

February 2024

GCBC Research Grant Call 2 (RGC2) Webinar 2: Walkthrough the RGC2 CN, application process, & e-platform.



 www.gcbc.org.uk

 gcbc.metricsled.com

 The Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate

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1 Welcome and introductions

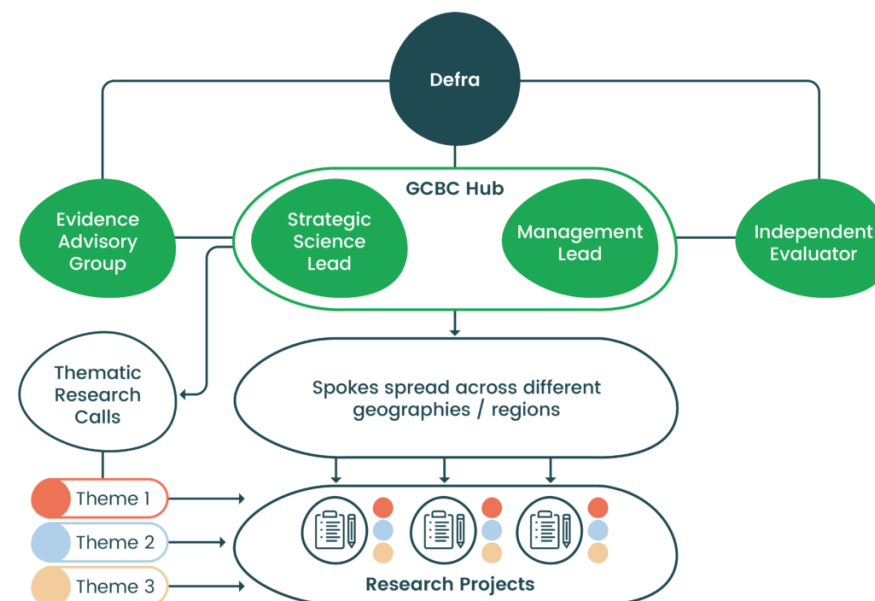


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Housekeeping

- **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 & the Hub partners, & housekeeping (5 mins)**
- 2. Intro to the GCBC e-portal with demo (10mins) - Metricsled/Lucile**
- 3. Intro to RGC2 stages & application to award timelines (10mins) DAI**
- 4. Assessment & selection criteria (5mins) DAI/Kew**
- 5. Intro to the Concept Note form (5mins) DAI**
- 6. Exemplar concept note (10mins) Kew**
- 7. Question & Answer (10 mins) All**
- 8. Next steps (5 mins)**

