



South Africa – Mozambique – Zambia Joint Call for Research Proposals

2018 Call for 2019 - 2021 Joint Research Project Proposals

Opening Date: 23rd August, 2018

Closing Date: 26th September, 2018

A maximum of 10 joint projects will be funded for this Call

Background and Context

The Call invites joint, trilateral research proposals from South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia to undertake 3-year collaborative research projects. The three countries seek to invest in the development of research and innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically in the SADC region through the establishment of partnerships involving research institutions in these respective countries. The collaborative research work aims at strengthening collaborations amongst institutions in the three countries, as well as promoting greater access to resources available across the borders.

Researchers are therefore invited to apply and are encouraged to collaborate with industry partners in order to allow them to design and formulate research proposals that are innovative and have a potential for commercialisation. The involvement of SMEs is therefore strongly recommended.

A multi-institutional/ consortia approach will be preferred. Participation of an industry partner on each side will be encouraged. However industry is expected to meet their participation costs in the project.

Thematic Areas:

1. Marine Sciences/ Inland Fisheries
2. Agriculture (Biosciences and food security)
3. Renewable Energy

This Call aims to promote applied research in the abovementioned thematic areas for the benefit of society. The trilateral Call is founded on the principle of ‘Science for Society’ and aims to fund projects that will yield societal benefits and have the potential for commercialisation and contribute towards achieving the African agenda for the fourth industrialisation era.

The Call builds on existing research capabilities, natural resources and shared research interests in the three countries.

To this end, projects must provide significant value by:

- creating knowledge through world-class research in Africa on the above listed thematic areas;
- building and reinforcing sustainable research networks within the three (3) countries to accelerate the production and uptake of new knowledge fields; and
- promoting applied research with the objective of commercialising research to the benefit of society, to contribute to the fourth industrialisation era and address the AU Agenda 2063.

Who may apply?

1. In South Africa:

All researchers who are full-time employees or on a fixed-term contract (minimum 12 months) at any of the following institutions are eligible to apply:

- South African universities /universities of technology;
- Recognised national research institutions such as the National Facilities
- Museums;
- Science Councils;

- Members of the International Council for Science (ICSU) National Committees (with recognition of the above institutional affiliation to adhere to the list of qualifying institutions that may receive grants);
- The applicant must be in possession of a PhD degree;
- Researchers from private academic institutions are not eligible to apply.

2. In Mozambique:

All researchers affiliated at any of the following institutions are eligible to apply:

- Mozambican national research institutions (research centres, institutes);
- Higher education institution (universities, institutes);
- The applicant must hold a PhD degree.

3. In Zambia:

The eligibility to submit a proposal on the Zambian side is in line with the Strategic Research Fund (SRF) Guidelines.

- Researchers in Public and Private Science and Technology Research and Development (R&D) Centres/Institutions and Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) that are registered with National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in the funding cycle are eligible to apply. Individual Zambian researchers who are not in any institution shall be required to be affiliated to an NSTC-registered institution.
- The applicant must hold a PhD degree.

Please note:

- Applications must be endorsed by the head of research in the participants' organisation before final submission.
- The responsibility to find research partners in the collaborating countries is on the applicants.

Funding Ceilings and Eligible Expenses

Please note:

- **Budget ceilings are equivalent in the three partner countries**
- **Three separate budgets will be required, one for each side.**

1. In South Africa

The funding ceiling per project in the South African side is (300 000 ZAR) over three (3) years commencing 2019. The funding may cover the following expenses:

- Consumables
- Travel to partner country
- Accommodation
- Subsistence
- Publication costs
- Organisation of workshops
- A maximum of 15% of the total budget can be used for the purchase of small equipment and consumables

2. In Mozambique

The funding ceiling per project on the Mozambican side is (1 300 000 MT) over three (3) years commencing 2019. The funding may cover the following expenses:

- Travel to partner country
- Accommodation
- Subsistence
- Publication costs
- Organisation of workshops
- A maximum of 15% of the total budget can be used for the purchase of small equipment and consumables

3. In Zambia

The funding ceiling per project on the Zambian side is (225 000 ZMW) over three (3) years commencing 2019. The funding may cover the following expenses:

- Research Materials and Supplies;**
- R&D Equipment and Accessories;**
- International Travel:** Travel expenses for international trips shall be subject to government conditions of travel;

iv. Transportation and shipment of research materials:

Transportation and shipment of research materials that require special handling and care shall be in conformity with international standards;

v. Local Travel: Costs for local travel shall be based on the conditions of the institution of affiliation of the Principal Investigator;

vi. Special Services: Expenses for special services, such as consultancy and analytical services;

vii. Human Resource Development: Expenses to build capacity to conduct research should include human resource development at Masters and PhD level as a prerequisite on each project proposal. Further, as a way of improving the overall quality of conducting research in the proposed project, scientific visits, attachments, study tours, exchange visits will be considered; and

viii. Administrative cost: 5% of the total project budget will be used for administrative expenses by the institution of affiliation of the Principal Investigator.

ix. Human Resource Development; Expenses to build capacity to conduct research should include human resource development at Masters and PhD level as a prerequisite on each project proposal. Further, as a way of improving the overall quality of conducting research in the proposed project, scientific visits, attachments, study tours, exchange visits will be considered.

x. Publication costs

xi. Organisation of workshops

xii. Monitoring and Evaluation cost;5% of the total project budget.

Application process

An application must designate three Principal Investigators (PIs), one in South Africa, one in Mozambique and one in Zambia, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Applications must involve all three Principal Investigators and be completed jointly, but must be **submitted in all three countries** as follows:

1. In South Africa:

- Applications must be submitted electronically on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>.
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to My Profile and update you CV accordingly
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying: South Africa- Mozambique- Zambia Trilateral.
- Complete all compulsory sections and the CV sections in full.
- Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order:
 - CV of the partners;
 - the budget of partners in their respective currencies;
 - A list of team members for each partner country; and
 - Endorsement letter from the applicant’s HOD or Line manager.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go through the host institutions for verification before finally being submitted to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Please contact your research office or Designated Authority (DA) if you have any queries.
- The NRF will not be held liable for server/IT problems experienced by any institution for non-submission of applications.
- Applications submitted as hard copies or by email will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified.

2. In Mozambique:

- Applications must be submitted electronically on the FNI Online Submission System available at www.fni.gov.mz.

- Please note that if you are using the online system for the first time, you need to register prior submitting your application by sending your request to submit to dsi@fni.gov.mz (you will need to complete personal and institutional details)

3. In **Zambia**:

- Applicants must complete a prescribed **Application Form** available on the NSTC website and obtainable from NSTC offices.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to (srf@nstc.org.zm) and copied to nstc@nstc.org.zm)

Please note:

- All applications must be submitted to the respective organisations (NRF, FNI and NSTC) simultaneously in accordance with the requirements of each side.
- All applications must be submitted by **26 September 2018**. No application will be accepted beyond this date.

Additional required documentation for the application includes:

1. Confirmation letters from the partners confirming the joint application.
2. If applicable, letters from the university or research organisation and the partner's institution indicating a desire to seek out support from the private sector.

How will the applications be evaluated?

There will be a 3-stage evaluation and review process as follows:

- i. Screening of applications to ensure that the Call requirements are met,
- ii. Preliminary appraisal of the proposals by each partner agency (NRF, FNI and NSTC), using individual country local review processes, and
- iii. Administrative review conducted jointly by an equally represented review committee nominated by the NRF, FNI and NSTC, to ensure that

requirements are met, followed by a peer review process managed by the NRF, FNI and NSTC, whereby recommendations for funding will be made.

Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- Evidence of significant contributions to, and leadership in, a scientific field;
- Quality of the proposed collaborative research project;
- Originality, strong innovation potential and quality of proposed collaborative research activities, supported by a clear plan for commercialisation of the applied research;
- Strong rationale for collaborative research between institutions, including existing collaborations and/or shared research interests and expertise. The research project needs to be interdisciplinary and promote multi-disciplinary in its approach;
- Strong rationale for budget allocations, logistical arrangements, research partnership considerations;
- Strong rationale for achieving objectives related to capacity-building, knowledge translation or the development of new, collaborative lines of research; and/or
- Inclusivity: Proposals with strong considerations for gender equality and inclusive research (involving and benefitting a broad range of stakeholders in the three countries) will be prioritised.

The final decision to fund projects will be made jointly by the NRF, FNI and NSTC.



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