

CORDAP Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2025 Call - FAQ

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1. Application Process

1.1 What is the application submission process?

Applicants will initially submit short Concept Notes (pre-proposals) which, if successful at this stage and invited to continue, will form the basis for Full Proposal submissions. Concept Notes will be structured to feed into Full Proposals, minimizing the Applicant's work.

1.2 What is a Concept Note, and a Full Proposal?

A Concept Note is an outline project proposal (pre-proposal) which is submitted by the Lead Applicant. The purpose of a Concept Note is twofold: to allow a research team to submit a project proposal in summary form for preliminary assessment and evaluation without the need to prepare a fully-detailed proposal. It also enables the panel of experts to make an initial evaluation on which concepts and ideas align best with the program goals to then invite to submit to the limited numbers Full Proposal stage.

A Full Proposal is a more detailed description of the project, its potential impact and pathway to impact, the resources required as well as requiring the participating Organizations to sign off on and approve the Full Proposal and agree to abide by CORDAP's Funding Terms and Conditions if funded.

1.3 What is the Intervention Concept Summary?

An Intervention Concept Summary is designed to show how the proposed project, and its outputs, will integrate into a complete intervention plan, up to implementation and deployment. This does not mean that the project itself needs to address all the different aspects of a restoration intervention, but the Applicants should demonstrate that they are aware of all the additional aspects/technologies/resources that need to be in place, or require further research or development work, in order for the intervention plan to be feasible and realistic.

2. Who can apply?

2.1 Who can apply for CAP Funding?

All applicants and/or researchers 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.

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 of the team applying.

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

Each application must consist of a minimum of three Applicants per proposal: one Lead Applicant and two Co-Applicants and Organizations from at least 2 different countries. There is no upper cap on the number of participants in an application. However, one applicant must be based in a [low or middle-income country](#), as defined by the [OECD](#).

2.5 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.

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

An individual can only be the Lead Applicant on one proposal, and participate in up to a maximum of two additional proposals as a Co-Applicant requesting funding.

2.7 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.

2.8 Does the Co-Applicant from a low- or middle-income country have to be a scientist or researcher?

The Co-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 Co-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 brings will lead to advances that would otherwise not be possible without this collaboration.

2.9 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.

2.10 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.

2.11 I am a post-doctoral fellow. Am I eligible to apply to the Coral Accelerator Program 2025?

Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply as Lead Applicant or as a Co-Applicant requesting funding, but they may serve as other personnel/staff in the application. Applicants requesting funding must have the authority within their organization to independently manage the project, and its funding. Being an independent researcher means that the researcher is not tied to a particular award or funding agency and has the freedom and capacity to carry out their own research.

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

Yes, two Applicants can be from the same organization. However, given the international collaborative remit of the program, 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 The minimum requirement is three Applicants, one Lead-Applicant and two Co-Applicants. Do all Applicants have to request funding or can any be unfunded?

All the Applicants participating in an application do not necessarily need to request funding. A participant on an application can also have a role as an unfunded collaborator. However, it should be noted that the three Applicants (i.e. team members at co-investigator level), funded or not, must all be deemed to be necessary to the project, and contribute significantly to the project's success.

2.15 Are regional and/or intra-governmental groups eligible to apply for funding?

Yes. All such groups, and sub-agencies of inter- and intra-governmental groups, are eligible to apply, as are not-for-profit entities. Use the name of the regional entity as the organization applying and use the country where the applicant is based and will do the work as the applicant country (for cases where the overarching organization is registered in a different country).

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

Yes, very much so. A diverse team of multidisciplinary researchers and experts is necessary to deal with the complex problems and solutions coral reefs are facing. 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.

2.17 Is it necessary to have the entire research team in place when submitting the concept note, or can we submit our idea now and build our team later?

Yes, it is necessary to have your core team in place, which conforms to the application criteria for team members and country involvement. If invited to submit a full proposal, it is possible for the team to change, or to have necessary expertise added, in response to review feedback from the Concept Note Stage.

2.18 Do all named individuals (both from lead and co-lead organisations) 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?