Signpost support, guidance, toolkits available to applicants

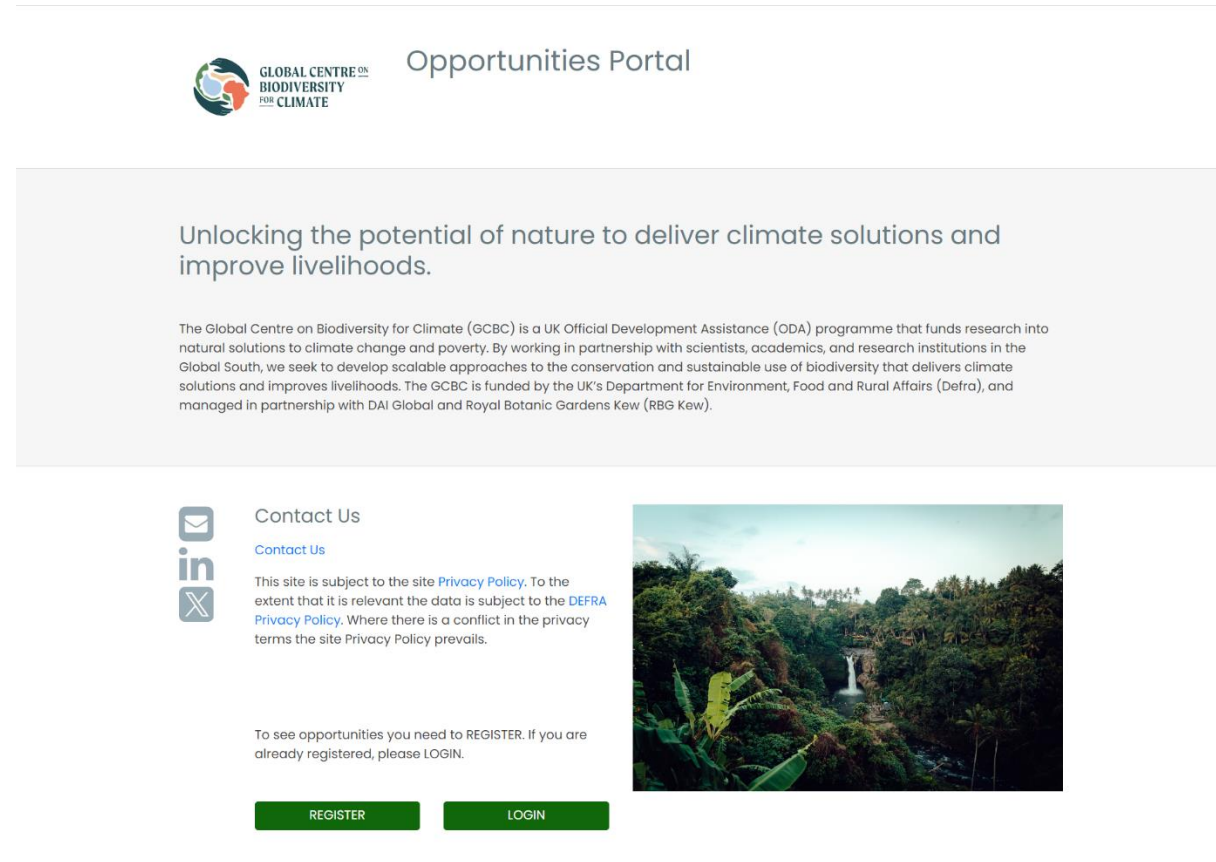
2 Introduction to the GCBC e-platform

DAI



Introduction to the GCBC e-platform

- Applications must be submitted on the [GCBC e-platform](https://gcbc.metricsled.com/) (<https://gcbc.metricsled.com/>)
- Applicants are required to complete the Project Concept Note Form online.
- The GCBC e-platform HelpDesk (infogcbc@gcbc.org.uk) will be monitored throughout the competition. The GCBC Fund Management Team will respond to clarification requests within 24 hours (on working days).
- If an Applicant is experiencing problems when completing their application, they should contact HelpDesk at infogcbc@gcbc.org.uk



The screenshot shows the 'Opportunities Portal' for the Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate. The header includes the GCBC logo and the text 'Opportunities Portal'. The main content area features a headline: 'Unlocking the potential of nature to deliver climate solutions and improve livelihoods.' Below this is a paragraph of text: 'The Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate (GCBC) is a UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme that funds research into natural solutions to climate change and poverty. By working in partnership with scientists, academics, and research institutions in the Global South, we seek to develop scalable approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that delivers climate solutions and improves livelihoods. The GCBC is funded by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and managed in partnership with DAI Global and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew).' A 'Contact Us' section includes an email icon, the text 'Contact Us', a link to 'Contact Us', and a privacy notice: 'This site is subject to the site Privacy Policy. To the extent that it is relevant the data is subject to the DEFRA Privacy Policy. Where there is a conflict in the privacy terms the site Privacy Policy prevails.' Below the privacy notice are two buttons: 'REGISTER' and 'LOGIN'. On the right side of the page, there is a photograph of a lush tropical forest with a waterfall.

Introduction to the GCBC e-platform cont.

Shared-screen walkthrough the GCBC e-platform:

- how to register an account
- how to apply
- where to find documents
- helpdesk availability

