

Africa Regional Call Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply for the Africa Regional Call?

This call is open to researchers from social sciences/humanities/economics and natural sciences/physical sciences/engineering/technology, as well as societal partners (i.e. citizens, industry, civil society organizations), using a participatory, co-designed, and co-implementation approach. Additional knowledge holders are welcome to be part of the proposed consortium once this minimum criterion is met. Please consult the annexes to determine if the funds you are targeting will support researchers from universities, NGOs, or other organizations. If you have an eligibility question, please contact the funding representative listed at the bottom of the annex to ask more detailed questions.

2. What are the themes for the call?

There are three themes for the Call. Water – Energy – Food – Health Nexus; Pollution; and Disaster Preparedness, Responsiveness, and Recovery. Each proposal should address one or more themes.

3. How many members should form the consortium?

Each proposing team requires the participation of three or more knowledge holders, representing at least three countries each seeking support from a different funding agency. The consortium lead should be a resident African from one African country, and one of the other two participants should be from a second African country. There is no maximum to the number of participants or countries in the consortium.

4. Is this Call only for African countries or other countries also participate?

The Call is open to researchers in African and other global countries. However, for each consortium, at least two participants should be from two different countries on the African continent. The lead of the consortium must be a resident African.

5. Which countries can we partner with for the Africa Regional Call?

The support table for the call includes annexes from many countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Germany, France, Switzerland, Rwanda, Brazil, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Namibia, and the United States of America. Some countries can support participation of researchers and stakeholders from other countries. E.g. Future Earth provides support to nearly all African countries. Please check your eligibility with the information in the annexes in the support table.

6. What is the funding cycle of the Africa Regional Call?

The Projects are intended to be three years; however, individual annexes may provide support for varying lengths of time up to four years. Please consult the annexes for the support you are targeting with your proposal.

7. How much funds are allocated to researchers applying for the Africa Regional call?

Each funding organization has a different amount allocated for projects. Some funders may specify a maximum allowable amount per project or per country. This information can be found in their annex for this call on the Belmont Forum Website. There is no maximum budget for a consortium. If you are able to develop a consortium that is eligible for more than three annexes, you can apply for as much support as possible according to the funding guidelines in those annexes.

Some of the annexes will only support in-kind contributions to the projects. In-kind participants count towards the 3 required annexes in a consortium. If you have created a consortium and have already met the minimum country, knowledge, and funding annex criteria, it is possible for additional members to participate in a self-financed capacity.

8. Should the amounts be requested in Euros or the currency of the country you are requesting funds from?

The financial budget for the project must be provided in Euros (€). Thereafter it will be converted to the currency of your country, if your proposal is successful.

9. Is it possible to submit a hard copy application or should the application be completed online?

All applications must be submitted directly on the Belmont Forum application online portal. Each consortium will make one submission representing all members of that consortium. Please make sure you visit BFgo.org to register for the site and become familiar with the portal.

10. Can one use the funds to pay salaries or support students in the project?

Each funding organization has its budget restrictions. Please refer to each funding organization's annex for a detailed outline of what the funds can be used for. If you have specific questions, please ask the funding contact in the annex (or annexes) to which you are applying.

11. What is the NRF's role in administering this fund, especially since the call is open to African researchers beyond South Africa as well?

The NRF is the Lead Agency in this call, meaning the NRF chaired the committee that developed the themes and is coordinating other funders' involvement in the call. This opportunity is named the Africa Regional Call because the consortium leads are expected to be from researchers based on the African continent.

12. Can the research proposal address two themes, or should a proposal only focus on one theme?

The proposal can address more than one theme of the call.

13. What is the closing date for the Pre-Proposal?

The Pre-Proposal closing date is 02 September 2024.

14. What is the closing date for the Full Proposal?

The Full Proposal closing date is 31 December 2024.

15. In a consortium of three partners, if two of the partners are successful from their country's funding agencies, and one is not, does that mean the whole project is unsuccessful?

The project requires a minimum of three consortium participants. If one partner does not meet their national requirements, the proposal submitted will not be eligible.

16. Our consortium includes 3 South African universities and other partners from Africa and the USA. Can two South African universities apply for funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Future Earth? For example, University A from NRF and University B from Future Earth?

Yes. As long as the consortium meets the requirements for three knowledge types from three countries drawing on funds from three annexes and is addressing the call themes, this is allowable. The funders will discuss projects where funding may come from one or more sources.

17. Can two consortia from one institution apply for this call?

Yes, two or more consortia may apply for the call.

18. Can one applicant be in more than one consortium?

Yes, there are no limitations.

19. What language can the proposal be submitted in?

Proposals may be written in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

20. How were the thematic areas identified?

The themes were developed over years of consultations across the continent with scientific organizations and reflect current priority documents. The group of funders wanted to ensure that the themes applied to all countries — coastal and landlocked — on the continent.

21. How can I connect with other researchers to develop my consortium?

The Africa Regional Call has created a discussion group on the Future Earth Member Portal where you can search for possible collaborators. The site is available in several languages and has a mobile version. The members are searchable by geography, expertise, and name. <https://futureearth.org/join-our-network/>

22. Are the call documents available in other languages?

The call text is available in French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Other documents are in English but can be translated using online applications.