



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Agency and Partner Contact Information](#)
- [NOI & Competition Results](#) (e.g., notification, # of awards, success rate, funding start date)
- [Accessing the Full Application in the Convergence Portal & Submission Process](#)
- [Confirming NFRF & Consortium Partner Co-PI Eligibility](#)
- [Adding/Changing Team Members & Consortium Partners](#)
- [Modifying NOI Content](#) (e.g., project title, summary of the proposal content, key risks)
- [Team Member Roles/Responsibilities](#) (e.g., NPI vs Co-PIs, Co-PIs vs Co-Applicants vs Collaborators)
- [NFRF & Consortium Partner Annexes](#) (e.g., funding guidelines)
- [Full Application Budget](#) (e.g., modifying NOI budget numbers)
- [Budget Guidelines](#) (e.g., salaries, project managers, consultants, students/trainees/HQP, budgeting for 2 required forums)
- [Indirect Costs of Research & In-Kind Costs](#)
- [Peer Review & Funding Decisions](#) (e.g., prioritization/preferences)
- [Vulnerable Communities/Groups, NGOs & Community Partners](#) (e.g., co-design/co-production, eligibility of expenses, technical/language support for non-academics)
- [Miscellaneous Application Queries](#)
- [CVs, Publications & Letters of Support](#)
- [RGOs](#)
- [Post-Award Financial Administration & Reporting](#)

Note: NFRF does not provide a written response (denoted by “A: ...”) to every question (denoted by “Q: ...”). Some questions are only answered verbally. In some of these instances, SPARC was able to capture the verbal responses (denoted by “**Webinar Notes**”).



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Agency and Partner Contact Information

- NFRF: NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca
 - Consortium Partners: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#consortium-partners>
-

NOI & Competition Results (e.g., notification, # of awards, success rate, funding start date)

Q: How many NOIs were received and what is the expected success rate? Thanks. -

A: Over 200 NOIs were submitted-

Q: How many projects will be approved in the end?-

A: We cannot release this data during an ongoing competition. Following the competition, statistics will be available on our website.-

Q: What is the total NFRF funding for this call (not per project, but overall)?-

Q: How many full proposals does NFRF plan to fund?-

Webinar Notes: NFRF's competition budget is \$60M which equates to ~40 projects.

Q: How many proposals will be funded by NSF?-

A: You would have to reach out to them to find out. -

Q: Do you anticipate that all applicants be notified of competition results and ranking and funding outcomes at the same time?-

Webinar Notes: All NPIs will be notified of the competition results at the same time.

Q: will teams receive application feedback including ranking information?-

A: Please see the Review Process Guide: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/review_process-eng.aspx

Q: what's the estimated project start date?-

A: March 2024-

Webinar Notes: The NFRF funding start date is March 2024. However, the funds from each Consortium Partner may start at different times, depending on their unique procedures (e.g., different starts to the fiscal year).

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: Will we be able to see how many applications there are for each consortium partner, so we can estimate interest and possible success rate?-

A: Answered verbally-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

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Accessing the Full Application in the Convergence Portal & Submission Process

Q: If the May 2 deadline was missed is it still possible to apply?-

Q: Can an organization submit a full proposal without submitting an NOI?-

A: The NOI stage is a required step to submit a full application.-

Q: When will we be notified about the results of the NOI stage?-

Q: Do we have to wait to hear from NFRF that "you can submit full application"?-

A: You can start working on the Full Application stage immediately! -

Q: Is there a separate link for the full proposal? It doesn't seem to be on the website.-

A: In the application tab in the portal, you can find the application and click on "application"-

Q: Will there be a full proposal template?-

Q: Could a blank application example be posted on the website? -

A: Please see the supporting documents section. There are detailed instructions about what to include in the proposal: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx -

Q: Who is required to complete the application in the Convergence Portal? The Canadian partner or the main PI, even if the main PI is to be funded by another consortium partner?-

Q: Where to submit the full application in Canada? do other partners need to submit application in their country's fund organization?-

A: The nominated principal-investigator (NPI), the individual eligible to receive funds from NFRF is responsible for finalizing the application in Convergence.-

Q: Can all Co-PIs access the convergence portal and live application? Or only the NFRF (lead)?-

A: All co-PIs have access to the full application-

Confirming NFRF & Consortium Partner Co-PI Eligibility

Q: Will consortium partners confirm eligibility of participants based on what was submitted as part of Notice of Intent?-

Q: Will we receive notification of eligibility issues as part of the NOI process?-

Q: How will we know if there are any issues with the eligibility of members of our team between the NOI and full application stages? If we have not heard from NFRF, does this mean that there are no issues with eligibility?-

Q: And will all NPIs receive an e-mail or only those who have issues?-

A: Yes! They are currently doing that. -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

A: You will be contacted in mid- to late-June if there are concerns with the eligibility of any co-PI to apply for/hold funding from any of the Consortium Partners.-

A: We will contact only if we identify eligibility issues.-

Webinar Notes: (1) All Consortium Partners are currently conducting reviews of all co-PIs (identified at the NOI stage) requesting funds to confirm their eligibility to do so. If there are any issues, NPIs will be notified by NFRF in mid- to late June (June 9th is the deadline for Consortium Partners to complete their eligibility reviews) so that changes can be made prior to the Sept. 12th deadline. **(2)** Co-applicant ineligibility will be communicated to NPIs after the competition results have been announced, as these are not deemed critical. In these instances, individuals should be reassigned a Collaborator role.

