

January 2024

GCBC Research Grant Call 2 (RGC2) Webinar 1: Introducing the RGC2 theme.



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1 Welcome and introductions



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Housekeeping

- **This webinar will be recorded.**
- Please **introduce yourself via the chat function**; please include your name and organisational affiliation (if applicable).
- All **audio and video will be muted** except for the session speaker and moderator.
- Please **submit your questions in the Q&A section on Zoom**. Participants will vote on the questions. Questions with the highest number of votes will be managed by one of our GCBC colleagues during the Q&A portion of this webinar.
- **Contact us** via email at: infogcbc@gcbc.org.uk if you have any questions following this webinar.
- **The webinar** and any related information/resources **will be available on the GCBC website**: <https://www.gcbc.org.uk/grants/>

Agenda

1. Welcome to the GCBC and the Hub partners and housekeeping (5 mins)

2. Introduction to the GCBC – (5 mins) DAI & DEFRA

Who is who in the Hub - DAI

3. Introduction to this Research Grant Competition (15 mins) DAI

RGC Timeline – annual cycle and the RGC process (two stage)

Selection Criteria and available funding (DAI)

ToC (DAI)

4. Theme for RGC2 (15 mins) - Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

5. Question and Answer (15 mins) All

6. Next steps (5 mins)

Signpost support, guidance, toolkits available to applicants

2 Introduction to the GCBC



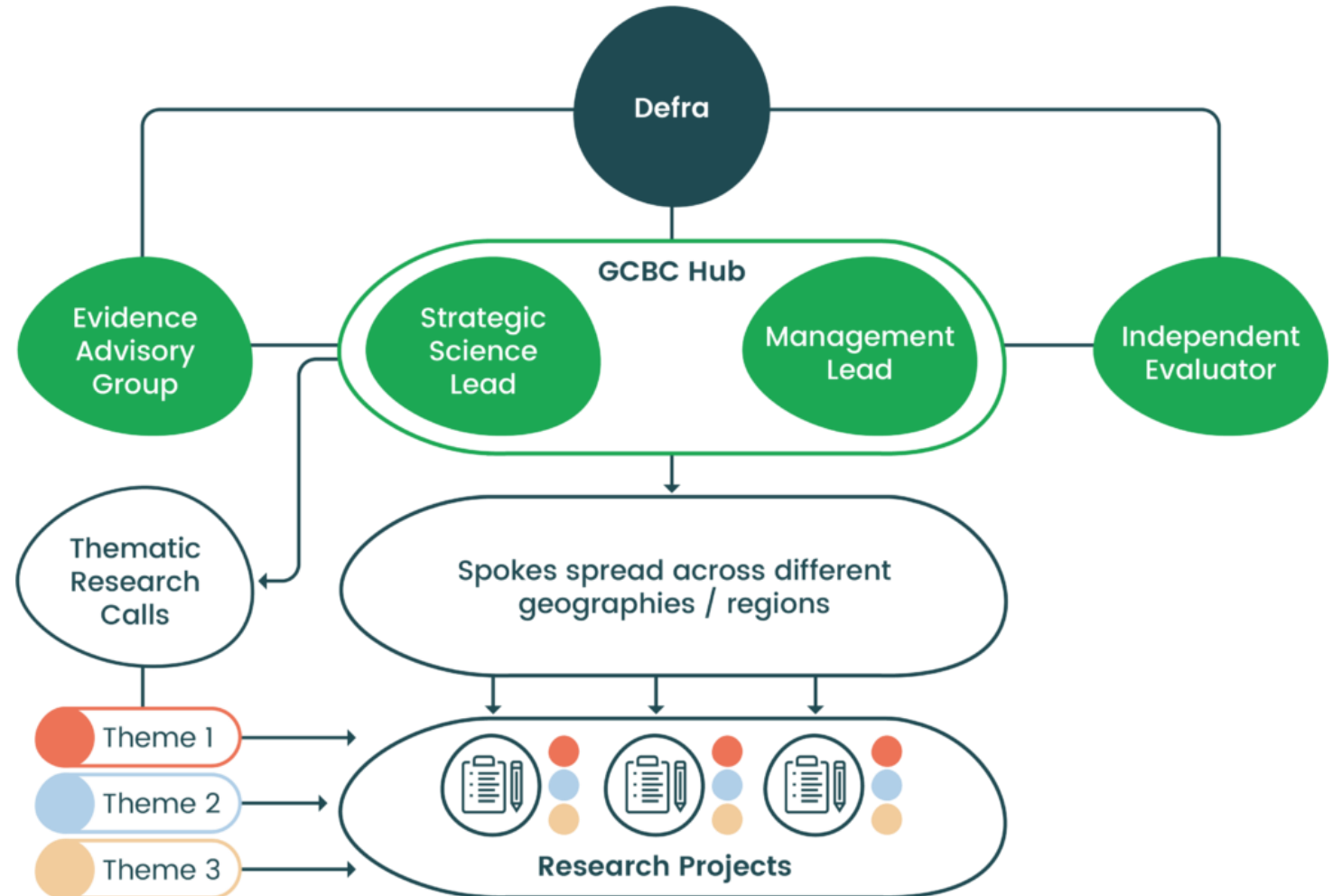
Introduction to the GCBC

- The GCBC is a UK ODA programme that funds research into natural solutions to climate change and poverty.
- The GCBC is funded by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with International Climate Finance working in partnership with DAI Global as the Management Lead and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as the Strategic Science Lead.



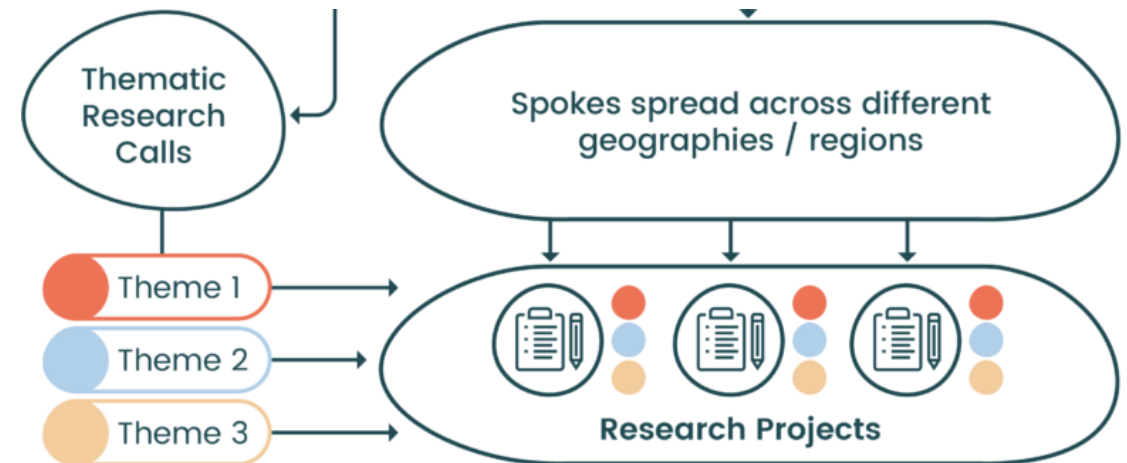
Introducing the GCBC Hub

- In March 2023, **Defra** appointed **DAI Global** as the Fund Manager and the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** (RBG Kew) as Strategic Science Lead to work together as “the Hub” with responsibility for delivering the aims of the GCBC through complementary roles.
- Phase 1: Before March 2023, GCBC funded a collection of 15 projects, totalling over £10M, and delivering across more than 30 countries.
- In addition to the Hub, Defra has appointed an **Evidence Advisory Group** (EAG), to provide independent advice and scrutiny on the design, scope and outputs of the GCBC, and will appoint an **Independent Evaluator** (IE), responsible for evaluating GCBC processes, performance and impact;



