Global Gateway

Africa Regional Centres of Excellence

Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) Programme - Climate Change Resilience

Call for Proposals

Formation of a Network of Regional Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa

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1 BACKGROUND TO THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1.1 Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) Programme

The European Union (EU) Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) Programme – ACT-61214 supports regional centres working in key thematic areas such as water, agroecology, biodiversity and forests, climate change resilience and ocean. These centres act as hubs of innovation, delivering locally tailored solutions, promoting cross-fertilisation, and exchanging good practices. They bridge the gap between research, public policy, and private sector, in line with the Global Gateway, the EU's strategy to boost smart, clean and secure connections in the digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.

By fostering innovation and capacity in both the EU and African Union (AU), the ArcX Programme helps position Africa as a key player in the global green transition. The ArcX Programme also benefits communities who are most vulnerable to environmental change. It strengthens local capacity by improving data collection, knowledge generation, and the development of skills among African scientists, practitioners and policymakers.

The ArcX Programme is financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI–Global Europe), which is the European Union's main financial instrument for external action during the period 2021–2027.

The Climate Change Resilience component of the Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) Programme is led by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in partnership with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). The initiative is further supported by key collaborators, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission (AUC), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and a broad network of African and European partners. It aims to enhance climate change and disaster resilience throughout Sub-Saharan Africa by strengthening regional scientific, technical, and institutional capacities.

1.2 About ECMWF

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 35 states, established in 1975, and now employs approximately 550 staff from more than 30 countries.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service that produces and disseminates numerical weather prediction data, which are made fully available to National Meteorological Services (NMSs) in its Member States. The Centre offers an entirely open data catalogue, of which a large subset is freely available; access to further products is available via a service agreement, and fees may apply. A description of ECMWF's activities and infrastructure can be found at https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/what-we-do.

As World Meteorological Organization (WMO) designated Lead Centre for Sub-seasonal Prediction Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-SSPMME), one of the WMO Global Producing Centres for Seasonal Prediction (GPCs-SP), as well as a WMO World Meteorological Centre, ECMWF cooperates closely with the meteorological community in Africa and supports WMO's Climate Digital Innovation Hub, including WIS 2.0 and ClimWeb activities, as well as the Action Plan on Artificial Intelligence, and WMO's Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs).

Assisting the WMO is one of ECMWF's founding objectives, holds an important place in the Centre's ten-year Strategy to 2030 and is part of a formal co-operation agreement. It includes the provision of free datasets to WMO Members and discounted access to the full catalogue of data, support to fellowships and projects to improve severe weather forecasting in developing countries, training, and participation in expert teams. ECMWF relies on the WMO for the global exchange of observations, as a prerequisite for all our NWP forecasting activities.

ECMWF also operates two Copernicus Services on behalf of the European Commission. The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides reliable information about past, present, and future climate to support adaptation and mitigation policies. Through its Climate Data Store, C3S offers open access to a wide range of

datasets and tools that are vital for science, policy, and industry, complemented with operational service provisions such as user support, quality assurance and training. The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) provides continuous data and information on atmospheric composition. The service describes the current situation, forecasts the situation a few days ahead, and analyses consistently retrospective data records for recent years. It supports many applications in a variety of domains including health, environmental monitoring, renewable energies, meteorology and climatology.
ECMWF also contributes to the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) which provides all actors involved in the management of natural disasters, man-made emergency situations, and humanitarian crises with timely and accurate geo-spatial information derived from satellite remote sensing and completed by available in-situ or open data sources.
In addition, ECMWF, together with the European Space Agency (ESA) and EUMETSAT, are the Entrusted Entities delivering the Destination Earth Initiative (DestinE) funded by the European Commission's Digital Europe Programme. DestinE is an EC flagship initiative aiming at developing a highly accurate digital model of the Earth to model, monitor and simulate natural phenomena, hazards and the related human activities.
Under the Global Gateway, ECMWF is also implementing another action in Sub-Saharan Africa, besides the ArcX Programme, called 'Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA)'. SEWA, as component 2 of the Africa-EU Space Partnership Programme and financed under NDICI–Global Europe as well, aims to strengthen early warning systems for hazardous weather and climate-related events across Sub-Saharan Africa using space-based data, numerical weather prediction, and impact-based forecasting. Both actions are closely aligned with the African Union's Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology and contribute to the implementation of the UN-led "Early Warnings for All" (EW4All) initiative and the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS) initiative.

1.3 Legal framework

The Call for Proposals is based on the Contribution Agreement between the European Union, represented by the European Commission (EC), and ECMWF, number 700002511 in respect of "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) and African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (ArcX) – ECMWF", which entered into force on 16 December 2024, and any amendments and addenda thereof.

1.4 Definitions

Applicants	means all legal entities listed in the Proposal as prospective Beneficiaries and Associated Partners.
Application	means the Proposal together with the supporting documents and information, as outlined in Section 19 of this Call for Proposals.
Associated Partners (AP)	means entities that participate in the Project, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.
Background	means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as IPR — that is: (a) held by the Beneficiaries or ECMWF before they acceded to the respective Grant Agreement under this Call for Proposals or developed independently of that given Grant Agreement, and (b) needed to implement the Project or use the Results or the Deliverables.
Beneficiaries (BEN)	means entities that are responsible for implementing Project tasks and have the right to charge costs and claim contributions and that sign the Grant Agreement (either directly or via an accession form).
Copernicus	refers to the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.
Deliverable	means a Project output that must be produced and submitted to ECMWF by the deadline outlined in the Grant Agreement.

Destination Earth (DestinE)	means the initiative of the European Commission to create a digital twin of the Earth system.
Grant	means a financial contribution by way of donation by ECMWF under the Contribution Agreement "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) and African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (ArcX) – ECMWF".
Grant Agreement Template	refers to terms and conditions for ArcX Grants through ECMWF.
Milestone	means a control point in the Project that helps to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the achievement of a key Result, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken.
Subcontractors	means entities contracted by a Beneficiary for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities that form part of the Project.
Participants	means all legal entities participating in the Project as Beneficiaries, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors (see Section 5 of this Call for details on the roles).
Project	means the set of activities, resources, and funding designed to achieve Objectives and Results in a defined timeframe and presented in the Proposal to this Call and funded as a result of this Call.
Project Implementation	means the phase – following the Grant Agreement signature – when the Project/Grant is executed.
Proposal	means a response to this Call for Proposals, consisting of the technical description, estimated budget and proposed Participants.
Results	means any tangible or intangible effect of the Project, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.
Submission Portal	means the web-based proposal submission portal ProContract, which the Applicants are required to use to submit their Proposal.

Table 1 Definitions of key words and phrases used in the Call

2 Scope of the Call for Proposals

The scope of this Call is to identify and select African Regional Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (RCoEs-C2R) that can contribute to the implementation and long-term sustainability of ArcX activities across Sub-Saharan Africa. The Call aims to build on existing entities, their mandates and ongoing initiatives, adding value by fostering connections, mobilising complementary expertise and resources, and creating a regional space where science and innovation can be translated into capacity, collaboration and climate-resilience solutions. The Call focuses on entities with a formal mandate to bring together national and regional stakeholders and to represent regional objectives, including aspects linked to regional climate strategies and regional and subregional climate adaptation, as well as weather and climate data needs related to agriculture, water, health, and energy, which operate in one of those regions: Eastern, Western, Central, Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean Islands, or Sub-Saharan Africa (see Section 12.2 for the definition of '*formal mandate*'). Recognition of such mandate by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and/or the African Union Commission (AUC) will be considered an asset and must be evidenced by appropriate official documentation.

The prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate proven or developing scientific and technical capacities and the ability to support climate data stewardship, AI-enabled forecasting innovation, peer-to-peer training, stakeholder engagement and science-policy uptake. The selected entities will assume the role of RCoEs-C2R and shall ensure the geographical coverage necessary for the implementation of the expected activities. A maximum of six (6) RCoEs-C2R are planned to be supported for a minimum of 32 months via Grants awarded through this Call for Proposals which aims to strengthen and complement existing structures and activities.

Concept of implementing a tier system

The Call provides a structured pathway for entities at different levels of capacity to participate in the ArcX Programme and to become a RCoE-C2R through a tiered approach, ensuring that existing capacities are

recognised while creating opportunities for targeted strengthening, collaboration and progressive development. The tier framework (see Section 4 of this Call) reflects the level of capacity of each RCoE-C2R to implement the activities foreseen under the Call at the respective regional level. The Call budget for each Grant is designed to take these different levels of capacity into account (see Section 7 of this Call).
Funding under this Call will primarily support the establishment and operation of the RCoE-C2R function, establishment of an ArcX network-of-networks, and preparatory or enabling activities that allow designated RCoEs-C2R to contribute effectively to dedicated ArcX grants and related regional initiatives.

2.1 Introduction and Scope of the ArcX Programme

Sub-Saharan Africa faces major challenges and pressures that threaten sustainable development, including climate change, environmental degradation, unsustainable resource management, biodiversity loss, and uneven technological development. These dynamics weaken ecosystems and livelihoods and make the green transition both urgent and unavoidable. Therefore, the green transition is at the heart of the AU–EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).
Africa is facing weak STI capacity with a shortage of skills in critical sectors combined with limited investment in research and development. At the same time, gender inequality remains a structural issue: women, especially in leadership and managerial positions, are still under-represented in STI, which limits inclusive and balanced decision-making.
Against this background, the ArcX Programme supports an ecosystem of more than 50 Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs) in over 22 African countries together with 10 partner organisations in Europe. It operates as a transnational platform that connects partners across borders, enabling structured exchange, coordination and collective learning. By doing so, the ArcX Programme promotes cross-sector collaboration and strengthens policy influence, innovation outcomes through improved data, knowledge and skills and private sector involvement.



Figure 1: Overview of all the ArcX Programme components (Source: https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu The ArcX Programme)

The ArcX Programme is structured around 5 thematic components (Biodiversity & Forests, Agroecology, Water, Ocean and Climate Change Resilience) and 1 cross-cutting component. These are aimed at:

- **Strengthening RCoEs:** enhancing their capacities in their respective thematic areas. This includes upgrading research infrastructures, fostering gender-sensitive approaches, and improving data collection, sharing, and analysis.
- **Promoting knowledge generation and management:** this entails cross-sectoral collaboration, open science, and partnerships between African and European stakeholders to produce evidence-based policies and innovative solutions.

- **Supporting practitioners and policymakers:** providing tailored services, decision-support systems, and capacity-building activities to improve policymaking, innovation ecosystems, and business development.
- **Creating networking and collaboration opportunities:** facilitating intra-African and Africa-EU partnerships.

2.1.1 Introduction to the ArcX Programme Component on Climate Change Resilience and the Role of Regional Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (RCoE-C2R)

To strengthen the scientific, technical and innovation capacities of RCoEs, the ArcX Climate Change Resilience component builds on existing African and European initiatives, as well as the expertise and contributions of the WMO designated Regional Climate Centres (RCCs). ClimSA and JRC activities, alongside data, services and innovations developed through Destination Earth (DestinE), Copernicus services and contributions from ECMWF and its Member States, provide key inputs.

ArcX grant-funded activities focus on preparing and curating AI-ready climate observation data and developing and testing Forecast-in-a-Box pilot systems, the designation and implementation of sector-specific and science-oriented demonstration cases focusing on the provision of tailored climate services, the usage AI/ML technologies and Destination Earth capabilities to address regional climate resilience challenges. In addition, delivery of peer-to-peer training activities, regional trainings and knowledge exchange between African and/or European entities will be part of ArcX activities as well. Particular focus is put on advancing sub-seasonal to seasonal climate forecasting in Africa using novel AI/ML techniques and the latest advancements in research, assessing the impact of these advancements on a scientific, sectoral, and political level, as well as fostering knowledge building and transfer through training. Through these activities regional scientific and technical capacities, the uptake of innovative climate services and digital solutions, engagement with relevant stakeholders and end users, and contribution to the long-term sustainability, regional ownership, and scaling of the ArcX Programme outcomes across Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to be strengthened.