3 Intro to RGC2 stages & application to award timelines

DAI



RGC 2 application window stages

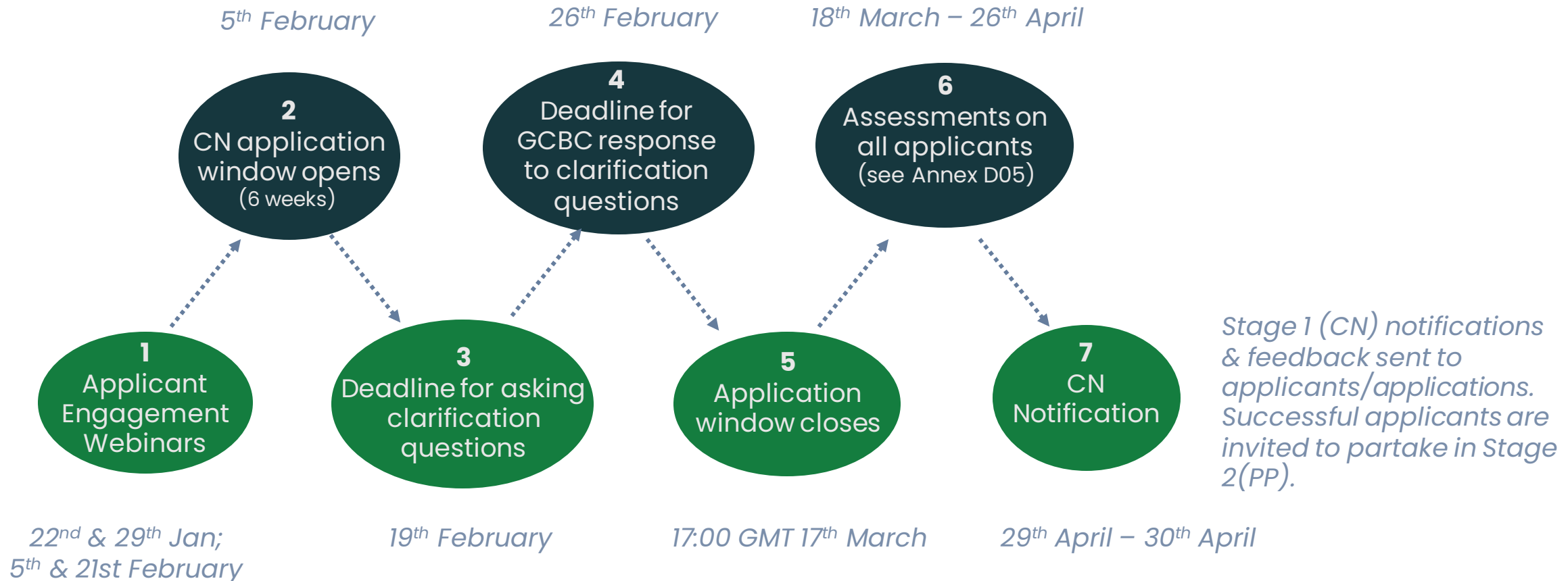
Stage 1 – Project Concept Notes (**CN**):

- Applicants for this stage must submit a written concept note (Annex D04- of ITA pack) outlining their proposed project.
- This will be assessed using criterion outlined in Annex D05 of ITA pack.
- Successful applicants will be invited to proceed to a Project Proposal (PP) stage.

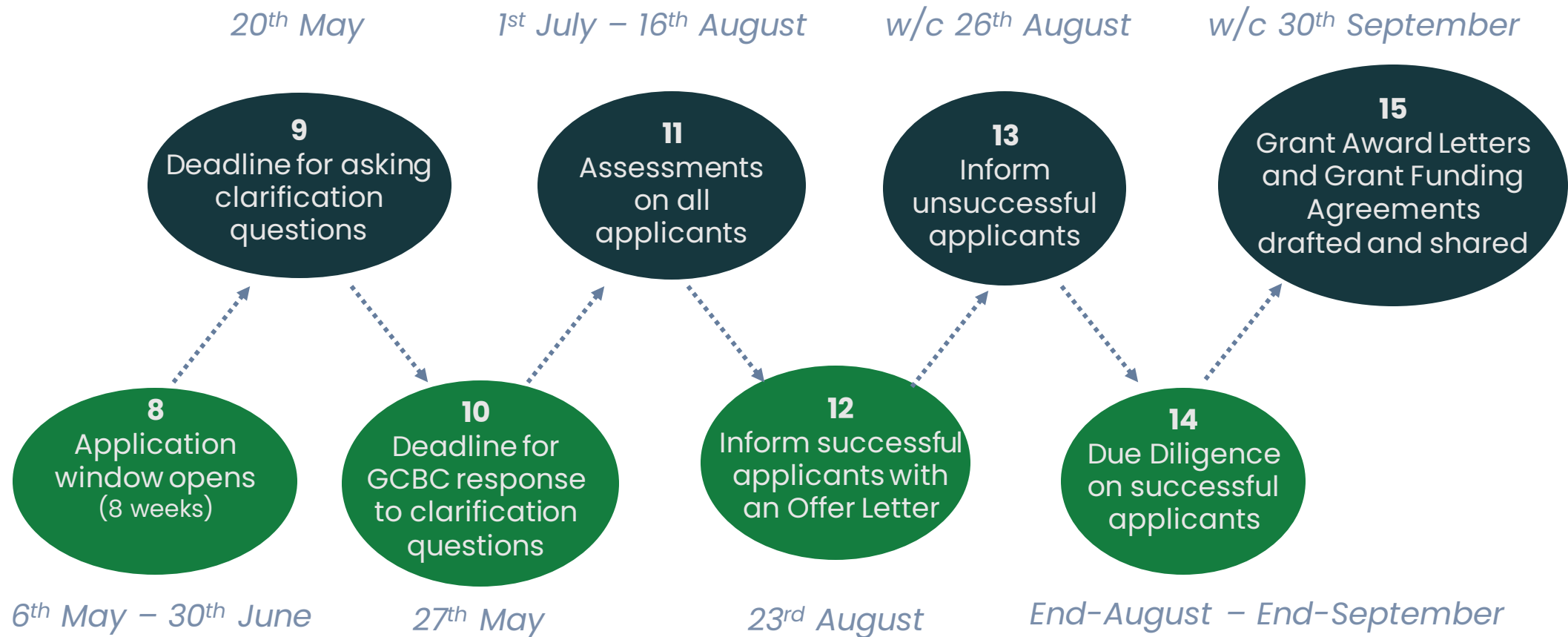
Stage 2 – Full Project Proposals (**PP**):