Overview of Research Grant Competitions 1

- **RGC 1** application window was launched on the **25th of May 2023**.
- **Main Theme:** *“the role of biodiversity in agriculture and natural resources management (NRM) for climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods”*.
- **Sub themes:**
 - **Sustainable agriculture** (including crops, livestock, post-harvest technology, agronomy, horticulture, aquaculture and agroforestry) for food, fibre, fuel and pharma supply chains; and
 - **Natural resource management** approaches resilient to climate change (including protecting and/or enhancing ecosystem services, water resource management, natural resource extraction and protecting and/or restoring habitats).
- The RGC1 funding window has now successfully concluded and yielded 13 grants (from 13 different organisations/grantees) for this second phase portfolio of grants.



3 Introduction to Research Grant Competition 2

DAI



RGC2 stages – summary

RGC 2 application window stages:

- **Stage 1** – Project Concept Notes (**CN**) – launch in **Feb**; light touch application submitted within **6 weeks**; decisions by end-**Apr**; only small number selected to progress to Stage 2 PP.
- **Stage 2** – Full project Proposals (**PP**) – invitations in **May**; full application prepared within **8 weeks**; decisions by end of **Aug**; few rejected & remainder (provisional awardees) progress to Due-Diligence exercise & potentially onboarding (GFA signing), projects commence by **Nov**.

Due-Diligence & Onboarding:

- Full Due-Diligence
- Final Decisions
- Contracting (GFA) & Onboarding

Notes

This webinar will only focus on a summary view of the logistics & approach to RGC2.

We will hold further webinars, at the start of February, that will explore these in more detail!

Selection Criteria

Each RGC has a **target theme** (covered in detail in the next section).

Project CN submitted to the RGC2 will be assessed and selected according to their relevance to:

- meeting eligibility criteria set for the RGC;
- the objectives of the GCBC programme;
- the theme of the RGC;
- the viability of the technical concept proposed for the project; and
- an appropriate fit in a portfolio with a coherence of funded projects, so that aggregation of results and learning is possible across the three focus regions.

Successful applications will be those CNs that:

- best demonstrate these criteria; and
- have the potential to contribute to a portfolio of projects by sub-themes across the three GCBC focus regions.

Eligibility

Geography

Applicants must submit project concepts **that focus their research in** one, or more than one, of the **ODA eligible country(ies)** within the three **GCBC geographic regions** of interest:

- Latin America & the Caribbean.
- Sub Saharan Africa.
- Southeast Asia & the Pacific.

Notes

Small Island Developing States within the geographic regions of interest are included.

More guidance / information will be included in the ITA pack, but please feel free to refer to the [DAC List of ODA Recipients | Effective for reporting on 2024 and 2025 flows.pdf](#)

Eligibility – cont.

Organisations

- **Applications** are encouraged **from many different types of potential Delivery Partners** (Organisations), both local and international, **including, but not limited to:**
 - non-government organisations,
 - civil society organisations,
 - multilateral organisations,
 - academic institutions,
 - private sector partners.
- Funding can also be awarded to parastatal organisations as long as the proposed activities are not receiving funding from other governments.
- UN bodies are eligible under the same terms and conditions as other applicants.

Note

Applicants can also refer to organisation eligibility criteria '*Annex D05 of ITA pack*'.

Eligibility – cont.

Partnerships

Applications for project concept(s) **must be:**

- **led by** an organisation with offices in an ODA eligible country, **or**
- **led by** an organisation which forms **part of a consortium** with organisations that have an **office in an ODA eligible country(ies)**.

Note

More guidance / information will be included in the ITA pack, but please feel free to refer to the [DAC List of ODA Recipients | Effective for reporting on 2024 and 2025 flows.pdf](#)

Eligibility – cont.