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: Will eligibility issues be communicated to RGOs or directly to relevant applicants? Or both? -

Q: Will RGOs also be informed of any eligibility issues with team members (identified through the NOI), or will this information be passed to NPIs only?-

Q: Will NFRF cc RGOs when sending emails to NPIs regarding eligibility issues and also when sending the generic email communication next week to teams?-

Q: You mentioned that NPIs will receive an e-mail next week. Is this set in stone? I'm an RGO, and I'd like to let my applicants know to keep an eye out for the e-mail.-

Q: Will the check on the Co-PIs involve a check as to whether the PI also received approval from their home institution to participate? -

Adding/Changing Team Members & Consortium Partners

Q: Can co-PIs, co-applicants be added after the NOI was submitted?-

Q: Can we keep an ineligible Co-PI from Notice of intent and add a Co-PI we know is eligible? Thanks! -

Q: After the NOI submission, will it be possible to add an indigenous elder as co-applicant in the final application process? -

Q: Can the list of collaborators be changed after NOI submission?-

Q: Is it possible to append/change new collaborators (new names), after the NOI has been submitted? -

A: Yes, you can add co-PIs and co-applicants for the full application stage.-

A: You can add co-PIs and co-applicants between NOI and full application-

Q: Can you change Canadian PI from the individual and organization identified in the NOI?-

Webinar Notes: All team members can be changed **except** for the NPI.

Q: Do full applications have to request funding from the same consortium partners as the NOI? Or can they add/remove certain partners?-

Q: we can add consortium partners after the NOI? we had asked and were told yes, but I just read that adding a consortium partner now after NOI may affect eligibility.-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

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Q: Can some collaborators in the NOI be changed to co-applicants in the full application? Will the new co-applicants' eligibility will have to be re-checked by the consortium partners?-

Q: Is it possible to add a funding partner? For example we may not have had the eligible CVs in time to support the request but we do now, (i.e., South Africa), thank you -

Q: I am not sure I fully understood whether adding a consortium partner now after NOI would pose any issues. it would only pose an issue if there may be issues with eligibility of a Co-PI receiving funds from that consortium partner?-

Q: If Co-PIs change after NOI submission, how do we do the eligibility check? Thanks!-

A: It is expected that there will not be major changes between the NOI and Full Application stages. Note that if there are changes, eligibility checks will be required and it is possible that the application might not meet eligibility requirements - since it will not have benefitted from eligibility review at the NOI stage. -

Webinar Notes: While Consortium Partners and corresponding co-PIs can be changed at the Full Application stage, there is a risk to this. Any additional eligibility reviews, for new Consortium Partners and/or co-PIs will be conducted after the Sept. 12th deadline at which point no changes are possible. Should a new co-PI be deemed ineligible and mean that the team no longer has the required number of co-PIs, Consortium Partners and/or countries, then the application will be withdrawn from the competition.

Q: Would Canadian First Nations councils qualify as co-applicants for NFRF funds?-

A: Please consult the section about Co-principal investigators and co-applicants https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/additional_information-renseignements_supplementaires-eng.aspx#4:~:text=process%2C%20as%20appropriate.-,Co%2Dprincipal%20investigators%20and%20co%2Dapplicants,-Co%2DPIs%20share -

Q: If we add a person from a country that's not a consortium partner as a co-PI (e.g., Mexico) at the full application stage, how would the eligibility be checked?-

A: Please consult the Eligibility section on our website: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility-requirements> -

Q: If you're changing a Co-PI or including a new Co-PI how do you make this change in the Convergence Portal? When is the latest date we can do this since you're already currently reviewing eligibility?-

Q: If a change is going to be made, do you recommend contacting NFRF immediately? -

Q: Sorry who do we email to ask about adding a Co-PI to the team?-

Q: Do we need to add all co-Is in the Convergence portal?-

A: This has to be done through the Convergence portal-

Webinar Notes: To change a team member's role, you will have to remove the participant from the project in their current role and issue a new participant invitation with the new role. Note: It is also possible to change team member roles after the results have been announced (e.g., in the case of a mistaken role).

