



ARA Knowledge Catalyst Grant for Emerging Adaptation Professionals in the Global South

Date: November 2025

CALL SUMMARY

Implementing Partnership Opportunity **Exclusively for ARA Members**

Call Opens: **03 November 2025**

Proposal Deadline: **21 November 2025 at 23:59 Bangkok/Indochina Time**

Number of Grants: **Three** grants executed through member-led implementing partners in three regions

Region-Grant Amount-Currency (including NPAC¹):

Africa: GBP 130,000

Latin America and Caribbean: GBP 52,000

Asia-Pacific: GBP 52,000

Implementation Period: Maximum **6 months** (upon contract signing) **between January 2026 to 15 July 2026**, followed by audit and final report by 15 August 2026.

IMPORTANT: Proposals will **ONLY** be accepted through the online submission platform: [SUBMISSION LINK](#)

Continue reading for more details on how to apply and send your questions to secretariat@adaptationresearchalliance.org with the subject '**ARA Grant Question**' **by 7 November 2025**. Replies will be posted to the ARA website by 14 November 2025.

¹ Non-Project Attributable Costs (NPAC) within the context of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) grant system. These are overhead costs like administration, management, and support staff that are necessary for an organization to operate but cannot be directly linked to a specific FCDO project.

Background to the Adaptation Research Alliance

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global partnership with over 270 members. We aim to encourage increased investment and develop capacity for practical, action-oriented research that advances effective climate change adaptation—especially in the Global South—at the scale and urgency required by science. This goal is achievable through evidence-based action, recognising that practical solutions are essential to minimise and prevent loss and damage. We need a major shift in adaptation efforts, involving collaboration among government, business, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), grassroots groups, and vulnerable communities to prepare for climate risks, mobilise additional efforts, and enhance adaptation financing.

The ARA Secretariat is currently hosted by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute (CUSRI), based out of Bangkok, Thailand. To learn more about the ARA and what our alliance seeks to achieve, you can find the ARA Theory of Change and core values [on our website](#).

What is the Knowledge Catalyst Grant?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is about two years into its seventh assessment cycle (AR7). With leadership in place for the Working Groups, an agreed chapter outline,² two key methodological workshops scheduled for February 2026, and authors already chosen, this is a strategically important period for the ARA to engage with the IPCC process. ARA's goal is to inform the Working Group II (WGII) report – by amplifying **the voices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society**, and ensuring that evidence and insights from research co-created by climate-vulnerable people, especially marginalised groups, are included in AR7.

To facilitate this, the ARA is excited to announce the **Knowledge Catalyst Grant for Emerging Adaptation Professionals in the Global South**, which will support *emerging adaptation professionals (EAPs)*—including *early career researchers (ECRs)*, *practitioners*, and *knowledge brokers* involved in adaptation and resilience work—in the regions of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Asia to publish and contribute to the IPCC AR7 process, specifically WGII.

The focus is not on conducting new research, but on assisting *EAPs* in transforming existing or nearly finished research manuscripts, or even current practitioner publications, into peer-reviewed articles, thereby increasing their visibility and influence in adaptation research and policymaking.

The approach reflects ARA's commitment to co-production, inclusion, and credible evidence for just and responsive adaptation. Through mentoring, editorial and publishing support, and cross- and intra-regional collaboration, it bridges research and

² See <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2025/03/Decision-8-Working-Group-Outlines.pdf>.

practice, amplifies local and Southern voices, and establishes pathways for sustained contribution from the Global South to climate adaptation science and policy. The specific aims are to:

1. Enhance **authorship** and visibility of Global South adaptation professionals in peer-reviewed and high-impact publications.
2. Increase **engagement** of southern scholars and practitioners with the IPCC AR7 process and other global platforms.
3. Strengthen research and publication **ecosystems** particularly in Africa³, and to some extent in Asia and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), enabling sustained knowledge production and mentoring beyond AR7.
4. Greater recognition and integration of local and practitioner knowledge as legitimate **evidence** in adaptation science and policy.