Grant size & project duration

- For RGC2, we are looking for project concepts with:
 - a total **budget of between £100,000 & £1,000,000**, fitting within:

£100k - 250k	£250k - 500k	£500k - 750k	£750k - £1M
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- a project **duration of 12 to 36 months**, commencing from 1st of November 2024.

Note

The value of any individual grant may not exceed 25% of the applicant's or lead consortia partner's average income/turnover for the past three years.

Eligibility – cont.

Focus

Applicants must submit project concepts that focus their research at the intersection of the GCBC's three focus areas:

- Climate change
- Livelihoods and poverty alleviation
- Biodiversity

Note

Applicants can view more information about the GCBC's focus in the ITA document pack that will be available at the time of launch.

4 Research Grant Competition Theme

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Research Grant Competition – Theme

Unlocking Nature

Driving **innovation** in how biodiversity can support climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods through practice and governance.

Note

More background and context is set out in Theme Paper which will be shared after the webinar and will be available in the ITA Pack.

Context of Theme

Understanding the evidence gaps in the potential of nature-based solutions using less utilised species (plants, animals, insects, fungi, trees etc.) to:

- improve poor livelihoods through more resilience to climate change;
 - meet resource or service demands; and
 - protect and conserve traditional knowledge and biodiversity;
- is critical to finding innovative approaches to guide practice and governance.

More examples and data sets are needed to promote the value of these initiatives for further investment.

An opportunity also exists to develop and validate the appropriate methodologies for measuring the value of biodiversity.