- Applicants for this stage must submit a full project proposal, consisting of both commercial and narrative documents, along with responding to RGC compliance requirements (Section 6 of ITA pack provides an overview).
- Full details of this stage will be released (through an Invitation to Proposal pack) to successful applicants on completion of the CN stage.

Stage 1 – Project Concept Note (CN)



Stage 2 – Full Project Proposal (PP)



4 RGC2 Eligibility and Selection Criteria

DAI & Kew



Eligibility criteria – summary

Lead organisation:

- Applications are encouraged from many **different types of potential Delivery Partners** (Organisations), both local and international, including UN bodies, private sector partners*, and Parastatal organisations as long as the proposed activities are not receiving funding from other governments. See 'ITA Pack CN - 00 – Overview' page 11.
- Applications for project concept(s) must be: **led by an organisation with offices in an ODA eligible country**, or one that forms part of a consortium with organisations that have an office in an ODA eligible country(ies).

Project Concept:

- 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, and SIDS. (DAC list)
- For RGC2, we are looking for project concepts with:

£100k - 250k	£250k - 500k	£500k - 750k	£750k - £1M
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 - a total budget of between **£100,000 & £1,000,000**, fitting within:
 - a project **duration of 12 to 36 months**, commencing from 1st of November 2024.
 - 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.
- project concepts that focus their research at **the intersection of the GCBC's three focus areas**: Climate change; Livelihoods and poverty alleviation; Biodiversity.

Scoring and Selection Criteria

The CN form **Section C will be scored out of 100 marks** (i.e. 100%), with respective weighting given to each of the 9 questions. Assessors will select one of **5 categories** ('1' associated with the lowest & '5' with the highest score) **for each question**. For example, for question C4 – Research questions, with a total of 15marks/15%, a '1' would score 3 marks (1/5 of the marks) and '5' would score the full 15 marks.

Each RGC has a **target theme** (See Theme paper). Project CN submitted to the RGC2 will be assessed and selected according to their relevance to:

- a) meeting eligibility criteria set for the research grant competition (RGC),
- b) the objectives of the GCBC programme,
- c) the theme of the RGC,
- d) the quality of the proposed science/technical concept based on the assessment of responses to sections set out in the concept note template, and
- e) an appropriate fit to the aims of the RGC2 portfolio (with clusters 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
- the potential to contribute to a portfolio of large and small projects by sub-themes across the three GCBC focus regions; including projects that are led by global south partners.