The RCoEs-C2R, designated through this Call, will have a role in cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering in Sub-Saharan Africa, including with, but not limited to, the other ArcX Programme components (see Schedule 2 of this Call).

The RCoEs-C2R shall contribute to the ArcX Programme pathways to sustainability, i.e., through training, the best possible usage of existing systems, participation in innovation challenges and knowledge transfer activities. Particular attention shall be paid to gender balance and the engagement of young professionals.

The RCoEs-C2R shall establish a network of networks between the different RCoEs as well as interested European partners to enhance cohesion among the African RCoEs, while maintaining connections with their European counterparts. The overarching ArcX network and JRC's African Knowledge Platform (AKP) shall be used to complement this. Links shall be established with WMO, in particular Regional Association I (RA I), WMO's Lead Centre for Sub-Seasonal Predictions Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-SSPMME) and Global Producing Centres for Seasonal Predictions (GPC-SPs), WMO's World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), as well as with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), including EuroGEO and AfriGEO.

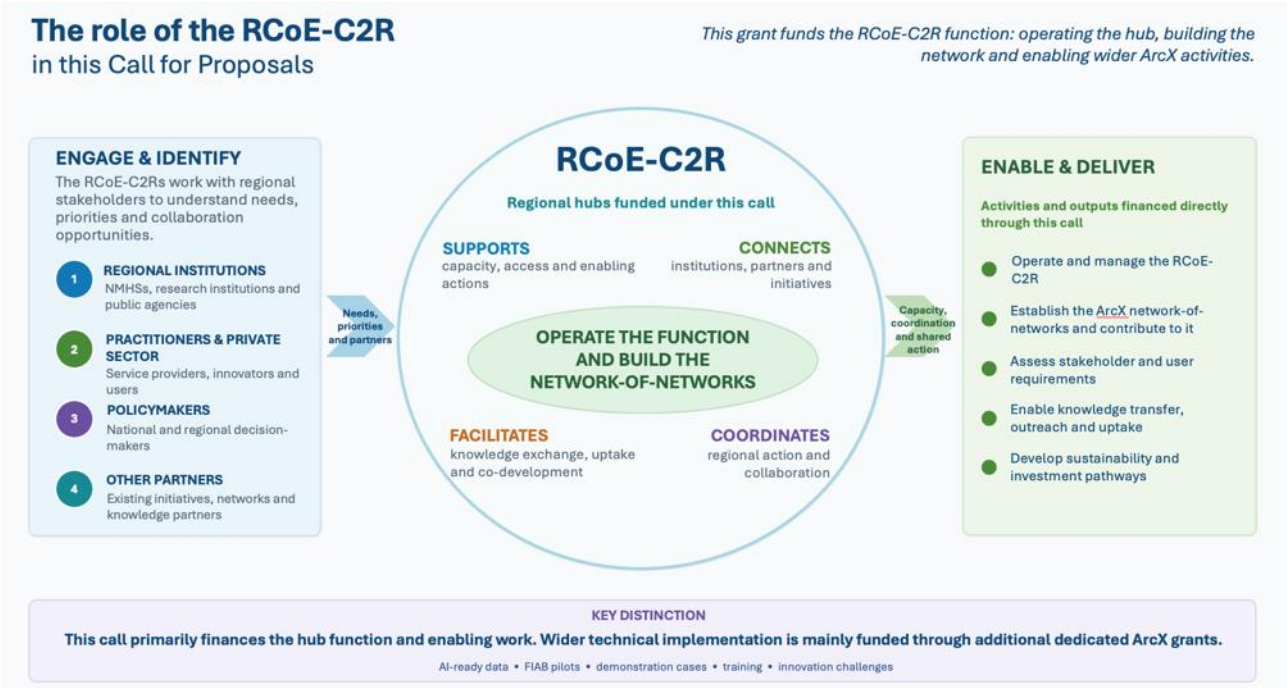


Figure 2: Overview of the role of the RCoE-C2R

2.1.2 Advancing Sub-seasonal to Seasonal forecasting within ArcX

Sub-seasonal (2–4 weeks) and seasonal (1–6 months) climate forecasts are vital for safeguarding lives, livelihoods and economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The reduction of climate-related impacts by enabling earlier, targeted preparedness and anticipatory action, as well as the strengthening of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) by extending lead times from weather to climate scales, is also closely linked with the objectives of ongoing initiatives such as SEWA as well as AMHEWAS and UN Early Warning for All (EW4All).

Potential sectoral benefits of sub-seasonal to seasonal forecasts in Sub-Saharan Africa are substantial and include, for example:

- Improvement of drought monitoring and forecasting at the national and regional level;
- Enhanced guidance for agricultural decisions at the regional level to boost yields and food security;
- Improved input to water resources allocation within the context of transboundary basins;
- Optimisation of renewable energy operations with outlooks on water inflows, cloudiness and wind regimes;
- Provision of information in support of health preparedness, including heat stress, meningitis belts, vector-borne disease seasonality;
- Underpinning of planning for humanitarian aid to cut response time, costs and impacts;
- Improved input to relocation planning where seasonal extremes amplify displacement risks.

2.1.3 Advancing on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) within ArcX

Progress in the domain of AI/ML is rapid, while experiments also aim to resolve challenges due to data limitations or complexities in fully capturing Earth system processes (including interactions between processes advancing across multiple timescales, or issues with the predictability of teleconnection impacts, etc.). The use of AI/ML, however, holds considerable promise and comes with a rich set of benefits within the context of digital transformation in Africa. Indeed, AI/ML is already significantly transforming the field of weather forecasting by delivering forecasts which are faster and, in an increasing number, more accurate. Once models are trained with quality-assured data, they are less computationally intensive when compared to traditional physics-based models, reducing the need to rely on complex high-performance computers. In

addition, whereas conventional methods rely on solving detailed mathematical equations related to fluid dynamics and thermodynamics, AI systems utilise extensive historical data (e.g. using Copernicus C3S ERA5) to generate predictions within seconds, with a reduced need for internet bandwidth, extensive data storage, or large scientific teams. These capabilities can support faster updates, improved regional accuracy and greater accessibility, benefits that are particularly vital for data-limited and vulnerable regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa.

The recent advances in AI/ML are creating new opportunities to improve the skill and usability of sub-seasonal forecasts, addressing the critical forecast range between short-range weather prediction and seasonal outlooks. International initiatives such as the AI Weather Quest, organised by ECMWF, are demonstrating the growing potential of AI/ML approaches to complement traditional forecasting methods and advance predictive capability at longer time scales that are particularly relevant for preparedness and anticipatory action. The rapid evolution of AI-based forecasting highlights the importance of strengthening regional capacity to evaluate, adapt, and apply emerging technologies in ways that address African priorities and operational requirements. The ArcX Programme therefore encourages innovation and knowledge development that can help position African entities at the forefront of new developments in weather and climate prediction. However, it is important to note that the use of AI/ML models for sub-seasonal and seasonal forecasts, as proposed within The ArcX Programme, is still in an early development phase and will be complemented with operational physics-based forecasts.

2.1.4 Fostering the Uptake of DestinE and Copernicus Climate Change Service Data and Infrastructure within ArcX

The Forecast-in-a-Box (FIAB) concept was initiated as part of AI/ML-driven solutions of ECMWF for the DestinE Digital Twin Engine. It refers to a packaged system that uses AI/ML and data-driven models to deliver forecasts more efficiently, either on local hardware or in the cloud, rather than relying solely on large high-performance computing (HPC) clusters. Those forecasts can also be adapted to the region or the needs of the users. These systems are designed to be lighter and faster than traditional physics-based numerical models, enabling forecasts to be run closer to where the data is needed, thereby improving portability and user access to up-to-date predictive information. This set-up enables running forecasts closer to where the data is needed, offering key benefits:

- Users can tailor the forecasting pipeline to their specific needs;
- Improved responsiveness and timeliness;
- Deployment across a range of environments;
- No deep expertise in system set-up or infrastructure is needed

Within the ArcX Programme it is foreseen to make use of FIAB, extend it to the sub-seasonal to seasonal scale and assess its benefits for the public, academic and private sector as well as for society.

ECMWF issues sub-seasonal weather predictions up to 46 days ahead as ensemble forecasts that predict week-to-week changes in the weather. Seasonal predictions are mainly issued up to seven months ahead. They are also provided as ensemble forecasts and show expected future atmospheric, land, and oceanic conditions averaged over one to three months. The longest-range predictions issued by ECMWF are 13-month forecasts of sea-surface temperature anomalies in the El Niño region in the equatorial Pacific. ECMWF's sub-seasonal and seasonal predictions are publicly available on ECMWF's website. ECMWF's seasonal predictions also feed into the multi-system seasonal forecasts of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) implemented by ECMWF which combine seasonal forecasts for a range of parameters from eight forecasting centres, including ECMWF. Those combined predictions from multiple leading international forecasting centres deliver probabilistic outlooks several months ahead for key climate variables. In addition, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides a globally recognised foundation for climate information and prediction that can significantly strengthen the capabilities of the RCoEs- C2R. In particular, ERA5, the latest global climate reanalysis produced under C3S, offers a comprehensive and quality-

controlled historical record of atmospheric, land-surface and ocean conditions that supports climate monitoring, model development, forecast calibration, AI applications and decision-making. ERA5 is produced using ECMWF's forecast models and data assimilation systems to 'reanalyse' archived observations, creating global data sets describing the recent history of the atmosphere, land surface, and oceans. It is used for monitoring climate change, for research and education, and for commercial applications. ERA5 provides a snapshot of the atmosphere, land surface and ocean waves for each hour from 1959 onwards (for 1950 to 1958 a preliminary version is available).

2.1.5 Support to the WMO's Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) and WMO's Climate Digital Innovation Hub within ArcX

The ArcX Programme on Climate Change Resilience will support and complement key WMO initiatives, including the WMO Information System 2.0 (WIS 2.0), ClimWeb, and the Climate Digital Innovation Hub. WIS 2.0 provides the standards-based framework for the discovery, exchange, and interoperability of weather and climate data, while ClimWeb offers a platform for delivering climate information and services to users. Through the Climate Digital Innovation Hub, WMO promotes innovation, open-source solutions, artificial intelligence, and digital service modernization across National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The ArcX Programme will contribute to these efforts by strengthening RCoEs-C2R as regional hubs for innovation, research, capacity development and, to the extent possible, operational deployment. The ArcX Programme on Climate Change Resilience will support the preparation of AI-ready climate datasets, the development and testing of AI-enabled forecasting systems, the adoption of WIS 2.0-compliant data management and exchange practices, and the use of digital service delivery platforms such as ClimWeb. Besides this, the RCoEs-C2R shall implement initial and enabling actions to facilitate possible further data and information sharing at the national level through digital infrastructure and online platforms, in line with WIS 2.0 objectives, such as for example ClimWeb. This shall be coordinated closely in the respective regions, making best use of regional fora, such as RCOFs, and shall be based on close interactions with selected NMHSs to identify specific needs.



