CORDAP Coral Local Innovation Program (CLIP) 2025 Call - FAQ

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1. What is the Coral Local Innovation Program (CLIP)?

The Coral Local Innovation Program (CLIP) is designed to support innovative research and development (R&D) projects that focus on creating affordable, local solutions to coral conservation and restoration challenges in developing countries. The program emphasizes projects with the potential to be scaled up and replicated in other settings.

Eligible projects can range from novel, early-phase ideas to proof-of-concept development and testing. Please note that this program is exclusively available to individuals based in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

The program offers grants of up to USD $100,000 for a maximum duration of two years. It is open to eligible applicants from a low or middle-income country, as classified by the OECD. Single applicant proposals are eligible for this program.

Application Process

1.1 What is the application submission process?

Applicants must submit a one-time application in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the call document. The process includes completing an online application form and uploading the required documents, such as the proposal submission form providing a detailed description of the project, its potential impact and pathway to impact, the resources required as well as uploading budget sheet, and any other relevant materials specified in the call document.

If partners are involved, the application must also include a Statement of Intent to collaborate. Additionally, participating organizations are required to sign off on and approve the proposal and agree to comply with CORDAP's Funding Terms and Conditions if the project is funded.

2. Who can apply?

2.1 Who can apply for CLIP Funding?

All applicants and/or researchers based in a low or middle-income country, as defined by the OECD. and who have the authority to independently run funded projects within their organizations are eligible to apply. The mission of CORDAP is to bring together the best minds worldwide, in a transdisciplinary approach, to accelerate and scale up the development of new technologies that support international

coral conservation efforts needed to secure a future for tropical corals and reefs, as well as cold and deep-water corals.

2.2 What organization types are eligible for consideration by CORDAP?

The following organization types are eligible: research organizations, universities, higher education institutes, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, privately held companies, for-profit organizations, and government institutes/agencies.

Note: Applicant organizations must have been in existence for at least 2 full years. If funded, organizations may be requested to provide 2 years accounts.

2.3 Can an individual apply for funding?

CORDAP is unable to make funding available directly to individuals. Awards are made to the host Organization of the Lead Applicant applying.

2.4 Can CORDAP Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) Awardees (Lead Investigators) apply for CLIP 2025?

No, CAP Lead Investigators are not eligible to apply for CLIP 2025.

2.5 Can CAP Co-Investigators apply for CLIP 2025?

Yes, CAP Co-Investigators may apply, but they must provide a very strong justification to be considered for additional funding through this program.

2.6 Are Lead Applicants in CAP 2024 eligible to apply for CLIP 2025?

Yes, Lead Applicants in CAP 2024 can apply for CLIP 2025. However, they cannot hold both a CAP 2024 and a CLIP 2025 Award simultaneously.

2.7 How many PIs or co-PIs can a project have?

Single-applicant proposals from LMICs are eligible. While partnerships are encouraged, they are not mandatory. If partnerships are formed, projects can span multiple countries, provided all participating countries qualify as LMICs.

Individuals from high-income countries may participate as unfunded collaborators, and no funding can be allocated to them or their organizations.

2.8 Can an Applicant based in the private sector be part of the team?

Individuals from for–profit organizations, with their expertise and capabilities, can submit an application, be part of an application, or be engaged in a project. For-profit organizations who are applicants in a

proposal (as opposed to a contracted entity within a proposal) should be prepared to demonstrate how they are also co-investing in the project and not making a profit from the project itself. Organizations and/or Individuals contracted to do work as part of a proposed project are not considered applicants.

Although the for-profit company cannot profit from the project funds as an applicant, they can use the project outputs to develop solutions that can be commercialized. However, it is important to note that these solutions must remain affordable for coral restoration purposes. The company can fully commercialize these solutions in other fields outside of coral conservation and restoration. Additionally, for-profit companies can also be involved in the project as service providers.

