

CORDAP Coral Accelerator Program (CAP) 2022 Call - FAQ

Version: 1.2
October 2022

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 coral reefs and deep-water corals.

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.

What is a Concept Note?

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.

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, government institutes/agencies and inter and intra governmental agencies.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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

The following areas 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.

Priority Areas: Innovative ideas for restoration and adaptation interventions, low infrastructure, high throughput rate coral production and deployment methods, new methods to protect existing corals, limiting mortality of early life corals, automation systems, reef monitoring, methods to meld natural and artificial reef recovery processes, developing country R&D methods, and R&D capacity building.

You are strongly encouraged to read the [CORDAP Strategic Plan](#) for further detail and insight into the areas listed above.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

What is a Consortium Agreement?

The Consortium Agreement 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.

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.

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.

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.

Would a proposal in the topics, or areas outlined as topics for scoping studies in the CORDAP Strategic Plan, be eligible for funding under the Coral Accelerator Program 2022?

Yes, proposals in the topics for scoping studies are eligible. However, the scoping study topic areas are selected by CORDAP as areas that are deemed to require further investigation to establish the most promising directions of research before CORDAP will fund projects on that topic. Hence, proposals in these areas need to submit a very compelling case for funding, should demonstrate that they are addressing a priority need within that area (and preferably also beyond that area), and have a high likelihood of significant impact.

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.

I am a post-doctoral fellow. Am I eligible to apply to the Coral Accelerator Program 2022?

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.

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.

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.

What's the difference between a Concept Note and a Full Proposal?

A Concept Note (also known as a Pre-Proposal) is a shorter expression of a project idea presented to a funder. The Project Concept Note will ask Applicants to briefly describe the need for the project, its envisaged impact, the activities planned, budget estimate, as well as who will be involved in the implementation. A successful Concept Note application is not funded itself, but if successful, will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

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.

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.

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.

Are regional and/or intra governmental group's eligible to apply for funding?

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

Is the inclusion of non-academic collaborators, engineers, natural and social scientists, reef groups, local communities eligible and encouraged?

Yes, very much so. A diverse team of multidisciplinary researchers and experts is necessary to deal with the complex problems and solutions we are facing. The engagement and input of the wide range of stakeholders in coral restoration is also encouraged. Where any field work is proposed, that this work is undertaken with the free, prior and informed consent of all those affected by the proposed activities.

Is it necessary to have all the team in place when submitting the Concept Note proposal, or can we submit our idea now and gather 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 subsequently, it is possible for the team to change, or have necessary expertise added to the team, in particular in response to feedback from the panel of experts.

Would restoration capacity-building projects be considered if they use novel and scalable solutions?

Yes, R&D capacity building in areas that are demonstrated to need it most are eligible. Novel, scalable and transferable solutions to this problem would be very much encouraged.

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

CORDAP's remit is research and development, initiated to fill those knowledge and technology gaps in scaling and transferring conservation and restoration solutions. Coral reef management and community participation can certainly be part of a submitted project, in fact is encouraged, and in particular new and innovative approaches to reef management.

Based on the strategic plan overview, it sounds as if the primary focus is on high-tech/innovative technologies. Will you include in your funding portfolio of projects "low tech" approaches suitable for developing country contexts?

Yes, innovative ideas for low-tech approaches suitable for developing countries and/or areas without infrastructure are welcome. Note that solutions proposed should also address the issue of scalability, and transferability.

For personnel, can we budget for things like graduate student tuition? This is becoming more of a requirement for U.S. institutions for graduate student involvement.

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.