Figure 3: Overview of the RCoE-2CR in the wider institutional landscape

2.2 Expected Activities of the RCoE-C2R

The Regional Centres of Excellence for Climate Change Resilience (RCoEs-C2R) are expected to function as regional hubs for STI, knowledge exchange, AI-enabled climate services, capacity development, and science-policy engagement. The RCoEs-C2R shall not aim at replacing existing institutions. Connecting existing centres, mobilising complementary expertise and resources, and creating a regional space where science and innovation can be translated into capacity, collaboration and climate-resilience solutions are the primary goals. Besides support to other ArcX Climate Change Resilience activities is expected from the RCoEs-C2R, depending on their respective tiers. All RCoEs-C2R will therefore contribute to the objectives of the ArcX Programme, but at different levels of responsibility, complexity, and budget. These contributions are largely funded through additional grants but preparatory work is also expected from the prospective RCoEs-C2R under this call and might include support on making data AI ready, data rescue actions, implementation of Forecast-in-a-Box (FIAB) pilots, connection to other ArcX thematic areas and centres, support on sector and science specific demonstration activities as well as training and innovation activities such as ECMWF's Code for Earth and AI Weather Quest. More details are provided in the next sections. The budget under this Call for Proposals is thus mainly to 'operate' the RCoE-C2R, to accommodate costs linked to the network-of-networks aspect and to support the preparation of some of the upcoming activities within the ArcX Programme. An indicative budget is provided in Section 7 of this Call. Proposals shall include details on how the different activities are planned to be implemented, including an indicative budget. An overview of mandatory Deliverables and Milestones is provided under Section 3 of this Call. The Deliverables are mandatory for all tiers; the expected scope of each is proportionate to the RCoE-C2R's tier and budget.

The designated RCoEs-C2R will be funded until the end of 2029. It is expected that the RCoEs-C2R will also contribute with a long-term vision to continue maintaining the status as RCoE-C2R after this implementation phase. A formal commitment to host the function as a RCoE-C2R will be requested together with the Proposals under this Call. A sustainability plan will be developed during the implementation and is expected provide an outlook on how the function can be sustained after the end of the ArcX Programme, in agreement with ECMWF and DG INTPA.

2.2.1 Manage, Build and Engage the RCoE-C2R and Create Linked Networks

This activity covers the engagement in the ArcX Programme network, institutional strengthening, contribution to regional coordination, engagement with partners, establishment or strengthening of scientific and technical capacities, which is the core aim of the grant activities under this Call for Proposals. The ultimate goal is therefore not only to identify RCoEs-C2R but also to enhance collaboration amongst the different RCoEs-C2R. This shall be achieved through (1) peer-to-peer knowledge transfer between European and African stakeholders and through (2) knowledge transfer between RCoEs-C2R across the same or different tiers, enabling – if applicable – lower tier RCoEs-C2R to evolve and reach a higher level. A 'network-of-networks' shall be established amongst the different RCoEs-C2R, the broader ArcX community including other thematic area RCoEs as well as with interested European partners to enhance cohesion among the African RCoEs, while maintaining connections with their European counterparts. African and European entities, including NMHSs, research institutions and the private sector, shall be activated to support the RCoEs-C2R with the objective of increasing their innovation capacity and leveraging the impact of their investments. In parallel, more advanced RCoEs-C2R will be tasked with supporting other RCoEs-C2R, thereby achieving co-ownership within Africa.

Partnership management and outreach activities are also part of this activity with the aim to gain intelligence on practitioners', scientists' and policymakers' needs and requirements and to assess the added-value as gained from the RCoEs-C2R. To allow for an integrated view, this activity will be implemented by the RCoEs-C2R in coordination with ECMWF, and with inputs from other implementing agencies involved in the ArcX Programme and, possibly, other knowledge partners and stakeholders.

Additional tasks under this activity will be implemented in close coordination with ECMWF and include:

- Collection and assessment of stakeholder needs and enhancement of user intelligence;
    - Gather user requirements for climate services, Earth observation products, AI/ML applications and Copernicus/Destination Earth data.
    - Identify common requirements across countries and sectors.
    - Prioritise requirements according to regional relevance and potential impact.
    - Assess future capacity needs of countries and regional institutions.
    - Provide recommendations for future investment priorities.

- Identification of priorities to support practitioners, scientists and policymakers, including identification of the role of the private sector as well as gender-sensitive and youth engagement aspects;
    - Conduct regional consultations with practitioners, researchers and policymakers.
    - Facilitate dialogue between scientists, practitioners and decision-makers.
    - Identify barriers to uptake of scientific products and services.
    - Organise thematic focus groups on climate resilience challenges.
    - Identify priority sectors (agriculture, water, health, energy, disaster risk reduction, urban resilience).
    - Map existing initiatives and remaining gaps.

- Establishment of a roadmap for further engagement and partnerships during the implementation and identification of potential activities beyond the end of the Grant;
- Sharing of results through participation in the official ArcX Programme meetings/fora.

Such tasks will be based on engagements with a selection of 30 to 40 stakeholders per region as well as at the African level. This shall happen through interviews, surveys, etc. In particular, weather and climate data and application needs related to agriculture, water, health, and energy and related investment needs at the RCoEs-C2R or NMHSs shall be assessed. Participation of a diverse set of stakeholders shall be ensured, i.e. the individual countries in the respective region need to be well represented, as well as existing regional structures and individual sectors (public, private, academic). The inclusion of female and young experts shall be fostered. The approach, as well as a list of stakeholders, needs to be approved by ECMWF (see Milestones in Section 3 of this Call) before the assessment of needs itself starts. The results shall be stored in a dedicated user requirements database (URDB). Templates will be provided by ECMWF.

RCoEs-C2R are expected to facilitate collaboration between RCoEs-C2R, and other knowledge centres in the region, like regional centres, NMHSs, or international partners as well as to strengthen the interface between science, operations and decision-making, in particular:

- To conduct partnership management and stakeholder engagement throughout the implementation of the ArcX Programme (convene communities of practice, workshops, fora, briefings etc.);
- To deliver peer-to-peer exchanges and networking activities for the benefit of the RCoEs-C2R network-of-networks;
- To build or strengthen links between researchers, operational services and decision-makers in the region, in particular with relevant entities, like NMHSs, universities, regional bodies, research institutes, and the private sector;
- Upon facilitation with ECMWF to engage with WMO, ECMWF, EUMETSAT and JRC;

- To develop a long-term sustainability plan and suggestions for resource mobilisation strategies.

The most advanced RCoEs-C2R are expected to lead the implementation as well as to coordinate a RCoE network on Climate Change Resilience. They shall also initiate the needs collection and assessment and support other RCoEs-C2R to mirror the approach in their respective regions. Higher tier RCoEs-C2R are also expected to represent the ArcX Programme in meetings, workshops and conferences as needed and upon agreement with ECMWF as well as to spearhead the draft of the sustainability strategy. In addition, twinning activities shall also be led by those RCoEs-C2R and will contribute to the establishment of the RCoE-C2R network-of-networks as well as to the knowledge transfer. The other tier RCoEs-C2R will support those efforts and contribute to the other tasks as per description below.

A dedicated budget shall be presented taking into account events that need to be organised as well as travel that needs to be conducted within Africa. It is expected that at least two missions in Africa are needed per year. The most advanced centres are also expected to lead and finance twinning activities from their budget including travel. All prospective RCoEs-C2R that see themselves leading such an activity are requested to include it in their budget. A kick-off meeting is planned in Bonn (3 full days, early Q2 2027) and needs to be taken into account as well by all Applicants when drafting the budget.

2.2.2 Other Activities within ArcX on Climate Change Resilience

While the core aim of this Call is to manage, build and engage the RCoEs-C2R and create related networks, a number of additional activities shall be supported under this Call. A short description is provided below.

2.2.2.1 Support the Data Collection, the Data Sharing and the Preparation of AI-ready Climate Data

This activity will be supported through a dedicated separate grant on data rescue and making data AI ready. RCoEs-C2R are expected to contribute knowledge on how to foster data rescue activities, improve data availability and support AI efforts. The RCoEs-C2R are also expected to lay the foundation and to support the respective grant beneficiaries under this separate grant during the implementation as well as to share results, best practices, data and methodologies to promote uptake and replication. In addition, the RCoEs-C2R are expected to build or strengthen capacities in climate data management, AI/ML applications and digital climate services.

The RCoEs-C2R shall also have the objective of implementing initial and enabling actions to facilitate possible further data and information sharing at the national level through digital infrastructure, including upgraded websites, the use of e-services, and social media platforms, in line with WIS 2.0 objectives. This shall be promoted in the respective regions through events, like the RCOFs, and shall be based on close interactions with selected NMHSs to identify specific needs. While actual investments for data and information sharing towards end users shall not be covered, the RCoEs-C2R shall conduct an assessment of specific investment needs under this grant.

2.2.2.2 Support to Forecast-in-a-Box Pilots

The testing, deployment and evaluation of Forecast-in-a-Box (FIAB) systems as well as operational experimentation; regional adaptation of AI-enabled forecasting approaches shall be supported. Through a separate grant and following the example of the pilot project in Malawi, a selection of self-contained, portable "Forecast-in-a-Box" pilots shall be co-developed as a partnership between European NMHSs, ECMWF and RCoEs-C2R. The applicability will be tested on its use at sub-seasonal to seasonal timescales. Priority will be given to co-development with highest tier RCoEs-C2R; however, during the course of the ArcX Programme implementation, other tier RCoEs-C2R may join, depending on their interest, developed capacity, and availability of additional regional climate observation data.

2.2.2.3 Support the Development of Demonstration Cases, Knowledge Dissemination and Impact Generation

Within ArcX on Climate Change Resilience the applicability of the Forecast-in-a-Box pilots providing sub-seasonal to seasonal forecasts shall be tested in demonstration cases (demo case). This will be mostly done through a separate grant. For the development of the demo cases, the use of data from DestinE shall be stimulated and complemented with Copernicus data. Insights from ClimSA, SEWA, and information obtained through other research activities on sub-seasonal and seasonal forecasts in Africa shall be taken into account. Through these demo cases, the contribution of the RCoEs-C2R to transform science into potential societal and economic impacts within the region will be emphasised. In parallel, the collected user and stakeholder feedback will support further scientific and innovative developments at the RCoEs-C2R themselves. RCoEs-C2R are also expected to provide feedback on new applications or products, and to translate research into operational services and policy-relevant solutions as needed. In addition, RCoEs-C2R are expected to familiarise themselves with and strengthen their uptake of Copernicus, DestinE and ECMWF data, in particular on time scales relevant to this Call and including the multi-model products provided by the LC-SSPMME, and support knowledge sharing in the region as needed.

2.2.2.4 Support Peer-to-peer Training Activities and ArcX Innovation Challenges

This activity covers the support to, train-the-trainer activities, regional capacity development and exchange between African and European entities. RCoEs-C2R will also be a beneficiary of the training within ArcX and shall aim at strengthening regional expertise in climate resilience, climate services, AI, data science and Earth observation applications. The target trainees, among others, will be senior practitioners active at the RCoEs-C2R from all tiers. Using this train-the-trainers approach, ownership is created within the RCoEs-C2R and wider African community to share the gained knowledge with other colleagues.

Two ECMWF innovation challenges, namely Code for Earth and the AI Weather Quest, will have a special focus on Africa within the ArcX Programme and aim to trigger innovation. Code for Earth is ECMWF's annual open-innovation programme that brings together developers, researchers and data scientists to address real-world weather, climate and environmental challenges through open-source projects. Selected teams work with ECMWF and partner-organisation mentors to develop innovative tools and applications using ECMWF, Copernicus and Destination Earth data. Through a dedicated Africa Stream, skills, partnerships and innovation communities will be strengthened and the ArcX Programme objectives will be supported.

The AI Weather Quest is ECMWF's global benchmarking and learning framework for AI-based sub-seasonal weather forecasting. By bringing together researchers and operational forecasting communities, it provides transparent evaluation, open data and shared learning to accelerate innovation and advance the use of AI in weather prediction. It contributes to the ArcX Programme objectives by supporting ML learning pathways, enabling reuse at scale, and de-risking future deployment as well as by enabling a continued dialogue between European and African forecasting centres, supporting the development of sustainable and equitable approaches to ML-based sub-seasonal forecasting and the formation of strong partnerships. RCoEs-C2R are expected to facilitate participation or participate themselves and to support the challenges as needed as well as to promote the involvement of African entities.