2.9 Can a PI submit multiple applications in a funding round?

An individual can only be Lead Applicant on one proposal and participate in up to a maximum of one additional proposal as a Co-Applicant

2.10 Can one apply for funding if the Award will be used in conjunction with another fund?

The award funds provided are only for the proposed project. However, cost sharing and leveraging of other funding sources for greater efficiency and economy is encouraged. Demonstrated additional benefits outlined in the proposal accruing to CORDAP, coral and reef stakeholders will be taken into account during proposal review.

2.11 Does the lead applicant from a low- or middle-income country have to be a scientist or researcher?

The applicant is not required to be a researcher or scientist/engineer. He/she can be a person with the knowledge, skills, experience and/or expertise to address a challenge or opportunity towards coral conservation and restoration. However, it must be demonstrated that the applicant, regardless of their position, is an active participant and brings necessary expertise and knowledge to the project. It must be shown that the added value the collaboration (if there are more than 1 applicant in the project) brings will lead to advances that would otherwise not be possible without this collaboration.

2.12 For the OECD income designations, are both lower-middle and upper-middle income countries considered as middle-income countries?

Yes, both the lower-middle and upper-middle income countries are included in the same designation as middle-income countries.

2.13 I am on a short-term contract with my organization, am I eligible to apply for funding?

The Lead Applicant, Co-Applicants, or applicant level collaborators should have a contract of employment that extends beyond the expected end date of the proposed project.

2.14 I am a post-doctoral fellow. Am I eligible to apply to the CLIP Program ?

Postdoctoral researchers are eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant or as a Co-Applicant. They may also be included as other personnel/staff in the application. Postdoctoral researchers applying as Lead Applicants or co-Applicants must provide a letter of confirmation from both the Project Lead (if participating as a co-Applicant) and the Authorized Institutional Representative stating they can participate in such roles. Indeed, participation of postdoctoral researchers as Lead Applicants or co-Applicants must be compliant with the guidelines of the hosting institution regarding personnel participation in grantsmanship.

2.15 Can two of the Applicants be from the same Organization?

Yes, two Applicants can be from the same organization. However, a very strong case should be made as to why two applicants from a single organization are the only, or best, choice of team members to deliver the project, and subsequent impact.

2.16 How many applications can be submitted from a single Organization?

Any Organization can be the Lead Organization on a maximum of two proposals in a given call, but can be a participating Organization on multiple proposals. Applicants should consult with their Organization's research administration office, or equivalent, before submitting a proposal to ensure that the Applicants are in compliance with this criteria, and that their organization is aware of their submission.

2.17 Are non-academic researchers, engineers, natural and social scientists, coral reef conservation groups, and local communities eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, provided they submit a solid proposal that aligns with the guidelines outlined in the Call for Proposals document. The proposal must effectively address a specific coral-related challenge and demonstrate its feasibility and impact. For more details on proposal requirements, please refer to the official call document. The engagement and input of a wide range of stakeholders in coral restoration is also encouraged. Where any field work is proposed, the work must be undertaken with the free, prior, and informed consent of all those affected by the proposed activities.

2.18 Do all named individuals listed on the project have to work 100% of their time on the project?

It is understood that, for most lead or co-applicants, this project may be one of several they are engaged in and would not be expected to allocate 100% of their time to the project. However, any personnel who are salaried through the project (including summer salary) must commit 100% of their time to it.

2.19 Can a proposal have consultant contributors? How should applicants handle/include consultants?

Yes, they can be engaged in projects, and listed under External Services in the budget.

3. What kinds of projects are funded?

Eligible projects can range from novel early-phase research to final proof-of-concept development and testing, as well as R&D capacity development. Projects may be high risk, high reward, with the potential to drive transformational change in their field. Applicants must clearly identify and assess project risks, including feasibility (i.e., what conditions must be met for the idea to have real impact) and risks associated with implementation outcomes, such as ecological concerns.

While full end-to-end conservation and restoration solutions require solving multiple challenges, proposals can focus on a specific challenge within a broader system. Applicants should explain how their project fits into the larger framework and contributes meaningfully to conservation and restoration efforts.

For full details, refer to the official Call for Proposals document. You are strongly encouraged to read the [CORDAP Strategic Plan](#) for further detail and insight into CORDAP's mission and goals,

3.1 I study high-latitude corals that do not maintain symbionts or construct reefs; am I eligible to apply for CORDAP CAP funding?

