

Call for applications: IDRC- Supporting STISA-2034: SGCI Multilateral Research Call Advancing Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Priorities

URL: <https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/supporting-stisa-2034>

Keywords: Innovation & Technology Management; Research and Development

Funding and Project Duration

- Projects may run for up to 36 months.
- Consortium members are expected to manage funding in the range of approximately CA\$50,000–CA\$300,000 per participating institution, subject to country-specific funding ceilings and requirements.

Funder deadline: 25 September 2026 (23:59 EDT)

UCT Internal Deadlines

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [intention-to-submit](#) form by **21 Aug 2026**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - contact faculty finance/budget reviewer by no later than **28 Aug 2026**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **11 Sept 2026**

Information sessions

- **Information Session 1**
- Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026
- Time: 8:00–10:00 a.m. EDT (UTC-4)
- [Register here.](#)
- **Information Session 2**
- Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026
- Time: 8:00–10:00 a.m. EDT (UTC-4)
- [Register here.](#)

Contacts: Faculty of Health Sciences: FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za ; All Other Faculties - internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), on behalf of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) and funding partners, has launched a call for **Expressions of Interest (EOIs)** for collaborative, multi-country research projects supporting the implementation of the **Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034 (STISA-2034)**.

The call aims to support flagship multi-country research projects that generate new knowledge and innovations aligned with Africa's development priorities, strengthen regional research partnerships, and facilitate evidence-informed policy and practice.

The call supports research aligned with five thematic streams:

1. Agriculture
2. Health
3. Artificial intelligence and Digital technologies
4. Energy
5. Environment

Through this call, the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) seeks to:

- Support high-quality research that addresses regional development challenges
- Strengthen cross-border partnership
- Promote the use of evidence in policy and practice

Eligibility Criteria

Applications must be submitted by a consortium consisting of:

- One lead applicant institution and two to four co-applicant organizations from participating SGCI countries;

- Institutions from a minimum of three participating SGCI countries;
- A maximum of five co-applicant institutions from five countries;
- Principal Investigators must hold full-time appointments at their respective institutions.

Eligible institutions generally include:

- Public and private universities
- Public research organisations
- Government research institutes and agencies.

For more information, please read the detailed [call for proposals document](#) and [frequently asked questions](#).

Application Process

Please note: UCT institutional approval via [eRA](#) is mandatory before submission to the funder. Applicants should allow sufficient time for internal review and approval processes, particularly where consortium agreements and institutional commitment letters are required.

UCT internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	Immediately
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least 4 weeks before the funder deadline	28 Aug 2026
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	11 Sept 2026
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline (if applicable, if funder requires institutional sign off)	18 Sept 2026
PI to submit the application on the funder portal by the funder deadline	25 Sept 2026

Researchers intending to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) must:

1. Complete the online application via the [IDRC's grant application submission](#) system
2. Obtain institutional approval through UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system prior to submission to funder.
3. Given the consortium-building requirements and the need for institutional commitment letters, applicants are encouraged to initiate the UCT approval process as early as possible.

Application Requirements

At the EOI stage, applicants are required to submit an online application comprising:

- Project title;
- Selected thematic area and research avenue;
- Estimated project duration (maximum 36 months);
- Estimated budget requested by the lead and each co-applicant institution;
- Description of the development challenge being addressed, including anticipated end users (500 words);
- Research question(s), justification, relevance and novelty (500 words);
- Description of consortium institutions, roles, collaboration history and capacity (500 words);
- Proposed methodology, timeline, activities, capacity-building plans and expected outputs (500 words).

Applicants must also upload:

- Two-page CVs for each Principal Investigator;
- One-page CVs for up to three additional key team members;
- Signed institutional letters of commitment from the lead and all co-applicant organisations.

- Applicants will additionally be required to declare whether any generative artificial intelligence tools were used in preparing the application materials. Responsibility for the content of the submission remains with the applicants.