3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSALS

Mandatory Deliverables and Milestones are set out below. Applicants may propose additional Deliverables and Milestones where these clearly add value or are essential to the Proposal.

However, Applicants are encouraged to maintain a focused and efficient work plan by limiting Deliverables to those that are mandatory or strictly necessary to achieve the Proposal's expected outcomes. Additional Deliverables should only be included where they are clearly justified, add value, or are essential.

Similarly, Milestones should be limited to those that are necessary for monitoring progress and ensuring effective implementation of the Project. This approach enhances the clarity and relevance of the work plan,

ensures proportionality between effort and reporting, avoids duplication, and allows resources to be concentrated on delivering substantive results.

3.1 Mandatory Deliverables

3.1.1 Management

Deliverable	Description	Indicators	Due by month
Work plan	A document describing the project's governance and the RCoE-C2R network structure, management procedures, roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, communication arrangements, quality assurance and risk management procedures.	Document delivered and approved	M3
Year 1 status report	An overview of the progress achieved and the estimated expenditure incurred during the first year, any deviations from the work plan, risks and problems encountered, mitigation measures, and planned activities for the next period.	Document delivered and approved	M13
Year 2 status report	An overview of the progress achieved and the estimated expenditure incurred during the second year any deviations from the work plan, risks and problems encountered, mitigation measures, and planned activities for the next period.	Document delivered and approved	M25
Sustainability strategy and possible follow-on activities	A document that reflects on measures to ensure sustainability of the RCoEs-C2R and possible follow-on activities as well as investments needs in the context of climate change resilience.	Document delivered and approved	M24
Final report	The final report will provide a comprehensive overview of the Project's implementation and achievements, including progress towards objectives, delivery of results and outputs, use of resources, deviations from the work plan, risks and problems encountered, mitigation measures implemented, and lessons learned.	Document delivered and approved	M32

3.1.2 Partnership Management and Outreach

Deliverable	Description	Indicators	Due by month
Stakeholder mapping and engagement plan	A document describing relevant stakeholders in the respective regions, their current involvement and the planned involvement during ArcX as well as their role in the assessment of user requirements.	Document delivered and approved	M5

Best practices report	Document that identifies priorities of the region to support practitioners, scientists and policymakers, including identification of the role of the private sector as well as gender-sensitive and youth engagement aspects.	Document delivered and proposed actions implemented	M14
Plan of assessment of user requirements	A document that describes a holistic approach including a description or template of a user requirements format.	Document delivered and approved	M6
User requirements in a URDB usable format	A (Excel) file that delivers the user requirements for inclusion in a URDB (from at least 30-40 stakeholders)	Number of user requirements in the URDB per region	M19
Contribute to ArcX network	Attend in and contribute to ArcX meetings/activities as needed and reach out to other RCOEs in the region	Record of contribution/attendance	To be included in every annual report

3.1.3 RCoE Network

Deliverable	Description	Indicators	Due by month
RCoE-C2R networking concept and implementation	A document describing twinning approach/plan or needs, proposals for networking events, coordination and outreach as well as its implementation after the concept has been approved	Number of activities planned/done Record of activities implemented	M6 for the concept Activities to be included in the annual report

3.1.4 Other Activities

Deliverable	Description	Indicators	Due by month
Good practice and feedback documentation of integration and usage of Copernicus, DestinE, ECMWF and other climate data resources as well as newly available data and products developed by RCoEs-C2R	Include data into existing work stations in use or other interfaces, like ClimWeb, in the respective region and document the methodology in order to ensure sustainability and knowledge transfer. Adapt products to the region (if needed) and collect user feedback from different sectors as well as during RCOFs.	Best practices, technical guidance documents, feedback	M24
Evaluation report for the FIAB pilots	Support the evaluation of the FIAB pilots and provide feedback	Feedback provided in a written format	M30
Investment and sustainability plan	Conduct an assessment of specific investment needs for data and information sharing towards end users	Overview of investment needs provided	M24

Information briefs and other outreach materials	Provide information briefs and other outreach materials with respect to new STI developments within ArcX	Number of materials	M30
ArcX outputs and data integrated in ClimWeb or other platforms	Data or products shall be integrated, promoted and kept updated in ClimWeb or other platforms in use.	Products and data integrated	M30
Evaluation report on training participation and knowledge transfer	Participate in trainings as requested and ensure institutional knowledge transfer	Attendance records	Include in annual report
Document on the capacity to host trainings/fellows	A document listing training facilities as well as potential in-house trainers that would be available for training, connection to RTCs if existing should be listed as well. A reflection on the capacity to host fellows and what could be offered should be included.	Document submitted and approved	M9

Table 2: Mandatory Deliverables

3.2 Mandatory Milestones

Milestone Title	Description	Due by month
RCoE-C2R operational	Network structure established, focal points identified, work plan approved.	M3
Regional stakeholder network established	Key regional stakeholders engaged and stakeholder engagement activities underway.	M6
ArcX network-of-networks operational	Participation in ArcX coordination mechanisms and initiation of twinning or collaborative activities.	M12
Knowledge transfer activities implemented	Training support, peer learning, innovation challenge participation or regional knowledge-sharing activities demonstrated.	M18
User requirements assessment completed	Minimum number of stakeholders consulted and user requirements captured in agreed format.	M19
Regional innovation and Climate Service activities supported	Contribution to demonstration cases, Forecast-in-a-Box activities, AI-ready data initiatives or climate service development documented.	M24
Sustainability measures established	Sustainability strategy endorsed and resource mobilisation pathway identified.	M24

Uptake of ArcX data, services and technologies demonstrated	Evidence of use, testing, adaptation or dissemination of ArcX-supported datasets, products, methodologies or technologies.	M30
RCoE-C2R fully operational and maintained	Evidence that the RCoE is functioning as a regional hub and contributing to ArcX objectives.	M32

Table 3: Mandatory Milestones

4 Tier Assignment

For Proposals recommended for funding, the prospective RCoEs-C2R will be assigned to different tiers based on their current capacities. The tier assignment will establish each prospective RCoE-C2R's baseline capacity level, independently of the quality and ambition of the activities proposed in response to this Call.
The tier and therewith the capacities of prospective RCoEs-C2R will be assessed against two categories: essential and supplementary capacities. Essential capacities must already be in place at the time of application and constitute a prerequisite for participation in this Call. The respective tier will be determined solely by the supplementary capacities demonstrated by the prospective RCoEs-C2R at the time of application. The resulting tier assignment will determine the corresponding level of funding allocated to the Proposal (see Section 7 of this Call). This means that the final grant amount will be established during the Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP) phase, taking into account the entity's capacity level and assigned tier and ensuring an appropriate balance between the proposed activities, their scope and the funding provided. During the GAP phase, the proposed activities and their scope may be adjusted, as necessary, to ensure that they are realistic and achievable, proportionate to the entity's capacity level, and commensurate with the final grant amount.

This approach recognises that not all prospective RCoEs-C2R will possess the same capacities and provides a structured framework to differentiate between them.

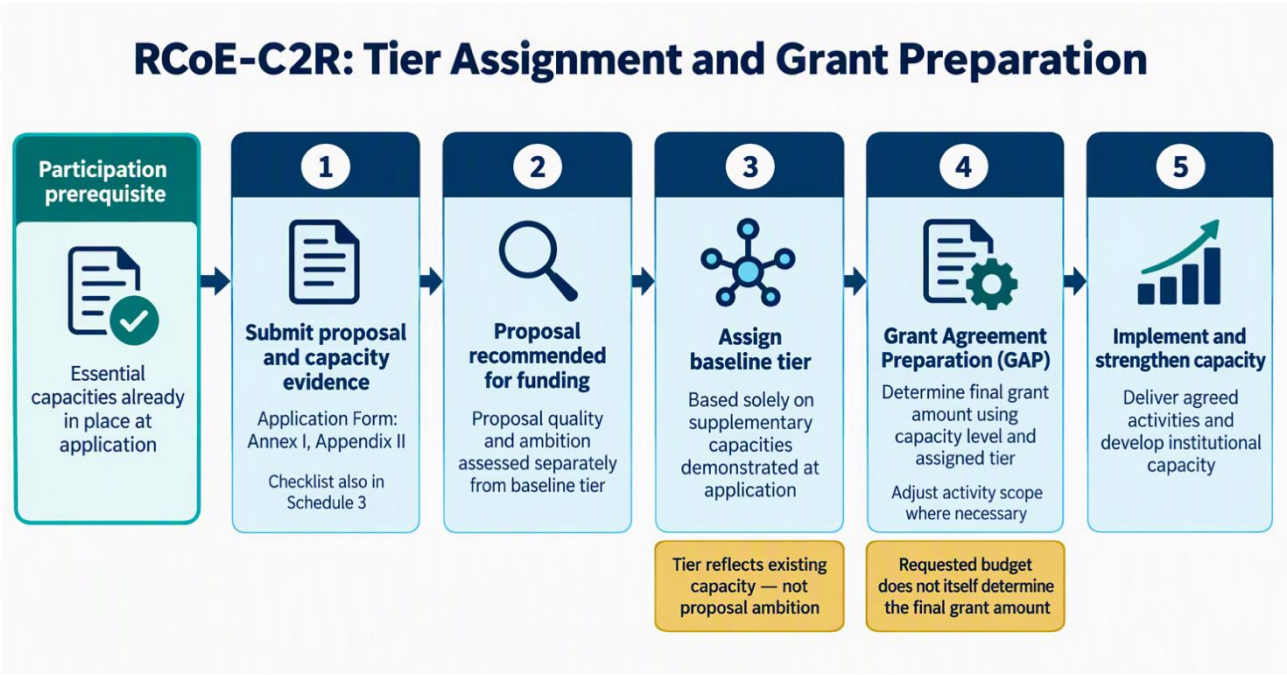


Figure 4: Overview of tier assignment and Grant preparation

As capacities may evolve during the implementation of the Project, RCoEs-C2R may move between tiers following a review, which will be conducted at Month 24 of the Project implementation. RCoEs-C2R that demonstrate the capacities required for a higher tier may be reassigned accordingly.
To provide evidence of their essential and supplementary capacities, prospective RCoEs-C2R must supply the relevant information in the Application Form, specifically in Annex I - Technical Description, Appendix 2 - *Applicant Checklist for the Tier Assignment*. For reference, Schedule 3 of this Call contains the same information as Appendix 2.

4.1 Essential Capacities

Essential capacities are the minimum capacities that a prospective RCoEs-C2R must already have in place at the time of application. These capacities represent the baseline requirements that all prospective RCoES-C2R must meet, regardless of their level of capacities. As specified in Schedule 3 of this Call, evidence might be required. Please also refer to Section 19. *Submission Process* of this Call for all mandatory documents to be submitted.

4.1.1 Regional Relevance

Within ArcX, the prospective RCoE-C2R shall demonstrate a formal mandate, ideally recognized by WMO and/or AUC in the entire Sub-Saharan Africa or across the Eastern, Western, Central, Southern Africa and/or the Indian Ocean Islands (see Section 12.2 for the definition of '*formal mandate*'). The prospective RCoE-C2R shall demonstrate their geographical coverage and capacity to bring together national and regional stakeholders and to represent regional objectives, including aspects linked to regional climate strategies as well as regional and subregional climate adaptation, and weather and climate data needs related to agriculture, water, health, and energy.

4.1.2 Inclusivity and Accessibility

The prospective RCoE-C2R shall commit to and propose concrete actions for the active promotion of female and young scientists and young professionals. Plans should be provided on how to achieve this if the requested documentation is not available at application stage.