Q: How do you know you are not eligible to be added as a Co-PI?-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

A: Please consult the Eligibility section on our website: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility-requirements>. We are currently doing eligibility checks for those included in the NOI and will contact you if there are issues-

Q: Do you have guidance on the differentiated role of co-PIs versus co-Applicants for this call? What are differentiated roles and responsibilities of each? Is there a common 'balance' suggested for how we divide these roles?-

A: Co-PIs share responsibility for directing the project and coordinating proposed research activities, in addition to participating in the execution of the research project; co-applicants and collaborators contribute to executing the research project.-

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: can you have a co-applicant that is not part of a consortium partner? (i.e., to access \$)-

Modifying NOI Content

(e.g., project title, summary of the proposal content, key risks)

Q: can the NOI project summary be changed?-

Q: Can the title and the abstract be changed at the full application stage? -

Q: We were told during the NOI webinar that title and abstract could not be changed at full app stage, now they can be?-

Q: Can you just reconfirm that the abstract can be changed from the NOI stage - we were told in the NOI information that this would not be possible. Thanks-

A: Yes-

A: Yes, this is able to be changed. The information saying it would not be possible was a holdover from other NFRF competitions. You can change the summary. -

Q: Is the following possible: 1) in the main application to change the risk types that were listed in the NOI; and 2) to add new risk types?-

A: No this section is locked.-

Q: If a project is addressing risk 2 (to terrestrial and ocean ecosystems) is it required that the planned activities address both terrestrial AND oceans or coastal ecosystems, or can they address EITHER terrestrial OR oceans or coastal ecosystems?-

Webinar Notes: It is not a requirement that all listed risks be addressed, it will depend on the project.-

Team Member Roles/Responsibilities

(e.g., NPI vs Co-PIs, Co-PIs vs Co-Applicants vs Collaborators, team size)

Q: Can there be more than one Co-PI from the same country? or can there only be one Co-PI per country?-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

A: There can be multiple co-PIs from the same country, but it will be important to make note of which co-PI will be the "primary" application or grant-holder.-

Webinar Notes: For teams with >1 co-PI and/or co-applicant who are eligible to receive funds from a Consortium Partner, be sure to clearly state somewhere in the application who will be the primary recipient of those funds. For NFRF, this is automatically the NPA. Note: While funds are administered separately (i.e., by Consortium Partner), this is expected to be (and will be adjudicated as) a coordinated and integrated project.

Q: If there are 2 eligible NFRF co-PIs, will all the NFRF funding be channeled to the nominated co-PI and do they transfer it to the other one? -

Q: Will all Canadian Co-PIs receive respective requested funding, or will funding be administered by the NPI?-

A: Yes, the NFRF funds will flow through the NPI.-

Q: I am an emerging scholar (3rd year assistant prof) and was nominated by more senior Co-PIs to be the PI on our project. Will evaluators consider the seniority of the PI when evaluating the total budget request? e.g., should our team lean towards designing a smaller project given that the lead is -

A: No - that isn't needed in NFRF projects - the focus on the project and not the person/team/CV means we often see major projects led by ECR receive grants.-

Q: So can co applicants also be practitioners? And not academics? I've learnt today that collaborators are not eligible for funding. But as already raised in the Q and A, it's a bit unfair to not fund partners esp. if they are representing a vulnerable community group., and we can't expect them to give voluntary labour when academics are being funded. -

A: Under NFRF, yes, Co-PIs and co-applicants whose research activities will be supported by NFRF funds can be practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, healthcare administrators, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, patients, community leaders, individuals working for a charity, and a range of other individuals. Researchers and professors must be considered independent researchers to be eligible as an NFRF-supported co-PI or a co-applicant.-

A: If this is for a collaborator supported by another consortium partner please consult the relevant annexes. -

Webinar Notes: Contact NFRF directly with questions about collaborators who are generally not eligible to receive NFRF funds (e.g., Indigenous community member). There is a special instance where a gift may be possible, however there is a very specific definition with very specific conditions. Generally, the best strategy for accessing grant funds is to be a co-PI or co-applicant, as long as the definition is met.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of co-PIs? -

Q: is there a limit to the amount of co-applicants?-

A: The appropriate team size and composition will depend on the requirements of the proposed project, and may include individuals from any discipline and sector.-



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NFRF & Consortium Partner Annexes

(e.g., funding guidelines)

Webinar Notes: Confirm which Consortium Partners have 1-year No Cost Extensions, in addition to NFRF.

Q: Contact details for further information?-

A: Contact information for all partners can be found here: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#consortium-partners> -

Q: When will all of the appendixes for the consortium partners be available? (it's hard to read them when they're not there!)-

Q: If consortium partners are updating their annexes, is there a date after which such changes will not happen? It would be nice to know that we don't need to keep going back regularly to hunt for possible changes that would impact applications-

Q: How can we tell if an Annex has been updated and how do we know what the update is?-

Q: Have any of the consortium partners updated their annexes since the NOI stage?-

A: A couple have. We know that a few are still outstanding...we follow-up regularly-

Webinar Notes: Not all Annexes are currently available (FAPESP/Brazil and NSF/US), due to procedural issues. However, no updates have been made – or are planned – to the existing Annexes.