Yes. Those working on temperate, cold-water corals or deep-water corals (in either the tropics or higher latitude locations) can solicit funds from CORDAP. This means that we now aim to fund projects covering all types of corals, provided that the proposed work will contribute to novel, scalable R&D with a clear path towards their conservation.

3.2 Would restoration capacity-building projects be considered if they feature novel and scalable solutions/approaches?

Yes, R&D capacity-building in areas that are demonstrated to need it most are eligible. To be competitive, submitted solutions should be transformative, scalable, and transferable.

3.3 What is meant by 'Translational' in the types of projects listed ?

'Translational' can be: moving R&D along the path to impact, from earlier stage research to later applications and testing. It can also be testing a solution in other settings and regions to prove its wider applicability, or indeed testing/implementing a technology or method developed for, or used in, a different field or industry.

3.4 Can the project be related to coral reef management itself, including through community participation, or is it strictly for research and development-based projects?

CORDAP's focus is research and development, and the program was initiated to fill those knowledge and technology gaps in scaling and transferring coral conservation and restoration solutions. Coral reef management and community participation can certainly be part of a submitted project, and both aspects are, in fact, encouraged. However, note that the primary aim of the proposed work should nevertheless align most strongly with one of the core topic areas mentioned above and in the call document, rather than simply hoping to increase an individual's or institution's capacity to manage a particular marine area.

3.5 Based on the strategic plan, it appears as if the primary focus of CORDAP's CAP is on high-tech/innovative technologies? Would you consider funding "low-tech" projects that are suitable for developing countries?

Yes, innovative ideas for low-tech approaches suitable for developing countries and/or areas without infrastructure are encouraged. Note that solutions proposed should also address the issue of scalability and transferability. It is entirely possible for a ground-breaking, novel, and transformative idea to be based on low-cost resources; high-tech does not necessarily equate to high-cost.

3.6 I recently developed an exciting new technology that could benefit coral reefs, and I have tested it out in the field at a few sites already. Will CORDAP fund me to apply it in a new location?

As explained in the main call documents, the primary focus of CORDAP is the funding of novel, scalable, affordable approaches for coral and coral reef conservation. Unless a strong case can be made, CORDAP will not generally fund projects that are simply seeking to apply existing technology to a new location, unless this can prove its widespread applicability. If the technology is enhanced in scope and/or scale, or if the team proposes to dramatically cost-reduce it to promote more widespread adoption, then the proposal will be eligible for CORDAP support.

3.7 Are projects linking corals with Blue Carbon Ecosystems and Nature-Based Solutions welcome to apply?

Yes, they would be eligible if they are R&D projects and will significantly impact coral conservation and restoration globally, however they should also align with the call priority areas.

3.8 Could field station development be considered under capacity-building and local implementation?

We do not fund infrastructure development, though depending on the project, project funds could possibly be used to develop the R&D capacity of the people involved in the field station development. Attention should be given to how this could be scalable and transferable, and also if the CORDAP project depends on other funding, or the field station being developed.

3.9 Do projects need to develop new or improve existing technology or can they use existing technologies to achieve a goal (especially if it involves capacity-building on such technologies)?

Projects to significantly improve existing technology are eligible if they aim to increase their ability to scale, reduce the cost or dramatically increase its applicability (including bringing technology across form a different field or industry)

3.10 Do permits have to be obtained prior to applying or can we request them once we know our project is funded?

While permits are not required to be secured in advance, it is important that the proposal addresses this aspect. The proposal should outline any associated risks. Identifying these risks early on allows for better planning and mitigation strategies, ensuring that the project can proceed smoothly once permits are needed.

3:11 Are projects that aim to map habitats for coral conservation eligible?

Projects must have a significant transformational R&D component but can involve mapping components.

3.12 To what extent should the project be focused on intervention methodologies versus research that would inform management approaches?

Research that informs management approaches is eligible, provided that the findings are broadly applicable and not limited to a specific location or intervention. The focus should be on generating knowledge that can be utilized across various contexts, contributing to more generalized and scalable management strategies.