4.1.3 Governance and Sustainability

The prospective RCoE-C2R shall commit to act as RCoE-C2R in case of being selected. This commitment shall be complemented by a sustainability plan (to be drafted during the Project Implementation, see Section 3 of this Call) beyond the end of the ArcX Programme (2026-2029), subject to funding availability and a commitment to transparent reporting, external evaluations and mutually agreed performance indicators to guarantee accountability.

4.2 Supplementary Capacities

4.2.1 Scientific, Technical and Innovation Capacity

Prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate their level of expertise in AI/ML for weather and climate applications. This shall include capacity in data access and visualisation platforms. Those capacities are key in supporting activities in the preparation and curation of AI-ready climate observation data, and the development and testing of Forecast-in-a-Box pilot systems as well as the design and implementation of sector-specific and science-oriented demonstration cases. Prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate the capacity to develop documentation and operate user support for the respective regions. They shall as well demonstrate to have the expertise to make the link with concrete societal needs and advise on early warning and sectoral applications.

4.2.2 Data Management Excellence

Prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate the ability to host, process, and manage climate observation datasets (including subsets of satellite, in-situ, and reanalysis data). Also, data availability and sharing remain inadequate in Africa. RCoEs-C2R are expected to stimulate and facilitate data sharing and assess the availability of data that might not yet be digitised or available in a usable format/quality. Coherence shall be sought with WMO Programmes and tools such as WIS 2.0 or ClimWeb to ensure that this data can be harnessed and shared in accordance with the WMO data policy. Where appropriate, links with SOFF shall be established. The RCoEs-C2R shall also demonstrate a commitment to WMO Unified Data Policy and FAIR data principles, open and free use of software tools and material for training and knowledge transfer and commitment to the access rules and licence requirements for the use of DestinE and Copernicus results as well as ECMWF products.

4.2.3 Human Capital and Training Capacity

Prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate the absorption capacity and the critical mass of climate scientists, data specialists and AI engineers. The ability to deliver training programmes to other scientists, forecasters, and practitioners active in NMHSs and Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) shall be proven as well.

4.2.4 Partnerships and Networks

Prospective RCoEs-C2R shall demonstrate regional anchoring with stakeholders in the climate and digital infrastructure domains, including partnerships with NMHSs, RSMCs, water basin management authorities, universities, research institutes, and other knowledge centres.

In addition, RCoEs-C2R shall also demonstrate linkages with the European and international community, including European NMHSs, ECMWF, and EUMETSAT, the European Union programmes (e.g. through DestinE, Copernicus (C3S and other Copernicus Services, including CEMS, as well as actions like ClimSA and SEWA)) and/or the United Nations, AUC and other international or regional programmes or frameworks (e.g. through GPC-SSFs and GPC-SFs, EW4All, AMHEWAS, SOFF, CREWS, AI for Good, etc.). This needs be complemented with proven and strong engagement with the private sector in Africa and Europe, including prospective and existing users of sub-seasonal to seasonal forecast products (e.g. agribusiness, insurance, energy sector, humanitarian aid) and entities specialised in the use of applied AI solutions. Regional stakeholders may be taken on board as knowledge partners of RCoEs-C2R, such as the WMO Global Producing Centres (GPCs) in the region, research institutions or other regional knowledge centres.

4.3 Capacity Tier Framework

Prospective RCoEs-C2R will be assigned to different tiers based on their supplementary capacities, as demonstrated in the Application Form (Annex I - Technical Description, Appendix 2 - *Applicant Checklist for the Tier Assignment)*. The table below provides an overview of the supplementary capacities, indicates the evidence that prospective RCoEs-C2R may provide in support of their Proposals, where applicable, and presents the Capacity-Level Scale

Evidence	Possible documentation	Capacity-Level Scale
Scientific, Technical & Innovation Capacity • List of climate-related research projects completed or ongoing in the past 5 years. • List of scientific publications or technical reports (past 5 years) • Description of dedicated research teams and/or key experts	Project summaries or reports Publications and project list Impact assessments or policy briefs or bulletins	0 – not demonstrated 1 – very limited capacity 2 – emerging capacity 3 – adequate capacity 4 – strong capacity 5 – excellent capacity

Evidence	Possible documentation	Capacity-Level Scale
• Examples where climate information informs decision-making • Applications in agriculture, water, health, energy or disaster management • Impact stories and/or case studies • Links to adaptation planning or resilience programmes • Inventory of digital infrastructure • HPC/cloud access (inhouse/external) • Examples of AI/ML applications already implemented • Existing modelling or forecasting platforms • Existing innovation programmes	Endorsement of stakeholders/user testimonials Infrastructure inventory Architecture diagrams Software inventory and descriptions Technical staff profiles and number of AI scientists	
<u>Data Management Excellence</u> • Size, scope and short description of climate databases maintained • Existing data-sharing agreements/arrangements in the region • Data management and quality-control procedures • Data rescue and digitisation activities • Availability of historical datasets • Metadata standards used • Access to and usage of WIS 2.0 • Existing access to and usage of ClimWeb	Data management policy/strategy Data catalogue QC procedures List of shared datasets List of institutional historical datasets (rescued/not rescued)	0 – not demonstrated 1 – very limited capacity 2 – emerging capacity 3 – adequate capacity 4 – strong capacity 5 – excellent capacity
<u>Human Capital & Training Capacity</u> • Training programmes delivered in the past 3 years • Number of trainees reached • Existing curricula and learning materials • Fellowship or internship programmes • E-learning platforms • Capacity and resources to host trainings • Risk management processes • Staff retention information	Training catalogues/activities Training facilities Attendance statistics Learning materials Internal governance (organizational setup) Organigram and HR statistics	0 – not demonstrated 1 – very limited capacity 2 – emerging capacity 3 – adequate capacity 4 – strong capacity 5 – excellent capacity
<u>Partnerships & Networks</u> • Existing research partnerships. • Participation in international research initiatives. • Coordination role in regional initiatives • History of organising regional conferences, forums or technical groups Active partnerships with: • NMHSs • RCCs • Universities • Private sector • Regional organisations • International organisations	Document ability to manage projects (list of relevant projects managed in the past 5 years) Conference or workshop reports/webpages/agendas organized in the respective region MoUs/Collaboration agreements	0 – not demonstrated 1 – very limited capacity 2 – emerging capacity 3 – adequate capacity 4 – strong capacity 5 – excellent capacity

Table 4: Overview of supplementary capacities of RCoEs

4.3.1 Overview of Tiers

Assigning prospective RCoEs-C2R to different tiers establishes a capacity-based framework that recognises different levels of capacity, supports the effective allocation of resources and provides a pathway for progressive development over time. More advanced RCoEs-C2R are expected to support less advanced centres, fostering regional ownership and accelerating capacity development across Africa.

Tier assignment is based on the supplementary capacities presented in Table 4 and determines the role of each RCoE-C2R during implementation, as well as the corresponding level of funding allocated (see Section 7 of this Call). The table below provides an overview of the different tiers, the roles associated with each tier and the capacity levels required for assignment.

Tier	Description	Main Role	Capacity-Level
Tier 1	FLAGSHIP: Fully equipped centres with strong institutional, scientific and operational capabilities.	Lead activities, mentor other RCoEs-C2R, host major training programmes, lead Forecast-in-a-Box pilots, support all grants within ArcX, establish partnerships and suggest fellows.	Capacity level of at least 4 for each supplementary capacity and a minimum aggregate capacity level of 18 across all supplementary capacities.
Tier 2	ADVANCED: Developing centres with significant potential but requiring targeted strengthening.	Co-lead activities, implement demonstration cases, host regional training events, support fellowships, gradually assume leadership responsibilities.	Capacity level of at least 3 for each supplementary capacity and a minimum aggregate capacity level of 14 across all supplementary capacities.
Tier 3	EMERGING: Regionally specialized centres with some expertise in particular thematic or technical areas.	Provide specialised regional expertise, contribute to demonstrators, participate in and support peer-learning activities and trainings.	Capacity level of at least 2 for each supplementary capacity and a minimum aggregate capacity level of 10 across all supplementary capacities.
Tier 4	BASELINE: Aspirational entities that are not yet fully mature but may evolve into future RCoEs-C2R.	Focus on institutional strengthening, staff development, infrastructure improvement and preparation for future RCoE accreditation.	Capacity level of at least 1 for each supplementary capacity and a minimum aggregate capacity level of 6 across all supplementary capacities.

Table 5: Overview of tiers

5 OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PROPOSALS

This Call for Proposals entails different types of participation in the Proposal:

- Beneficiary
- Coordinator
- Associated Partner
- Subcontractors

A brief overview of the roles is provided below. Please refer to the Grant Agreement Template for detailed information on the rights and obligations of each role in the Project.

Beneficiary

The Beneficiary is legally responsible for the Project Implementation by signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. There is always a Beneficiary of the Grant; whereas – if not required for the implementation of the Grant – there can be Grants without other roles such as Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. The

Beneficiaries are jointly responsible for the Grant implementation. The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant implementation (Coordinator) signs the Grant Agreement and the other Beneficiaries sign the accession forms to the Grant Agreement with ECMWF.

Coordinator
The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant implementation – on behalf of and mandated by all the proposed Participants – is defined as Coordinator. If awarded, the Coordinator is responsible for Project monitoring and administration of the financial contribution. The Coordinator is the main point of contact with ECMWF at Proposal preparation stage, at Grant Agreement Preparation stage, and at Grant implementation stage.

Associated Partners
Associated Partners are entities which participate in the Project with no funding and without signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. They may not charge costs or contributions to the Project, and the costs for their tasks are not eligible. They might be stakeholders with an interest in the Project but limited or no active participation in Project Implementation.

Subcontractors
Subcontracting refers to entities with whom a Beneficiary has concluded a contract for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the Project. Beneficiaries must have the necessary operational capacity to perform the Project themselves, and they remain solely responsible for the implementation of the Project. Subcontracting should be exceptional and not cover core activities. Therefore, subcontracting should be limited to clearly defined parts of the Project and must not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs. Subcontractors can be identified during the preparation of the Proposal, or during the Project Implementation subject to approval by ECMWF in line with the terms and conditions of the signed Grant Agreement.

6 TYPE OF GRANTS

Under this Call for Proposals, two types of Grants are allowed:

- Mono-beneficiary Grants;
- Multi-beneficiary Grants.

6.1 Mono-beneficiary Grants

Mono-beneficiary is when a Proposal, and a Grant if awarded, has a single Beneficiary. The mono-beneficiary Proposal can include one entity as Beneficiary, but it may also include other types of Participants such as Associated Partners and Subcontractors. This is still a mono-beneficiary Proposal as the Beneficiary will be the only one signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF, and therefore the sole organisation responsible for the Grant Implementation. In a mono-beneficiary Grant, the sole Beneficiary assumes the role of Coordinator.

6.2 Multi-beneficiary Grants

Multi-beneficiary is when a Proposal, and a Grant if awarded, involves at least two Beneficiaries. Besides the two Beneficiaries, the Proposal can include other type of Participants such as Associated Partners and Subcontractors. In multi-beneficiary Grants, the Coordinator needs to be clearly identified, and it is responsible for the submission of the application and is the contact point for ECMWF. In the case of award of a multi-beneficiary Grant, a consortium agreement among the Participants may be required by ECMWF during the Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

6.3 Prospective RCoE as Coordinator of the Grant

Due to the nature of the Call, the Coordinator shall be the Applicant that will assume the role of the respective Regional Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (RCoE-C2R) and shall ensure the geographical coverage necessary for the implementation of the Project (see Section 12 of this Call).

7 DURATION AND AVAILABLE BUDGET

7.1 Duration

Projects are expected to start between 1 March 2027 and 1 May 2027 and shall end on 31 December 2029. The duration of each Project will therefore depend on its actual start date and will be between 32 and 34 months.

7.2 Available Budget

A total budget of EUR 1,500,000 is available for this Call with the aim to award six Grants. The budget awarded to each Proposal will depend on the tier of the RCoE-C2R (see Section 4).