Q: The RFP does not yet have an annex for NSF - when will this info become available?-

Q: is there a contact and annex for NSF yet? (Or do you know whether co-PI salary can be eligible as a budget item from NSF funds?)-

A: Please contact NSF partner: wbauchsp@nsf.gov -

A: There is a contact in the table on the website. There is an email address you can use to reach out to them directly.-

Q: Where is info on total budget for each country?-

Q: Can you please tell us the total amount of funding that will be put forth by the NSF in the USA and the NRF in South Africa so we can have an idea of how many projects will be funded? This information is not available in the annexes. Thank you!-

A: Please see the annexes: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility-requirements> -

A: You would have to reach out to them directly. We can't provide that information on their behalf. -

Q: Is there any possibility of other funders (e.g. IDRC and GAC) coming on board later, as in other NFRF competitions?-

Webinar Notes: No, there will be no additional funders in this competition.



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: Can co-applicants from South Africa who are not eligible to apply to NRF (e.g., NGO partners) apply to NFRF for this funding?-

Q: Can you clarify if it is possible that a researcher from the US who is eligible to receive fund from NSF instead requests the money from NFRF as a co-I?-

Webinar Notes: A 'Consortium eligible' co-PI can choose to **not** receive funds from their Consortium Partner; however, this co-PI cannot then access NFRF funds. However, a 'Consortium ineligible' co-PI can receive NFRF funds (e.g., from South Africa or Brazil).

Q: Can we do research /work in a country that is not represented by a Consortium Partner?-

A: Yes! It is almost expected.-

Q: Do all consortium partners funding an application require their funds to be spent in their country? And on the research of their associated applicants?-

A: Please see the annexes: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#consortium-partners>

Q: Can we spend Canadian grant money for collecting data in non-consortium partner countries? And can we pay research staff there, too?-

Webinar Notes: Essentially the only people who cannot receive NFRF funds are those from private industry or government. There is at least one other equally flexible Consortium Partner; however, the NFRF Director was unable to confirm which one this is.

Q: Can money be given by Canadian to organizations in Pakistan and Vietnam?-

Q: are applicants from Mozambique eligible?-

A: Please consult the Eligibility section on our website: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility-requirements> -

Q: If the research includes academics or civil society organizations in Mozambique, can funding from NFRF and/or DFG being used for participants there, assuming they are listed as Co-PIs instead of collaborators?-

A: Please consult the Eligibility section on our website and DFG's annex: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility> for requirements -

Q: the Brazilian budget states an amount plus a postdoc. It is not clear whether we have to put a value for the postdoc in the budget calculations. We could not find information about this budget item in the annex-

A: Please consult the consortium partner directly: chamada-NFRF@fapesp.br -

Q: Hello, regarding FAPESP, do they support non-academic organizations as researchers, such as NGOs? Thank you. -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

A: Please contact chamada-NFRF@fapesp.br for assistance-

Q: How can a Nigerian co-PI get funds? NFRF or UKRI? Nigeria is not an eligible consortium partner-

A: Please consult the Eligibility section on our website: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#eligibility-requirements>. Also consult partners' annexes for UKRI and other partners-

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: which are the most popular Consortium Partners?-

Q: Where do we need to identify the NPI/Co-PI in a consortium partner country in the NFRF application?-

Q: can you have a co-applicant that is not part of a consortium partner? (i.e., to access \$)-

Q: NRF in South Africa do not pay salary costs which is making it difficult to attract people in research institutions there who need to raise some of their own costs. Is it possible to allow these researchers to apply to NRF for their Travel and Subsistence costs but also draw on NFRF (or ESRC) costs to fund their salaries?-

Full Application Budget (e.g., modifying NOI budget numbers)

Q: Are the annual funding amounts specified in the NOI fixed, or can they be modified within the full proposal, within the limits of course?-

Q: Can we change (e.g. decrease) the total amounts of funding requested from each consortium funder between the NOI and the full application?-

Q: Can we make budget changes originally presented in the NOI?-

A: Budget amounts can be modified at the full application stage. -

Q: For changes to the budget from what was listed in the NOI budget table, do we need to update and resubmit the NOI budget table to reflect the numbers in the full application budget table (i.e., does the NOI budget table get submitted for review along with the full application)?-

Q: Hi, where can I find the budget table? -

A: Please refer to the new more detailed budget table in the Supporting documents Section in Convergence portal. -

Q: what does applicable currency mean? Convert everything to \$ or include in different currencies of Consortium partners?-

Q: On the budget spreadsheet, when saying DO NOT convert currencies, does it mean that we need to present separate spreadsheet for each consortium partner?-

A: Please do not convert everything to Canadian. Use the different currencies of the partners-

Webinar Notes: Use the relevant (i.e., local) currency for each Consortium Partner budget table and do not add any currency signs or codes. As a reminder, there are 3 tables to fill out per tab, with one tab per Consortium Partner (i.e., there should be at least 2 tabs in the final version).



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: It seems the convergence portal does not have an automatic budget check process? So technically we will be able to input budget exceeding the requirement in the portal? -

Webinar Notes: Be sure to read the [competition overview webpage](#) fully, as well as all relevant [Consortium Partner Annexes](#) to ensure your application adheres to all guidelines (e.g., budget). For example, NFRF has annual caps for both direct and indirect costs (\$400k and \$100k, respectively).