3.1 Are there any focus areas or thematic areas that CORDAP sees as particularly important?

The priority areas detailed in the Call Document have been identified by CORDAP's Scientific and Advisory Committee (SAC) as high need at the time of this call. This does not mean that proposals submitted in other areas of coral conservation and restoration will not be considered. However, they will need to demonstrate a compelling case for funding with a very high potential and likelihood of impact.

You are strongly encouraged to read the [CORDAP Strategic Plan](#) for further detail and insight into CORDAP's mission and goals, noting that the Project Types and Priority Areas will differ and the Project Types and Priority Areas listed in the Call Document only should be used. In addition, when a Technology Roadmap is referred to in a Priority Area in the Call Document, applicants must reference the roadmap and explain how their project will address the identified needs in that area.

3.2 The Priority Areas listed in the 2025 CAP Call Document do not match those listed in the Strategic Plan, which ones should I use?

Use only the Project Types and Priority Areas listed in the Call Document for submission to the 2025 CAP Call.

3.3 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.

3.4 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..

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 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.

3.10 If we aim to transfer our technology to more restoration groups later in the project beyond our core partners, do we need to designate those partners up front if we request funds for this phase of the project.

You are not required to provide individual level details and can earmark the funds for training in the budget section for that task however the proposal would be considered much stronger and well thought out if those partners are identified in advance and involved in proposal development plans.

3.11 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.

3.12 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 from a different field or industry)

3.13 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.

3.14: 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.

3.15 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.

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 if the Applicant is based in a low- or middle-income country (including upper-middle income countries as currently defined by the OECD).
- 10% of the eligible direct research costs if the Applicant is based anywhere else.

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. Capital equipment funding (equipment with a unit cost over USD \$5,000 and a useful life of more than one year) that is requested should be well-justified and necessary (purchasing this equipment is the only, or most cost-effective, way to enable the project).

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 briefly in the Concept Note proposal text or 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.

4.6 For personnel, can we include graduate student salaries in the budget?

Yes, graduate student tuition is an eligible cost. Consideration should be given to the type of project being submitted, its duration, and suitability for a student.

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.

4.8 Can equipment purchased in a developed country be gifted to a developed country partner to optimize how funds are spent?

Yes, CORDAP encourages optimum use of funding, and a developed country partner can purchase equipment to support their developing country partner(s); in certain cases, this will be viewed favorably, especially if it is clearly outlined in the budget justification that doing so is a more financially efficient way of getting the equipment to them. The team should explain allocation of resources and should include knowledge and access to the developing country partner wherever required.

4.9 Does CORDAP stipulate how the budget is allocated across the applicant team?

No, the team should make the allocations to best achieve the aims and objectives of the proposal. However, CORDAP expects that the funding allocated to LMIC partner countries reflects their role as full partners in the project.

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 request an indirect cost of 20% or 10% only?

This will depend on where the funds are being administered and spent, if funds are being administered and spent in the LMIC, then the 20% cap will apply.

4.11 Is the Indirect Cost (IDC) cap determined by the Lead institution or by each individual collaborating institute? For example, if the Lead institution is in a developed country, is the IDC budget for the entire project capped at 10%, or can the budgets for low- and middle-income country partners have a separate cap of 20%??

These are separate caps for each applicant based on their country, the budget sheet will calculate the total project IDC based on each individuals IDC.

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

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

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

Ensure Fair Distribution: The project should demonstrate a clear commitment to equitable resource distribution, ensuring that a substantial portion of the travel budget is used to facilitate participation from LMICs.

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 will be approximately eight months. Notifications of invite/not invited to a Full Proposal after Concept Note submission will be approximately one month.

5.2 How do I learn whether my Concept Note proposal has been approved or declined for invitation to Full Proposal?

All Applicants will receive notification of funding decisions with feedback on the decision via email.

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 collaborate” (SOI), and does an SOI need to be submitted at the concept note 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 is not required at the Concept Note stage (only at the full proposal submission stage).

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 the time of Concept Note or Full Proposal submission stages. A Consortium Agreement will be required only for funded projects. At the time of submitting a Full 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 confidentiality 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 concept note?

At the concept note submission step, 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 \(2018\)](#)