

# Background information on preparing a project proposal focused on the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI)

## UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme

Thank you for your interest in the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme! This background note will provide you insights into developing a project focused on the [Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative \(LAKI\)](#). In this concept note you will learn more about:

- What is the LAKI?
- What is the possible scope of your research proposal?
- What are possible outcomes and methodologies?
- What happens next, once you have submitted the proposal?

### 01 INTRODUCTION TO THE LAKI

The [LAKI](#) is a joint action pledge under the Nairobi work programme between the UNFCCC Secretariat and UN Environment through its Global Adaptation Network (GAN). The UNFCCC secretariat and UN Environment, in partnership with subregional coordination entities, have convened six priority-setting workshops, one for each subregion. The workshops covered a total of 38 countries including 3 small island developing States (SIDS), 11 least developed countries (LDCs), and 13 African countries. The LAKI has consistently applied a rigorous methodology across all six subregions to identify and prioritize adaptation knowledge gaps.

The LAKI engages experts with diverse background and experience to help identify and prioritize what can be referred to as knowledge gaps – the absence of data, lack of access to useable knowledge, or lack of tools and methods to process knowledge into actionable form.

And this is done in an inclusive and standardized manner to ensure the quality and representativeness of the LAKI outcomes.

The LAKI also stimulates collaborative action to close knowledge gaps.

Several projects have been undertaken in collaboration with universities, global and regional centres and networks to address adaptation knowledge gaps in various countries and subregions, and the partnerships have added value in addressing the knowledge needs of targeted knowledge users. LAKI interventions seek to catalyze improved access to data, information and knowledge for end-users, for example, by making information available in the appropriate form for policymakers and practitioners.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the LAKI initiative.

You will co-develop a research proposal, with technical inputs from the UNFCCC secretariat, NWP partner/s, another team of graduate students from a different University, thematic experts and/or national government experts.

Your research proposal will focus on addressing a priority knowledge gap or a set of interrelated priority adaptation knowledge gaps in one of the following subregions:

- [Andean subregion](#)
- [West Asia subregion](#)
- [Southern Africa subregion](#)
- [Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion](#)
- [Indian Ocean islands subregion](#)
- [North Africa subregion](#)

The links above provide details/description of the priority knowledge gaps, targeted knowledge users (such as policy makers, academics, practitioners, experts, community project managers) and thematic areas (such as water resources, agriculture and food security, human health, coastal zones and marine ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems, forestry and biodiversity, settlements and infrastructure, energy).

The priority knowledge gaps fall under following four categories:

- [1] lack of data
- [2] lack of access to data
- [3] lack of actionable knowledge
- [4] lack of tools and methods to process knowledge into an actionable form

See a [publication](#) on the LAKI that provides an overview of the priority knowledge gaps in six subregions.

Example of the priority knowledge gaps for the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion

No.	Thematic Area	Gap Description	Cluster	Knowledge User
1	Agriculture	Limited access to adequate, locally usable knowledge and information on weather and seasonal forecasting to assist farm production operations	Lack of access [2]	Extension workers, national hydro met services, agriculture experts
2	Water	Weak dissemination of evidence and successful water management practices, adaptation technologies, and water allocation and management during periods of scarcity and abundance	Lack of actionable knowledge (e.g. in need of repackaging existing knowledge) [3]	Water resource planners, policymakers, communities project manager

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## IDENTIFYING A PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE GAP FOR YOUR PROJECT

You will be developing a research project in a team of 3-5 graduate students. Team members will bring multidisciplinary skills. When identifying priority knowledge gap/s, you are invited to make an assessment against your skills as graduate students and your interest in scope of the knowledge gap, specific thematic area, a country or a subregion. The priority knowledge gap/s will then be further contextualized with inputs from local partner in the region.

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## POSSIBLE METHODOLOGIES AND OUTPUTS

Possible methodologies for your research proposal could range from desk review of literature, interviews with experts and stakeholders, on-site data and information collection, assessment and analytical work. Graduate students from the University of Michigan, for example, used geospatial analysis in order to address two priority knowledge gaps in the Indian Ocean island subregion with a thematic focus on coastal areas: (i) insufficient information on the impacts of storm surges and other extreme events on coastal areas and (ii) on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal areas, including erosion and impacts on infrastructure, and drinking water supply. As a result, they delivered a [Climate Scenario Planning Toolkit](#) in order to help local planners and decision-makers to better evaluate the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on the Seychelles' critical infrastructure.

Potential outputs of the research project also vary depending on which knowledge users the knowledge gaps have been identified as a barrier. These could be policy briefs, GIS maps, technical reports, policy analysis reports.

Click [here](#) for examples undertaken by graduate students in the context of the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme.

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

Please see the model of the partnership programme [here](#) that provides a step-wise guide.

If you are interested in developing a research project focusing on the priority knowledge gaps in the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, please contact us ([nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int)) as soon as possible providing a short description of your interest and introduction of your team and academic advisor.

We look forward to discussing the next steps with you!