Q: We are one of those who did not read the Annex (i.e., budget table converted to CAD currency as opposed to using relevant currency). Thank you for your patience with us! I presume we will be informed to make those changes or should we just go ahead and set up the full application? -

A: You will be informed if there are eligibility issues and in the meantime you may start working on the application-

Q: On the budget sheet: for example, if we wanted to include sections on CapEx and OpEx and we need to add detail to the CapEx (e.g., tools, equipment, professionals fees, etc.), can we add that detail? -

A: I think so-

Q: If we have two co-PIs, for example, one from the UK (UKRI) and another from Canada (NFRF), I believe our total budget (UKRI plus NFRF) can exceed CA\$1.5m. Am I correct? -

A: Yes. It is correct.-

Q: Do UK Co-Is have to submit the UKRI budget table also as an additional attachment? -

A: Use the budget table provided in the Supporting Documents section.

There are three tables on each tab, one each for direct costs, indirect costs and in-kind support. The three tables should be completed for each Consortium Partner from which funding is requested;-

Budget Guidelines

(e.g., salaries, project managers, consultants, students/trainees/HQP, budgeting for 2 required forums)

Q: What is the maximum budget of NFRF (per year) for this call? -

A: The maximum budget for the direct costs of the research project is CA\$400,000 per year, for up to three years. Applicants may, in addition, request up to 25% of the value of the direct costs of research to cover indirect costs and include this in their total funding request, for a maximum grant value of CA\$500,000 per year.-

Q: For the Canadian funding, it includes separate lines for expenses inside and outside of Canada. Does that mean that, for example, a doctoral student could be paid in another third country that is not among the consortium partners? -

A: That is correct. As noted in the competition literature, NFRF funds can be used to support research activities in countries other than Consortium Partner countries.-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: Can we include costs for co-investigators whose institutions are not part of the funding consortium? If yes, how do we address this?-

A: Yes you can. This would be described in the budget justification and included in the table under the Consortium Partners whose funds would support their research activities (such as NFRF).-

Q: On the budget sheet, can it be modified to add further breakdown? -

A: I want to say "it depends". Can you provide a specific example?-

Q: we have three Co-Applicants (institutions) in the same country (which is not covered by a consortium partner), but only one of these institutions has the administrative infrastructure to administer international funding. would it be acceptable to send the funds to that one?-

A: Likely so. but hard to say definitively without more detail. -

Q: SSHRC Partnership Grants provide funding salary support for a project manager/administrator salary. Does this provision apply to this NFRF competition.-

Q: Can NFRF funds be used to support a project manager/administrator at the Canadian institution-

A: Yes. As noted in the TAGFA this is eligible.-

Q: The guidelines on the website state that "To highlight the outcomes of funded projects and enable knowledge mobilization and cross-project learning, a forum will be organized at the midterm and at the end of the grant period. Applicants are encouraged to include expenses related to attending the forums in their project budgets." Could you please let us know where this forum will be held for budget preparation?-

Webinar Notes: NFRF confirmed that the mid-term and end-of-grant forums will happen, so be sure to include expenses to allow for team attendance. For planning purposes, assume Ottawa or Toronto as the location, and a hybrid option for participation. The mid-term forum will be for teams only, for networking purposes. The end-of-grant forum will be outward facing, so will also include NGO and government members to increase impact. ...

Q: Can NFRF funds be used for travel expenses for co-PIs to attend annual meetings in Canada? Budgets from some consortium partners are much less than NFRF, so we'd like to carve some of our budget to support travel of co-PIs outside Canada-

Webinar Notes: Travel expenses are eligible.

Q: Have you any guidance on allocation of funds among HQP, as between e.g. PDFs, PhDs and MSc students? I ask because the timing and duration of the project is not conducive to recruiting new PhD students. -

Q: Can you include relevant PhD students on the project?-

Webinar Notes: Students/trainees are eligible to receive salaries from NFRF, so will be itemized in the Budget, and can also be mentioned in the Biographical information about team members section of the 20-page Proposal, even though they are not considered official team members (e.g., co-PIs, co-applicants, collaborators).



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: are Co-PI and Co applicants from outside of Canada eligible to receive salaries from the project funds for the time they invest in the project activities? -

Webinar Notes: Funds in lieu of salary can be requested from NFRF for team members outside of Canada, per [TAGFA](#). For example, organizations, including NGOs, can be reimbursed for work performed.

Q: are consultants considered private industry-

A: Yes-

Indirect Costs of Research & In-Kind Costs

Q: Where are "indirect costs" defined?-

A: From NFRF indirect costs funding must be used only to pay for eligible expenses as outlined on the Research Support Fund website: <https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/administer-administrer/expenditures-depenses-eng.aspx> Other partners may have other requirements, so please check annexes-

A: Please see the Guide on Financial Administration: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp -

Q: Do you have a link to what constitutes an eligible in-kind contribution for the purposes of this competition?-

A: Please refer to the TAGFA guide: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/roles_responsibilities-roles_responsabilites_eng.asp -

Q: What post-award reporting will be required re: in-kind contributions? If an anticipated in-kind contribution does not materialize (or new contributions emerge post-award), what are the implications to the project?-