3.13 Can the clip award grant be asked to scale up a project previously financed by a CORDAP grant?

Yes, a CLIP award grant can be used to scale up a project previously funded by a CORDAP grant, provided that it aligns with CORDAP's mission to develop scalable and effective methods for coral restoration. However, it should not be solely a restoration effort. The proposal must clearly outline how the project advances coral restoration techniques—whether through innovation, cost reduction, or improved efficiency. It should also demonstrate how scaling up will lead to significant improvements in methodology, making restoration more effective, accessible, or affordable

4. Budgetary Questions

4.1 How much does CORDAP allow in indirect costs (overheads)?

The total cost for indirect costs should not be more than:

● 20% of the eligible direct research costs for the applicant based in based in a low- or middle-income country (including upper-middle income countries as currently defined by the OECD).

See the call document and our budget requirements for more information.

4.2. How are the overall project indirect costs calculated?

The overall project in-direct costs are calculated automatically in the budget sheet by adding up the indirect costs due to each Applicant Organization. These costs are based on the amounts requested in their budget categories, and host country.

4.3 Does CORDAP fund proposals for the purpose of purchasing equipment?

It is generally assumed that Applicant Organizations will be equipped to undertake the proposed research. However, equipment required for the purpose of meeting the aims and objectives of a proposed project can be requested as a part of the overall budget. The maximum allowable cost for any single unit of equipment is US$ 10,000

4.4 What is the policy regarding project cost-sharing?

Cost-sharing, or contributions to the project, by the Applicant Organization is encouraged and should be described in the text box provided for budget justification. Applicants are requested not to put monetary values on in-kind contributions.

4.5 Can the Applicant hold funding awards/grants from other funding organizations?

Yes, Applicants may hold grants and run projects from other funding organizations.

4.7 Will CORDAP pay necessary and reasonable open-access fees?

CORDAP will pay open-access fee as necessary, it is an eligible expense that should be included in the submitted budget.

4.10 Would an organization with its head office in a non-LMIC but applying from its office in a LMIC , where the project will be undertaken , be able to apply for the CLIP?

No, an organization with its head office in a non-LMIC cannot apply for the CLIP, even if the project will be conducted in an LMIC. The organization must be based in, and the work must be conducted within the LMIC country to be eligible.

4.12 Can funds be used for the capacity development of the applicants' teams?

Yes, R&D capacity development of LMIC applicants is an important aspect of our projects, and travel to enable this is eligible. Travel by LMIC applicant to their developed country project partners labs and facilities is particularly encouraged.

4.13 How should travel expenses be allocated in a project proposal??

Travel expenses should be included only when necessary for project-related visits. All travel costs must be directly linked to the project's objectives and justified within the proposal

4.14 Can some of the funding be sent to a non-LIMC country too? For example to cover lab costs which will be used to process samples in an institution abroad outside of the primary LMIC country?

Yes, funding can be used for lab costs in a non-LMIC country, as it falls under materials and consumables expenses. However, justification is required to demonstrate that this is absolutely necessary—for example, if the required expertise or facilities are unavailable in the LMIC. The proposal should clearly explain why processing samples abroad is essential for the project's success

4.15 Can an organization that is not a funded co-applicant (from High income country) receive funding as a consultant on the project

Yes, the costs of professional and consultant services are allowable if they are reasonable in relation to the services rendered. If such services are anticipated, the proposal narrative should provide a clear rationale, and the summary budget should include an allocation for these costs. Expenditures must align with applicable fair market rates based on the location where the services will be performed. Please also consider that the budget should reflect a balanced allocation of costs, ensuring that the majority of funding is not directed toward consultants.

5. Proposal Review Timeline

5.1 What is the typical duration for a particular cycle from the time of launch to the funding decision?

We anticipate the time from the call deadline to the funding notifications to successful applicants will be approximately six months.

5.2 What Is the Proposal Review Process?

The proposal review follows a **one-stage submission and review process**. All submitted proposals will first be checked for **compliance** with the Funding Call criteria, policies, terms, and conditions.