TIER	MAXIMUM BUDGET PER PROPOSAL
1	Between EUR 250,000 and EUR 350,000
2	Between EUR 250,000 and EUR 350,000
3	Between EUR 150,000 and EUR 200,000
4	EUR 50,000

Table 6: Budget allocation per Tier

The budget requested in the Proposal will not, in itself, determine the final grant amount. For proposals recommended for funding, the final grant amount will be determined during the Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP) phase, taking into account the entity's capacity level and its assigned Tier. During this phase, the proposed activities and their scope may be adjusted, as necessary, to ensure that they are proportionate to the entity's capacity level and the corresponding grant amount.
In case of award, the budget will be paid in four instalments: pre-financing at the start of the Project; interim payment 1 after 12 months; interim payment 2 after 24 months, and final payment at the end of the Project. ECMWF reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute funds, depending on the Proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

8 FUNDING PROVISION

The ECMWF financial contribution for the Grants under this Call for Proposals will be awarded as a lump sum.

8.1 Lump Sum Grant

For lump sum Grants, the payment of the lump sum contribution will be based on the work carried out and reported. The lump sum contribution will cover the Coordinators and, if applicable, other Beneficiaries' expected eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the Project. If the Project is duly implemented in accordance with the signed Grant Agreement, the amounts will be paid as agreed. The Grant amount is fixed, and the contribution will be paid after the end of each reporting period, provided that the work has been completed. **Under the lump sum funding approach, completion of the work is assessed on the basis of the successful**

completion of the relevant Work Packages. This includes the activities described under the Objectives, Milestones, and Deliverables linked to those Work Packages in the Proposal (Annex I - Technical Description). A detailed budget for each entity participating as Coordinator/Beneficiary and per each Work Package is required at Proposal stage (Annex II – Estimated Budget). The detailed budget of the Proposal should be based on cost estimations, and it will be the basis to define and justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of the actual costs projected to be incurred by the Coordinator, Beneficiaries and must be:

- In line with the same general eligibility rules as in Grants based on actual costs, as outlined in the Grant Agreement Template Clause *6 ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.*
- In line with the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' normal practices.
- Reasonable/not excessive.
- In line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

Cost estimations that are clearly overestimated or underestimated will lead to a decreased score in the evaluation of the Proposal under the award criterion concerned (see Section 16 of this Call). Once awarded, lump sum contributions will not require costs reporting.

8.2 Budget Categories

The budget categories are:

A. Personnel costs;
B. Travel, accommodation and subsistence;
C. Computing;
D. Other direct costs;
E. Subcontracting;
F. Indirect costs.

Indirect costs are a 25% flat-rate of the total direct costs (A, B, C and D), excluding the direct costs for subcontracting (E).
Subcontracting costs can be up to 20% of the total costs (direct + indirect). Exceptionally, if duly justified in the Proposal, the 20% cap may be exceeded. If the contribution of the Subcontractors is critical for the Project Implementation, please also consider involving them as Beneficiaries. Subcontractors may be identified in the Proposal, but this is not mandatory. It is sufficient that the tasks to be subcontracted and the corresponding estimated costs are clearly described in the Proposal. The identification of specific Subcontractor(s) may take place during Project Implementation, in accordance with applicable procurement principles and subject to the relevant checks and formal approval by ECMWF.
The estimated budget of the Project must be expressed in EURO.

8.3 Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum Grant amount awarded by ECMWF may differ from the requested ECMWF contribution in the Proposal. Requests for changes – if any – will be part of the Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

9 CALL DEADLINE AND TIMELINE

The ArcX Programme Call for Proposals opens	29 October 2026
Last date for clarifications requests	25 November 2026
Last date for publishing clarifications	02 December 2026
The deadline for the ArcX Programme Call for Proposals	09 December2026, at 14:00 CET
The outcome of the evaluations is expected	February/March 2027
The signature of the Grant Agreement is expected	March/April 2027

Table 7: Call timeline

10 OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

ECMWF evaluates each Proposal based on the information provided by the proposed Participants in the Application submitted in reply to this Call for Proposals, and the answers provided in the Submission Portal.

The selection process has two stages:

- Checks on admissibility and eligibility criteria for participation, for exclusion, and financial capacity assessment;
- Evaluation of award criteria, including estimated budget, operational capacity.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask proposed Participants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal.

The proposed Participants must be and remain eligible for the entire duration of the Project (see Sections 12, 13, 14 and 15 of this Call).

11 ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applications must be submitted before the Call deadline.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the Submission Portal which can be accessed via https://procurement.ecmwf.int. Paper submissions are not possible.
- The Coordinator must respond to all items in the online questionnaire in the Submission Portal, providing, where applicable, the Application Form, Supporting Documents and any other required document.
- Applications must be submitted using the templates and forms provided in the Submission Portal.
- Applications must be complete and contain all Annexes of the Application Form and Supporting Documents required.
- Applications must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Page limits will apply to 'Annex I - Technical Description.' The limit for 'Annex I - Technical Description' is 25 pages (excluding the cover, 'Appendix 1 - Operational Capacity of Project Applicants' and 'Appendix 2 - Applicant Checklist for the Tier Assignment'). If 'Annex I - Technical Description' exceeds the 25-page limit, excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- Applications must be written in English.

12 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For a Proposal to be considered eligible, all three eligibility criteria below must be met.

12.1 Entities Eligible for Funding (Eligible Countries)

Only Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements set out in 'SCHEDULE 1 - Eligibility to Participate in Grants' of this Call for Proposals shall be able to participate in Grants under this Call.

12.2 Coordinator

Where the Grant is implemented by a single Beneficiary or by multiple Beneficiaries, the Coordinator must be the Applicant that will assume the role of the Regional Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (RCoE-C2R). The entity or its specialised institutions, directorate or section proposed as the prospective RCoE-C2R, shall have a formal mandate relevant to the scope of the Call and operate in one or more of the following geographical areas: Eastern, Western, Central, Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean Islands, or Sub-Saharan Africa. For the purposes of this Call, a "formal mandate" means an authorisation, designation, endorsement or other suitable recognition by the governmental authorities of at least two African countries or territories, and/or by one or more intergovernmental organisations. Such mandate must be evidenced by an official act,

decision, designation, resolution, constitutive instrument or other formal documentation issued or adopted by the relevant governmental authorities or intergovernmental organisations.

12.3 Geographic Location (Place of Performance)

The Project shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa. For the purpose of this Call, the list of countries is provided in this link Sub-Saharan Africa - International Partnerships - European Commission.

13 FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

13.1 Financial Capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the Project throughout the period during which the Project is carried out. The Applicants' financial capacity is assessed based on the 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity', included in the Supporting Documents of the Call Package. The 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity' must be submitted by all Beneficiaries with the Proposal. If ECMWF considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may require further information; an enhanced financial responsibility regime; prefinancing paid in instalments; or propose no prefinancing; request that the Applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire Proposal.

13.2 Operational Capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the Project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in comparable projects). This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the technical evaluation. It will be based on the competence and experience of the Applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented. If the evaluation of the award criterion under which the operational capacity is assessed results in a score above the applicable threshold, then the Applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity. For this assessment, Applicants are required to provide evidence of their operational capacity in 'Appendix 1 - Operational Capacity of Project Applicants', which forms part of Annex I – Technical Description of the Application Form. Applicants are required to provide the required information in 'Annex I - Technical Description' of the Application Form. Additional supporting documents may be requested where necessary to verify the operational capacity of any Applicant.

14 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

14.1 EU Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) Database

The purpose of EDES is the protection of the EU's financial interests against unreliable persons and entities applying for EU funds or having concluded legal commitments with the EC, other EU Institutions, bodies, offices or agencies. In particular, the EDES ensures:

- The early detection of persons or entities which pose a risk to the EU's financial interests.
- The exclusion of persons or entities from receiving EU funds (Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The imposition of a financial penalty on a recipient (Article 140 of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The publication, in the most severe cases, on the EC's internet site of information related to the exclusion and where applicable the financial penalty, in order to reinforce their deterrent effect (Article 142 of the EU Financial Regulation).

ECMWF makes use of the EDES to verify whether individuals or organisations are suitable entities to receive funding from the EU. The grounds for exclusion are listed under article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. They include:

- Bankruptcy and insolvency situations.
- Non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.
- Grave professional misconduct.
- Fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation etc.
- Serious breach of contract.

The proposed Participants including, where relevant, any other relevant third party that would participate in the Project or receive payment from the Beneficiaries in connection with the Project, must confirm that they and persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control in their organisation are NOT listed on the EDES database and must accept that the ECMWF will reject any proposed Participants who are so listed.

14.2 EU Restrictive Measures

Restrictive Measures (sanctions) are the tool in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) through which the EU can intervene where necessary to prevent conflict or respond to emerging or current crises. Entities subject to EU restrictive measures are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as Beneficiaries, Associated Partners, or Subcontractors.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Contribution Agreement "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) and African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (ArcX) – ECMWF", must ensure that any of the proposed Participants is not included in the list of EU Restrictive Measures.

Consequently, the Coordinator must ensure that none of the Associated Partners, Subcontractors, and any person who may receive, directly or indirectly, funds under the Project are included in the lists of EU Restrictive Measures. This requirement is specifically detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

As a minimum – by using the www.sanctionsmap.eu website – the Coordinator must undertake the following checks of all proposed Participants:

- Country check (country of registration of the legal entity/holding company (if applicable));
- Organisation/holding company check (using search function);
- Individual check (using search function).

The Coordinator and the other proposed Participants must complete the Restrictive Measures Form available in the Call Package as per the instructions thereof.

The proposed Participants should note that, as this forms part of ECMWF's obligations to the EC, failure to complete and return this form may lead to exclusion from the Grant procedure.

14.3 EU Conditionality Measures

Conditionality Measures are additional protections for the EU budget when breaches of the rule of law principles affect or risk affecting EU financial interests introduced in 2021. Conditionality Measures may be put in place in the context of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the EU budget established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget. This conditionality regime allows the EU to take measures – for example suspension of payments, suspension of implementation, termination or prohibitions on entering into new legal commitments with Concerned Entities – to protect the EU budget.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Contribution Agreement "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) and African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (ArcX) – ECMWF", is required to ensure Conditionality Measures are duly applied vis-à-vis concerned entities. Further requirements with respect to Conditionality Measures are detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

The proposed Participants must confirm and ensure for the whole duration of the Grant Agreement that none of them or any other third party – that would participate and receive payment in connection with the Project – is affected by the Conditionality Measures described above and must accept that ECMWF may reject any proposed Participant or any other third party that are so affected.

15 OTHER OBLIGATIONS

The Participants in the Proposal must comply with the requirements set out in Article 17 of the Grant Agreement Template. In particular, they must:

(i) respect human rights and internationally agreed core labour standards and ensure that their activities do not involve or contribute to practices inconsistent with those standards.
Such practices include, in particular, those relating to the exploitation or abuse of persons, such as child labour, human trafficking, forced labour, discrimination, harassment or other forms of violence or intimidation.

(ii) ensure that the activities do not directly or indirectly contribute to money laundering, terrorism financing, tax avoidance, tax fraud or tax evasion.

The Participants must also comply with all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law, including applicable environmental legislation in the countries where the Project is implemented and relevant international environmental agreements.

16 AWARD CRITERIA

If admissible and eligible and if the financial capacity assessment and exclusion criteria checks are satisfactory, the Proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria:

1. Regional role in the domain of climate change resilience;
2. Scientific, technical and innovation quality;
3. Partnership, coordination and network potential;
4. Sustainability and institutional commitment; and
5. Management and efficiency of the implementation.