A: There is no requirement for in-kind (or other) contributions and this is not assessed as part of the evaluation. Therefore, it's not a factor in post-award reporting either-

Q: If we have funding for other activities which will take place with the target communities, but are linked to the current proposal, should this be indicated as other funding in the budget?-

A: It can be...it's hard to give a definitive answer without knowing the particulars. Feel free to reach out to us by email for specific questions. -

Peer Review & Funding Decisions

(e.g., prioritization/preferences)

Q: If a proposal is ranked highly and there are three Co-Is but if one country doesn't have the money, would the whole proposal fall or would it mean that one of the partner countries would be dropped? -

Q: So if one consortium partner has no funds, but the other two or three has funds, would the whole application fail? -

Q: What happens if the agency in the other country does not fund the partner? -

Q: If our project includes multiple consortium partners, what if only one consortium partner runs out of money and other 2 have money and our project is ranked highly, will the project be skipped in this case?-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: If there are 4 consortium partners, and 1 or 2 Co-PIs don't get funded and Canada and 1 other co-PI gets funded and the project is ranked highly, would the project still be successful and receive funding?-

Q: Is it expected that multiple projects could get partial funding from across the consortium partners as applicable? Or is that will be one winning project proposal -

A: The ranked list will be used in discussions with consortium partners to determine which applications will be funded. Applications will be funded in their ranked order from highest score to lowest. An application in the list will only be skipped in cases where one consortium partner has no budget remaining to award to it.-

A: The application would not fail, but it could not be selected for funding.-

Q: It appears that only four projects in total will be funded by the Norway consortium partner. This is if each project asks for the maximum. So if you have a Norway co-PI there is a very high likelihood that your project will be skipped when Norway runs out of money. Is this correct? Can a Norway co-PI not request funding from their consortium partner as long as there is still funding from two other consortium partners?-

Q: Given that only four projects will be funded by Norway, there seems to be more risk choosing the Norwegian Consortium Partner. If the Norwegian component of the project is not funded, will the other consortium partners provide funds (i.e., will the project still go ahead but without Norway)?-

A: Yes - this would be allowed. But the co-PI from Norway could not receive support from NFRF funds for their research activities.-

Q: Do consortium partners prioritize which project to fund based on the phase of the project affiliated to them, or is everything looked at holistically?-

Q: Is there one ranking list or does each consortium partner develop its own?-

Q: The RFP notes that much research to date has focused on the Global North vs Low and Middle Income Countries; however, the merit review criteria do not include any reference to impact on LMICs instead just refer to vulnerable groups - one could easily envision northern communities as being a vulnerable group. Will there be any priority given to proposals that impact LMICs or will those only addressing vulnerable communities in the Global North be equally competitive if they are rated equally on other aspect-

Q: Is any priority given to proposals that address vulnerable communities in low and middle income countries vs those in global north?-

A: Please consult the Evaluation Matrices on our website: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx -

Webinar Notes: (1) There will be ≤3 external reviewers assigned to each application (tasked with assessing all criteria except EDI); ≥3 multidisciplinary/multisectoral panel reviewers [to assess all 6 criteria and provide ratings/scores (e.g., Pass/Fail vs 7-point scale)]; and the Consortium Partner Committee which reviews the ranked list of applications to determine which will be funded. **(2)** The 'diversity review' referenced in the Peer Review Manual will be used **only** to break ties. If, within the group of tied applications, the Consortium Partner Committee identifies one with a unique priority/risk area, an uncommon combination of risks or a unique geographic region, this application will be prioritized over the others in a funding decision.

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: the reviewers we recommended are the external reviewers or the group assessment reviewers?-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Vulnerable Communities/Groups, NGOs & Community Partners (e.g., co-design/co-production, eligibility of expenses, technical/language support for non-academics)

Q: Would you refer teams to any particular definitions or references on what constitutes a vulnerable group? -

Q: What is an example of someone who supports vulnerable groups? -

A: Vulnerable groups are those groups currently most impacted by the effects of climate change owing to both physical vulnerability (heightened exposure to events related to climate change and/or poor infrastructure) and socioeconomic vulnerability (limited resources to prepare for or respond to the impacts of climate change, including knowledge, technology or financial resources, or owing to conflict, security and fragility). -

Q: How should "vulnerable groups" be best represented on the team? As co-applicants/collaborators or as partner organizations? -

Q: You mention representation from 'vulnerable groups' as part of the team, could you elaborate on what that means? What capacity? -

Q: For community partners as collaborators is it best to have at least one in each of the consortium partners? -

A: The appropriate team size and composition will depend on the requirements of the proposed project, and may include individuals from any discipline and sector. -

Webinar Notes: Given the co-design/co-production requirement, it makes good sense to designate members of vulnerable groups as co-PIs/co-applicants (depending on their specific contributions), which also makes it simpler to access funds, since team members in a collaborator role generally can't access grant funds. Be sure to check the relevant [Consortium Partner Annexes](#) to confirm if there are any restrictions with members of vulnerable groups serving as co-PIs and/or co-applicants.