In the long term, the grant will contribute to *EAP's*⁴ *from the Global South becoming recognized, credible, and influential contributors to global climate adaptation research and policy, including the IPCC AR7 and related processes. This will amplify Indigenous, local, and southern voices, ensuring that global climate adaptation assessments and decisions are inclusive, equitable, and grounded in lived realities.*

ARA Members as Implementing Partners

Member organisations selected as implementing partners for this grant are expected to carry out the following activities:

1. **ARA member organizations** will develop a coherent and appropriate capacity development plan for EAPs in their region. They will select EAPs from their region (a minimum of 8 EAPs in Africa, 4 in Asia and 4 in LAC), who have some form of research output or manuscript that can be transformed or catalyzed into publications meeting global or IPCC standards, and aligning with the thematic areas of WGII.
2. Provide a range of support **services**, which may include any or all of the following:
 - i. Mentoring EAPs by connecting them with experts (preferably, with IPCC authors) in their thematic areas,
 - ii. Conducting regional write-shops,
 - iii. Providing editorial assistance,
 - iv. Publishing and translation support, including open-access publication and article processing fees in journals in their region.

In addition, members are welcome to suggest support services as needed for their EAP's.

³ Although the AR6 of the IPCC had [11%](#) of authors from Africa, the region continues to be highly under represented given its population and disproportionate impact climate change has on the continent.

⁴ These are *early career researchers* (ECRs), *practitioners*, and *knowledge brokers* involved in adaptation and resilience work.

Facilitative role of ARA Secretariat

In addition to the activities undertaken by the implementing partners, the ARA Secretariat will support the process through the following activities:

1. Form **partnerships** with inclusive journals⁵ that offer author mentoring and connect them with implementing partners to support EAPs. A special issue will be arranged with one of these journals (or other suitable journals) to ensure the publication of EAP outputs between 2027 and 2028, aligning with the IPCC AR7 review periods.
2. The Secretariat will support EAPS by engaging an **IPCC** author or a senior researcher of international repute to provide comprehensive mentorship guidance.
3. Enable **multilingual** publication options in English, Spanish, Portuguese, or French if required.
4. Facilitate **tracking, learning, and sharing** insights across the Alliance.

Expected Outputs from Implementing partners

1. A minimum of **16 EAP's** supported through the knowledge catalyst grants across Africa (at least 8), Asia (at least 4), and Latin America (at least 4).
2. Support, including write-shops, publishing support, and editorial mentoring delivered through regional ARA member institutions and IPCC-linked mentors.
3. Collaborations established with journals offering mentoring and multilingual publication pathways and special issues.
4. Relevant practitioner and grey literature transformed into peer-reviewed outputs aligned with the IPCC AR7 global assessment chapter⁶ by July 2026.
5. 16 knowledge products published and disseminated.
6. First bi-monthly progress (narrative and financial) report (covering January and February 2026 by 15 March 2026)
7. Midterm Progress Report (narrative and financial) covering January to April 2026, by 15 May 2026)
8. Final Completion Report (narrative, audited financial report, auditor's report) covering January to July 2026 by 15 August 2026)

Additional Requirements:

- All reports in English
- Stakeholder engagement documentation
- Complete data sets and evidence/ documents as per MEL reporting requirements

⁵ Some of those we considered include Disaster Prevention and Management, Forced Migration Review, and Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD).

⁶ The outline of these chapters is found on the IPCC website: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2025/03/Doc_12-WGII_AR7_Chapter_Outline.pdf.

Eligibility Criteria for Implementing Partners

Applicants must comply with the basic eligibility criteria below to be considered by the review panel:

1. The applying entity must be a member of the ARA.
2. ARA Member organisations can apply individually or as a consortium with other members. The proposal lead organisation must be based in the region from which they are applying.
3. The applicants must have prior experience managing funding from donors like FCDO, USAID, Sida etc.
4. Applicants must be able to support a minimum of eight (8) EAPs in Africa. In the LAC and Asia regions, at least four (4) EAPs must be supported in each region. At least 30% of these must be women.
5. Proposals must clearly demonstrate links to AR 7 WG II thematic areas.
6. The proposal must demonstrate gender and social equity considerations.
7. The grantees must be able to attend the virtual Kick-off Meet and Greet (February 2026) and the requested Tracking Learning and Sharing Engagements.
8. Grantees must comply with FCDO's [Program Expenditure: Eligible Cost Guidance](#) ; [SEI's Financial Reporting Guidelines for Sub-grantees](#). The conditions set in these documents shall be applied to all steps of forwarded funds in a consistent manner.
9. The lead organisation bank account must be able to receive funds from foreign accounts. The entity receiving the funds will be responsible for contracting and expenses.
10. Proposals must be submitted in English.
11. Rates for project staff must be competitive per country and/or region.
12. Applicants must be able to operate with a non-project attributable cost rate of not more than 10% of the project's total cost.

Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Strong preference will be given to proposals led by organisations in the Global South and with South-South collaborations (meaning all participating organisations are within the Global South).
- Demonstrated understanding of IPCC AR7, WG II processes and Thematic Areas
- Strong understanding of challenges faced by EAPs in their region for engaging with global adaptation policy processes and platforms.
- Existing links with journals/publications of repute, as well as with senior scientists and researchers who can mentor EAPs.
- Experience in integrating gender equality, disability and social inclusion and a human rights-based approach into climate and environmental research and studies.
- Applicants who demonstrate a transparent, democratic and gender sensitive methodology for selecting EAPs in their region.

- Applications that demonstrate the following types of change resulting from their inputs will be highly favoured:
 - **Capability** – Building writing, publishing, and analytical skills among Global South adaptation professionals.
 - **Credibility** – Elevating grey and practitioner literature from the Global South to peer-reviewed standards.
 - **Connectivity** – Linking Global South emerging professionals to global research networks, IPCC authors, and ARA mentors.
 - **Continuity** – Establishing sustainable mentoring and publication ecosystems for long-term knowledge production within ARA, among ARA members, and the wider regional networks.
- Ability to complete implementation and reporting requirements in the given time frame.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Technical Quality (40%)
 - Clear understanding of grant objectives
 - Methodological rigor and appropriateness in selection of EAPs (including integration of gender equality), facilitating mentoring and publication through journals
 - Feasibility of the proposed approach
- Team Expertise (30%)
 - Relevant experience and qualifications of management team
 - Track record in advocacy through global platforms and processes like the IPCC
 - Regional knowledge, networks, and connections with the targeted stakeholders of EAPs, mentors and journals
- Impact Potential (15%)
 - Expected contribution to the grant objectives
 - Policy relevance and uptake potential
 - Stakeholder engagement strategy
 - Sustainability of outcomes
- Financial Management Capacity, Budget and Timeline (15%)
 - Demonstrated organisational financial management capacity for international grants' compliance and reporting
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Realistic timeline
 - Clear budget justification
 - Value for money

Note: It is permissible for the implementing partner to transfer funds onwards in the form of sub-grants, subcontracts, or consultancy agreements to other organizations

(e.g., consortium partners or entities designated as EAPs or service providers), as well as to individuals designated as EAPs. Such onward arrangements shall be undertaken in accordance with the implementing partner's own applicable rules and regulations, while also complying with SEI and FCDO financial guidelines.

The implementing partner may, where appropriate, provide honoraria to EAPs, provided that such payments are allowable under the implementing partner's governing rules and regulations while also being consistent with SEI and FCDO's financial requirements.

To support the granting decision, the ARA reserves the right to assess the track record of the applicants' delivery and compliance with past grants, projects and contracts (if any) with ARA and SEI in which the applicants have been involved as one of the key actors.

How to Apply:

Submission Process:

1. Access the online platform: [[SUBMISSION LINK](#)]
2. Create account & log in
3. Complete application form
4. Upload all required documents
5. Submit before deadline of 21 November 2025

Important Notes

- Email submissions will NOT be accepted
- Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed
- Late submissions will NOT be considered
- Only one grant can be awarded to each lead organization.
- The lead organization will enter into a sub-grant agreement with SEI as the host of the ARA Secretariat.
- ARA reserves the right not to award the contract to the shortlisted organization that fails to meet expectations during the proposal refinement and due diligence processes.

Please complete all sections of the application within the specified word limits. Read the proposal and budget submission templates for further guidance on submitting your application. Applications must be submitted in English only.

Initial clarification questions can be sent to secretariat@adaptationresearchalliance.org with the subject '**ARA Grant Question**' by **7 November 2025**, after which responses to all questions will be published on our website by 14 November.

Tentative Timeline

Call Launch	3-Nov-25
Clarification queries to be sent until:	7-Nov-25
FAQ's published on ARA website	14-Nov-25
Proposal Deadline	21-Nov-25
Proposal and budget review completed	5-Dec
Meeting with selected applicants by	10-Dec-25
Final Refinement & Submission, Grant Contract Template Review, Due diligence by	19-Dec-25
Contract signing by	15-Jan-26
Project Start	Upon signing contract
Project Completion	Maximum 7 months after signing contract

Thank you for considering this funding opportunity. We look forward to receiving your proposal.