Integrating Science, Nature and Knowledge for System Transformation

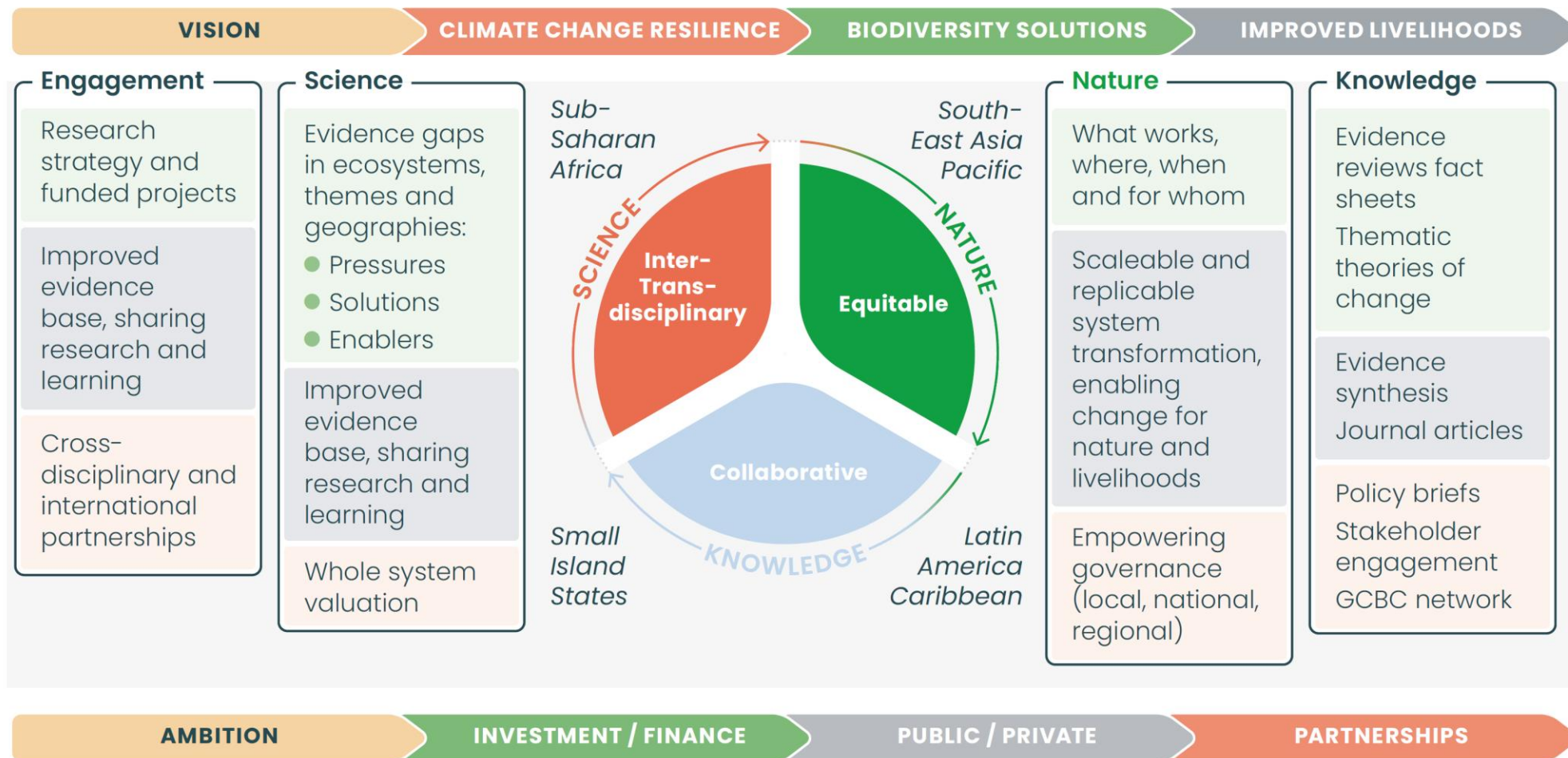


Figure 1: integration of science, nature