Q: Is the co-production with vulnerable groups expected to happen during the proposal development stage? Or is it meant to happen once the project is funded? -

Q: Is there need to present evidence of how the proposal was co-designed/co-produced with community partners? -

A: All projects are required to partner with participating community or communities in the co-creation, implementation and ownership of the research and outcomes, and to develop approaches related to policy implementation and knowledge mobilization. -

A: Please see the evaluation matrices for information on what elements will be considered by reviewers in the assessment of the co-design. -

Q: Can members from vulnerable groups such as community organizations be included as Co-PIs or would they be co-applicants? -

Q: How should vulnerable groups (e.g. CBOs) and/or representatives of these groups (e.g. an individual) be identified in the research team? As co-applicants? If they are to receive funds will that change their status to ... to what? Thanks. -

Q: How is the participation from developing countries considered? -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: If a vulnerable group outside of Canada is working on the project as a co-applicant, can their travel costs to participate in a team meeting be covered with NFRF funds? -

Q: Under TAGFA in Canada, is paying community partners for their time and work considered an eligible expense? (that can be paid out directly by the institution where a co-PI is at) -

Q: if we want collaborators (e.g. vulnerable community) to access NFRF funds, they should be changed to co-applicant? -

Q: We are wondering about how to include partners in the project. Specifically those who need the support of funds to join (our community partners are less able to join for financial reasons). Which roles can be funded directly through NFRF? Can we pay people on our research team, for instance? -

A: This may depend on the Consortium Partner that would be supporting the co-PI/co-applicant. Please consult the annexes for eligibility information -

A: Team members who are not eligible to receive funds from other consortium partners may be eligible for support from NFRF. Using the links in Table 1 (<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/competition-concours-eng.aspx#t1>), research teams should check the eligibility of expenses before submitting the full application. -

A: The NFRF program uses the Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration as the general guidelines for eligibility of expenses and use of funds related to the direct costs of research. For a discussion on your specific case, please send us an email with further details so that we can best assist: NFRF-FNRF@chairs-chaieres.gc.ca -

Q: Could some funds be transferred to Indigenous communities who participate in research, even if we include them as collaborators? -

A: Please send us an email with more details so we can best advise. It may be best to include them as co-applicants, but we will need more detail. -

Q: Is an NGO on the project seen as a collaborator? -

Q: The tri-agency eligibility criteria is most relevant for academics - but will salaries of NGO co-applicants/co-PIs be considered eligible expenses under NFRF? -

A: Please see the definition of team members: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/additional_information-renseignements_supplementaires-eng.aspx. Collaborators contribute to executing research activities. Their research activities are generally not eligible to be supported by NFRF funds. -

Q: Can paying community partner collaborators be included as a budget item? -

Q: For NGOs to receive funds, we should NOT list them as collaborators though right? -

A: Not if they are listed as collaborators. -

Q: Will NFRF, NSF, UKRI, and NRF, respectively, support NGOs that are part of our project team? -

A: You will have to check the details on use of funds for each in the Annexes. NFRF funds can be used to support research activities of NGOs. -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: Can NGOs participating in an application be supported by more than 1 consortium partner?-

A: As long as the same expenses aren't being paid for twice, there is nothing stopping that. It depends on whether other Consortium Partners allow those expenses. -

Q: In creating a convergence portal profile, co-PIs and Co-applicants who do not come from an academic background (i.e., an Indigenous partner who will be co-leading research) have to select research codes. Since they do not come from an academic background, should they choose the codes that best align with their expertise, experience, and role? E.g., the codes related to research in Indigenous policy, community development, etc.- Q: Will NFRF, NSF, UKRI, and NRF, respectively, support NGOs that are part of our project team?-

A: You will have to check the details on use of funds for each in the Annexes. NFRF funds can be used to support research activities of NGOs.-

Q: In the case of collaborators, in countries different than Canada, not speak English to complete the electronic forms, is there any recommendation on what role included them?-

A: Yes, that is correct. They should pick what matches their expertise-

Verbally-answered Questions:

Q: If collaborators are not eligible to receive project funds, isn't this predatory research? Collaborator organizations are usually working in vulnerable contexts with many demands on their time and very limited resources. What options exist within the budget rules for compensating collaborators for their time, cooperation and special knowledge contributions to the projects?-

Q: Could you explain / provide an example of how a collaborator might receive funds for eligible expenses, given NFRF's 'slightly flexible' wording: "Collaborators contribute to executing research activities. Their research activities are generally not eligible to be supported by NFRF funds."-

Miscellaneous Application Queries

Q: Is it mandatory to complete Appendix A (Impact Assessment Form) since every single project will answer "yes" to the question, "Will any phase of the proposed research take place in a country other than Canada?"-

Webinar Notes: For research taking place outdoors, follow the instructions for completing and attaching the required Impact Assessment Form in the Convergence Portal.

Q: Do you have best practices for EDI in research design and EDI in research practices that we can see? -

A: Please consult the following link for EDI best practices: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx> -

SPARC Note: Please visit [SPARC's CWL-protected NFRF resources](#) to access a UBC-annotated version of this best practices guide.

