



Call for experts to develop country-level research on
‘The economics of climate change adaptation in Africa’
under the Raising Adaptation Impact and Ambition (RAIA) project

1. Introduction

Raising Adaptation Impact and Ambition (RAIA) is a UK Aid-funded climate adaptation project under the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)’s Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) Research Programme, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). RAIA addresses persistent gaps in economic evidence, research capacity, and policy tools needed to promote effective climate change adaptation in developing countries. Despite growing climate impacts, many countries still struggle to identify priority adaptation investments, evaluate their economic costs and benefits, and incorporate adaptation into national planning, budgeting, and financing frameworks. These challenges lead to low ambition for adaptation and hinder the optimal use of available climate finance.

RAIA addresses these challenges by bridging the science-policy divide. It aims to enhance the capacity of economic researchers to produce policy-relevant analysis, co-created with relevant stakeholders so that this evidence is used to strengthen government plans, policies, and strategies that enable countries to pursue equitable and inclusive climate-resilient development pathways.

2. Background

Climate change is imposing severe costs in developing countries. The 2025 Adaptation Gap Report estimates the costs of adaptation finance needed in developing countries at USD 310-365 billion per year in 2035. At the same time, the evidence base in developing countries on what to invest in, given climate change impacts now and in the future, the costs and benefits of doing so, and how to transition economies so that domestic finance is enabled for adaptation in a way that protects livelihoods and ensures equitable growth for all, as well as how to best finance countries’ resilience, are still lacking. For example, the 2023 Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) noted that adaptation remains poorly represented in current global economic modelling frameworks and models and many countries had highlighted methodological challenges and capacity gaps in quantifying adaptation finance needs, as

well as the lack of rigorous assessment of costs.

Recent analysis carried out for the Coalition of Finance Ministers on Climate Action¹ shows that adaptation is still mostly absent from fiscal and industrial/economic planning, and the economics of adaptation remain a niche exercise. While the economic case for adaptation is widely known among experts, there are a range of challenges that hamper the mainstreaming of adaptation into decision-making, including the lack of consensus as to what constitutes a ‘well-adapted’ country or what level of climate change should be adapted to.

Most countries have yet to integrate, or consider integrating, physical climate risks into their fiscal policies, with only 35% of countries reporting full or partial integration of climate-related risks into their budget projections. Similarly, climate-related scenarios for global warming are not yet widely used in macroeconomic forecasting: around 70% of MoFs have neither incorporated climate-related scenarios into macroeconomic forecasting nor adopted climate–macroeconomic models.

This also impact global climate and science processes, as the relatively lower scientific and research capacity of on the continent results in inadequate participation of the continent’s scientists in global policy negotiations.

3. Objective

The objective of this assignment is to establish a research and capacity-strengthening initiative aimed at developing country-level economic research in Africa that integrate climate adaptation and resilience into country-level national fiscal, financial and economic planning and budgeting. Specifically, the initiative seeks to develop country-level economic analysis that addresses differentiated needs and barriers identified by the Ministry of Finance and/or sector ministries to embed climate change adaptation into national financial planning, financial flows, and financial decision-making. It also serves as a capacity-building initiative, through which principal investigators work with early-career researchers (post-docs) to strengthen their expertise in the economics of climate adaptation.

4. Scope of Work

The initiative will be centered on a call for proposals aimed at climate, economic, and policy researchers, designed to support addressing a range of questions around the economics of climate change adaptation. It will engage researchers and experts across African countries and aims to fund 10-12 climate economics policy-research projects.

¹ How Ministries of Finance can assess and manage physical climate risks and adaptation: Available analytical tools and emerging good practice. A report of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action Helsinki Principle 4 initiative: Economic Analysis for Green and Resilient Transitions, June 2025

Key research thematic areas can include:

- Developing financial quantification of the costs of climate impacts in the economy, and of potential adaptation responses.
- Identifying and assessing financial, economic, regulatory, and market-based instruments required to finance and deliver ambitious climate actions with attention.
- Supporting the tracking, value capture and allocation of adaptation finance, for example through analysing how it is allocated across sectors and population groups through tracking within budgets such as public expenditure reviews, asset-level analysis, and debt sustainability analysis, such as climate budget tagging and tracking (CBT) and disaster budget tagging and tracking (DBT)

All the research must embed and aim to overcome issues around distributional impacts, gender equality and social inclusion.