Eligible proposals will then undergo **international peer review**, followed by a **panel assessment** to determine final evaluation outcomes.

5.3 What Are the Evaluation Criteria for Proposals?

Proposals will be assessed based on their potential for significant impact, the applicant's ability to deliver project goals, and the innovation and novelty of the idea. Evaluators will also consider the project's targeted impact and timeline, management, coordination, and cost-effectiveness, as well as risk analysis and site selection. Additionally, proposals should demonstrate broader socioeconomic applicability. Applicants must ensure their submissions address all these criteria for a competitive evaluation.

6. Operational Aspects

6.1 What is an Authorized Institutional Representative (AIR)?

An AIR is an individual at an organization with the authority to sign contracts for, and make commitments on behalf of, that organization.

6.2 What is a "statement of intent to participate or collaborate" (SOI), and does an SOI need to be submitted along with the proposal at submission stage?

This is a document signed by the participating organizations' authorized representatives confirming that they understand the commitments, project requirements, and CORDAP's terms and conditions. An SOI should be completed and submitted along with the proposal. Additionally, all participating institutions must have the capacity to receive and administer the funds received, including having a proper team in place to monitor spending and ensure compliance with financial regulations.

6.3 What is a Consortium Agreement?

The Consortium Agreement is a Research Collaboration Agreement between the project partners and sets the framework for successful project implementation and is a private agreement between the participants (investigators) to set out the rights, obligations, and how they will work together. (It does NOT involve CORDAP itself.) It should complement the award agreement and must NOT contain any provision contrary to it, or to CORDAP's terms and conditions.

The Consortium Agreement supplements the Award Agreement. While the Award Agreement establishes the binding legal contract between CORDAP and the Lead Applicant Organization, the Consortium Agreement establishes and governs the relations between the applicants/partners themselves. Unlike the Award Agreement (which is fixed and cannot be modified), the Consortium Agreement is essentially an agreement between the partners. As such, it can be modified and adjusted to the specific needs of the project and its partners.

6.4 Is a completed and signed Consortium Agreement required at the time of proposal submission?

No, a Consortium Agreement is not required at Proposal submission stage. A Consortium Agreement will be required only for funded projects. At the time of submitting a Proposal, each participating institution

will be required to complete and submit a 'Statement of Intent to Collaborate' in which they acknowledge and agree to abide by CORDAP's Award Terms and Conditions.

6.5 How can we ensure the confidentiality of our submitted proposal, especially when it contains novel ideas, to safeguard our intellectual concepts?

All submitted proposals are considered confidential and shared externally to CORDAP only for the purposes of review. External reviewers sign a confidently and conflict of interest agreement in advance of review. Applicants should not submit commercially sensitive information unless protected first.

6.6 Do all named individuals (both from lead and co-lead organizations) have to work 100% of their time in the project, or is there flexibility on that? Can that % change over the duration of the project?

No, it is not necessary for applicants to give 100% of their time to the project, it is understood that for most lead or co-applicants, this project can be one of a number they are involved in. Any salaried personnel on the project should give 100% of their time to the project.

6.7 Do permits have to be obtained prior to applying or can we request them once we know we can go ahead?

Permits do not have to be obtained in advance, however this aspect should be acknowledged in the proposal and any risks highlighted.

7 .Intellectual Property (IP)

7.1 Does an IP plan need to be outlined in the proposal ?

Yes, applicants are asked to 1) briefly outline how IP pertains to their proposal and 2) ensure that "project IP" and "background IP" will adhere to the CORDAP IP Policy.

7.2 Protecting IP generated during the project, such as patents, incur initial and ongoing financial costs (e.g., filing fees, attorney fees, maintenance fees, etc.). Can these costs be recouped through affordable price licensing as part of the public license for commercial/non-commercial use (e.g., charging a license fee to each licensee to help recoup past patent costs or ongoing patent maintenance fees)?