1. Regional role in the domain of climate change resilience

The extent to which the prospective RCoE-C2R demonstrates a recognised regional role, clear geographic coverage and the potential to strengthen climate change resilience across Sub-Saharan Africa or a defined sub-region among Eastern, Western, Central, Southern Regions of Africa and/or the Indian Ocean Islands.

The prospective RCoE-C2R shall be assessed against activities in the domain of climate change resilience with a pan-African or a regional objective, including on the development of regional climate strategies and regional and subregional climate adaptation plans, including on aspects related to weather and climate data needs linked to societal sectors such as agriculture, water, health and/or energy.

2. Scientific, technical and innovation quality

The quality and relevance of the prospective RCoE-C2R's scientific, technical and operational capacity to contribute to the implementation of the ArcX Programme, including on aspects linked to data management, use of climate science developments, sub-seasonal and seasonal forecasting, post-processing of data, weather forecast evaluation methods as well as innovation skills through the use of AI/ML techniques (considering the respective level of capacity). The operational capacity of the prospective RCoE-C2R and, if applicable, other proposed Participants ('Appendix 1- Operational Capacity of Project Applicants', included in 'Annex I - Technical Description') will be also assessed against the proposed activities under this criterion.

3. Partnership, coordination and network potential

The ability of the prospective RCoE-C2R to act as a connector across different entities, institutions, countries and communities and to contribute to the ArcX Programme network-of-networks as well as the extent to which the Proposal contributes to the ArcX Programme objectives, including stakeholder engagement, science-policy uptake, network-building and knowledge sharing, learning and training.

4. Sustainability and institutional commitment

The demonstrated ability to integrate the RCoE-C2R function into the prospective RCoE's institutional strategy, structures and resource mobilisation efforts, the ability to sustain the RCoE-C2RE function beyond the Grant as well as the extent to which the Proposal includes concrete and realistic measures to promote women and young professionals across all activities.

5. **Management and efficiency of the implementation**

The coherence, realism and manageability of the proposed work plan and allocated resources, governance arrangements, risk assessment mitigation actions, Deliverables and Milestones, equality, diversity and inclusion. The estimated budget of the Proposal (Annex II – Estimated Budget) will be also assessed against the proposed activities under this criterion.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the five criteria above.

For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5 (see Table 8 below). Equal weighting will be applied to the five award criteria. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold applying to the sum of the five individual scores will be 16. Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available Call budget.

Score	Summary	Scoring for the award criteria
0	Fail	The Proposal fails to address the award criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The Proposal addresses the award criterion in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	While the Proposal broadly addresses the award criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The Proposal addresses the award criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
4	Very good	The Proposal addresses the award criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
5	Excellent	The Proposal fully addresses all relevant aspects of the award criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Table 8: Scoring scheme

17 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

17.1 Ranking

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements - admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks - and then evaluated by an evaluation panel composed of qualified experts, against the award criteria. Proposals will then be ranked according to their quality score.

For Proposals with the same score, a priority order is determined as follows:

1. Proposals with the highest score under criterion 1 ‘Regional role in the domain of climate change resilience’.
2. Proposals with the highest score under criterion 2 ‘Scientific, technical and innovation quality’;
3. Portfolio overview and geographical coverage: where Proposals receive similar scores, preference will be given to Proposals that contribute to a balanced portfolio by covering different regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim of ensuring broad geographical coverage and complementarity across the selected Proposals.

4. Proposals that address the measures for equality, diversity and inclusion well (see sub-section 5.5 of 'Annex I - Technical Description').

If a distinction still cannot be made, the evaluation panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the Call. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects. These factors will be documented in the panel report.
At any stage, ECMWF may ask proposed Participants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal. ECMWF reserves the right to withhold the allocation of any or all available funds or to reallocate such funds in a manner differing from that specified in Section 7 of this Call, based on the Proposals submitted and the evaluation results.

17.2 Evaluation results

At the end of the evaluation, the Applicants will be informed of the result in the evaluation results letter. Successful Proposals will be invited to the next stage, 'Grant Agreement Preparation'; the other Proposals will be put on the reserve list or rejected.
Please note: Invitation to the 'Grant Agreement Preparation' stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the Grant can be awarded (e.g. exclusion check, etc.).

17.3 Timing

The timing for evaluation and Grant Agreement Preparation is as follows:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: approximately 2-3 months after the deadline for submission of the Call for Proposals.
- Indicative date for the signing of Grant Agreements: approximately 3-4 months after the deadline for submission of the Call for Proposals.

18 DEBRIEFING AND REVIEW PROCEDURE

During the selection process, Applicants will be notified, via an information letter sent to the Coordinator, only if there are issues with admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks. At the end of the selection process, all Applicants will be informed of the Proposal evaluation results via an information letter sent to the Coordinator.
Upon receipt of an information letter, Applicants may request a debriefing and/or a review if there is an indication that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment in the evaluation of the Proposal.
The debriefing and review request must focus solely on aspects related to the selection process. Applicants may raise concerns regarding procedural irregularities, factual errors, manifest errors of assessment, or abuse of power. However, mere repetition of the Proposal content or disagreement with the evaluation outcome or reasoning will not be considered.
For detailed guidance, please consult the 'Grants Debriefing and Review Procedure' provided here: https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants.

19 SUBMISSION PROCESS

The Call Package consists of this Call document and the:

- Application Form;
- Supporting Documents;
- Grant Agreement Template;
- Guidelines for Applicants.

The Proposal consists of two parts:

- Application Form;

- Supporting Documents.

The Application Form consists of the following annexes:

- Annex I - Technical Description, presenting the technical proposal (maximum 25 pages), including Appendix 1 - Operational Capacity of Project Applicants and Appendix 2 - Applicant Checklist for the Tier Assignment (the page limit does not apply to Appendix 1 and Appendix 2);
- Annex II – Estimated Budget, presenting the detailed budget for each Beneficiary, broken down by Work Package, the overall budget for the Proposal and the justification on the use of the resources;
- Annex III – Administrative Information, providing administrative details for each Beneficiary, Associated Partner and, where identified at the application stage, Subcontractor.
- Annex IV – Letter of Commitment, signed by the prospective RCoE-C2R's legal representative to provide evidence of the commitment to become a RCoE-C2R.

The following Supporting Documents must be submitted together with the Application Form:

- Legal Entity Form;
- Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity;
- Restrictive Measures Form.

In addition, the Coordinator will have to fill in an online questionnaire on the Submission Portal, once registered. A copy of the online questionnaire is provided with the Call Package.

All Applicants are required to use the templates provided in the Call Package, which are available on the Submission Portal. For additional information on the Call Package, please consult the 'Guidelines for Applicants' available on the Submission Portal and here: ArcX grants | ECMWF

The Coordinator of the Proposal must register on the Submission Portal at https://procontract.due-north.com/register (registration can be completed at any time). Once the Call is open, the link will be available at https://procurement.ecmwf.int and will provide access to the full Call Package (templates of the Application Form and Supporting Documents).

The Coordinator is responsible for submitting the Application Form and the Supporting Documents via the Submission Portal (as PDFs or other formats allowed by the portal), if applicable, on behalf and mandated by all the other proposed Participants. Therefore, the Coordinator will have to confirm in the online questionnaire – available in the Submission Portal – that, if applicable, they have been mandated by all the other proposed Participants involved in the Proposal to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to the Proposal, including, but not limited to, submitting responses to the questionnaire and to upload the required forms and documents on their behalf.

Please note that registration to the Submission Portal must be completed as early as possible and, in any case, sufficiently in advance of the Call for Proposals deadline. As the registration process is managed by an external provider, delays may occur which are beyond ECMWF's control. Failure to register in a timely manner may result in the registration not being processed on time. Late registrations are at the Applicants' own risk and without any guarantee of completion before the Call deadline.

More detailed information on the submission process, the Application Form and Supporting Documents can be found in the 'Guidelines for Applicants'.

The proposed Participants may also be asked at a later stage for further documents (e.g. for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

ECMWF does not reimburse expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of the Proposal. ECMWF accepts no liability whatsoever, whether in contract, tort or otherwise in relation to the Call for Proposals or in respect of any costs, damages or expenses incurred by Applicants or any third party.

20 OVERVIEW OF KEY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

This section presents an indicative and non-exhaustive overview of key legal and financial elements relevant at Proposal preparation stage and – in case of award – at Grant implementation stage.

Non-cumulative award and no double financing
The Applicants must specify in the Application Form any applications and awarded grants/tenders relating to the same activity or work (please include the information in Appendix 1 of Annex I - Technical Description). The same costs cannot be funded more than once by ECMWF.

Retroactivity
No Grant may be awarded retroactively for projects already completed. The Project starting date and duration are fixed in the Grant Agreement. Normally, the starting date will be after the Grant has been signed. A retroactive starting date - prior to the Grant Agreement's signature - may be exceptionally granted for duly justified reasons, subject to agreement with ECMWF. However, it can never be earlier than the date on which the evaluation results notification (information letter) is sent to the Applicants.

No-profit rule
Grants must not have the purpose or effect of generating a profit within the framework of the project. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + ECMWF Grant over costs), it will be deducted from the final Grant amount.

Multiple submission and participation
Applicants are strongly encouraged to be involved in no more than one Proposal, either by submitting it as prospective Coordinator or by joining it as part of a project consortium. While this is not a mandatory requirement, multiple participations are discouraged.

Legal commitments
By submitting Proposals in response to this Call for Proposals, Applicants are acknowledging that they are indicating their intention and willingness to enter into a Grant Agreement under the terms and conditions set out in the Call for Proposals and in the Grant Agreement Template. Submission of a Proposal implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. Successful Applicants shall be bound by the obligations, terms, and conditions of the Grant Agreement, including the obligation to provide accurate, sincere, and complete information throughout the Grant procedure. However, ECMWF is under no obligation to award a Grant based on any Proposal received. The Proposal shall remain valid for nine months after the closing date of this Call for Proposals.

Pre-financing rate and payments
In case of award, the Grant will be paid in four instalments: (i) an initial pre-financing payment; (ii) an interim payment 1, following the first 12 months of the Project; (iii) an interim payment 2, following 24 months of the Project; and (iv) a final payment following the end of the Project and the approval of the final reporting.
The initial pre-financing payment may be granted for up to 50% of the estimated Grant amount. The actual amount of pre-financing shall be determined on the basis of the outcome of the financial capacity assessment carried out by ECMWF. ECMWF may apply a different pre-financing rate depending on the outcome of the financial capacity assessment of the Grant recipient(s).
The cumulative amount of pre-financing and interim payments made during Grant implementation shall not exceed 80% of the maximum Grant amount. The remaining balance, if due, shall be paid following the approval of the final reporting.

Ownership of the Results and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
In Grants, the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project, whatever their form, are owned by the Beneficiaries that generate them. Therefore, ECMWF does not obtain ownership of the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project, produced under the Project. However, ECMWF, the EU and EC, and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project for their own internal purposes. Furthermore, ECMWF, the EU and EC, and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use Beneficiaries' materials, documents and information (notably summaries for publication, Deliverables and any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) and Results for policy, information, communication,

dissemination and publicity purposes. For the terms and conditions on IPR, please refer to the Grant Agreement Template.

21 CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

Any entity involved in discussions with one or more prospective consortia in connection with this Call shall preserve the confidentiality of information received from Applicants and shall not disclose or use such information in a manner that could confer an undue advantage on any Applicant or Proposal or otherwise compromise the fair and equal treatment of Applicants under this Call.

ECMWF reserves the right to retain all documents submitted by the proposed Participants in response to the Call for Proposals. Any information in such documents that is proprietary and confidential to the proposed Participants will be handled confidentially by ECMWF provided it is clearly and specifically identified as such. Such obligation shall not apply if such information is or was obtained from other sources that do not bind ECMWF as to confidentiality or if the information is in the public domain.