and knowledge in GCBC programme system transformation

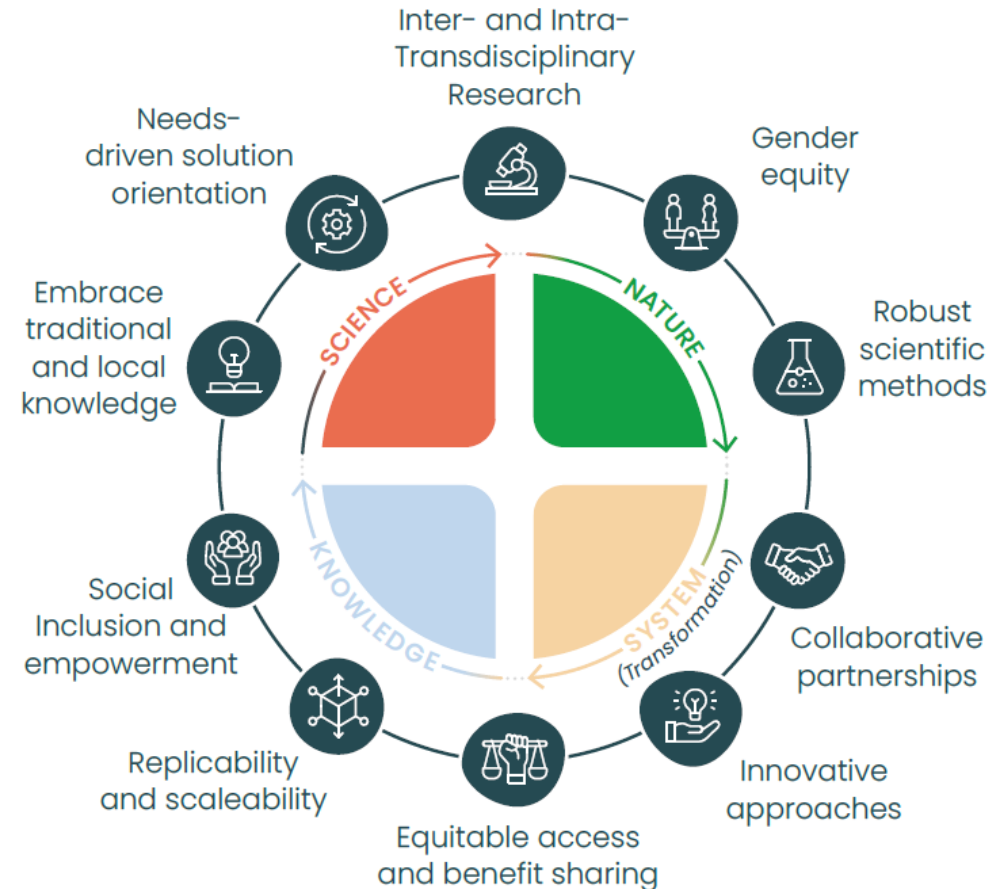
Research Grant Competition – Theme Detail