5 Introduction to the Concept Note form

DAI



CN Invitation To Apply (ITA) pack

Documents shared with applicants through the ITA pack:

- 00 – ITA Overview
- D01 – Application Guidance Note
- D02 – RGC2 Theme Paper
- D03 – RGC2 GCBC Research Strategy
- D04 – Concept Note (offline copy)
- D05 – Scoring & Selection Criteria
- D06 – Portal Instructions
- D07 – Privacy Policy
- D09 – Agreement of Application Submission (offline copy)
- D10 – Model Grant Agreement Template

RGC2 CN form

Section A: Information about your organisation

Requested organisation information		Applicant entry field in the GCBC e-platform
A1	Lead organisation name	The organisation that will hold / sign the grant funding agreement.
A2	Nature/type of organisation	Tick boxes, e.g. INGO, University etc.
A3	Description of the organisation's mission and activities.	Max 200 words
A4	Year established / registration	dd/mm/yyyy
A5	Registration number	
A6	Place / Country of registration	
A7	Registered address	Full address
A8	Telephone number	Tel.
A9	Organisation website	
A10	Number of employees	Full time equivalent in most recent year
Contact person information for this Concept Note		
A11	Contact person	Name, surname
A12	Job title / position	
A13	E-mail address	E-mail address
A14	Telephone number	Tel.

Section B: Summary information about the project

Requested information		Applicant entry field in the GCBC e-platform			
B1	Project name/ title	(Max 50-words)			
B2	Alignment to GCBC triple themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> poverty, climate, and, biodiversity. 	In one sentence please describe how the outputs of your project will support poverty reduction.			
		In one sentence please describe how the outputs of your project will support climate change adaptation or mitigation.			
		In one sentence please describe how the outputs of your project will support biodiversity.			
B3	Region and Country of project implementation	Select all regions that apply through tick boxes List all country / countries in the free text box			
B4	Anticipated RGC2 sub-theme/s the project will address	Tick boxes, select all that apply. A- Land/ Water Use B- Habitat / Species Conservation C- Sustainable Production and Consumption D- Biodiversity Potential E- Incentives F- Knowledge and Data G- Ecosystem Resilience			
B5	Duration- anticipated timeframe of the project.	Tick box <12 months	Tick box 13-24 months	Tick box 24-36 months	
B6	Indicate the anticipated total cost of the project	Tick box £100-250k,	Tick box £251-500k,	Tick box £501-750k,	Tick box £751k- £1M



RGC2 CN form – Section C

C6 Partners & key stakeholders <i>Describe your intended partnerships for the project.</i>	Please list your intended consortium partners. For each proposed partner, please: a) describe what experience or expertise they will contribute to the project. b) select the organisation type (e.g. NGO, university etc.) c) list which country the organisation is from						15% /15
	C7 Project Outputs <i>Describe the expected project outputs</i>	Indicate expected outputs from the project (e.g. scientific journal articles, policy briefs, toolkits, business models, case studies). Please indicate the intended audience for these products, and how you intend to engage with relevant stakeholder to promote and disseminate your findings. (Max 250-words).					
C8 Risks & Assumptions	Describe those factors which might contribute to the project failing to achieve its objectives. Also, include important assumptions on external conditions or factors over which the project does not have control, but on which the accomplishment of objectives may depend. (Max 200-words)						5%/5
C9 Financial summary <i>Indicative budget detailed by key budget costs (staff, overheads, equipment, travel, subsistence, miscellaneous) over project term by financial years.</i>	Year / Category	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	5%/5
	Staff Costs						
	Travel & Subsistence Costs						
	Other Costs						
	Equipment Costs						
	Sub-contractors Cost						
	Overhead Costs						
	Total Costs						
Narrative - Costs should be maximum and indicative costs. Content of overheads should be specified. Capital expenditure should be explained. (100 words maximum)							