5. Eligibility Check List

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. The lead applicant organization must be a university, an academic institution, a policy or economic research institution, a parastatal body, a think tank, or an independent entity. Government ministries are not eligible to apply.
2. The lead applicant organisation must be legally registered and based in an African country and must demonstrate relevant prior experience in similar research projects, such as climate risk analysis, economic impact assessments, climate finance, or related climate adaptation and economic policy research.
3. The research project clearly demonstrates that it addresses a specific and well-defined barrier or gap in economic research related to inclusive adaptation, that has a clearly identified pathway for implementation (e.g. filling a specific policy gap, a demand from a Ministry of Finance etc.)
4. The applicant organization must demonstrate an existing partnership, collaboration, or prior working relationship with the Ministry of Finance/similar national finance authority.
5. The delivery of the proposed research activities, methodology, and outputs align with the overall RAIA programme timeframes (please refer to section 7. Deliverables and timelines).

6. Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated and scored on the basis of:

1. Quality of the methodology (35%)

- Appropriateness, novelty, co-creation, and gender analysis
- Track record in undertaking economic policy research assignments for input and/or uptake by government;

2. Potential for impact (40%)

- In-depth understanding of key national climate economic policy issues, country-specific disaggregated adaptation needs,
- Entry points/connections to national policy-making processes for uptake of the research findings,
- Demonstrated approach to co-creating evidence with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Key government finance department engaged as a partner
- Overcome distributional, gender equality and social inclusion issues.

3. Team composition (25%)

- Depth and relevance of expertise, and applied experience on climate adaptation and economic policy.
- The team should comprise at least one qualified economist, with specialization in financial/fiscal planning and desirably in climate context and at least one climate scientist or adaptation specialist; and one or more specialist on adaptation policy and socio-economic issues, including GESI.
- Research team skills, experience, and gender balance

The selection of projects will follow a portfolio analysis to ensure that the final selected portfolio of projects will cover an appropriate spread in terms of geographies and topical issues tackled. Proponents might be invited to merge proposals with potentially complementary ones.

7. Deliverables and Timelines

Deliverables		Estimated Timeframe
1.	Inception report and work plan	Two (2) weeks after signing the contract
2.	Annotated outline of the research output	Three (3) weeks after signing the contract
3.	PowerPoint presentation of preliminary results, including figures, tables, etc., covering the situation analysis, the preliminary findings and the pathway for impact. This should also include clear evidence of engagement and feedback from key stakeholders.	Six (6) months after signing the contract
4.	Draft 1 of the research output for internal review	Eight (8) months after signing the contract

5.	Draft 2 of the research output, for internal review, including clear evidence of the process incorporating perspectives and being thoroughly validated and bought in by key stakeholders	Nine (9) months after signing the contract
6.	Final draft of the research output, inclusive of a database of all climate and economic models (annexed), and summary report incorporating peer review comments	Ten (10) months after signing the contract
7.	Draft policy brief synthesizing the findings	Eleven (11) months after signing the contract
8.	Three draft manuscripts	Fourteen (14) months after signing the contract

8. Budget and Payment Schedule

The anticipated funding envelope is US\$80,000- US\$120,000, to be allocated across 10 to 12 research projects. Fund disbursements will be made in three tranches as per the schedule below.

Payment schedule

- 45% first instalment payable upon signing of the contract
- 35% second instalment payable upon submission and approval of deliverable 6
- 20% final instalment payable upon submission and approval of deliverable 7

9. Application Process

Applicants should complete and submit the [online proposal form](#) by **March 5th, 2026 (11:59 pm EAT)**.

10. Key Dates

- Call opens: February 12, 2026
- Info session/webinar: February 18, 2026 at 11:00am EAT to sign up for the info session, [click here](#)
- Submission Deadline: March 5, 2026, 11:59 pm EAT
- Evaluation: March 6-20, 2026
- Notification: March 23, 2026
- Due diligence: March 24– 27, 2026
- Contract signing: April 1, 2026
- Grantee orientation Workshop: April 6, 2026