Sub-Themes

A	Land / Water Use: Innovative solutions for replacement land / water use practices and materials to achieve climate resilience and livelihood improvement.
B	Habitat / Species Conservation: Balancing the need to conserve habitats and wild species in the face of extractive industries (e.g. farming, mining, logging, hunting and fishing operations) – in practice and policy.
C	Sustainable Production and Consumption: Reversing unsustainable anthropogenic consumption and exploitation patterns through innovative ways to value biodiversity more wisely.
D	Biodiversity Potential: Realising the potential from plant, fungi and wildlife resources to improve livelihoods in the face of climate change; and raise awareness of the value of biodiversity to incentivise conservation.
E	Incentives: How can, and what types of, incentives can contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity for different income streams by local communities to improve climate resilience and livelihoods.
F	Knowledge and Data: Filling knowledge and data gaps on land use and marine systems of lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and building capacity of scientists and institutions to engage with the science policy interface.
G	Ecosystem Resilience: Identifying and addressing the interactions and cumulative impacts of existing stressors and climate change on natural ecosystems, and the implications of those for managing biodiversity in a way that builds resilience of ecosystems and local livelihoods to climate change.

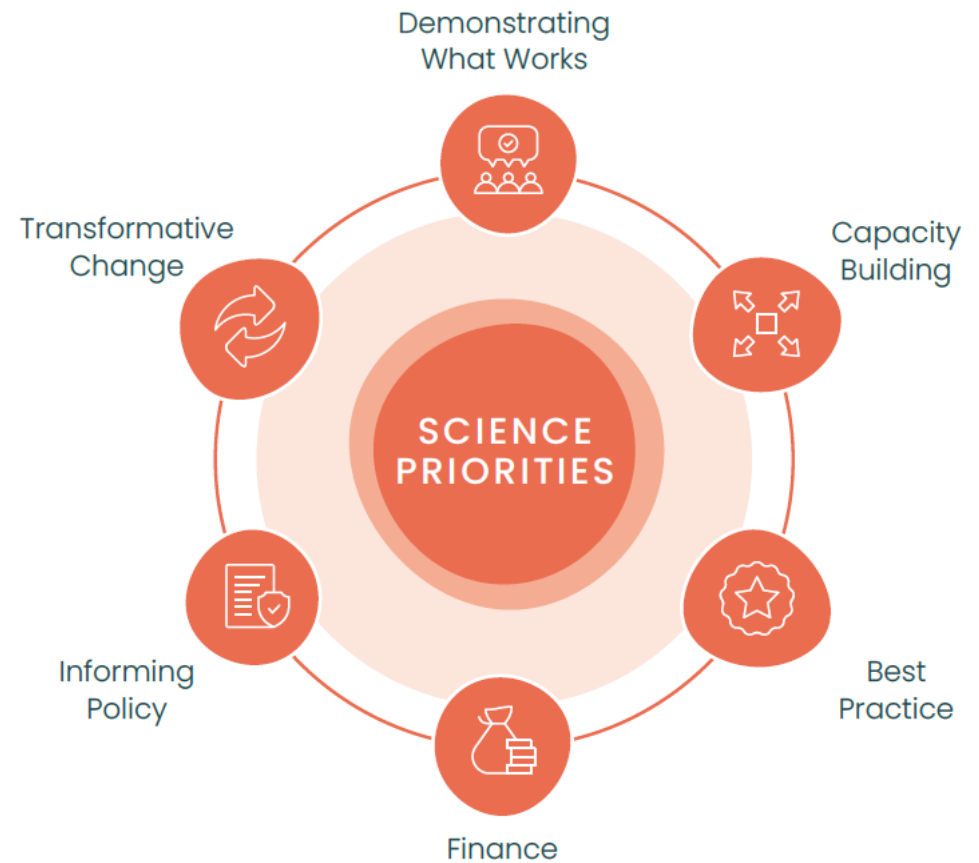
Ten GCBC Delivery Principles

Any application for a research project through a GCBC grant call will need to embody these ten delivery principles, in the design and throughout delivery of the project; in addition to contributing truly innovative research which progresses thinking and practice around the call theme.



Six Scientific Priorities

Any application for a research project through a GCBC grant call will need to embody these six science priorities, in the design and throughout delivery of the project; in addition to contributing truly innovative research which progresses thinking and practice around the call theme.



Thematic Theory of Change

Aim	System transformation through local community natural resource management is informed and enabled by the demonstration of the interconnectedness of biodiversity, climate and livelihoods.		Evidence uptake leads to widespread implementation of policies, practices and investment strategies that deliver inclusive climate resilient, poverty reduction through conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.			Research partners have stronger capacity, capability and networks to identify, fund, implement and disseminate research.	
Long-Term Outcomes	New (or consolidation of existing) innovative and transformative research, evidence and scalable solutions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for climate resilient inclusive development and poverty reduction.		New or strengthened diverse and equitable inter- and trans-disciplinary research networks and partnership.			Policymakers, investors, practitioners and communities have access to the evidence and solutions through audience- appropriate knowledge products and channels.	
Intermediate Outcomes	Unlocking Nature – Driving innovation in how biodiversity can support climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods through practice and governance.						
Around:	Demonstrating what works	Capacity building	Best practice	Informing policy	Finance	System Transformation	
Outputs:	A Land / water use	B Habitat / species conservation	C Sustainable consumption / production	D Biodiversity potential	E Incentives	F Knowledge and data	G Ecosystem resilience
Activities	Support research projects		Improve evidence base, sharing research and learning		Foster cross-disciplinary and international partnerships		

Summary

- **Nexus:** Climate change – Biodiversity – Livelihoods and **poverty alleviation**
- **Theme: Unlocking Nature:** Driving **innovation** in how biodiversity can support climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods through practice and governance.
- **Innovation:** Truly innovative research which progresses thinking and practice around the call theme.
- **Preparation:** Read ITA Pack, Research Strategy and Theme Paper.
- **Identify:** Relevant sub-theme(s), the evidence gap and research question to be addressed.
- **Design:** Embody the systems approach, ten delivery principles and six strategic science priorities in developing the concept of the proposal.

5 Q&A



6 Closing remarks and next steps



Closing remarks

- **Contact us** via email at: infogcbc@gcbc.org.uk if you have any questions following this webinar.
- **The recording of the webinar** and any related information/resources **will be available on the GCBC website**: <https://www.gcbc.org.uk/grants/>. We will email you with the related links based on the emails that you provided when you registered for this webinar. Please add your email address to the chat if you have not shared it with us previously.
- You can sign up for upcoming webinars via our [Eventbrite page here](#).

Upcoming Webinars

- Webinar 1 Repeat: Monday, January 29, 2024 : 09: 30 a.m. GMT
- Webinar 2: Monday: February 5, 2024 : 09: 30 a.m. GMT | 12:00 p.m. GMT | 4:00 p.m. GMT
- Webinar 3: Dates: TBC – early Feb