



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) programme

**Mapping the landscape of existing capacity-
strengthening actors and future programme
recipients to inform CLARE's research capacity-
strengthening strategy**

Call for Research Consultants:

1x North Africa

1x West Africa

1x East and Southern Africa

1x South and Southeast Asia

1x South Pacific



Introduction and purpose

Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) is an initiative, developed by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, to accelerate the delivery of new and improved knowledge, data, and tools focused on tackling climate change adaptation and resilience problems in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.

A core aim of the CLARE initiative is capacity strengthening, with a focus on enabling researchers, practitioners, users and decision-makers of the 'Global South' to drive adaptation action and build a more resilient future for those most impacted by climate change.

For these purposes, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is supporting a data collection process to provide evidence and analysis that informs the strategic design of the capacity-strengthening pillar of the CLARE programme. This project aims to assess the current landscape of providers, programmes, tools and recipients of research capacity-strengthening activities across the African and Asian-Pacific regions.

This project will, therefore, inform the FCDO and IDRC in the design of capacity strengthening within CLARE in order to address the most urgent priorities in research capacity-strengthening actions concerning climate change adaptation in the African and Asian-Pacific regions.

The role of Research Consultant

Your role as a Research Consultant will include:

1. Supporting the validation of an assessment framework developed by ACU, which will be used for data collection and analysis of research capacity-strengthening programmes and activities delivered across individual, institutional, and systems level by other organisations in selected regions
2. Conducting desk-based research in order to map organisations, programmes, activities, as well as tools, working to strengthen research capacity within the geographical scope of the CLARE project and to also apply the assessment framework in analysing these organisations, programmes and activities.
3. Conducting at least 5 key informant interviews with training providers, as well as a representative sample of 'recipients' (such as university research support service and academic staff, along with other relevant practitioners) of capacity-strengthening activities within the proposed regions
4. Supporting the identification of existing gaps or deficiencies in the field of research capacity-strengthening within the selected regions



5. Assisting in mapping 'recipients' of research capacity-strengthening initiatives or programmes, according to the type of recipient and their regional location

Skills and experience

The research consultant should demonstrate:

- good academic track record and evidence of strong research skills
- understanding of research capacity-strengthening processes, their purpose, as well their impact in one or more of the following geographical regions: North Africa, West Africa, Southern and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the South Pacific region.
- ability to network and perform outreach activities; specifically, to identify and connect with relevant stakeholders working in the field of research capacity-strengthening
- experience of prioritising a varied workload and evidence of working to strict deadlines in a fast-paced research environment

Opportunities

As Research Consultant with ACU, you will be able to avail of a number of benefits and opportunities. These include:

- participating in a major international project, coordinated and managed by established international organisations (ACU and IDRC) and supported by the UK's overseas development ministry (FCDO)
- expanding your professional network by working with established research consultants from the UK, North Africa, West Africa, Southern and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the South Pacific regions
- contributing to analysis and data collection, which will be utilised during the design of the CLARE capacity-strengthening pillar



Activities & timeline

Activity	Time period	Details
Validation of assessment framework developed by the ACU	August 1-8	During this phase every regional consultant will support the validation of the assessment framework developed by the ACU research team for its relevancy to the following specific regions: North Africa, West Africa, Southern and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the South Pacific region. This framework will be used in analysing capacity-strengthening activities delivered by a range of organisations
Participation in data collection processes and identification of existing gap and deficiencies in capacity-strengthening programmes in North Africa, West Africa, Southern and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the South Pacific regions	August 1-September 9	Through desk-based research and stakeholder interviews (minimum 5), consultants will assist in: (1) the mapping of organisations which delivered capacity-strengthening activities in their respected regions (2) identification of the scope and reach of these activities (3) identification of the allocated budget for each activity (4) mapping of delivery tools used Also, consultants will identify gaps existing in capacity-strengthening activities within their selected region(s)



Mapping of potential recipients of the CLARE capacity-strengthening initiative and finalisation of results	September 5-8	During the final stage, the consultants will be asked to map out potential recipients of the CLARE programme, and finalise the key findings emerging from the data collection phase
Participation in a stakeholder workshop for the dissemination of findings	September 12-16	
Feedback on a draft final report	September 12-23	

Important information & Eligibility

A total of GBP £13,500 (inclusive of all taxes) is available to the research consultant to complete the work outlined in the above table, covering one of the regions listed.

Selected consultants must be available to complete the work within the timeframe set out in the table above.

How to apply

The following documents are required:

- **Cover letter:** demonstrating knowledge, interest or awareness of capacity-strengthening initiatives in the selected regions, and beyond
- **CV:** outlining a detailed list of publications (both academic and non-academic) along with evidence of prior experience of conducting international/national research projects
- **Workplan and budget:** detailing the number of days allocated to each activity and day rate in Pound Sterling (GBP)

Please submit documents to Evgenia Likhovtseva: evgenia.likhovtseva@acu.ac.uk

Deadline for applications: Monday 25 July, 12:00 UTC.