutch online submission system, if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, please create one as soon as possible.

The concept note application must only be submitted via ISAAC. Whereas the full proposal must be submitted to both [ISAAC](#) and [NRF Connect](#).

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the [call for proposals](#) for more details.