Section C: Detailed information about the project

Requested information	Applicant entry field in the GCBC e-platform	Score / marks
C1 Project summary <i>Brief summary of the project aims and deliverables.</i>	A succinct summary of what the project will focus on and what it will deliver. For approved project concept notes, the summary will be used in the GCBC project database and reports as appropriate. (Max 100 words).	5%/5
C2 Alignment to the GCBC RGC2 theme	Please provide a short explanation of how the project responds to and delivers against the specific theme of this GCBC competition: "Unlocking Nature...", taking account of climate resilience, sustainable management of biodiversity and improved livelihoods. (Max 250-words).	15% /15
C3 Context & problem definition <i>Describe the background and context of your project and describe the problem or evidence gap your project will address.</i>	Please provide a succinct summary of the context for the project – for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> socio-political barriers and opportunities, economic barriers and opportunities, existing knowledge and research base recognised knowledge gaps, etc. Use this section to demonstrate the strategic importance of the project. Also include a short problem definition , highlighting the barrier that the project will address. For example, "A lack of successful examples of [X practices] has hampered the ability of [Y stakeholders] to achieve [Z outcomes]." (Max 500-words).	10% /10
C4 Research questions <i>Outline the main research questions of the project</i>	List the specific research questions that the project will investigate. Please ensure these questions link to existing knowledge gaps and the project's problem definition. (Max 200-words)	15% / 15
C5 Indicative methodology	Describe the project methodology, with reference to the scientific methods that will be used. A high-level description of how the project will be implemented with early thoughts on the resourcing and partnerships that will be required to deliver the project. There should be a group of activities associated with each output of the project, the activities defining the action needed to accomplish each output. This section should also include any facilities or expertise already available to the investigator and / or collaborator which will be utilized in the implementation of the project.	10% /10

6 Exemplar Concept Notes

Kew



Clear Contribution to Context of RGC2 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.

Sub-Themes

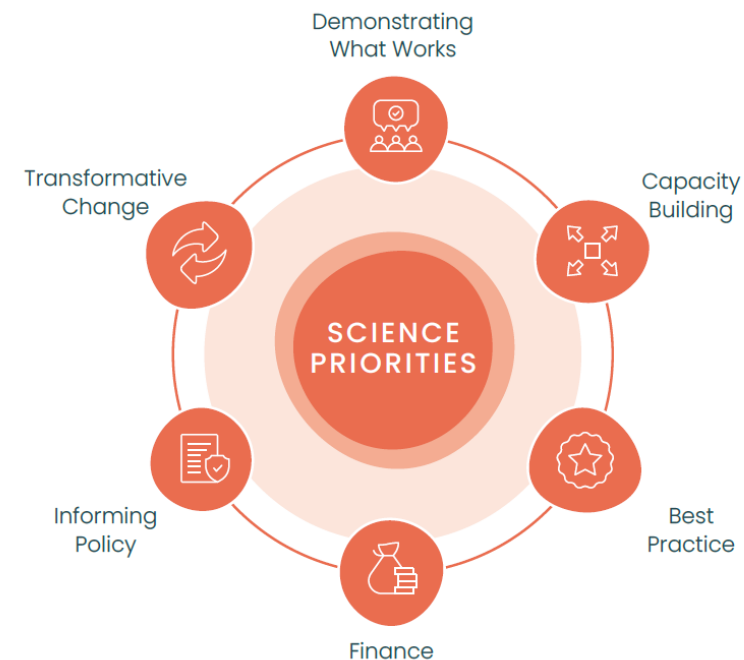
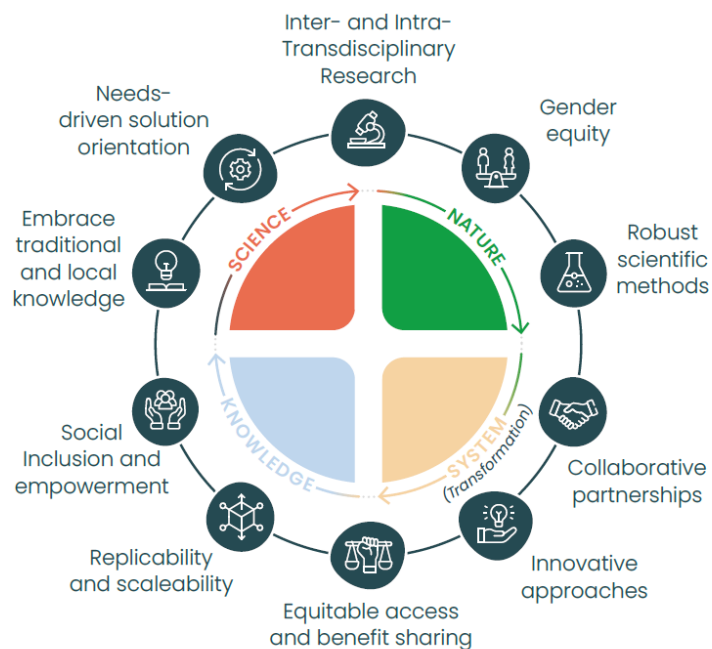
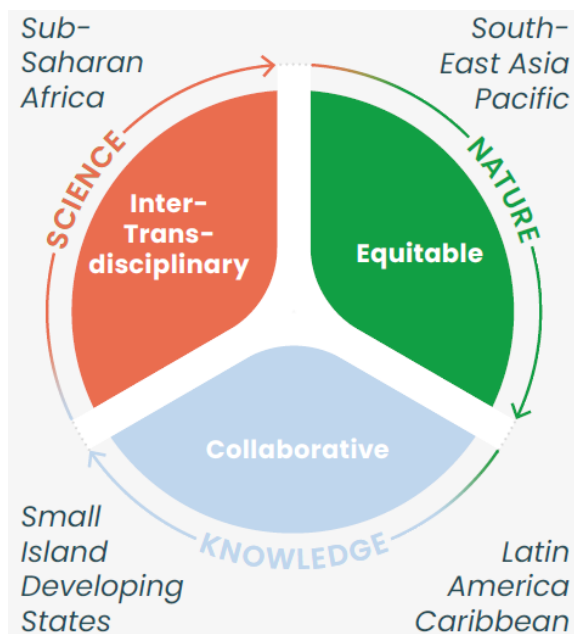
- A** Land / Water Use:
- B** Habitat / Species Conservation:
- C** Sustainable Production and Consumption:
- D** Biodiversity Potential:
- E** Incentives:
- F** Knowledge and Data:
- G** Ecosystem Resilience:



Good Project Design for Delivery with Impact:

Geographic Focus : Toolkit (Science / Nature / Knowledge)

Systems Approach : Delivery Principles : Science Priorities



Good Succinct, Clear Concept Note with Relevant Detail

No	Section	Words	Weight %	Assessment Criteria	Ambition
1	Project summary	100	5%	Clarity of project purpose	Clear, succinct summary with clear purpose and connected deliverables.
2	GCBC theme alignment	250	15%	Alignment to aims of grant competition theme	Good alignment to theme with clear description.
3	Context and problem definition	500	10%	Identified demand for the project	Full clarity and coherent understanding of problem, demand, and how it will be addressed.
4	Research questions	200	15%	Focus of research and potential for change	Full clarity in the evidence gap identified and good fit with innovative systems approach to problem /context /situation for expected change.
5	Indicative methodology	250	10%	Project approach / methodology	Project design represents a coherent achievable response in proposed timeframe to identified problem using a systems approach with scientific rigour and data collection.
6	Partners and key stakeholders	250	15%	Experience and capability of partners and key stakeholders	Substantial relevant experience and capacity to deliver project
7	Expected outputs and impact	250	20%	Anticipated outputs and impact	Expected outputs and impact from project provides a strong contribution to deliver solutions for change required to address problem / evidence gap.
8	Risks and assumptions	200	5%	Risk management	Two main external and internal risks and two main assumptions which may have an impact on project delivery are clearly identified and appropriate.
9	Financial summary	100	5%	Budget, efficiency and economy	Budget appears proportionate to the scope and ambition of the proposal.
	Total		100%		

Summary

- *Preparation*: Read ITA Pack, Research Strategy and Theme Paper.
- *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.
- *Identify*: Relevant sub-theme(s), the evidence gap and research question(s) to be addressed.
- *Innovation*: Truly innovative research which progresses thinking and practice around the call theme.
- *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



Partnership webinars – new partnerships and consortium

- Wednesday: February 21, 2024 : 09:00 a.m. GMT | 4:00 p.m. GMT
- You will be able to sign up for upcoming webinars via our [Eventbrite page here](#) – details will be shared after this webinar. Places will be limited.
- Applications are encouraged from different types of Delivery Partners and must be led by an organisation with offices in an ODA eligible country, or one that forms part of a consortium with organisations that have an office in an ODA eligible country(ies)

The GCBC seeks to encourage new and innovative partnerships:

- Which are equitable and ensure research is informed by local demand
- Which are inter and trans disciplinary
- Which build research capacity in ODA eligible countries

If you are seeking new delivery partners for your proposal register for this Webinar. It will focus on:

- GCBC partnerships and consortium – what good looks like
- What you could offer a new partnership or consortium
- What you are looking for in a new partnership or consortium

**Sharing your details to help
catalyze new partnerships**

Closing remarks

- **Contact us** via email at: info@gcbbc.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.gcbbc.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 3: Wednesday: February 21, 2024 : 09:00 a.m. UTC | 4:00 p.m. UTC