CORDAP project funding should not be utilized to fund any aspect of protecting IP. If parties wish to protect IP, this is at their own expense. IP generated must be freely available in the field of use of coral conservation and restoration. No cost for licensing the IP can be levied in this field of use. If the IP is then developed into a product, or products, then these should be available at an affordable price, and this price

can include recouping of IP costs. Note that IP generated during the project can be fully commercialized in all other fields of use, including charging license fees.

7.3 Can a license fee be charged to cover the costs of background IP?

In the fields of coral conservation and restoration, background IP necessary for the utilization of project IP should be made freely available. If the background IP is developed into a product or commercial service, then payment can be requested at an Affordable Price*; please see our IP policy document for details.

7.4 If IP is generated through the project, is there any requirement that the lead applicant's or co-applicant's institutions protect the IP? Do their organizations have the right to publicly disclose the invention or technology for free use?

No, there is no requirement that IP generated is protected, and yes, this new invention or technology can be disclosed publicly and is thus freely available. CORDAP is working with its partners on developing a portal to allow maximum dissemination and use of CORDAP-generated knowledge and solutions.

7.5 If there is essential background IP than an organization must license through a third party for the success of the proposed CORDAP CAP-supported work, and that third party owns the IP of interest, would there be a requirement to provide that IP to CORDAP via a sub-license per the existing license agreement between the organization and said third party?

It is not necessary to provide this background IP; however, any agreement with the third party on this sub-licensed IP must not hinder the use of the project IP for coral conservation and restoration. It is not desirable that a cost for the use of this IP be necessary for the ultimate use of project IP. Should a cost be necessary for the future use of this IP, the details of this ultimate cost should be 1) agreed upon, 2) affordable, and 3) clearly outlined from the project's initiation.

7.6 Can a patented technology be included in a project, and does the inclusion of a patented technology affect the proposal's competitiveness?

Yes, a patented technology and/or product can be included in a project. Inclusion of such technologies and/or products will not affect the competitiveness of the proposal, however consideration should be given to the affordability of the end-result.

7.7 If a product or technology is partly funded by CORDAP, must the recipients make this freely available for coral conservation and restoration?

Products developed using CORDAP funding must be made available at an Affordable Price* for coral conservation and restoration. It can be fully commercialized in other fields of use, which is encouraged as this contributes to making the products and technologies affordable for coral conservation initiatives.

*Affordable Price means the lowest sustainable, competitive price for the product(s) and/or technologies within a particular country, which covers the cost of raw materials, manufacturing and/or development, distribution and operational overheads, and includes a reasonable margin to help ensure the economic sustainability of the production and distribution of the product(s) and/or technologies.

8. Encouraging CARE and FAIR Principles in Research Data Management

8.1 What are CARE Principles?

The CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance focus on **Collective Benefit**, **Authority to Control**, **Responsibility**, and **Ethics**. These principles are centered on Indigenous Peoples' rights to data governance, emphasizing the need for data to be used in ways that benefit Indigenous communities, respect their authority over their own data, and are managed ethically and responsibly.

8.2 What are FAIR Principles?

The FAIR Principles are guidelines that aim to make data **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable**, and **Reusable**. These principles are widely accepted in the research community to ensure that research data is well-managed and can be easily shared and reused by others in the future.

8.3 Why is it important to implement the CARE and FAIR principles in research data?

Implementing these principles is vital to promote ethical research practices and ensure that data serves the broader community, including Indigenous Peoples. It helps to build trust, ensures compliance with ethical standards, and enhances the overall value and impact of the research.

8.4 How does implementing these principles affect data sharing?

By implementing both CARE and FAIR principles, data sharing practices become more ethical and transparent. Researchers can share data that is accessible and usable by others while ensuring that Indigenous data sovereignty is respected.

8.5 Are there resources available to help researchers implement these principles?

Yes, there are several resources available:

- **CARE Resources:** Various Indigenous Data Sovereignty networks and organizations provide guidelines and tools. (CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance GIDA - The Global Indigenous Data Alliance)

- **FAIR Resources:** Many institutions offer training, tools, and platforms to help make data FAIR-compliant. Provided here are some resources (Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020 , Force11), European Commission: Turning FAIR into Reality (2018)