ECMWF may make Proposals available for evaluation purposes to authorised people including its governing body, committees, and professional advisers in addition to ECMWF's own personnel under the same conditions of confidentiality.

The reply to any Call for Proposals involves the recording and processing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as name, address, and PII included in the CVs. Please also note that all personally identifiable information processed by ECMWF will be treated in accordance with ECMWF Policy on Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PIIP) available at https://www.ecmwf.int/en/privacy.

Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any Personally Identifiable Information requested that are required for evaluating the Proposal in accordance with the Call for Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose.

22 CONTACTS AND CLARIFICATIONS ON THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Please submit your queries via the Submission Portal. For more information on how to contact ECMWF via the Submission Portal, please refer to the 'Guidelines for Applicants.'

23 LIST OF ANNEXES

This Call for Proposals comprises:

- Application Form: Annex I - Technical Description; Annex II - Estimated Budget; Annex III - Administrative Information; Annex IV – Letter of Commitment.
- Supporting Documents: Legal Entity Form for Public Entities; Legal Entity Form for Private Entities; Legal Entity Form for Individuals; Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity; Restrictive Measures Form.
- Grant Agreement Template.
- Guidelines for Applicants.

SCHEDULE 1 – Eligibility to Participate in Grants for the African Centres of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience in the ArcX Programme

Further to Section 12.1 of this Call for Proposals 2026_ArcX_G261, participation in this Call shall be open to the following entities:

A. Any entity eligible in accordance with ECMWF's grants and other relevant rules, including those established in ECMWF Member States (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom) and ECMWF Cooperating States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia).

B. Any entity eligible in accordance with Article 28 of the NDICI Regulation[1] for the participation under geographic programmes, as further detailed below, namely international organisations and all other legal entities, as defined in Article 2(6) of the NDICI Regulation, who are nationals of and, in the case of legal persons, who are also effectively established in the following countries or territories:

1. EU Member States (Appendix 1)

2. IPA III beneficiaries (listed in the Annex I of IPA III Instrument (Appendix 2)

3. European Economic Area (Appendix 3)

4. Developing countries and territories, (included in the OECD-DAC list of ODA recipients[2]), which are not members of the G20 [3]

(i) Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (Appendix 4)

(ii) Other Low Income Countries (Appendix 5)

(iii) Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (Appendix 6)

(iv) Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (Appendix 7)

5. Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) (Appendix 8)

6. Member States of the OECD (Appendix 9) are also eligible when the grants are exclusively implemented in a Least Developed Country[4] or in a Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC)[5].

7. (i) *Developing countries, as included in the list of ODA recipients, which are members of the G20 group* (Appendix 10) and (ii) *any other countries and territories,* i.e. points (i) and (ii) refer to all countries of the world when the country itself is participating as a beneficiary of the Action;

*8. Neighbourhood partner countries (*Appendix 11*)*.

[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj

[2] Please check the DAC List of ODA Recipients, effective for reporting on 2024 and 2025 flows.

[3] Non-eligible G20 Members developing countries are: India, Indonesia, Argentina, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa. They are eligible under point 7 of this Schedule 1. Türkiye is also a developing country (upper middle income) G20 Member, but is eligible as a beneficiary listed in the Annex I of the IPA III.

[4] See Appendix 4 for the full list of LDCs.

[5] HIPCs are: Afghanistan, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: EU Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

APPENDIX 2: IPA III Beneficiaries

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye.
*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

APPENDIX 3: European Economic Area

(only non-EU MS are mentioned) Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway.

APPENDIX 4: Least Developed Countries

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Kinshasa), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

APPENDIX 5: *Other Low Income Countries*

North Korea, Syria.

APPENDIX 6: Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories

Algeria, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d´Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tokelau, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

APPENDIX 7: Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Niue, North Macedonia, Palestine**, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Helena, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Serbia, South-Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, Wallis and Futuna.
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
** This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.

APPENDIX 8: Overseas Countries and Territories[6]

Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curaçao (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia and Dependencies (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna (FR).

[6] OCTs listed in Annex II to the TFEU having special relations with the United Kingdom are covered by the scope of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement.

APPENDIX 9: OECD Member States

Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States of America.

APPENDIX 10: G20 Member Developing Countries

Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South-Africa, Türkiye.

APPENDIX 11: List of Countries And Territories in the Neighbourhood Area

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.[7]

[7] Union support under this area may also be used for the purpose of enabling Russia to participate in cross-border cooperation programmes and in other relevant multi-country programmes.

SCHEDULE 2 – Overview of Regional Centres of Excellence

Biodiversity & Forest

Component Coordinator: Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF).
Leading Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE): Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) (RCoE Western Africa), Observatoire des Forets d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC) (RCoE Central Africa), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) (RCoE Southern and Eastern Africa)
Scientific and Technical Support from EC - DG JRC

Water

Component Coordinator: University of Stellenbosch.
Leading Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE): University of Stellenbosch
Scientific and Technical Support from EC - DG JRC

Agroecology

Component Coordinator: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM).
Leading Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE): Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)
Scientific and Technical Support from EC - DG JRC

Ocean

Component Coordinator: Mercator Ocean International, as coordinator of the OceanPrediction Decade Collaborative Centre
Leading Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE):

- The Ocean Forecasting Consortium led by the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
- Two Application Consortia led by the University of Ghana and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Scientific and Technical Support: Capacity Development – UNESCO Chair of Mathematical Physics and Applications CIPMA), Gulf of Guinea Ocean Sciences Summer School (GGOSSS), University of Abomey Calavi

Climate Change Resilience

Component Coordinator: European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)
Leading Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE): to be defined
Scientific and Technical Support from EC - DG JRC

Transversal Component

Component Coordinator: Agriconsulting Europe S.A. (AESA)
Scientific and Technical Support from EC - DG JRC

SCHEDULE 3 - Regional Centre of Excellence on Climate Change Resilience (RCoE-C2R) - Applicant Checklist for the Tier Assignment

Please find below, for reference only, the checklist that forms part of the Application Form. The same checklist is included in ***Appendix 2 of Annex I - Technical Description*** *of the Application Form, which Applicants will be required to complete. Applicants should therefore* ***not complete the checklist provided below separately****. If any additional document is provided, it can be uploaded to the Submission Portal.*

Section A – Eligibility – Essential Criteria

The entity (= organisation applying as prospective RCoE-C2R) has a formal mandate in Sub-Saharan Africa for

[ ] For Western Africa
[ ] For Eastern Africa
[ ] For Central Africa
[ ] For the Indian Ocean Islands
[ ] For Southern Africa
[ ] For Sub-Saharan Africa.

A1. Please provide proof for your formal mandate here or as attachment

[ ] The entity is legally established and operational.

[ ] The entity has at least 3 years of experience in climate, weather, environmental, resilience or related activities.

[ ] The management of the entity formally endorses the Application.

A.2 Please submit Annex IV - Letter of Commitment signed by the legal representative who confirms the formal mandate of the entity and the commitment to act as RCoE-C2R as well as the intention to support the implementation of ArcX on Climate Change Resilience

[ ] The entity has experience in managing international funding.

A.3 Please list relevant international projects managed successfully in the last 5 years (maximum 10) here (include links if available)

[ ] The entity commits to participate in ArcX network activities, peer learning and reporting requirements.

[ ] Gender equality is integrated in the work of the entity.

A.4 Please provide the entity's gender/diversity strategy as attachment (if available) or describe approach and measures taken here

[ ] The entity actively promotes the inclusion of youth in its activities.

A.5 Please provide the entity's youth strategy as attachment (if available) or describe the approach and measures taken here

Section B – Supplementary Criteria

Scientific, Technical and Innovation Capacity

[ ] The entity has dedicated scientific staff working on climate change resilience.

[ ] The entity has successfully implemented climate-related projects in the past 5 years.

B.1 Please list relevant climate-related projects implemented during the past 5 years (including your role) here (include links if available)

[ ] The entity regularly participates in research or innovation projects.

B.2 Please list (link to) projects, scientific publications, technical reports or innovation outputs

[ ] The entity has dedicated research and technical teams/personnel.

B.3 Please insert organisational chart showing the respective research and technical teams here or provide it as an attachment

- Number of key scientific and technical staff:

[ ] The entity has internal research and/or innovation activities relevant to climate change resilience.
B.4 Please insert a short description of the internal research and/or innovation activities relevant to climate change resilience here
[ ] The entity actively collaborates with universities or research organisations.
B.5 Please list relevant collaborations here
[ ] The entity is running forecasting models in-house
B.6 Please provide a short description of forecasting systems in operation (including resolution, forecasting periods etc.)
[ ] The entity has access to computing resources, like HPC or cloud platforms.
B.7 Please insert a short description of available computing resources (including HPC or cloud platforms if available) here
[ ] The entity is already using/testing AI/ML applications.
B.8 Please insert a short description here
[ ] The entity has staff capable of developing or adapting AI-based applications.
[ ] The services of the entity contribute to climate adaptation and resilience.
[ ] The work of the entity supports decision-makers and practitioners.
[ ] The entity can demonstrate societal impact through the services provided.
B.9 Please insert a short description

Data Management Excellence

[ ] The entity maintains high-quality regional climate datasets.
B.10 Please provide a short overview of climate datasets managed (including usage of Climate Data Management Systems and how data is backed up (if applicable)
[ ] The data maintained by the entity is quality-controlled.
B.11 Please insert a short description of the data quality procedures here
[ ] Data-sharing agreements or protocols exist in the region, where the entity operates.
B.12 Please provide details here or as an attachment
[ ] The entity is actively rescuing data and contributing to the digitisation of rescued data in the region.
B.13 Please provide a short description of data rescue and digitisation activities (including an overview of data that still needs to be rescued if available)
[ ] The entity can support the preparation of AI-ready datasets.
[ ] The entity is committed to support the uptake and promotion of data from Copernicus, Destination Earth and other relevant data.
[ ] The entity is committed to facilitate and promote data sharing in the region.
[ ] The entity is adhering to and promoting the WMO data policy.
[ ] The entity's data aligns to FAIR principles.
[ ] The entity is using WIS 2.0 in its daily operations.
[ ] The entity is using ClimWeb in its daily operations.
[ ] The entity is using JRC's eStation in its daily operations.
Other data tools used in the entity's daily operations:

Human Capital and Training Capacity

[ ] The entity contributes to knowledge generation beyond routine operational activities.
[ ] The entity regularly delivers regional training.
B.14 Please list relevant trainings delivered during the last 3 years here (maximum 10 most recent and relevant trainings)
[ ] The entity organises fellowship, internship or mentorship programmes.
B.15 Please provide a short overview

[ ] The entity can host fellows and visiting experts.
[ ] The entity maintains and provides e-learning material.

Partnerships and Networks

[ ] The entity has the capacity to organise regional events.
B.16 Please provide examples of regional workshops, forums or conferences organized in the last 3 years (maximum 10 most recent and relevant events)
[ ] The entity actively convenes regional communities of practice.
B.17 Please provide examples here
[ ] The entity is recognised by regional stakeholders as a trusted institution.
[ ] The entity has experience coordinating multi-country activities.
[ ] The entity has active partnerships in the region and beyond including MoUs or collaboration agreements.
B.18 Please provide a list here
[ ] The entity has a strong partnership network.
[ ] The entity actively participates in regional and international initiatives.
[ ] The entity has active partnerships with other WMO designated centres in the region or beyond.
B.19 Please insert a list here

Applicant Declaration

[ ] The entity commits to sharing knowledge across the ArcX network.
[ ] The entity is committed to participate in twinning arrangements.
[ ] The entity is open to deploying innovative forecasting technologies.
[ ] The entity is committed to advancing climate resilience across Sub-Saharan Africa. This aligns with the ArcX Programme objectives to strengthen RCoEs-C2R as hubs for AI-enabled forecasting, training, innovation, climate data and policy-relevant climate services.
The entity hereby confirms that proof can be provided for all information indicated in this checklist.