Q: How will you address equity in submitted applications? -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

A: Please consult the following resources: Review Process: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/review_process-eng.aspx

A: Please consult the Evaluation Matrices on our website, Criterion: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx -

Q: Regarding the interdisciplinarity of the team, should it be observed among the co-PIs or co-PIs + co-Applicants?-

A: Please consult the Evaluation Matrices on our website, interdisciplinarity criterion: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx -

Q: Do co-PIs from different social sciences constitute adequate interdisciplinarity?-

Q: If the team consists of many different social sciences, but different disciplines, is that considered interdisciplinary or do you want to see natural scientists, social scientists and humanities researchers for the team to be considered interdisciplinary?-

A: Please see the research codes: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1278187> -

Webinar Notes: It is possible to meet the competition's interdisciplinary requirement within the social sciences.

Q: You mention that the research proposal should identify anticipated "scientific" impact, how would this be applied to proposals that are mainly focusing on social or humanity issues? Does the proposal have to include scientific research objectives?-

A: Please consult the Evaluation Matrices on our website: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx -

Q: Do we need to cover all the sectors listed "academia, government, not-for-profit organizations, community organizations and private industry."?-

A: The appropriate team size and composition will depend on the requirements of the proposed project, and may include individuals from any discipline and sector.-

A: Please see the evaluation matrices for information on what elements will be considered by reviewers in the assessment of the trans-sectoral approach: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx -

Q: Does 'high risk' refer to theoretical or methodological novelty? Or does it refer to the potential 'global' nature of the question. For instance, something could be quite specific to a certain geography/community and not necessarily be a globally framed issue/solution-

Q: Could you please provide more details and examples of the high risk / high reward? Our team has read the info available in the RFP but would appreciate a spoken explanation with details and examples, please-



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

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Q: In prior submissions to NFRF, reviewers have been quite inconsistent in how they evaluated what was considered "high risk" and "high reward". Is there any advice for proposals, beyond the few bullet points on the call website, on how to understand these criteria?-

A: Please consult the Evaluation Matrices (section on High risk) on our website: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx

Q: On positioning the research for uptake: Which groups or institutions should be considered the key recipients of the research? Thank you.-

A: Please consult the evaluation matrices for information on how positioning the research for uptake will be evaluated by the reviewers: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx

Q: Please repeat what to include in Management plans-

A: Management plans

Describe how various aspects of the project will be managed, including: governance/management approach; performance measurement plan, including risk assessment and management and results frameworks; data management; and training

SPARC Note: Please look for an email from SPARC (christy.mctait@ubc.ca) containing Full Application resources, including an Application Primer and Sample Governance Plans.

Q: Where do we find the Supplementary Information details and are there page limits?-

A: Please consult the annexes and the Full Application guide: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx -

CVs, Publications & Letters of Support

Webinar Notes: The NFRF adjudication process does not utilize CVs or Letters of Support, which is why they are not required in the Full Application.

Q: When completing the Convergence Portal, we did not find a place to upload a list of Co-PIs/PIs publications. Will we have this option in the final submission?-

A: No. There is a biosketch component of the application and that is the extent of the space available to provide information about the research team. -

Q: Do I read this correctly that we are not to submit either CVs or biosketches?-

A: Please see the full application required information and note that some countries require CVs to be included: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/international/2023/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx -



UBC SPARC Resource

May 18, 2023 NFRF Climate Change Full Application Webinar Q&A by Theme

Last updated on May 18, 2023 for the [2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#)

Q: Are there any requirements for an institutional letter of support as part of the application? If no, can such a letter be included as a supplementary material?-

Q: Are collaborators requested to submit a letter of commitment at the full proposal stage?-

Q: Do we need letters of support from our community partners? And if so, is there a required format? -

A: Letters of support are not required and not permitted. They cannot be included in the application.-

RGOs

Q: Does the NPI have the ability to designate <research administrator> status to someone in their institution?-

A: RGOs who do not have the 'Research admin,' access should contact websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca -

Q: To become a research administrator in convergence do you need to be based in a Canadian institution? Is there anybody else who can see the application if not based in Canada? -

A: The research administrators are individuals who work at the same institution as the NPI.-

Post-Award Financial Administration & Reporting

Q: For post-award administration, will the PI's institution be responsible for the administration of all the consortium awards? Or, will each co-PI's institution in each consortium partnering country be awarded that funding and they are responsible for that \$?-

A: The co-PI that receives funds from a Consortium Partner will be responsible for the administration of those funds. -

Q: Do you have any indication of what post-award reporting will require? I assume consortium partners will require different sorts of reporting, but can you confirm if (say) NFRF reporting will be consistent with what is required for NFRF Exploration grants?-

A: For reporting, the co-PI that receives funding from a Consortium Partner (including the NFRF-eligible co-PI) will be responsible for reporting to that Consortium Partner on the use of funds, impacts, etc. We are working towards a "common" report template, but there are some Partner-specific requirements that might make it impossible to have a single report. -
